

House Singing Competition 2017

Wednesday 1 November 2017

On the final evening before the start of the half term exeat, audiences in both the Alington Hall and - via a satellite link - in front of their own screens across the world enjoyed a wonderful evening of music and entertainment at the annual House Singing Competition.



Emma Darwin Hall

A huge amount of time, work and imagination had gone into each of the House performances.

We were honoured to welcome three extremely experienced musicians to judge the competition: Ula Weber, choral conductor, professional singer and workshop leader, who currently conducts the CBSO Community Choir and is very involved in Ex Cathedra's singing project work in schools; Charlie Minogue, Headmaster at Moor Park School Ludlow and a very fine singer; and Alan Hughes, who has been singing barbershop music for over 20 years, has performed all over the UK with 'The Great British Barbershop Boys' and is a coach and judge for the British Association of Barbershop Singers, as well as being their Music Services Director.

We are very grateful to them for their adjudication and thoughtful comments.

Thanks, too, to MicroVideo, Theatre Technician Alex Davies and all the technical crew involved on the night, and to Mr Percival and Mr Walters for the entertaining commentary they provided throughout the evening for those watching the event online via the live screening

The competition results were:

Unison Cup

1st - School House

2nd - Emma Darwin Hall

3rd - Churchill's Hall

4th = Moser's Hall

4th = Oldham's Hall



School House Unison

Part Song Cup

1st - Emma Darwin Hall

2nd - The Grove

3rd - Mary Sidney Hall

4th - School House

5th - Churchill's Hall

Overall Trophy

1st - Emma Darwin Hall

Best Arrangement

Emma Darwin Hall (Jessie Inglis-Jones)

Most Improved House

Radbrook

Entertainment Cup

Moser's Hall



EDH with their trophies



A Tour of the British Museum's Parthenon Marbles

Wednesday 1 November 2017

with Nicholas Barber (SH 1954-58)



Almost 50 OS took advantage of a rare opportunity to understand the inside story of the controversy behind the Parthenon Marbles at the British Museum on 1st November. Taking advantage of Nicholas Barber's expertise, the group was treated to a special tour of the marbles and gathered for drinks and an informed chat afterwards.

Further Background Information:



The Parthenon in Athens was built nearly 2,500 years ago as a temple dedicated to the Goddess Athena. The building was altered and the sculptures much damaged over the course of the



centuries. Used as a gunpowder store in 1687, a huge explosion blew the roof off and destroyed a large portion of the remaining sculptures and the building has been a ruin ever since.

By 1800 only about half of the original sculptural decoration remained. Lord Elgin, the British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, acting with the full knowledge and permission of the British and Greek authorities, removed about half of the remaining sculptures from the fallen ruins; the other half remaining in Athens. Lord Elgin was passionate about ancient Greek art and transported the sculptures to Britain. Their arrival in London was to make a profound impression upon western ideas of art and taste.



Despite a programme of restoration of the Acropolis monuments, the Greek authorities have now removed all the architectural sculptures from the Parthenon. Archaeologists worldwide are agreed that the surviving sculptures could never be re-attached to the existing structure.

The sculptures in London have been on permanent public display in the British Museum since 1817. Here, this unparalleled collection is seen by a world audience and actively researched by international scholars. Since the early 1980s, Greek governments have argued for the permanent removal back to Athens of all the Parthenon sculptures in the British Museum; it has also disputed the British Museum Trustees' legal title to the sculptures and the debate continues.



Additional GCSE Examination Prizes awarded

Thursday 2 November 2017

The publication of exam results often leaves a few unexpected disappointments and it is always heartening to see re-marks bringing justice in individual cases.



L- R: Dragon Dararattanarojna, Ludo de Falbe, Libby Hedges

Particular congratulations are due to Libby Hedges (G) and to Ludo de Falbe (SH) who, in light of GCSE re-marks, have now completed a clean sweep of A* grades, bringing the overall tally of pupils in this category to 14. Libby has also been awarded an Honorary Scholarship. (Ludo is already an Academic Scholar.)

Congratulations are also due to Dragon Dararattanarojna (S), whose final excellent eight A* and two A grades make him eligible for an Examination Prize.

Mr Walters, Deputy Head (Academic)

The Tucks Film 2017

Thursday 2 November 2017

Some of the highlights of this year's Tucks were captured on film by our Film Fellow Dave Clifford.



Gold D of E sea-kayaking practice expedition

Thursday 2 November 2017

Despite coinciding with Storm Ophelia, the half-term Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award sea-kayaking trip was a great success.

Report by Major Jo Billington:

The week started with the distribution of equipment. I think sea kayaking requires more safety equipment than any other sport or adventurous pursuit - radios, EPIRBs, spare paddles, repair kits, rescue lines, tow lines, emergency shelters, flare packs... You name it, it gets packed in a boat. And hopefully where it can be accessed at a moment's notice, normally whilst bobbing on a bumpy sea!

After a few hours in the classroom, it was time to get afloat.

As always, the first activity of the practical phase was capsize drills. Fortunately the team were all in only 'slightly' leaky dry suits, so on the whole stayed pretty dry and warm. At this time of year, the bodies of water around the UK are at their warmest. In April, when the group will have their second practice, they will be at their coldest...



The following couple of days focused on boat-handling skills and actually getting the boats to go where the paddler intended. This year's group proved to be very accomplished and they progressed quickly.

But then came Ophelia: definitely a day to remain inside and off the sea. After a few phone calls and some 'wheeling and dealing', we managed to arrange a visit to the Coast Guard Station at Holyhead and followed it with a visit to the Lifeboat Station along the road.

The staff who gave us the guided tour were very appreciative of a large box of Miniature Heroes for their troubles. For sea-kayakers, they are most definitely our 'Heroes'.

It was a noisy night in the bunkhouse. The wind was howling like nothing we had heard before and we sat around playing cards as the lights flickered on and off, with the hostel rocking and the sound of crashing debris outside. We feared we might end up with no boats left at all in the morning.

Fortunately, they were all still safe and intact. But we made the decision collectively that for the two days of the expedition, the sea probably would not recover from the storm. So it was agreed that we would head inland to Lake Bala.



The conditions there were perfect: a good strong breeze against us on the way down the lake and then a following wind behind us all the way home; perfect for practising crosswind, downwind and upwind paddling.

The expedition is generally the highlight of the trip. It was a crisp evening, but perfect in every way. We had a fire, marshmallows, popcorn, yummy food, hot chocolate and cards by firelight. In the morning we were met with some extraordinary conditions: a low inversion across the lake, a band of sunshine above the clouds and some fluffy cirrus clouds way up high. The pictures speak for themselves:



Well done to a brilliant team of paddlers. It was a great week!

The paddlers were Marcus Cope, Fingal Dickens, Emma Graham, William Holcroft, Katie Oswald and Lizzie Ware.



Royal Russell MUN Conference

Thursday 2 November 2017

For the 25th year in a row, Mr Peach led a group of Salopians to take part in the Royal Russell School Model United Nations Conference during the first four days of half-term.

The teams represented Egypt and Hungary and, as ever, worked hard in their respective committees. Many of them also spoke in General Assembly, gaining valuable public speaking experience.



Mark Pangin (SH LVI), Oliver Bureau (Ch UVI) and Tom Allen (Ch IV) managed to get their resolutions passed by their committees. Sam Evans (R IVR) and George Ludlam (R IV) were chosen by delegates in their committee to go to the Crisis Committee to sort out a dispute on the US-Mexican border. Will Stocker (R LVI) gave his first speech (as Hungarian Ambassador) to 500 people at the Opening Ceremony, and Mill Luangamornlert (SH UVI) battled hard and with remarkable tenacity representing Egypt in the Security Council.

Oliver Bureau (*pictured below*) won a Highly Commended Delegate Award.



Mr Peach expressed his gratitude to Miss May for giving up the first four days of half-term to attend the Conference and support the MUN-ers. "Her own experience as an MUN-er and obvious enthusiasm gave our delegates a real boost and I am delighted that she has got involved."



Mr Peach was himself presented with a Distinguished Advisor Award for attending 25 years of the Royal Russell MUN Conferences. Throughout that time, he has tirelessly and enthusiastically run MUN at Shrewsbury. As last year's MUN President Ed Plaut stated publicly in his closing speech at the inaugural Shrewsbury School MUN Conference in March, "Mr Peach's leadership of MUN has irrevocably and positively shaped generations of Salopians, who are eternally grateful for all the hours that he has put into us as MUN-ers, but more importantly as people."



Meanwhile the student group organising Shrewsbury's second MUN Conference (ShrewsMUN 2), which takes place on 10th - 11th March 2018, have published the topics to be discussed. They are on the ShrewsMUN 2 website, together with lots more information about the Conference: <https://shrewsmun.com/>





The Tucks 2017

Friday 3 November 2017

As Shrewsbury School prepared for its traditional mad crescendo at the end of the first half of term, there was a special air of anticipation about this year's Tucks Race.



Last year's winner, Freddie Huxley-Fielding of Rigg's, was such a strong favourite that no one really doubted his eventual success. Indeed, the first three positions were all fairly predictable. This time around, however, it was too close to call. At my estimate, even without the talents of the Hunt's two vice-captains (or Whips) Owen Mock and Niklas Amthor (both of Rigg's), there still remained five runners who had a reasonable shout at claiming victory. In the girls' race, meanwhile, we would for the first time see a competition across four girls' houses.



Scouting missions around the course in the two weeks leading up to the fateful day reported a worryingly uneven Tuck's field, with no discernible path, the farmer having ploughed right up to the edge and leaving any overtaking opportunities few and far between. Multiple twisted ankles looked to be an inevitability and was duly written in to the lengthy risk assessment. However, some (entirely unprompted) last-minute levelling by the farmer on the morning of race day luckily for us made the field a much easier prospect. More evidence that the gods of cross-country were smiling on the Tucks race was witnessed in the preceding week of dry weather, making for one of the smoother passages through the Red Hill area that we have seen in recent years.

The stage was set, then, for another epic battle. Tension was etched on the faces of the runners of the 'A' wave as they lined up on the start line, ready to charge for the narrowest of gaps out of Meole Brace playing fields and out on to Church Lane. As ever, a clean start was vital to avoid losing valuable time in the several bottlenecks that exist in the first kilometre of the course.

As the runners sprinted across the field, most of the known contenders for the victory seemed to get away well. For those of us positioned at the start/finish area, we would now have to wait for the entire duration of the race before knowing how any of it unfolded. In the meantime, though, three more waves duly set off at two-minute intervals, comprising nearly 750 runners in total (including around 50 staff).

The boys' race was won by Harry Remnant (Ch) of the Lower Sixth, in an impressive time of 17:50, which is within 30 seconds of the race record set by George Mallett (S) back in 2011. Having stayed with a leading pack until about halfway through the race, I'm told he was able to gradually pull away and stretch the opposition out, in a fine example of tactical running.

A bit further back, in an excellent performance by a Fifth Former, was Sam Western (PH), who was able to show how far he has developed as an athlete in the last year or so.



Harry Remnant, Sam Western, Cameron Anwyl

Taking bronze was Cameron Anwyl (S UVI), just ahead of the RSSH Huntsman, Monty Hardcastle (I), who was still feeling fatigued from his efforts in the Pringle Trophy only a few days before. Tom Jackson (R), another Fifth Former, rounded up the top five with an impressive display.

In the girls' race, Francesca Harris (EDH) lined up at the start a clear favourite, having won the race last year as a Third Former, an unprecedented achievement. Her expected win did indeed come to pass, with a strong run in 20:52, beating her nearest rival and fellow Emma Darwin runner, Lillian Wilcox (herself only a Fifth Former) by nearly two minutes. Huntswoman Immie Evans (G) claimed bronze, ahead of Sophia Dixon and Anna Cowan (both of MSH) in 4th and 5th.



Francesca Harris, Lillian Wilcox, Immie Evans

Prizes are also awarded to 'junior' runners, i.e. those in the Third and Fourth Forms. In the boys' race, first junior was claimed by Oscar Hamilton-Russell, who placed sixth overall in a tremendous run. Second place went to Third Former Seb Price (again of Rigg's), who placed 12th, while the bronze medal was won by Fourth Former Orlando Williams (Rt).

Among the junior girls, Francesca Harris of course picked up gold here, having won the race outright, while the silver medal was won by Third Former Nell Ware (MSH), with Charlotte Russell (G) taking third.

Perhaps even more important to these runners than their individual successes, though, was the performance of the Houses as a whole. As the results were counted, it became clear that Rigg's had overcome the setback of losing two of their best runners (Owen and Niklas) to claim a huge points win over their nearest rivals, Severn Hill, by nearly 150 points. This was an extremely impressive achievement by Rigg's, who also won the title last year, and is testament to the strength in depth that currently exists in that house. The fact that nearly 20 Rigg's boys train regularly with the Hunt is surely an important ingredient in their success.

Among the girls' houses, victory was much more marginal. Having claimed the one-two by Chessy and Lillian, last year's winners Emma Darwin must have felt confident of the overall win, but this actually went to Mary Sidney Hall in what was a surprising win for them. A great team performance ensured that their seventh and eighth counters placed fairly high up the field, and contributed to a team score just 13 points lower than Emma Darwin's. The Grove took third place, and Moser's, in their first Tucks appearance as a girls' house, placed fourth.



One of the most exciting things about the Tucks race, for me, is not what goes on at the top end, but the myriad minor battles taking place right through the field. A lot of these battles are purely personal – a Fourth Former, perhaps, aiming to improve on last year's result of 250th, or a Lower Sixth entrant, keen to place in the top 100 after betting she could to one of her housemates. The overall spirit of competition shown by all Salopians on the day – whether or not they consider themselves runners – was tremendously inspiring, and I congratulate them all on a wonderful achievement.

