

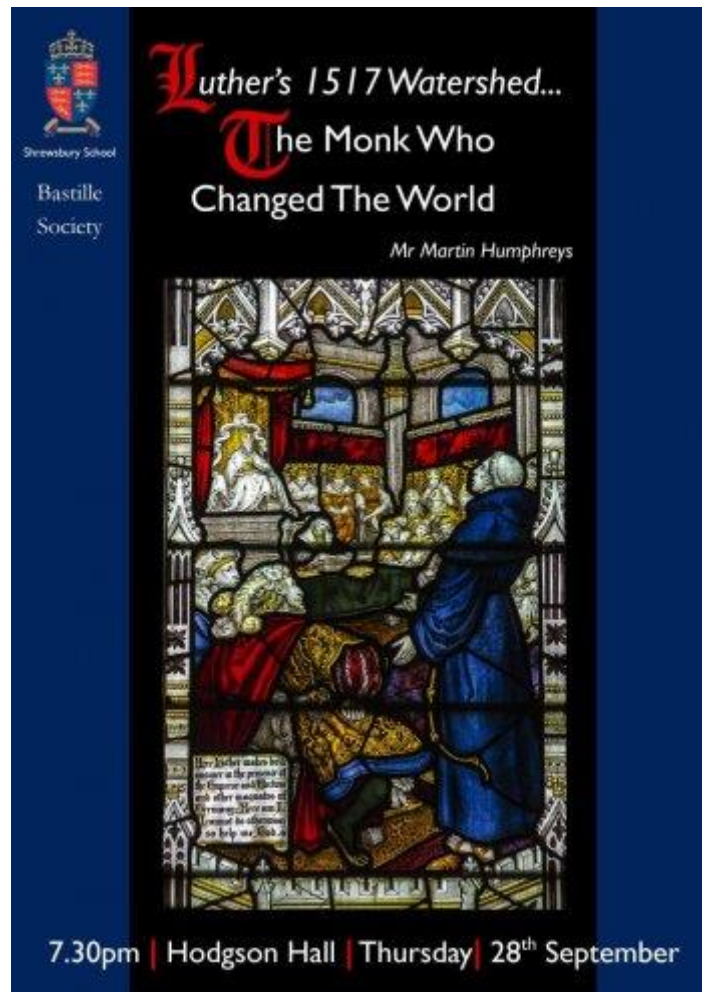


'The Monk Who Changed The World'

Monday 2 October 2017

As Ebrahim Jamshid (SH LVI) acknowledges in his report, the fascinating lecture delivered by Mr Humphreys on Thursday 28th September as part of this term's Academic Extension Series on 'Watersheds' was well-named.

I must admit that this lecture has partially changed my understanding of History – and I don't just say that for dramatic effect.



I always try to refrain from having an almost comic book perception of History, where one person is credited with conquering a continent, saving an entire nation, or indeed single-handedly changing the world forever. I have found that the truth is usually more gritty and complex than it initially appears to be.

However, by revealing the works of Martin Luther and his effect on the world, Mr Humphreys has proven me wrong.

Martin Luther truly did single-handedly change the world forever. He destroyed the supposedly divine power that the clergy had and divided the Christian faith into initially two but

subsequently many more different denominations. Furthermore, his works gave rise to the concept of Erastianism, which was the belief in the superiority of the State relative to the Church. This is something we take very much for granted nowadays and it is therefore hard to depict how extremely radical this idea was at the time.

Lastly, one could say that he triggered essential independent thinking. No longer did people simply accept what was force-fed to them by the Catholic Church, but rather they evaluated what was being told to them using their own knowledge of the Bible. It is hard to conceive the incalculable extent to which this, by itself, changed the world. For better or for worse, a large portion of the modern world has Martin Luther to thank for its existence, and it seems that it really was just the actions of one man and his sheer determination that caused it all.

I would like to thank Mr Humphreys for making a truly captivating lecture. The amazing array of pictures shown and the oratory truly kept me, and the large audience representing a wide cross-section of the school community, fascinated throughout.

Ebrahim Jamshid (SH LVI)





County U16 Netball Champions

Wednesday 4 October 2017

Many congratulations to the U16 netball team, who played a fantastic series of matches on Monday 2nd October and won the County Championship title.