Mr Haworth

Teacher in Charge of the Hunt

To enjoy a short film featuring some of the highlights of the Tucks, please follow the link: [The Tucks Film 2017](#)

Failure Week

Friday 3 November 2017

Schools such as Shrewsbury are well used to trumpeting success. But it is not often that you hear schools such as ours talking about failure.



In the mindset of many, failure is the very antithesis of success. Loaded with negative connotations, we actively avoid talking about it and failure becomes the unspoken ‘F word’. We’re uncomfortable with the very idea of failure, and indeed as we move from infant to child to adolescent to adult, we become more failure-averse and less inclined to step out of our comfort zone.

At Sunday evening’s presentation to parents (entitled ‘The Discomfort Zone’) we opened with the perhaps controversial statement, ‘We want your children to fail’. Naturally, we want our pupils to succeed and reach their potential, but we believe that the two objectives are not contradictory. In fact, we believe that failure is absolutely critical if our pupils are to succeed.

The message of embracing failure has long been advocated by the likes of Sir James Dyson (“We need to fail - fail often - in order to succeed”) and Bill Gates (“It’s fine to celebrate success, but more important to heed the lessons of failure”) both of whom know a thing or two about success and failure. It’s a message that we, too, as a School firmly believe in, hence the whole-school focus of ‘Failure Week’ that was launched when the pupils returned from half-term.

During Failure Week we have challenged the pupils to rethink how they perceive failure and challenged them to step out of their comfort zone and try new things. As staff we have endeavoured to lead from the front by stepping out of our own comfort zones and in so doing becoming pupils again and risking the possibility of failure.

Whether performing dance for the first time, getting in a rowing boat, or learning an instrument, we hope that by getting out of our comfort zones the pupils may be encouraged to do the same.



We hope that by talking about our own experiences of failure - and the pivotal role those failures have played in our own personal journeys - that the pupils may, too, begin to recognise that failures are not things to be feared but rather, as CS Lewis described it, “finger posts on the road to achievement”.

To read a transcript of the talk given by Mr Walters (Deputy Head - Academic) as part of the presentation we gave to parents last Sunday, please follow the link: [The Failure Allergy.](#)

Mr Middleton, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular)



Chapel Choir evensong in Keble College, Oxford

Wednesday 4 October 2017

The dreaming spires once again played host to Shrewsbury School's Chapel Choir last week, the venue this time Butterfield's Byzantine Gothic masterpiece, Keble College Chapel.



As the choristers formed up in the quad for the procession, the blustery and wet conditions did nothing to dampen – other than literally – the enthusiasm and anticipation of the Choir, who earlier in the afternoon had been spellbound by the atmosphere and limpid acoustic of this fairy tale chapel.

Its numbers increasing in proportion with the School's population, the choir of nearly 80 overflowed its banks and spilled out of the choir stalls, producing a sound to match.

The high points of the service were surely Herbert Howells' *Collegium Regale*, justly a cathedral choir favourite, with the tenor solo at the start of the *Nunc Dimittis* exquisitely sung by Ngo Hin Cheng (O LVI) and, later on in the service, the ethereal *Lord Of Wisdom* by W. Todd, a showcase for the girls' voices.

The canticles and prayers were intoned in rock steady tenor by ex-Winchester Cathedral chorister Henry Cramsie (SH LVI) (who had, unknown to the conductor, subcontracted one of the prayers to his neighbour, Will Hope (Ch LVI)).



The hymn 'How shall I sing the majesty/Which angels do admire?' finished off the service, the words equally appropriate to the setting, music and Choir.

I Know Thee not, Old Man

Saturday 4 November 2017

28 members of OSGS met at the exclusive New Zealand Club in heavy rain on Saturday 4th November.

At The New Zealand (founded in 1894), members include Dan Betts (SH 89-94), Philip Sabin (S 60-65) and Tim Turnbull (Ch 71-76).

Over bacon rolls and coffee, the waters subsided, contrary to forecasts. The weather gods are life members of OSGS.



The Hon Sec, (pictured right), these past 22 years, welcomed the assembled company. He was heartened mightily by the youthful presence of James Mainwaring (R 2005-10), Nicky Renton (O 2004-09), Archie Smyth-Osbourne (Rt 2007-12), William Smyth-Osbourne (Rt 2004-09), Alex Stewart (O 2006-09) and Rex Worth (S 2002-07). Their rejuvenating contribution to the lowering of the average age of OSGS meetings, as well as the Champion Trophy, is exhilarating: a new dawn is breaking for OSGS.

Already for the Scottish Tour of 2018 (16th to 18th May), 21st century entries include Luke Gerrard (SH 2003-08), Harry McHale (S 2003-08), William Matthews (Rt 2003-08), George Thomas (Ch 2003-08) and Mark Tomley (SH 2003-08), energised by their contemporary Ed Towers (Ch 2004-09).

There will also be a new grip about OSGS after the 'patsy' years of the current Hon Sec, T J Lewis (1950-55), a tolerant liberal from Rigg's (where else?). Lewis is starting to hand over to his successor Charles Hill (SH 1980-84) whose CV includes 'house trained/groomed at Hugh Ramsbotham's Doctor's and thereafter by the Metropolitan Police'.

The Hon Sec said that the President of OSGS, Anthony Smith (O 1965-69) had been brilliant in finding Charles Hill. Charles fits the Job Specification and the Person Profile, supported by Jane, mother of two Salopian ladies of Sixth Form entry.

On the day before the New Zealand meeting, there had been a tryst in Crocker End, Henley-on-Thames at which old Hon Sec had briefed the incoming Hon Sec. Matters had included revision of the Fasti for 2018 (which can be seen [here](#)), the value of the President's 'Gang of Four' (in lieu of any Executive Committee such as OSGS has never owned), the OSGS Five Year Plan and the Budget for 2018-9. Against this titanic backdrop, the old Hon Sec appealed for the Society to drop 'Old' with his quotation from Shakespeare's King Henry the Fourth Part II, Act 5 Scene 5. These are among the cruellest lines in Shakespeare when the young King Hal disowns Sir John Falstaff, his wicked old playmate of the wild oats days of his youth.

Results of the meeting at the New Zealand Club for the Robert Walker Foursomes Cup:

Nicky Renton & Alex Stewart: 32 pts
Archie Smyth-Osbourne & William Smyth-Osbourne: 32 pts
Andrew Saunders & David Umpleby: 32 pts
Peter & Rex Worth: 33 pts (with 19 pts at the turn)
Oliver Eaton & Richard Hanson: 35 pts (with 20 pts at the turn)
There was a triple tie on 36 pts:
Angus & James Pollock: 12 pts on the back 6 holes
Runners-up: Robert Cutler & Tim Lewis: 13 pts on back 6 holes
Winners: Charles Hill & Charles Wilson: 19 pts on back 9 holes



'Benedictus benedicat': the lunchtime scene at the New Zealand Club.



Hon.Sec. presents the Robert Walker Foursomes Cup to the winners: Charles Wilson and Charles Hill.



Rowing Camp

Monday 6 November 2017

Thirty-six Senior and J16 boys and girls attended the Boat Club's training camp in Laias, Spain over the half-term exeat and gained a huge amount from the experience.



The focus of the trip was on individual skill acquisition on the water and increased awareness of performance factors off the water.

With a packed trailer of small boats, the order of the day was generally two water sessions in small boats and one session on the land. The water conditions were fantastic, with nine kilometres of mostly flat water available to spread out the flotilla.



Off the water, the excellent catering provided much needed sustenance and access to a classroom was put to good use with talks most evenings by either the coaches or Upper Sixth pupils sharing their insight to getting the most out of the seasons to come.



The boys and girls were fantastic ambassadors for the Club and School in the way they handled themselves throughout the week, and a huge thank you goes to them and the attending coaches for making it such an enjoyable trip.

Mr Hundermark, Director of Rowing

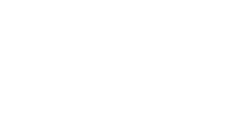


To scroll through a gallery of stunning photos taken by Mr Hundermark during the week, please click on the image below:



Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

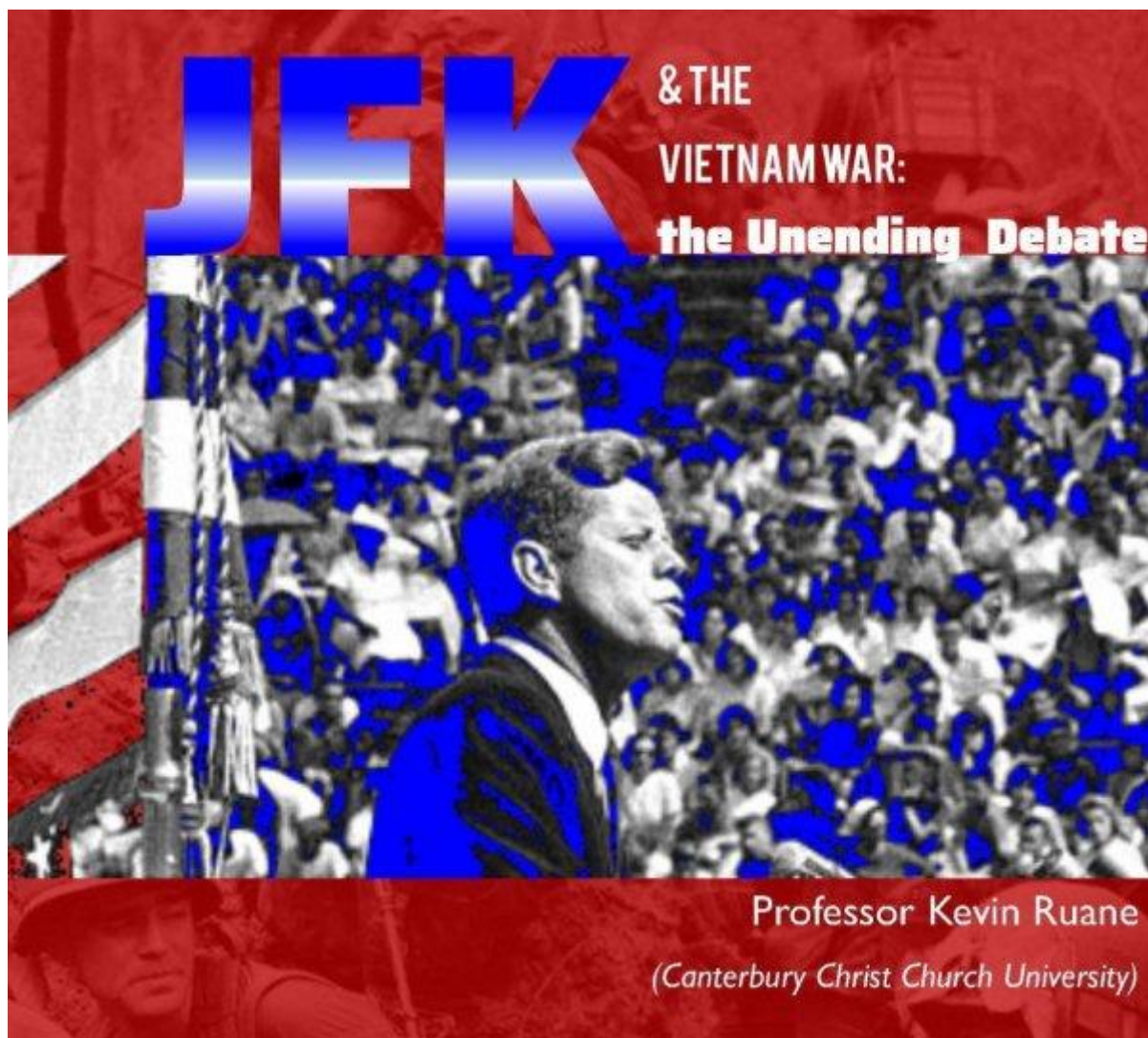




Bastille Society Lecture: JFK and the Vietnam War - the unending debate

Monday 6 November 2017

Professor Kevin Ruane, a specialist in 20th century international history, returned to Shrewsbury School on 3rd November to deliver a refreshing perspective on the much-contested issue of 'JFK and the Vietnam War'. - Report by Glory Chan (MSH UVI)



Despite the widely popular perception that the war in Vietnam would not have been so disastrous if President Kennedy had lived, Professor Ruane debunked this idea by highlighting Kennedy's flawed policies in Vietnam, suggesting the commonly mythologised portrayal of Kennedy is deceptive and erroneous.

Professor Ruane argued that Kennedy's main initiative in Vietnam – the Strategic Hamlet Programme – proved unsuccessful as it was fundamentally founded on a false premise. Assuming that people were coerced into supporting the Viet Cong, the programme sought to

isolate South Vietnamese from the influence of the Communists. However, it failed to provide adequate protection and alienated the people, unable to win over the 'hearts and minds' that were crucial in achieving victory.

Kennedy's decision to approve the overthrowing of Diem was also highly criticised by Professor Ruane, 'morally locking' America into supporting subsequent South Vietnamese governments. Interestingly, Professor Ruane contended that perhaps if Diem had not been overthrown, the negotiations between North and South Vietnam that were underway might have come to fruition, thereby paving the way for American withdrawal without intensifying the conflict.

Captivating the audience with his unparalleled analysis of JFK and the Vietnam War, we would once again like to extend our thanks to Professor Ruane for a memorable and highly educational Friday night.





Spanish Faculty Trip to Argentina

Monday 6 November 2017

Emma Gardner (M UVI) has written a wonderful account of the Spanish trip to Rosario in Argentina, which took place over half-term.

As I sat on the plane at the start of the 13-hour flight, I thought about what the trip might bring. I was excited yet nervous, not knowing quite what to expect from an unknown country and culture.

As I arrived, however, all sense of anxiety completely disappeared. We were greeted warmly by our host partners and taken to their homes. I was welcomed quite literally with open arms by my host parents, and thus commenced my stay. After arriving, we spent the day with our host families. This included having lunch at a local boat club and taking in the beautiful views of the River Paraná. It took me a while to get used to their routine – trying to wait until 11pm to have dinner!



We went on a boat trip down the river and visited some landmarks, like the city's famous Cathedral and the National Flag Memorial. The following day, we were given an insight into Argentinian education. But it wasn't quite what we expected – we were shown how students make jam or perfume in a Chemistry class to then sell and raise funds for charity. In the afternoon, Salopian boys played a football match against their Argentinian counterparts. We were also very lucky to visit an animal sanctuary, which cared for animals that had been kept as illegal pets. We were fortunate enough to see a variety of animals, from different species of monkey to a baby puma.

After a couple of days of lessons and cultural tours, we were able to relax at an Argentinian estancia (a type of ranch). We were driven up a long winding track until we reached a beautiful

home. The countryside stretched as far as the eye could see. Here we enjoyed the beautiful Argentinian weather and sampled a traditional *asado* of beef, along with empanadas for starter. We stayed here for the afternoon and many people enjoyed sunbathing or horse riding. There were lots of complaints when it was time to leave!



We spent our last two days in Rosario with the host families, enjoying a stroll around the parks and then another large *asado* in the evening. I enjoyed spending this time with my host family and really getting to know them. Staying with a host family was a wonderful experience, as it allowed me to develop a deeper understanding of the culture and to really improve my Spanish skills. We ended up talking about all manner of topics at the dinner table, from religion to how to brew the perfect cup of mate (a traditional Argentinian drink.) For me, being able to talk in Spanish and share our two cultures really allowed us to connect with each other.



The trip offered many opportunities to try something new – from a tango class with our host partners to sampling the traditional cuisine. There were times to get stuck in and really take advantage of what was on offer, such as reading to playschool children or taking a cooking lesson.

A significant part of the trip for me was our visit to the Desafio Foundation, a charity which runs sports activities and workshops for disadvantaged children (and partly funded by selling the jam and perfume made in the chemistry lessons!). Although we were only able to spend a couple of hours there, Salopians and Rosarinos alike realised that perhaps we had more in common than we had originally thought. Despite stark cultural and social differences, everyone connected on some level – whether this was just talking about football or music. When asked to describe themselves in one word, many children simply said *alegre* (happy).



The happiness of the Argentinian people was something that struck me during the trip. To me it seemed that this happiness was a lot simpler than expected – enjoying time spent with friends and family, something that is at the heart of Argentinian values. I formed a strong bond with my host family and made many new friends. It was very emotional to say goodbye at the end of our stay, and many of us were welcomed back.

Once in Buenos Aires, we took in the main tourist attractions, including the main square where the government building and the Cathedral are located. We expanded our knowledge of Argentina's rich history by visiting the grave of Eva Perón and watching a traditional tango show. We also visited the area of La Boca, a colourful myriad of tango dancing in the street and artisan stalls.

When Mr Wright asked me what the highlight of the trip was for me, I didn't choose an activity, but rather the people themselves. The kindness, warmth and generosity of the Argentinian people is something I will always remember. One part I really loved about the trip was being able to communicate in a different language – whether this was talking to my host family to starting a conversation with artisans in the market.

Thank you so much to Mr & Mrs Wright for making the trip possible and also to Matron Debra King for accompanying us and injecting some laughter into the trip. It was an unforgettable experience, and I look forward to returning as soon as I can!



Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Epic Fail'

Tuesday 7 November 2017

Following last week's 'Failure Week', this is a failure-filled edition.

Please click [here](#) to open Shrewsbury SparkPoint 'Epic Fail' as a pdf.

shrewsbury school
SparkPoint 2017

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Epic Fail

A Little Bit of Froth?

Last week was certainly a lot of fun – although I am not sure I will be donning the dancing shoes again in a hurry and the clarinet may well be going back into the cupboard under the stairs, but one or two have suggested that this was all it was, an opportunity for amusement.

Of course it was going to be entertaining, of course there were going to be ridiculous moments, but the purpose of this week was to raise awareness of a very serious issue – the inability of pupils either to put themselves in positions in which they may fail or to respond well to failure when it does happen.

And why does that matter so much? It matters because our lives are pieced together from the mistakes we make and from the decisions we took. It matters because our sense of who we are depends on a full and honest appraisal of our strengths and weaknesses – and we can't evaluate those until we try. So think carefully about what you took away from the week and make sure that you really are failing as you should into the future.



One one of the most famous of the post-impressionist artists, Paul Gauguin never attended an art school or had any formal training. He was a child of a French father and a Tahitian mother. He was a child of a French father and a Tahitian mother. He was a child of a French father and a Tahitian mother.



SP1719 Apollo 13
Doomed, perhaps from the outset by its unlucky numeral, this mission has been re-cast as the successful failure. The survival of the astronauts should have been impossible, but creativity and ingenuity came to the fore. Click [here](#) to watch a clip.

SP1720 Eddie the Eel
The story of an athlete who had never been in a swimming pool longer than thirteen metres and found himself, ultimately, falling on the biggest possible stage. His story is moving and a true indicator of the power of failure. Click [here](#) to watch.



SP1721 Elvis Presley
"You're going nowhere, son – you'd better learn to drive a truck." So spoke Elvis' manager after his first performance – Elvis' own response to failure catapulted him toward global stardom. Click [here](#) for a clip of a less confident superstar.





Classical Reading Competition

Tuesday 7 November 2017

More than 20 Classicists – some with a mere seven weeks' experience of Latin or Greek – descended on the Haining Family Theatre in Hodgson Hall last Friday evening (3rd November) for the sixth annual Classical Reading Competition.



The event was organised by Mr Sheppe and adjudicated by Dr Antonia Ruppel from Cornell University, who is an expert on Sanskrit.

The event was divided into four categories of Junior (Third Formers), Fourth Form, Fifth Form and Senior (Sixth Form).

How the ancients actually spoke is a matter that has never been resolved, let alone agreed upon. Under this intriguing premise of doubt and debate, pupils recited works from no fewer than 12 ancient writers, including Homer, Archilochus, Aesop, Propertius, Horace and Ovid.

In her summing up, Dr Ruppel congratulated the competitors on their pace, projection and the sheer variety of the pieces chosen. However, it made her job harder!

She stressed that everyone had approached the passages as proper texts and not as an idealised, dry form. In terms of delivery, there was a balance to be struck between general accuracy and dramatic delivery.

Many thanks to Dr Ruppel for her adjudication and for afterwards imparting some of her knowledge about Sanskrit to the pupils and staff. Thanks as ever to Mr Sheppe, who first conceived this annual event and is the valiant driving force behind it, making it such a success.

The rhetorical laurels (and Shop Teas!) were dispersed as follows:

Junior

1st - Tim Antelo (Rb) Archilochus poems (memoriter)
2nd - Hugh Mackinnon (Ch) Catullus 101 *Ave atque vale*

Fourth Form

1st - Albert Koch (Ch) Plato: Apology Socrates' valediction
2nd - Thomas Allen (Ch) Virgil, Aeneid Bk IV. 363 ff

Fifth Form

1st - Anna Cowan (MSH) Ovid Tristia 1.2.19; A Storm at Sea
2nd - Nick Yale (S) Horace Odes 1.11 *Carpe diem*

Sixth Form

1st - Angus Moore (S) Catullus 8 '*Get a grip, Catullus*'
2nd - Molly Worthington (M) Catullus 51 *Ille mi par...* (memoriter)



L-R: Albert Koch, Tim Antelo, Angus Moore, Anna Cowan

Mr Fitzgerald, Head of Classics

The Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong Dinner

Wednesday 8 November 2017

On the evening of Tuesday 31st October, the Headmaster, Mark Turner, and the Foundation Director, John Rolfe, joined the newly appointed Principal of Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong, Ben Keeling, at a dinner hosted by the Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong (FSSHK).



The FSSHK are a very active group of current and former parents and Old Salopians, who meet regularly to share fellowship and to promote the name of Shrewsbury School, and they provide tremendous support for Salopian families living in Hong Kong.

Almost 50 guests met at the Tsui Hang Village Restaurant in Central Hong Kong and enjoyed a delicious 11-course Chinese banquet that included roast suckling pig, dressed crab and a range of other local delicacies.

The Headmaster gave a short presentation outlining the exciting developments and plans for the refurbishment of the Ashton Theatre. The new theatre complex will provide state-of-the-art facilities to support the development of the creative arts, which has been rapid as the School has moved to full co-education. It is proposed that the new theatre will be called 'The Charles Wall Theatre', in honour of the lead donor.

As part of the new complex, the Headmaster talked about how wonderful it would be if the Friends of Shrewsbury in Hong Kong could combine to sponsor the foyer area. To be able to re-open this as 'The Friends of Shrewsbury Hong Kong Foyer' would be a significant achievement in support of these ambitious plans. The Headmaster also showed a short video, created by the School's Film Fellow, David Clifford, about the need for this project and outlining how pupils and staff would be able to benefit once the new theatre is commissioned.





The banquet provided plenty of opportunity for convivial discussion, and towards the end of the meal there was a question and answer session that covered a range of topics. There was also widespread acknowledgement that the recent appointment of Mike Wright as Director of Internationalism had already done a great deal to facilitate communication to the benefit of students both in Hong Kong and in the UK.

The guests were delighted to meet Ben Keeling, the recently appointed Principal of Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong, which will open its doors in September 2018. Ben Keeling offered the Friends' Executive Committee the opportunity to meet in the new school, once it has been officially opened. There is growing interest in the opening of the new school, which will provide a physical point of contact for all those supporting the FSSHK.



The Headmaster finished by thanking the Friends' Executive Committee for their outstanding work in supporting Martin Cropper and the Admissions team when they visit Hong Kong for the annual Student Recruitment Fair. The Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong have a reputation for being the most dynamic and supportive group of parents of any UK school.

Best wishes and many thanks are extended to the Friends for all the work that they do on behalf of Shrewsbury School UK.

Shrewsbury International Bangkok to open new primary school

Thursday 9 November 2017

Shrewsbury International School Bangkok has announced that it is building a new primary school for 640 pupils aged 3 to 11 years. It will open in August 2018.

The new city-centre campus is being built with an investment of THB 2,600 million (approximately £60m) and complements Shrewsbury International School Bangkok's riverside campus, which was established in 2003 with the support of Shrewsbury School UK and comprises a primary and secondary school for children aged 3 to 18 years. It is regularly ranked among the best schools in the region and currently has almost 1,700 pupils on roll.

The new campus, called 'Shrewsbury International School Bangkok - City Campus', aims to help accommodate the large waiting list of children seeking a place at the primary school at Shrewsbury's riverside campus and has begun accepting enrolments for the academic year commencing August 2018.



Mr Chali Sophonpanich, Founder of Shrewsbury International School Bangkok, said, “We aim to build Thailand’s best primary school at the new site. It is being purpose-built for young children and raises the bar in primary school education in Thailand. A modern, technologically advanced learning environment, security, and plenty of natural greenery are all designed into the school from inception. And we’re staffing it with some of the best primary school teachers who will leverage Shrewsbury International School Bangkok’s highly acclaimed curriculum and its impeccable 15-year track-record in Thailand.”

He said, “The availability of great schools is a major factor determining the attractiveness of Thailand as a foreign investment destination because the best expatriate managers consider the education of their children to be one of the most important factors when determining where they wish to base themselves and their operations. The quality of the early years of education are key to ensuring that their children perform well in secondary school, at university, and ultimately at becoming capable leaders in all aspects of life. Creating one of the best primary schools in Asia will be an important addition to Thailand’s global competitiveness.”

Mr Stephen Holroyd, Director of Schools for Shrewsbury International in Asia and an educationalist with twelve years’ experience in Thailand as Principal of Shrewsbury’s outstandingly successful riverside campus in Bangkok, said, “Shrewsbury Bangkok’s riverside campus, which offers both primary and secondary education, is attracting a lot of very talented children because of its proven ability to develop well-rounded graduates who are academically and professionally successful and are inculcated with the best human values. Parents seek to place their children at Shrewsbury right from the first years of education and that has created a particularly long waiting list for a place in the early years where we have around 75 places open, annually.”

“In the last three years, we have been compelled to turn away more than 650 well qualified children who were applying for a place in our Junior School at the riverside campus due to the limitation of places. Shrewsbury International School Bangkok - City Campus will help us provide those extra places for deserving children while at the same time giving us an opportunity to build a campus that is specifically designed for children aged 3 to 11 years,” he said.

Children completing their primary school education at the city campus are guaranteed a place at the secondary school in Shrewsbury Bangkok’s riverside campus.

According to Mr Holroyd, “Developing a great school requires continuity in the cadre of teaching staff which is why the Principal of the primary school at our riverside campus, Ms Amanda Dennison, is the new Principal of Shrewsbury’s City Campus.”



“She will ensure that the same values and teaching standards in our riverside campus are embedded into the new city campus from the start. Paramount among her missions is to provide the holistic education that Shrewsbury is famous for, which develops children both academically and emotionally, and to provide contextualised teaching in a collaborative learning environment that prepares children well for university life and the transformed world of the future.”

Ms Dennison has led the Junior School at Shrewsbury Bangkok’s riverside campus as Principal for seven years and, prior to that, was the Principal of a leading primary school in London. The Assistant Principal at Shrewsbury Bangkok’s riverside campus, Ms Sally Weston, succeeds her as the new Junior School Principal.