U16 County Netball Champions 2017

Although the girls' games programme focuses on hockey and lacrosse in the Michaelmas Term, the Shropshire county netball tournaments also take place this term. It is therefore difficult to get any regular squad training sessions in before the tournament date, but the Shrewsbury School netball staff and U16 players managed to find a few hours in the last couple of weeks to work on some drills and game play in order to be as prepared as possible.

The tournament consisted of a round robin, with six teams competing. Our first game was against Wrekin College. Shrewsbury dominated from the start, with clinical passing and excellent shooting to come out 14-3 winners.

Our next game was against a strong William Brookes team; Shrewsbury needed to perform at their best – which we did, winning 7-4.

Game 3 was against Shrewsbury High School, who were the favourites to win the whole competition. It was a scrappy game, with both teams aware of what was at stake, but in the end Shrewsbury edged to a 2-1 victory. A fantastic result.

From here we went on to beat Abraham Darby 9-2 and Thomas Telford 8-3.

Unbeaten going into our final game against Newport Girls' High, we were confident but starting to tire. It wasn't Shrewsbury's best performance of the day, but the result went our way with a 5-4 victory to finish top of the table and County Champions.

This is only the second year we have been able to enter the U16 tournament, so to win was a phenomenal achievement. This result means we will represent Shropshire in the regional tournament in January.

Mrs Bradburne



Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Kith and Kin'

Thursday 5 October 2017

This week's edition is devoted to a study of the family.

Please click [here](#) to open Shrewsbury SparkPoint 'Kith and Kin' as a pdf.

shrewsbury school
SparkPoint 2017

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 5 | OCTOBER 2017
Kith and Kin

A Sense of Belonging

You'd have to have been living in a cave for the last decade not to realise that as a race we are experiencing a profound shift in attitudes towards what exactly constitutes a family. Alterations in legislation concerning marriage and adoption along with simultaneous developments in the science of pro-creation have led us to question what the term means.

It's worth noting that while this is a relatively recent development for our culture, the nature of the family has not always been consistent in civilisations throughout the world and across the course of time. This edition of SparkPoint considers the role that the family and the associated relationships have played in the development of culture and science – and the way in which future changes may further affect those areas.

Regardless of the way we think about family, we are all of us intent on finding meaningful relationships and a sense of belonging. Looking at the examples opposite, it's amusing to see how that teenage not to be alone has dominated human thought and progress down the centuries.



SP1713 The Ptolemies

Taking over the rule of Egypt following the death of Alexander, the Ptolemaic dynasty synthesised Egyptian and Greek family values to become one of the most successful in history. Click [here](#) for more.

SP1713 The Brontes

The creativity of these three famous sisters, known for their prolific works in prose and poetry, began with a close family bond in childhood which led to a stimulation of the imagination through the development of an intricate fictional world. Click [here](#) for more.

SP1715 Brook Farm

Established in the 1840s, this was an unusual and controversial experiment in communal living in which children were raised not in family units but – in a manner similar to some tribal societies – by the community as a whole. Click [here](#) for more.



This wonderful painting by Andrea del Sarto (1517) depicts the Madonna and Child and several other figures. The child is their youngest daughter and was a member of the infamous Medici family who were one of the most influential families in Florence during the 15th century – producing three popes and three regent queens of France! The combination of power, religion and family has possibly never been done before!

Rigg's Hall Charity Relay raises over £3,000

Thursday 5 October 2017

Many congratulations to Rigg's Hall, who raised over £3,000 for the Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool on Sunday 1st October by running the distance from Shrewsbury School to Alder Hey in a relay that included every member of the House. Report by their Charity Representative, Paddy Barlow.



The inspiration for this event was fellow Riggite, Chris Cunningham-Green, who has spent large periods at Alder Hey Children's Hospital. As a House we decided to raise money for this special place, which transforms people's lives and continues to help very sick children. This run followed our work selling drinks and doughnuts at the Shrewsbury Half-Marathon last term in aid of the hospital.

The Rigg's team completed the 117km challenge in around ten hours, starting at 11 o'clock in the morning and finishing at 9 o'clock at night. So it was immediately after Chapel that the whole House turned out to see off the first runner of the day, Head of School, Lucien Whitworth.