Ms Dennison said, “Parents want to get their children into Shrewsbury Bangkok at an early age. Ensuring that children are proficient in their mother-tongue is especially important during these early years. In the new city campus, while English is the core language of instruction, we are placing special emphasis on embedding the best possible Thai and Chinese language instruction into our teaching and learning. As a result, all of our students will have outstanding English language skills, while at the same time they will be highly proficient in the Thai language as well as have a strong foundation in the fundamentals of Mandarin Chinese.”



Among the design innovations at the city campus is the arrangement of classrooms into a unique cluster formation that creates a better learning environment by maximising the connectivity of classrooms and children. The classrooms are set within only three floors.

These 'cluster design' elements stimulate greater interaction of children with each other across different classes and enable every child to have around 80 other children of similar age to befriend and from among whom to choose and make all-important life-long friendships. She said that interacting with many peers in a year group also supports the proper social development of children, because children learn a lot from interacting with their peers.

"Recent research on classroom design has shown that children learn better when not confined to a 'concrete coolbox'. Our classroom complex is designed to connect teaching space with the greenery outdoors through large windows that let in plentiful natural light," Ms Dennison said.

The classrooms for children aged 3 to 5 years are placed in a separate building and zone which has an extra layer of safety for the youngest learners. These very young children also have their own dining hall and kitchens that are designed to be age-appropriate.

The new city campus has a gross floor area of 25,000 square metres that includes a 520-seat auditorium, a modern library, a recital hall, a dance studio, a gymnastics centre and a dining hall. The school's 15-rai land area also contains a large physical fitness and swimming pool complex, natural turf playing fields, as well as indoor and outdoor athletics tracks.

Forty of the available places at the new school have already been taken up.

For more details, please see the [Shrewsbury International School Bangkok City Campus website](#).



'His Dark Materials' in Rehearsal

Thursday 9 November 2017

As eager anticipation builds for this year's Senior School Play, to be performed on 22nd - 25th November, Shrewsbury School's Director of Drama Helen Brown takes us behind the scenes...



Philip Pullman's epic trilogy of fantasy novels regularly top polls as the best children's books of all time. They function simultaneously as rip-roaring adventures, complete with witches, armoured polar bears and Texan hot-air balloonists, and as a discussion of physics, philosophy and the nature of original sin. Pullman's novels are crammed with rich inter-textual allusions: to Milton, Homer, the Icelandic Sagas, Dante, Blake, Wordsworth, the Shelleys, Wagner, Barrie and Tolkien. There's even an echo of Kingsley Amis's *The Alteration*, which assumes the Reformation has not taken place.

How do you shoehorn all that on stage? Nicholas Hytner first had a go in 2004 at the National Theatre, turning the books into a six-hour theatrical marathon across two nights. Armed with a colossal budget, the Olivier's mighty drum revolve and a cast of 92, the shows nonetheless received a slightly tepid response: critics felt that something of the novels' magic had been lost among all the smoke and mirrors.

Deciding to adapt the novels as this term's Senior Play, therefore, may seem like an act of desperate hubris. It is undoubtedly the most ambitious project that I've attempted since arriving at Shrewsbury, but such is the talent of the young performers and technicians of the Drama department that they rise to whatever challenge is thrown at them.



One of the most exciting elements of the rehearsal process so far has been the experience of working with a hugely talented team of dancers, led by our resident choreographer, Sian Archer, to create the daemons. In Pullman's imagined world, daemons are the visible souls of human beings, which take animal form. This has led to some curious conundrums and some fabulously creative solutions: Fiona Lim demonstrating how a snow leopard can climb stairs and Georgina Cooper calmly announcing that monkeys backflip in a crisis.



After All My Sons, when I cheerily informed Theatre Technician Alex Davies that I would like him to build me a life-size fighter plane and crash it through the back wall of the Ashton, I think he was looking forward to an easier term. Turns out that magical windows into alternative universes pose their own design problems.





As ever, the theatre could not function without its team of hugely dedicated technicians, and I am particularly grateful to those students who give up their time to paint sets, operate sound and lighting and create hair and make-up designs.

His Dark Materials will be performed in the Ashton Theatre, 22nd - 25th November 2017, 7.30pm. Tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/shrewsburyschool



The news this week 100 years ago: 10th - 16th November 1917

Friday 10 November 2017

This week we remember two Old Salopians, who were both killed on 10th November 1917.

Second Lieutenant **Cecil Rochfort Harman**, 1st Bn. Gloucestershire Regiment.
School House, Praeposter, 1st XI cricket, left in 1914 for Sandhurst.

Killed in action in Belgium, 10th November 1917, aged 20

Buried at Divisional Collecting Post Cemetery and Extension, Belgium. Grave I. B. 15.

Lieutenant **Charles Stanley Haslam**, 9th Bn. West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own).

Bennett's (now Severn Hill), 1st VIII, left in 1899. He was farming in Yorkshire and a keen member of the Cheshire Hunt, latterly York and Ainsty. He received his Commission in the Yorkshire Hussar's in Aug. 1914, and was killed in action leading his men on a raid in France, 10th November 1917, aged 36

Remembered on Arras Memorial, France. Bay 1.



'The School will not forget' - Remembrance Day 2017

Friday 10 November 2017

On Remembrance Sunday, as is customary, the entire School gathered around the Sir Philip Sidney War Memorial for the annual Act of Remembrance to honour the Salopians who were killed in the two World Wars.

As the cadets of the CCF stood smartly to attention and a hush fell over the assembled throng, the Heads of School read out one fifth of the names on the War Memorial. Over the course of their five years at the School, each pupil will bear the names of all 321 Salopians killed in World War I and the 259 killed in World War II.

This year we welcomed Air Vice-Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, KCB AFC (DB 1950-55), President of the Salopian Club, to give the address at the Remembrance Service in Chapel. Sir Michael qualified as a pilot while he was still a pupil at Shrewsbury School and went on to have a highly distinguished career with the RAF. His passion for flying was inspired by another Old Salopian, Richard Hillary (Ch 1931-36), who was a Spitfire pilot during World War II and wrote a book about his experiences, *The Last Enemy*. Despite being shot down during the Battle of Britain and badly burned, never regaining full use of his hands, he insisted on returning to flying. He was killed on 8th January 1943 at the age of 23.





Since September 2014, the School has been focusing its commemorations in particular on the Salopians who died in the First World War. During the week marking the 100th anniversary of their deaths, their names and obituaries are published on the school website ([The news 100 years ago - Old Salopians in WW1](#)) and they are included in the weekly Services of Remembrance held at St Chad's Church in Shrewsbury.

The 321 Salopians killed represent around one-fifth of those who served; a further 336 were wounded, 42 of them twice, 15 three times and 5 four times. The losses among many other Public Schools were similarly heavy. Having all had some basic military training in the School OTC, most of the young volunteers were quickly made junior officers, whose job was to lead the way over the top and expose themselves to the greatest danger as an example to their men. The casualty figures among junior officers were higher than in any other rank.

The poem below was written in December 1914 by the then Headmaster of Shrewsbury School, Rev. C.A. Alington. It was first published in *The Times*, then reproduced in *The Salopian*.

To the School at War

*We don't forget – while in this dark December
We sit in schoolrooms that you know so well,
And hear the sounds that you so well remember –
The clock, the hurrying feet, the Chapel bell:
Others are sitting in the seats you sat in;
There's nothing else seems altered here – and yet
Through all of it, the same old Greek and Latin,
 You know we don't forget.
We don't forget you – in the wintry weather
You man the trench or tramp the frozen snow;
We play the games we used to play together
In days of peace that seem so long ago;
But through it all, the shouting and the cheering,
Those other hosts in graver conflict met,
Those other sadder sounds your ears are hearing
 Be sure we don't forget.
And you, our brothers, who for all our praying,
To this dear school of ours come back no more,
Who lie, our country's debt of honour paying –
And not in vain – upon the Belgian shore;
Till that great day when at the Throne in Heaven
The books are opened and the Judgment set,
Your lives for honour and for England given
 The School will not forget.*



Running in the French Alps

Tuesday 14 November 2017

Mr Haworth, Teacher in Charge of the Hunt at Shrewsbury School, reports on a extremely productive, enjoyable and scenic pre-season training trip to Chamonix.



Having been forced to abandon our plans to go to East Africa in the October Half Term, it was with some relief that we managed to put together at relatively short notice a running trip to Chamonix in the first week of the Half-Term Exeat.

Having never been to Chamonix before, arranging the trip was something of an unknown quantity for me. Thankfully I was very ably assisted by our guide, Simon James, who was able to make some excellent recommendations for both the accommodation and itinerary. Given that we would be arriving in the middle of the off-season, however, we were warned that there wouldn't be a huge amount to do in the town except, well, run!

In the event, we did find plenty of things to distract us from our aches and pains and to fill the time before the next big trail, and a good balance was struck between getting in plenty of training for the season ahead, and enjoying the chance to relax, admire the scenery and get stuck in to some Alpine activities.



At the core of trip, though, was of course the running. We were hugely fortunate that for almost the entirety of the trip, the sun shone gloriously above us, basking the valley in a beautiful warm light. It wasn't difficult to drum up the enthusiasm to get out on the trails with the promise of such gorgeous views. Once the sun had risen above the peaks on the southern side of the valley, our runs were pleasantly warm and the gloves, hats and extra layers we'd brought with us soon became superfluous. Given the time of year, this could have been so very different, and there's no doubt that the training we did benefited hugely from the very favourable weather we enjoyed.



There's little option when beginning a run in Chamonix but to climb. Usually these ascents are so steep that running up them is nigh-on impossible, so we usually began with a bit of a hike as a warm-up before getting stuck into the more flattish and downhill sections of the trails. In doing so we were given excellent training tips by our two guides, Simon and Alistair, whose enthusiasm and extensive knowledge both of the area and of trail running generally were to prove invaluable.



In total, many of the pupils on the trip managed to run in excess of 100km over the course of the week, which would be an impressive enough achievement on flat ground, but to do so on steep, rugged Alpine trails was a remarkable effort.

To add to this, we were also put through our paces in two strength and conditioning sessions by our expert in this field, Miss Walker. The beautiful surroundings soon faded into oblivion as we negotiated exercises involving LEW's dreaded resistance bands, much to the amusement of the many onlookers.





Following this, we could make use of Chamonix's excellent leisure centre and kick back in the pool, have a sauna, and in the case of Tom Jackson, slice off half his big toe as he all-too-eagerly climbed the stairs to the water slide.

The afternoons were usually spent resting our legs, though that didn't prevent us from having a go at a terrifying-looking luge contraption (brakes optional, apparently), some bowling, a surprisingly competitive game of pétanque or taking the cable car up to the Aiguille du Midi, a vertiginous climb involving over 2,500m of vertical ascent in less than ten minutes. The views from the top were simply stunning, but with tired legs from the ten miles that morning, and very little oxygen going around, there were a few rather light-headed moments as we climbed the stairs to the look-out point! (Shamefully, many retired to the restaurant before getting even this far, willingly handing over €12 for a sandwich and a Coca-Cola.)



As well as the tremendous boost to their training, this trip really provided all who went with the chance to form a wonderful team bond that should prove invaluable as we prepare for the season ahead. The group were unfailingly good company throughout, and I thank them wholeheartedly for their enthusiasm, their efforts, and their often-uneaten packed lunches.

RSSBC: Fours Head of the River

Monday 13 November 2017

Six Shrewsbury crews took to the water at the Fours Head of the River on the Tideway in London on Sunday 12th November. The event saw close to 500 crews racing.



The Boat Club had three boys' crews entered into the junior fours event, the fastest of which (*pictured above*) came away with a very strong third place out of 30 crews. The second and third were 16th and 21st respectively (*pictured below*).

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL





One RSSBC crew was entered into the junior boys' quads event (*pictured below*). Despite having to negotiate some traffic on the course, they produced a solid result coming in 14th out of 52 crews.



Two girls' quads raced in the junior women's quads events (*pictured below*) and came 10th and 22nd out of 34 crews.



Well done to all those steering, who safely navigated what can be a challenging course with lots of other crews around.

Full results at <http://www.hor4s.com/results/>

Following the cancellation of the Wycliffe Head, the Boat Club will be taking Seniors and J16s to the Wallingford Head on Sunday 26th November.

Shropshire lacrosse teams win North Counties Tournament

Monday 13 November 2017

Shrewsbury School lacrosse players Clemmie Baynes (G UVI) and Mimi Mason-Hornby (G V), who play respectively for the Shropshire U18 A and B teams, enjoyed a very successful weekend at the North Counties Tournament.

The Shropshire A and B teams both beat Yorkshire, Cheshire and Lancashire.



Shropshire U18 A team - Clemmie is no. 51



Shropshire U18 B team - Mimi is no. 32



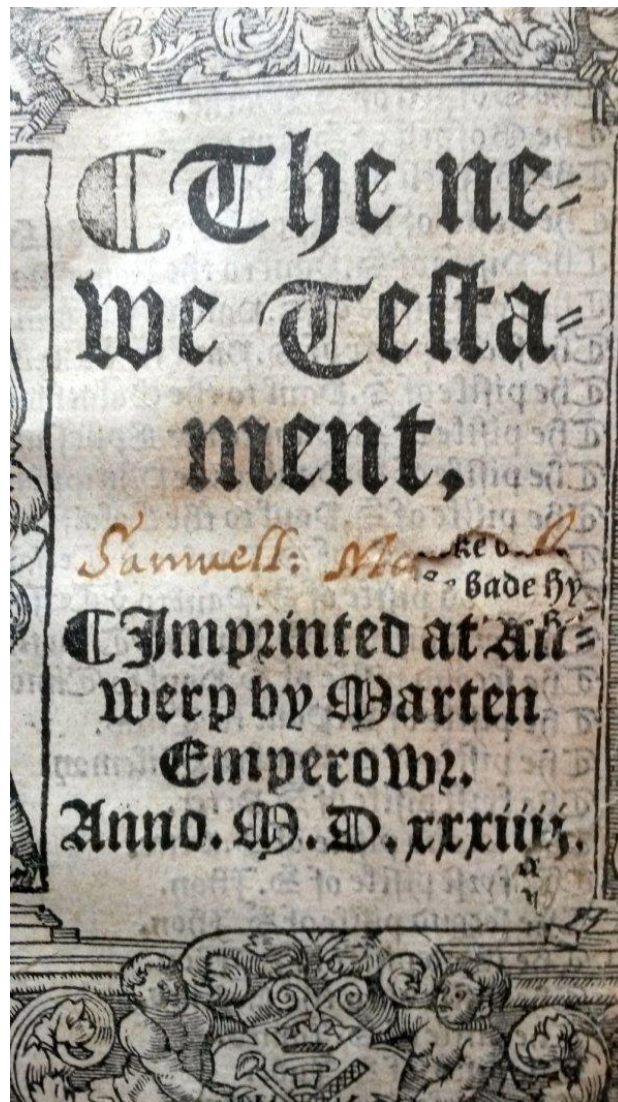
From the School Archives

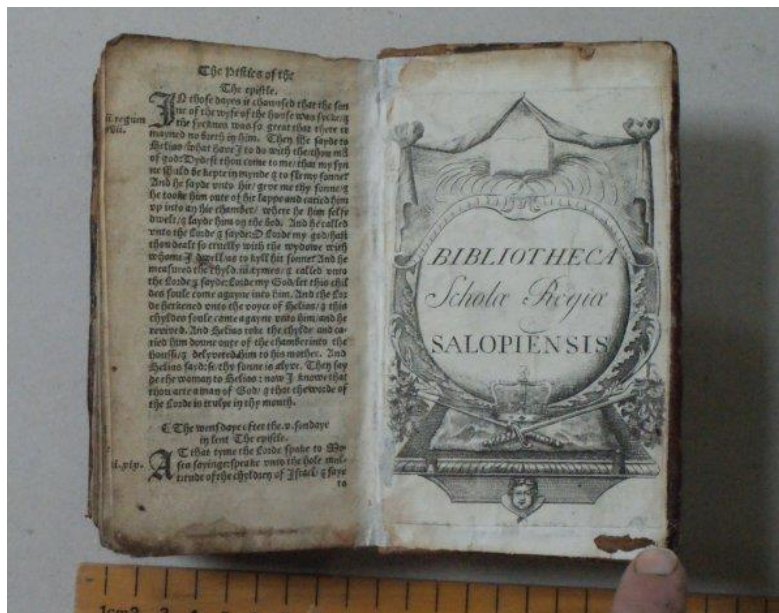
Tuesday 14 November 2017

In an occasional feature for the website and eNewsletter, the School Archivist selects one of the treasures of Shrewsbury Ancient (Taylor) Library. The Library was founded in 1606 and includes a collection of manuscripts, books, maps and other treasures that is of national significance.

As the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in Europe draws to a close and we approach the end of term and the season of Advent, a 16th Century book from the Taylor Library springs to mind.

This book, in its day, it was so incendiary that if you were caught possessing it you would be put to death and the book destroyed. Now it is one of the jewels in our rare books collection. It is William Tyndale's English New Testament, printed in Antwerp in 1534. Tyndale paid a high price; he fled and was eventually burned at the stake in Belgium.





Martin Luther's famous 95 Theses in October 1517 triggered the Reformation in Europe, leading to over a century of conflict and the transformation of Christian Europe. An equally important figure of the Reformation was William Tyndale, who in the same year of 1517 began to translate the Greek Bible into English so that, as he said, 'every boy that pulleth the plough' might hear the Gospels in his own tongue. The great King James Bible of 1611 (of which the school has a 1st edition) is over 80% Tyndale's original translation. Tyndale's legacy must, therefore, be reckoned as not only a seminal influence on the Christian Faith, but one of the three great pillars of modern English along with Chaucer and Shakespeare.

We are fortunate indeed to possess a library that houses such treasures.

Robin Brooke-Smith, School Archivist

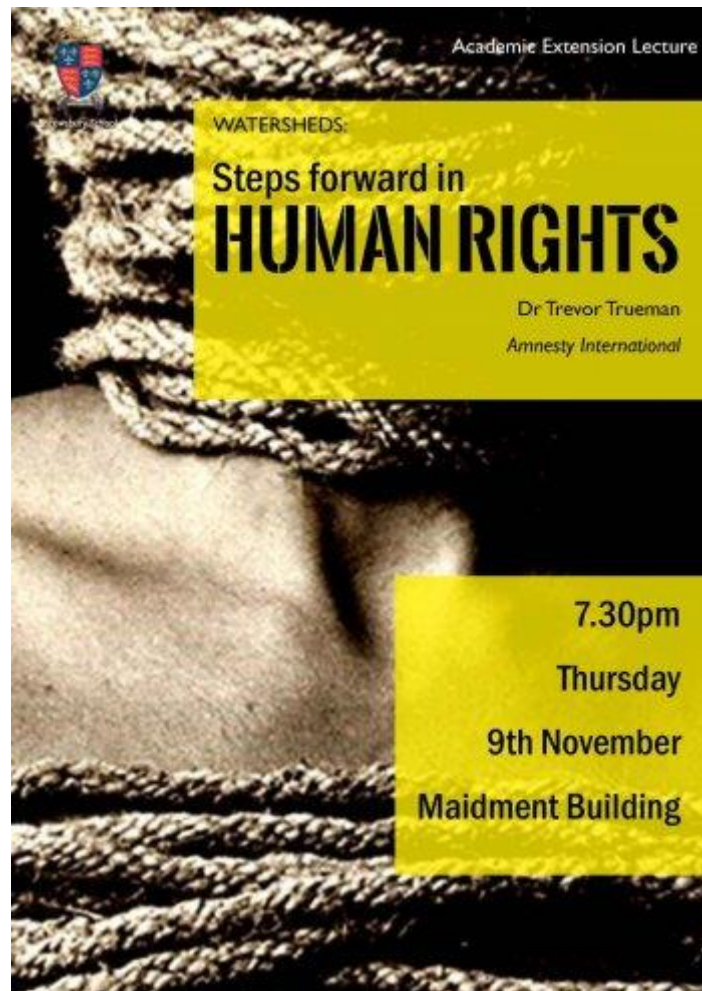


'Steps Forward in Human Rights' - Academic Extension Lecture

Wednesday 15 November 2017

"To say that this lecture opened my eyes would be an understatement." Ebrahim Jamshid (SH LVI) reports on a powerful and thought-provoking talk given last week by Dr Trevor Trueman from Amnesty International.

The lecture started with a riveting video made by Amnesty International which, among other things, questioned the type of world we want to live as well as our ideals. Do we want to 'build walls' that have the aim of separating us, or 'break them'? It set a good basis for the rest of Dr Trueman's lecture, for it began the process of thought on what exactly we want our world to look like and how we can build towards it.



Dr Trueman began his talk by providing the audience with some of his background as a Doctor and as someone who worked with Amnesty International in poverty-stricken areas of the world such as Ethiopia. He then went on to tell a series of stories, each more potent than the last; this would essentially be how he formatted his lecture. It would take far too long to provide a



detailed description of every story he told, so I will confine myself to the two that I found especially striking and indeed enlightening.

One story described how some of the people he interviewed in England (who were legally seeking asylum) were put in detention centres without being told how long they would be detained for. In some cases, these detainees spent years in these Orwellian places. In contrast, Germany, France and Ireland have limits on the maximum amount of time a detainee can be held. He then went on to talk about how suicide and depression is rife in these prison-like places. It seems that when we think of states breaching human rights we wrongly only think about those under authoritarian rule.

Another very telling story he told concerned two young sisters who, at the time he interviewed them, were around my age (16 years old). They had fled their homes in Ethiopia because they had been threatened with imprisonment if they did not reveal the location of their brothers who were hiding from the Ethiopian Government. They were Muslim and their brothers were fighting against the persecution that the Muslim population in Ethiopia had been experiencing under the majority Christian Ethiopian Government. Despite having no part in what their brothers were doing, they were nevertheless being treated brutally by the police. Left with little choice, they tried to escape to neighbouring Sudan but on their way they were captured by human traffickers, along with 34 other refugees. The traffickers offered them their freedom for money, but the two sisters, with no way of contacting their persecuted and dispersed family, could not pay.

After explaining what had happened to them, Dr Trueman displayed some truly horrifying images that showed the toll that two years of being a hostage does to one's physical health. Among the images he showed were ones of deep burns caused by relentless torture, scars that occurred as a result of years of having shackles around their ankles and their starved bodies. These images did a lot to show their physical trauma, but the mental trauma that they suffered during this time span is truly unfathomable. He concluded the story by telling us that they had been accepted for asylum; it was hardly a happily-ever-after ending, but anything is better than what they had to endure for those two long years.

He concluded the story with how a third of the Ethiopian Government's budget comes from foreign aid from countries such as the UK, despite it clearly violating human rights. He also noted that the British media had little to say on the death of 600 protesters from the Amhara region of Ethiopia, implying that our government is turning a blind eye to the obvious human rights atrocities occurring in Ethiopia.

To say that this lecture opened my eyes would be an understatement. I don't think a page of writing can do justice to the sheer enormity of what I learned from Dr Trueman. However, the one thing I think Dr Trueman's lecture explained better than anything else is the fact that behind all the debates we have over whether we should support a government despite its brutality or allow some refugees into our country, there are humans. Humans who, just like you and I, have rights that are not always respected.



Fives: Richard Black Team Cup

Wednesday 15 November 2017

Four Lower Sixth Formers, one Fifth Former and Miss Davies represented Shrewsbury School in the Ladies' National (Richard Black) Team Cup on Sunday 12th November.

The team progressed successfully through their group of five matches to finish second overall by one point to Ipswich. Then, competing in the semi-final for the second year running, they lost out to North Oxford Ladies team 2 to 1.

Congratulations to all those who put in ten days of extra training around their other major sports and for playing so well, out of season and with so little competitive match practice.

A special mention for Ella Windle and Issy Wong who remained unbeaten all day and were quite simply the best pair there by a country mile.

1st Pair - Sophia Breese & Katie Oswald
2nd Pair - Phoebe Wasdell & Miss Davies
3rd Pair - Ella Windle & Issy Wong

*Andy Barnard
Teacher in Charge of Fives*



If you go down to the woods today, you're in for a big surprise...

Thursday 16 November 2017

"Last night I experienced a disturbing, and completely immersive piece of theatre. It had a powerful effect on me." Mrs Drew gives a vivid account of what it felt like being part of an invited audience at the Upper Sixth Theatre Studies Devised Drama Performance last week.



'Enjoyable' isn't the word: unnerving and thought-provoking are more appropriate. When the invitation to a Teddy Bear's Picnic arrived in my pigeon hole, I suspected the Upper Sixth Theatre Studies set would have something dark and unusual planned. My instructions were simple but obscure: to meet at the feet of 'My Know-it-all-Darwin.' The gauntlet was thrown down for an evening of puzzle-solving. Making sense of the experience would be down to me.



Waiting at the Darwin statue outside Main School Building, I became aware of a pair of binoculars winking at me from the trees. Bobbing along the driveway, the Professor (Jack Humphreys) made his grand entrance and began chastising the invited audience for our school-boy errors: “This is no laughing matter, Lesley. Keep up! Stragglers will be flogged.”

Descending the narrow stairs down to the former Economics classrooms, we paused on the stairwell and were instructed to wear an odd beak-like mask and to maintain a strict silence for the rest of the evening. A disconcerting experience at first, the mask made me feel safe, and meant I didn't have to 'look interested' - I could just react the way I felt.

The Professor's unpleasant personal comments, delivered *sotto voce* as he let us in, prepared the way for a roller-coaster. His dark, dark comedy compared with the intense distress of his victims was just horrible.

The way the 'story' unfolded from room to room, with a contrast between the hysterical evangelical whiteness and the unhappy, masochistic darkness was powerfully conveyed by the two occupiers: India Eaton and Liza Stolyarova. And in the Professor's den, yes, I was imagining that he dismembers some of those teddy bears in his spare time!

Three moments stood out above all: first, the moment when the pink girl (Nina Churchill) changed her gait from childish skipping into an old lady's hobble. The transformation from a young girl besotted with pink into a decrepit old woman in her second childhood was totally convincing.

By pure coincidence, I had just spent the afternoon in a care home lounge. As the character transformed from a joyous skip through the autumnal leaves to a rheumatic-ridden stoop, this resonated for me. A few hours before I had watched real elderly people in their dance therapy session, where their physical weaknesses momentarily disappeared and they moved with a renewed vigour.

I didn't spend enough time in the dark 'room of rocks' to understand completely how that fitted in. I could see the contrasts, and watched the mirroring, but I felt I only had a partial glimpse. I know that immersive theatre always means you can never see everything - so I would want to see the whole thing again!



Between them, the students created a nightmare vision, with great attention to detail - the yellowing bananas, the pink old lady/little girl clunky shoes, the Professor's macabre 'experimental notes', the toys that spoke for the children, and, of course, the climax of being impelled to see eye to eye with one of the characters. Having my face held, to stare into the pink girl's eyes at the end, became a moment when I became part of the performance, and that was truly unsettling.

Thank you very much for the invitation; your production will stay with me for a long time.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Edinburgh Gathering

Thursday 16 November 2017

Bursting at the seams with Old Salopians, Whighams was the place to be!

Here in Shrewsbury - Base Camp - the Salopian Club Office was kept regularly informed by our intrepid leader - AKA the Colonel - as he explored the territory North of the Border. Although slightly apprehensive (Jenkins folk feel more at home in the valleys) it seems the reception was far from hostile and he was able to report that there is a healthy and enthusiastic OS community in the land of tartan and haggis. A huge 'thank you' to Alex Thomason (G 2004-09) who did so much towards the organisation of this event and just about managed to keep the Colonel on track. Sadly, the excitement of the evening proved a little too much for the Colonel's camera. Despite assuring us that he had even managed to balance on a bar stool to take a photo of all those assembled, the photos failed to appear at our end. If anybody present is able to provide photographic evidence of the Colonel's antics, either on or off the bar stool, the Club Office would be much obliged...



The news this week 100 years ago: 17th - 23rd November 1917

Friday 17 November 2017

This week we remember two former pupils and one member of staff.

Lieutenant **Sidney Foster Jackson**, 7th Bn. West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own).
Member of Staff.

Killed in action in Belgium, 17th November 1917.

Remembered at Buttes New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Belgium. Spec. Mem. XXVIII. A. 21.

Captain **William Hereward Haseler**, 'B' Bn. Tank Corps.

Baker's (now Severn Hill), Preapostor, Football XI, left in 1910 and matriculated from Birmingham University. Enlisting in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry without waiting for a commission at the outbreak of war, he then transferred to the Shropshire Light Infantry to be with his school fellows.

Volunteering for motor-cycle work, he was transferred to the Motor Machine Gun Corps and went to France in February 1915. His first engagement was at Hill 60 (commended) and subsequently at the second battle of Ypres. Commissioned into the Tank Corps, he then took part in the battle of Messines Ridge, and was promoted. During one of the King's visits to France, he showed "what a tank could do in negotiating a precipitous bank and had the honour of being presented to His Majesty. The episode appeared in the cinema film of the King's visit, though the performance of the tank was (for some reason) omitted". - *The Salopian*

In his final action he took his tank into the lead "doing splendid work", but his tank was struck by a shell and he was killed in action on 20th November 1917, aged 25. Captain Haseler's Major said, "I cannot bear to think of the gap left in our happy mess".

He is remembered on Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. Panel 13.



A. H. RAYNES J. H. PARRY W. MILLIGAN N. JACKSON W. H. HASELER
M. BODDINGTON M. JACKSON A. LINDKINSON, (Capt.) R. D. JACKSON F. L. SMART
A. DELAR D. G. GIBSON

The 1st XI of 1909. William Haseler is standing far right. Myles Boddington (seated far left) was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Lieutenant **Tom Burton Sampson**, 6th Bn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Churchill's, left in 1907 for a job in business in Nottingham, where he made a considerable reputation for himself as a cross-country runner, often bringing local sides to the School to compete, and being one of the first in every time.

“He was among the now sadly depleted band of patriotic Old Salopians who joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry at the outbreak of war.” - *The Salopian*

*Killed in action in France, 20th November 1917 aged 28.
Buried at Fifteen Ravine British Cemetery, Villers-Plouich, France. Grave VI. C. 8.*



St Cecilia Concerts

Friday 17 November 2017

The annual St Cecilia Concerts, performed over two nights by the School Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra, Community Choir, Chapel Choir and Chamber Choir, are a major highlight in the School's musical calendar. Review by Mr Fraser-Andrews.

Folk meets art - that now matters more than ever

St Cecilia was a saint beheaded by agents of a repressive regime. Earlier in the day during the Service of Remembrance, we heard the Irish poet Michael Coady's thoughts on the solace of art: that even while men – and women – are screaming in prisons, elsewhere orchestras are “releasing / Glories of the Spirit”. These thoughts lingered with this reviewer as last weekend Shrewsbury's musicians shone light in abundance on a darkening world with a St Cecilia concert that offered the welcome counterbalance of vigour and expertise. It was glorious, indeed.



Maestro John Moore whisked the School Symphony Orchestra through the Vaughan-Williams' English Folk Song Suite with a sparkling ebullience. For this suite originally composed originally for brass band, the orchestra proved as well-drilled as any bandsmen in capturing the boisterous certainties of the first and last movements, and the elegiac colours of its intermezzo captured with affecting, thoughtful sensitivity. Sounds of a more generous England, perhaps, that even in the 1920s, after RVW's epic efforts to collect the genius of our native folk songs, were fast disappearing.



Next, Linda Zhao assumed her place in the pantheon of pianism that the School has established in recent years with a touching and moving rendition of Mozart's K488. Here was stylish yet impeccably neat playing that found its most expressive voice in the cheekiness of the final rondo and in the pearly vivacity of Linda's superb technique. In the tragic aria of the slow movement the Orchestra found deft and conversational balance with the dying falls of the piano – soloist and band were clearly listening in a display of mutually exemplary musicianship.



Tight ensemble playing characterised the rest of the half, too, with the opening movement of Dvorak's eighth symphony, which, despite the *allegro con brio* marking held its nerve to inhabit the expansiveness suggested by *allegro*, that is, not a marking of tempo, but of attitude, happy – and jolly good it was too.

Folk songs followed with the verdant splendour of Grainger's English Country Gardens summoned into airy existence by the ever excellent Shrewsbury School Wind Orchestra under Donny McKenzie, who delivered one of the highlights of the half – Adam Gorb's Midnight in Buenos Aires. The wind players delivered an enthralling performance of this challenging contemporary take on tango, with Frank McCoughlan trumpet solos, so smokily sultry that I wonder why he persists on hanging around in my English lessons when he clearly has the talent to hotfoot it to the dives of BA and clean up pronto on the nightclub scene.

Folk went pop as it met Art (and Paul) with the School's vocal talents to the fore after the interval. First, Dympna Nightingale's coaxed an immaculate rendition of the Simon and Garfunkel 'Sounds of Silence' album from the impressive Chamber Choir.



The control that characterised their performance, in many respects, floated effortlessly into the starring solo roles in the behemoth that is the Bach Magnificat in D, a monumental piece of epic proportion and fine detail. Yet despite the piece's considerable complexities, the massed forces of the Shrewsbury School Community Choir and orchestra carried it off with indefatigable aplomb and the highest ideals of musicianship. It is a remarkable fact that all soloists were drawn from the student body (Sophia Price, Jessie Inglis-Jones, Ben Lloyd, Ngo Hin Chen, Tiansi Wang, Stephanie Christenson): how often does that happen at other schools, I wonder? In any case, to hear young voices brave the currents of some of the repertoire's trickiest writing and deliver in such fine style truly emboldens the spirit.

Et exultavit in arte spiritus meus.

Shrewsbury

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Shrewsbury Quiz Team are Schools' Challenge Regional Champions

Friday 17 November 2017

Many congratulations to Oliver Bureau, Tom Allen, Alex Sparkes and Tim Antelo, who have successfully defended their title as Schools' Challenge South Midlands Regional Champions.

'Team Coach' Dr Oakley (who is himself a former winner of BBC TV's 'University Challenge' and also a former question-setter) describes the competition:

Two teams travelled to King Edward's School Birmingham (KES) for the first stage of the National Schools' Challenge.

The rules of Schools' Challenge are very similar to University Challenge (individual starters followed by a set of three bonuses for the team) but with a slight difference to the scoring: ten points are awarded for each correct answer and there is a bonus awarded for three correct bonuses. There is no penalty for incorrect interjections, which removes the fear of racking up a negative score.

Our first team went as defending champions, having beaten KES in the Regional Final last year. The team had only lost one member since last year, but we knew that KES would provide us with stiff opposition.

In the round of sixteen, we had a double-header with Edgbaston High School: the first team played their second team and our second team played their first.

*"Fingers on buzzers, you first starter for ten...
Which cat was used to punish sailors?"*

So a cryptic one to start. "Well, being trapped below deck with a tiger would probably not be a pleasurable experience," probably ran through some heads. But debutant Tim Antelo (Rb III) buzzed in with the correct answer* and we were off the mark.

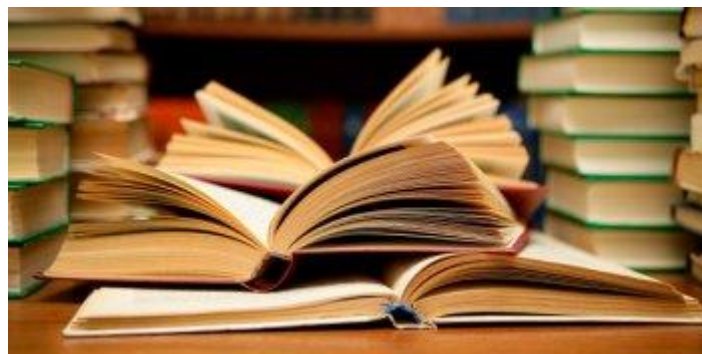
Some useful bonus points and a perfect set on the hypo-morpheme gave us a comfortable early lead. It slowly became evident that EHS were not going to launch a comeback and overall Ollie Bureau (Ch UVI) answered ten starters, the quizzing equivalent of a century, for a resounding 760-60 victory.



Fingers on buzzers... L-R: Ollie Bureau, Tim Antelo, Tom Allen

In another room, Shrewsbury 2 comprising Tom Hughes (Ch UVI) and Jamie Channon (PH UVI) (and sadly no juniors due to conflicting fixtures) notched up 470 points, beating EHS 1 by 270 points. This result led to a quarter-final match against KES 1 in which they performed admirably but ultimately lost 300-600.

The person reading the questions has to be neutral so must not be associated with the schools they preside over. Such was the complexity of the draw that I was needed to be quizmaster for the Quarter-Final between KES 2 and King Edward's Camp Hill for Boys 2 (KECHB). So my notes on the quarter-final against King Edward's Stratford only exist on the back of a receipt handed to me by Mrs Bureau afterwards (for which many thanks). Shrewsbury started slowly (this became a common theme for subsequent matches) but inched to an 80-point lead after ten questions. Stratford levelled at 310 all and were within touching distance until, it seems, Shrewsbury found their rhythm and had a relatively relaxed finish to a 860 – 570 victory.



On to the Semi-Finals and with KES represented in both matches and with the pool of teachers diminishing, I was again called to preside over KES and KECHB. But this time it was the battle



of their first teams. KES 1 processed comfortably to the final with some very quick interruptions to starter; if we were to make the final then they would provide us with very stiff opposition.

Jamie Channon kindly registered the individual scores for the semi-finals and it seemed to be close for the opening few questions, KES 2 having the lead occasionally. But a 250-point cushion emerged and this gap was maintained to the end. Nine starters answered by Tom Allen (Ch IV), seven by Ollie and four from Alex Sparkes (I V) and several contributions from Tim buoyed the team with confidence as they went straight into the Final.

Thirty minutes on the clock... fingers on buzzers... classic question on phobias... KES buzz in... correct.

KES were quick to begin with and built a 100-point lead within the first three questions. Alex registered the first starter of the final for Shrewsbury, then Tom interrupts with some inspired anticipation of the questions. Ollie clearly knows his bookshops and as a result we were back in the match. KES still held us at arm's length but the gap was now only 40 points and seemed to stay like that for 15 minutes.

We levelled the match at 370-370 and KES were visibly rattled. If a team buzzes with the incorrect answer then there is no penalty but the opposing team gets to hear the entire question before they answer.

“Where were the Summer Olympics held in...?” – Buzzing here is clearly a gamble but KES took it, and lost. We gained a small lead but KES pulled back and the pendulum swung back and forth until the last five minutes.

A mix-up of the meaning of an acronym rattled KES's star player and then Tom Allen took advantage and before we knew we had a 100-point lead and 90 seconds on the clock.

Ollie controlled the pace of the bonus answering to ensure there was never enough time for a comeback and we sprinted to the line: final score 660 – 480. For the second year running, we were crowned regional champions with a more imperious performance than last year having scored the highest score in every round and aggregated over 3,000 points in 115 minutes of quizzing.

The next round will be some time in New Year with the hope to advancing to the National Quarter-Finals in April 2018.

**It was of course the cat o' nine tails, but anything bigger than a Canadian lynx would have probably sufficed.*

Failure Week - a great success in School House

Friday 17 November 2017

The whole school community dedicated the week after Exeat to encourage everyone to step out of their comfort zone and do something new, without being constrained by the fear of the likelihood of failure.

With that in mind, Mr Bird took control of the project for School House and came up with the ambitious plan of creating a pop-art/graffiti mural in our band practice room...



The School House Failure Week Mural

Every boy in the house is represented on the wall and they all took part in creating the artwork. I'm not entirely sure what I think about my face being repeatedly emblazoned across the top of the wall... nothing to do with me and I hope not too much of an allusion to the theme of failure!

Thank you very much to Mr Bird for his inspiration, time and effort.



Girls' U18 Hockey team win through to Midlands Finals

Friday 17 November 2017

Huge congratulations to the Shrewsbury School U18 Hockey team, who have progressed to the Midlands Finals of the U18 National Hockey Championships following their tremendous performance in the Midlands Regional Zone.



Both the U16 and U18 hockey teams made history earlier this term when they became the first ever Shrewsbury hockey teams to win their respective County Championships.

The U18 XI have now built even further on this success by winning through to the Regional Finals of the National Hockey Championships. This is a rare achievement for a Shropshire team and one that underlines the fact that Shrewsbury School hockey is now firmly on the national sporting stage.



From sushi to corn bread...

Monday 20 November 2017

'Theme Nights' in KH have always proved popular with pupils and staff alike. So this term the Holroyd Howe catering team thought, why not have one every night?

Carrie Zeiler (Catering Administrator) writes:

The term began with a succulent Hog Roast served with warm giant baps and Chef's homemade apple sauce with stuffing.



The Sushi Bar was popular, particularly with the younger pupils, some of whom had never tried sushi before.



We then turned our attention to more international themes such as Thai Street Food, a colourful and flavourful German Market and our personal favourite, the American Diner with giant hotdogs, burgers, fries, waffles, doughnuts and homemade extra thick milkshakes. Our talented front of house team even made a giant Juke box out of a plate stack!





Juicy BBQ pulled pork baps with homemade spicy slaw is always a hit, as is the funky New Orleans night with jerk-spiced chicken and homemade corn bread.

Here in KH, one does not need to go around the world in order to taste food that is out of this world!



As always, there is lots to look forward to. As the nights have started to draw in, our thoughts turned to warming, chunky stews with dumplings, hearty soups and meaty pot roasts. And of course now we're heading rapidly towards our favourite time of the year - Christmas!

Our chefs always encourage feedback from the pupils and are always on the lookout for ways to inject even more fun into the food, so please do tell us if there is anything that you would like to see more of on the menu.



Salopians in Cambridge

Monday 20 November 2017

Ten of our Lower Sixth Formers headed East recently in search of enlightenment on the subjects of Law, Physics and Modern & Medieval Languages...

These were part of a series of 'subject masterclasses' laid on by various faculties within Cambridge University aiming to offer a taste of what lies ahead for those who are starting to think about University applications.

Dr Paul Pattenden writes:

With the troops safely delivered to the 'drop zone' near King's College, and the minibus safely hidden from the army of parking attendants that patrol the centre of Cambridge, I headed off to meet Old Salopians in pursuit of my own masterclasses on the subject of 'preparation for Cambridge'.



First up were Dan Edwards (S 2010-15) and Sonny Koh (Ch 2010-15) – both third year undergrads, in History and Economics respectively, and actually enjoying ploughing through dozens of books and thousands of words of essays each week. “You have to love working hard, and love your subject,” as both of them clearly do.

With several pages of notes about Dan and Sonny's 'academic stories' safely scribbled for sharing with potential applicants later, it was onwards to Bould Brothers Coffee shop - full and flourishing amidst ferocious competition and undoubtedly the best coffee house in the Shire.



Like all the Salopians I met in Cambridge, Max and Alex (Ch 2006-11) are thriving on hard work and loving life in the centre of this inspiring city.

Enter James Chen (I 2014-16) – a cheerful and chatty first-year Law student and, of course, a Bould Brothers regular. As an overseas student studying the complexities of UK constitutional principles, and indeed Roman law, James is having to put in a huge working week. “My target is to get it down to 45 hours a week, but I am doing a lot more at the moment,” he grinned. James’ advice for prospective applicants: “You have to be personally motivated – and know yourself. If you can’t convince yourself that this is worth doing, then you won’t convince anybody else.” Super advice for anyone aiming high.



Returning to the minibus in the mid-afternoon to scoop up the Lower Sixth Formers after their final masterclass lectures, a very brief sighting of Ursule Taujanskaite (MSH 2013-15) was an unexpected pleasure.

The chatter among the Lower Sixth Formers on the journey home was pleasingly high-brow. The minibus lawyers held court on human rights, the difference between killing and slaying, and the war between landlords and squatters. The physicists quietly grumbled about their lack of a decently long lunch hour, despite their newly-acquired understanding of relativistic time-dilation. Meanwhile the linguists had been taught what linguistics is all about, and discovered that they all rather liked the sound of it...



On a grey autumn day, it is still very easy to be drawn in by the grand architecture, rolling lawns and cobbled streets guarding trendy shops and markets. Even before visiting, the reputation of both Cambridge and Oxford will put them at the top of many students' list. Nonetheless, this trip was about starting the search for the right course – get this decision right and you are much more likely to reach your potential, and almost certain to enjoy the challenge of achieving it.

It was a long day, but hopefully these particular Salopians learned a little bit more about where their academic compass is pointing. Think on.

PP

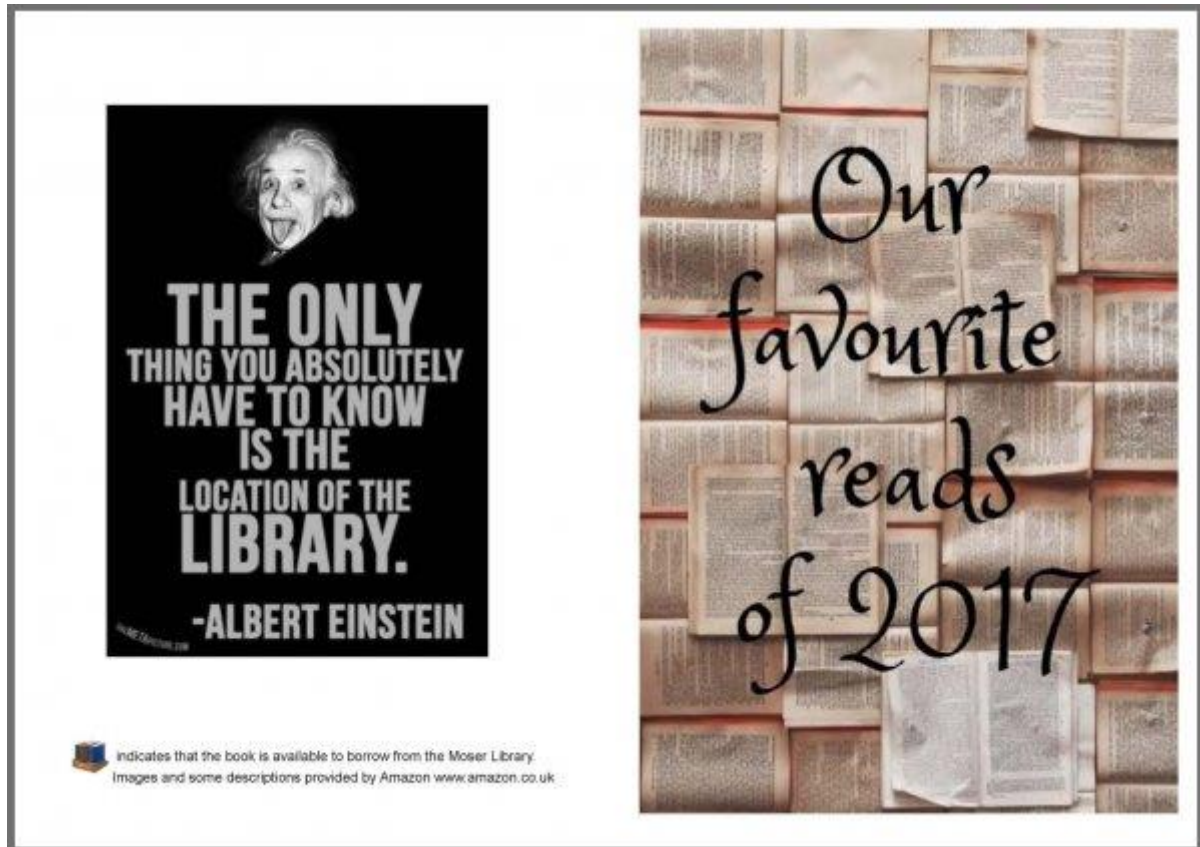




Our favourite reads of 2017

Monday 20 November 2017

Recommendations from Shrewsbury School pupils and staff.



Every year when I ask staff and students to share their favourite reads of the year, I am delighted with the volume and range of responses. This year is no exception.

In the booklet 'Our Favourite Reads of 2017' you will find genuine book recommendations from students from all year groups and staff from all disciplines. We have also included details of six of the very best YA novels published in the last 18 months which have been shortlisted for our Shrewsbury School Book Award.

Print copies are available in the Library, or you can download a copy here: [Our Favourite Reads of 2017](#).

Jo Elliot, Head Librarian

Appointment of new Headmaster

Tuesday 21 November 2017

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Leo Winkley as Headmaster of Shrewsbury School from September 2018.



Leo Winkley has been Headmaster of St Peter's School, York since 2010. He is also currently Chair of the Boarding Schools' Association and of the City of York Independent State School Partnership. He has previously taught at Ardingly College and Cheltenham Ladies' College, where he was Head of Religious Studies, and at Bedales School, where he was Deputy Head and Acting Head. He was educated at Cranleigh School and at Oxford University, where he studied Theology.

He is married to Jules, who is an oncologist, and they have three children.

Mr Winkley said: "It is a tremendous honour to be given the opportunity to lead and serve the Shrewsbury School community. The School has a very special and distinctive atmosphere. I am looking forward to getting to know all who share its community, and to working together to write the next chapter in the School's long history."

Tim Haynes, Chairman of Governors at Shrewsbury School, said: "The Governors carried out a thorough and comprehensive process of selection before making their decision. Leo was selected from among a very strong field of men and women. He will build on the excellent foundations that Mark Turner has laid during his time at the School."

"We very much look forward to welcoming Leo and his family to Shrewsbury."

City Drinks

Thursday 23 November 2017

Over 200 guests gathered together in Central London on Thursday 23rd November for the Annual OS City Drinks



In the palatial surroundings of the RAF Club in Piccadilly, OS gathered from far and wide for the annual Salopian Club City Drinks. Young and Older OS mingled together in a party atmosphere, which allowed everybody to refresh old friendships and see former cohorts and staff in a relaxed and convivial setting. A big thank you to the RAF Club for hosting us so splendidly. Plans are already afoot for 2018.....





Opening windows into another world...

Thursday 23 November 2017

"Psychedelically, kaleidoscopically, mind-blowingly epic..." Heather May reviews the Senior School Play, 'His Dark Materials', which is being performed in the Ashton Theatre this week, Wednesday 22nd - Saturday 25th November at 7.30pm. Photos by William Temple.

The breadth and ambition of Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* delights and dazzles. From String Theory to the Book of Genesis, the trilogy might be children's fiction but this is grown-up stuff that does not shy away from asking the big questions. Do you have a soul? What does it look like? Are the forces of good and evil real? What is the glue that binds the universe together? These questions and more unfold in this psychedelically, kaleidoscopically, mind-blowingly epic Senior Production.



What if, Pullman speculates, your soul is like an animal spirit which lives outside of you? This 'daemon' (which as all classicists will undoubtedly know is Ancient Greek for soul) might be a snow leopard, a goose, a monkey, a butterfly... The options are as endless as the multiverses.

In the original National Theatre production the Daemons were magically rendered as puppets. In a flash of genius, Director of Drama Dr Helen Brown has replaced the puppets with a troupe of balletic dancers and the results are spellbinding. The godmother of contemporary dance Martha Graham wrote, "Dance is the hidden language of the soul" and in collaboration with the troupe of prodigiously bendy, skilful and expressive dancers, professional choreographer Sian Archer brings the characters' souls entrancingly to life.



Awash with colour, the stunning set design achieves the unimaginable, transporting us from world to parallel world with the rapidity of sliding down, well, a slide! Along with the two playground swings perched at the apex of the set, these become poignant reminders of the childhood that our protagonist 12-year-old Lyra is leaving behind in this coming-of-age story.

Whether you are a fan of the books or new to the story you will love the visual spectacle, the myriad levels and labyrinthine tangle of platforms as twisty as the spiral staircase at the heart of the stage. Interspersed with mullioned windows, the design takes us to an Oxford college where, as the Bard had it, we lay our scene.

The overall effect is as if an Oxford college library and a children's playground occupy the same space. As the play draws to its climax, the action returns to Oxford where a collection of College Dons squabble over the future of mankind with just the right air of officialdom and pedantry. The set has you wondering whether the essential childishness of most adults might just be Pullman's point.



The adults are petty, factional, bullying and obstreperous, whilst the kids are valiant, truthful, righteous and good. At the end of Act 1 Lyra discovers she can step through tears in the space-time continuum into any number of other Oxfords, each one perhaps only marginally different from her own but offering the hope of a better life. This division is characteristic of the classic voyage and discovery narrative familiar from other beloved children's stories, where the child hero vexed, disgusted or simply scared by the flawed 'adult' world escapes into a seemingly 'better' world.

As in all good children's literature, Lyra soon discovers that adults are not to be trusted. The two central adult characters in the story certainly hold fast to this. As the adventurer-scientist Lord Asriel, Freddy Williams' husky tones suggest the world-weary angst of a man whose obsessive quest for justice have cost him dear. The word 'metallic' perhaps best describes Nina Churchill's portrayal of *femme fatale* Mrs Coulter. Glistening in gold sequins she oozes across the stage in a floor-length gown and mile-long train, her silver-tongued charm concealing her steely determination to kidnap and control her own daughter. Her discovery, too little and too late, that maternal love can be as strong a force, if not stronger, than romantic passion is one of the tragic layers in the complex story.



This adaptation makes even clearer the powerful parallels between Lyra's parents and her own blossoming romance with Will Parry, who at the start of Act 2 becomes her closest ally. The success of the production hangs upon Abi Watkinson's Lyra and Toby Pattinson's Will. A precocious tearaway tomboy at the start of the play, Watkinson ages convincingly across the two-hour stretch with only a handful of minutes off stage. Both she and Pattinson reveal the heart-breaking sacrifice the two lovers must make, the ultimate and most painful severing of being irreparably parted from loved ones.



Through the dizzying pace and neon colour palette, moments of great poignancy emerge. The sprawling storyline sees Lyra time and time again forced to decide who her friends are, to defend why she should stand by them and define how they help to make her who she is. When Lyra descends into the hellish world of the dead with her Daemon Pantalaimon, played by the willowy Charlie Tonks who flutters impishly through her transmutations, she is forced to choose between her soul-mate Will and Pantalaimon, both her best friend and a portion of her soul. In order to do the right thing for the greater good, she must sacrifice her dearest friend and a part of herself.



Watching the performance unfold it struck me that growing up together, Salopians make, break, re-shape and finally forge friendships for life. With this spectacular production the cast and crew also invite us to think about the meaning behind the spectacle of life and, like Lyra, to take our stand, whatever it might be.

Performances in the Ashton Theatre, Shrewsbury School at 7.30pm, Wednesday 22nd - Saturday 25th November. Tickets are FREE and may be reserved in advance via www.ticketsource.co.uk/shrewsburyschool.

To view a gallery of photographs, please click on the image below:



Honouring the Service given by Richard Boys-Stones

Thursday 23 November 2017

After six years as Honorary Treasurer, Richard Boys-Stones (SH 1968-73) is about to leave the Salopian Club to become a School Governor.



In recognition of the fabulous service he has given the Club, during which he has, quite literally, transformed its fortunes, Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, President of the Club, took the opportunity afforded by the Annual General Meeting, to offer Richard a stunning painting of Cricket on Top Common by John Alford.

In addition - and given the cold weather, in a rather timely gesture - Richard was also given a School House woolly scarf.



Whisper it Softly, but the Sabrina VIII are Looking Good!

Saturday 25 November 2017

(Imagine what they could do with more daylight hours.....)

The Sabrina VIII were racing for the first time this season at Wallingford Head as they work towards qualifying again to compete at Henley in the Thames Cup next July.

They were racing against eleven other crews in their Category – Open Eights, Band 4 – and won by a good margin (eight seconds ahead of the second placed crew). More importantly, they beat Nottingham, Swansea, Exeter, Bristol and Warwick University crews, crews from Pembroke College, Oxford and University College, Oxford as well as crews from Henley RC, City of Bristol RC and Reading Blue Coat School BC.

It could not have been a better start to their 2017/18 season and we are enormously proud of them.

Sabrina members are encouraged to come to Head of the River races and Regattas to cheer on the School and Sabrina crews. They greatly appreciate the support and are spurred on to greater achievements by the encouragement and enthusiasm of Sabrina members, their families and other friends.



Cox – Charlie Clarke (O 2009-14)
Stroke – Al Hagger (PH 1986-91)
7 – James Russell (PH 1990-95)
6 – Tom Fitton (Coaching Staff)
5 – James Scott (M 2008-10)
4 – James Stuart (O 1988-93)
3 – James Kynaston (Ch 2008-13)
2 – Philip Wood (M 1992-97)
Bow – Rob Morgan (R 2007-12)



RSSBC: Wallingford Head

Monday 27 November 2017

There were strong and encouraging performances from the six senior RSSBC crews who competed in the Wallingford Head on Sunday 26th November - particularly the J16 crew, who won their category.

We were kindly hosted by the Oxford University Boat Club, which made rigging and boating logistics very smooth.

It was tremendous to have two Senior girls' eights racing at the event. They produced a strong performance that was noted by many of the spectators and their opposition. They came 3rd and 5th in the WJ18 VIII.



The Senior boys put out three crews, all of which performed strongly in their Open eights category. The two matched top boats would have placed 3rd and 4th in the J18 category behind the strongly performing St Pauls' crews.

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The J16s showed some good early season form, winning the J16 category. This was an encouraging showing from the boys against nine other crews and should provide some confidence for them off the back of the work done in recent months.



It was great to have a Sabrina (Old Salopian) crew racing at the event and winning their category with a strong performance.

Mr Hundermark, Director of Rowing



Ten Years at Ashridge

Tuesday 28 November 2017

The OSGS is delighted to honour the President of Ashridge GS - the Salopian Club's President, Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons

Like Penelope, the wife of Ulysses, OSGS is a faithful, steadfast lot. For example, OSGS has been going to Ashridge for 10 years, thanks to the kindness of Dan Graham (M 1956-61) who initiated this fixture. Dan supposed that the well-loved trait of the Benign Apathy of Salopians would mean that we were unlikely to tip up in the following year.

Dan is never wrong but perhaps on that occasion his prediction was inaccurate.

This year's visit was marked by the presentation to Ashridge GC of a panoply of six framed cartoons of the great golf professional Sir Henry Cotton. These were sketched by the celebrated sports cartoonist Roy Ullyett. The cartoons were collected by Henry Cotton personally. They were sold at an auction of the Sir Henry Cotton Golfing Archive at Sotheby's in July 1996.



Henry Cotton was at Ashridge as professional for many years in the 30s and throughout the war. In that period he won the Open in 1934, 37 and 48. Later, he was professional at Temple GC and would regularly watch Tim Lewis (R 1950-55 and OSGS Hon Sec) drive off the first, in the company of Temple's President, Raymond Oppenheimer, who at the time was Chairman of the selectors for the Walker Cup. Sadly, an invitation to play never came the way of our Hon Sec.

The President of Ashridge GC, Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons (DB 1950-55), former Tornado pilot within his illustrious career in the Royal Air Force and currently President of the Salopian Club, accepted the gift. Sir Michael registered his warmest thanks to OSGS for these apposite, humorous parodies, which would adorn the walls of the Club, forever and a day.

8 Members attended with their guests and the results were as follows:

Nearest the pin on 8th: Simon Lear (guest of Simon Shepherd)

Longest drive on 1st: Simon Shepherd (O 1977-82)

Third place: John Parker (SH 1952-57), Donald Shaw (M 1952-57) and guests -72 points

Runners up in points: Stephen Shaw (M 1956-61), Michael Smart (R 1966-70) and guests - 79 points

Winners: Simon Shepherd, Mark Summers (S 1951-56) and guests - 86 points – a resounding victory.

The photograph shows from left to right Tim Lewis Hon.Sec. and Sir Michael Simmons, in front of the backdrop of the Cotton cartoons.

RSSBC: The crowds turn out for the J14s' first race of the season

Tuesday 28 November 2017

Crowds of parents and spectators lined the banks of the River Severn on Saturday 25th November to watch the J14s battle it out with The King's School Chester in a great day of racing.



Out on the water the boys competed in octuples and the girls were in quads, in a mini scullery-style course over two 750m sprints. Each school boated four octuples and four quads over the afternoon, with many students racing more than once.



RSSBC took the win over King's in the octos, but it was the girls from King's Chester who stormed to a win over their hosts in the quads.

Whilst half of each squad were fighting it out on the water, the gym was filled with commotion and cheering as athletes took on the four-minute ergo challenge. Over the course of the afternoon, every rower set a distance on the ergo, with the scores being averaged to find the champions. The girls from RSSBC averaged 891m between them, but King's Chester won by just 14m. The boys from King's were pipped to the win by RSSBC, who set an average of 962m.



The boys and girls from RSSBC performed brilliantly for their first race of the season and for the majority of them, their first race ever. The coaches are very encouraged by the strength and

support they showed one another throughout the afternoon and are very much looking forward to helping the J14s develop further.



The support from the other members of staff, The King's School Chester and the parents who attended was greatly appreciated.

Mr Hundermark, Director of Rowing



On Wenlock Edge

Thursday 30 November 2017

On a very cold Wednesday afternoon in late November, the Hunt were delighted to be invited back to the family home of a former Hunt runner for a hugely enjoyable 'Hash' run in the wilds of the Shropshire countryside.



Mrs Hunt (mother of Tatty Hunt, who was a keen Hunt runner only a few years back) last hosted us about 18 months ago, and it was such a stunning run that we were very excited about being invited back.

For the uninitiated, a 'Hash' is an (I promise) entirely non-narcotic run following a trail laid down in sawdust or flour, in which the 'hounds' are blissfully unaware of the route and charge off into the countryside on the 'scent'. It's always been one of the most enjoyable fixtures on the Hunt calendar, and this one proved no exception.

Colonel David and his two 'foxes' – Sam Western (PH) and our Junior Whip Niklas Amthor (R) – laid a challenging trail ahead of us that took us up and over Wenlock Edge several times, but also took in some fabulous views of rural Shropshire in the process (as well as three farmyards and an awful lot of mud). There were about 20 'hounds', representing all five age groups, and we only just managed to cover the 12km route before the November night swallowed us up. Many of us had probably managed close to 15km by gamely heading down false trails and then forlornly doubling back.



Very muddy and tired, we descended on Mrs Hunt's house (after a quick change into clean clothes) for a truly spectacular slap-up tea of sausages, cakes and biscuits, alongside plenty of warming mugs of tea. It was a lovely afternoon, and we're extremely grateful to Mrs Hunt for her generous hospitality.

Mr Haworth
Teacher in Charge of the Hunt





Dolphins and Jellyfish...

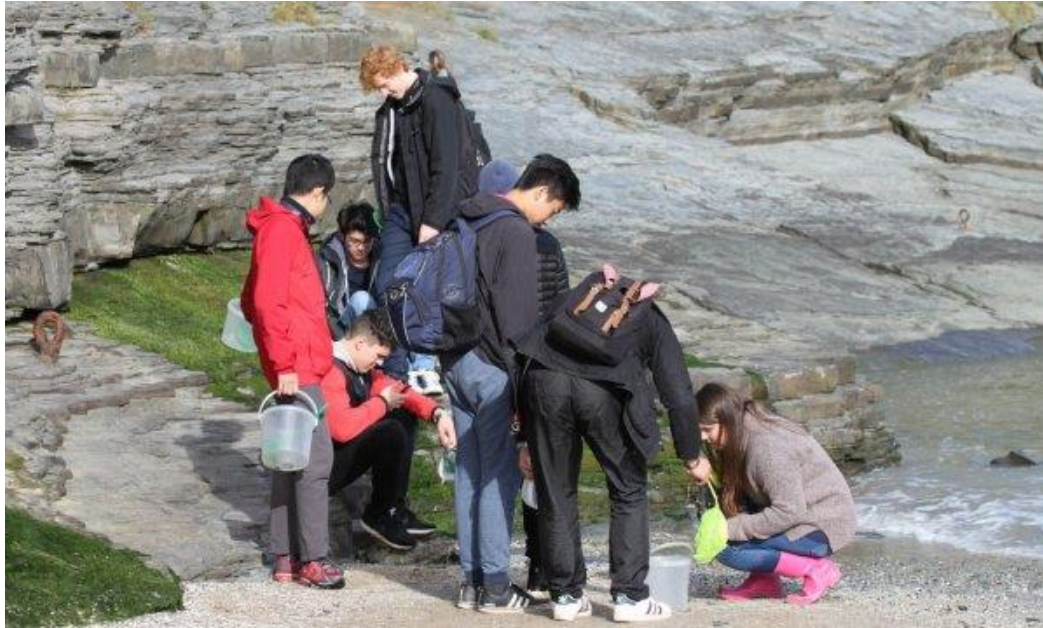
Thursday 30 November 2017

The Natural History Society's Field Day trip to the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre.



We are blessed at Shrewsbury School to have an abundance of rich material for any natural historian on our doorstep – and the Natural History Society take full advantage of this in their weekly sessions. But on Field Days they have the opportunity to travel further afield to explore new habitats. Earlier this term they headed to the Welsh Coast.

On arrival at New Quay in Cardigan Bay, our group of nine keen Natural Historians were met by Emma Lowe, the Living Seas Awareness Educational Officer. Emma began the day with a presentation on the work the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre carry out in the Cardigan Bay ecosystem, a 1000km² SAC (Special Area of Conservation). The Centre was established in 2005 and marine scientists have been monitoring the health of the ecosystem, and in particular monitoring populations of marine mammals, including Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) and Atlantic Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*), daily since then.



During the morning workshop we practised identifying sea shells and had a chance to handle several skulls of marine mammals. Once we had honed our identification skills we spent an hour strandline-combing, which revealed amongst other things a washed-up barrel jellyfish, (*Rhizostoma pulmo*). This led to searching questions such as ‘how do you know if a jellyfish is dead?’ - apparently not such a silly question - and ‘can a dead jellyfish still sting you?’.



The Centre has been collecting data on individuals, recognised by photographs taken of their sickle-shaped dorsal fins. Over 250 different individuals have been recorded so far, making this the largest semi-resident population in the UK. Several pods of dolphins, including ‘Whitecap’ and her calf, swam around the harbour wall all afternoon. The seas were too rough for us to join

the scientists on a sea survey, but we all managed to enjoy a ‘swim’ with Common Dolphins using a top-of-the-range VR headset.



More than half the world’s population of Atlantic Grey Seals are found in the Cardigan Bay ecosystem. Other visiting mammals seen in the bay include Orca, Common Dolphin, Risso’s Dolphin, Minke Whale, Fin Whale (the second largest whale and possibly the fastest, travelling at 35 miles an hour). Other species seen here include the Ocean Sunfish, Basking Sharks and Leatherback Turtles.

We joined the scientists on the harbour wall in the afternoon and carried out a two-hour land-based survey, collecting data at 15-minute intervals.



A fish and chip lunch on the harbour wall was followed by a delicious ice-cream, rounding off a wonderful Field Day.

Mrs Matthews



Birmingham Drinks

Thursday 30 November 2017

A record number of Salopians crowded into All Bar One for the annual Birmingham Drinks on Thursday 30th November. Encouraged by the copious amount of food and drink, Salopians of all ages met up with old friends as well as chatting with six current Praepostors who provided a most welcome School presence. Once again Richard Woodgate and his Birmingham committee organised an excellent event; we now look forward to the Birmingham Dinner on Thursday 8th March in eager anticipation!