With many people having to run two or even three kilometre laps to get through the distance, we progressed through the day. The participants were organised into teams of 12 for each hour, and special thanks must go to the Hour Captains who recorded the lap times and made sure that there was always a runner ready to take the baton!

It was a terrific event for the House to be involved with so early in the year and there was a real buzz of excitement at the changeover station outside the Science Bs throughout the day.



There were some notable performances: Tom Jackson who ran the fastest lap of the day with a time of 2:56; Henry Bateson who ran bang on the set optimum time of 5:00 minutes; and Zak Nicolas who succeeded in running the slowest lap of the day 10:12 (deliberately slowing the pace to keep to the schedule!).

It should also be noted that Matron completed her lap in a creditable eight minutes and that Mr Barrett's daughter Lucy beat his time by one second!



All in all this was a fantastic effort and the Charities Committee would like to issue a very well done to Rigg's Hall for their achievements in the charitable department. The money raised now stands at just over £3,000, well surpassing the original target of £1,500. However, any other charitable donations would be very welcome

- <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/riggshallrelay>

Paddy Barlow (R V)



CCF Military Skills Competition 2017

Friday 6 October 2017

On Friday 29th September, the Army section of the Shrewsbury School Combined Cadet Force set out to put into practice the many hours of extra training they have done over the past month for the annual Military Skills Competition.

Sjt Chad Usber (S LVI), Head of Army 2017-18, reports:

With morning, evening and Sunday sessions in addition to the regular Thursday afternoons, the section went into the competition feeling strong and ready for the challenging tasks laid out by 11 Signals and West Midlands Brigade. They would be pitted against some 20 of the best CCF and Army Cadet Force teams from the region.



Extended line towards the casualty in the Cas-Evac Stand

After sleeping in less than desirable conditions in the old ammo dumps of the Nesscliffe training area and living off army ration packs, the team began the Mil Skills stands on the Saturday with TIBUA (or fighting in built up areas). After successfully clearing a whole compound, the team moved on to the first aid stand with Cpl Pran Poshyanonda and LCpl Lucie Lovick giving a concise and clear assessment and treatment of the casualties involved, along with LCpl Oliver Thomassen executing a swift evacuation of the casualty to the rendezvous. Following this, Cpl Tim Lovick led the team superbly through a mental command task involving accurately portraying a map from memory onto the ground.



George Bramwell taking up position in defence during the first aid stand

The section moved through navigation, observation and casualty evacuation stands to the final stand in daylight hours of section in defence. The team set up a deadly precedent to the other teams by winning this stand outright. A LSW gunner and the section were positioned in a bunker system overlooking a wide section of dead ground, upon which they were attacked by probing infantry units. The defenders successfully managed their limited ammunition, holding off the attack with a steady blanket of fire and clear but aggressive orders that pinned the attackers down in time for the reinforcements to arrive, upon which the section withdrew under the cover of smoke grenades and a base of fire.



Taking up position in practice for the section in defence stand. From rear to front: Cdt A. Bramwell, LCpl L. Lovick, Cpl Poshyanonda, LCpl G. Bramwell and Cdt O. Taylor.

At this point in the competition, the Army Section were leading the competition.

Unfortunately a win was not meant to be, however, with the evening military knowledge test presenting several surprising topics.



LCpl Alex Sparkes organising defence during an obstacle crossing

On Sunday, with the Mil Skills competition complete, the focus turned to the March and Shoot competition. Shrewsbury were the returning champions and had an honour to maintain. Cdt Oliver Taylor and LCpl Archie McKirdy set a rigorous pace at the head of the section, maintaining a speed of 8 kilometres per hour over a 2.2-mile course.

The team had to march – not run or jog – over the distance, carrying weapons and full webbing. So to set the fastest time of the day with a time of 26 minutes 24 seconds was mightily impressive, particularly for a team that was perhaps the youngest Shrewsbury has ever put out.

Following this, the four shooters had to fire the Scorpion rifle. The team shot brilliantly, with Sgt Chad Usher and LCpl George Bramwell both shooting a 27/30 and Cds Arthur Bramwell and Oliver Taylor both with a 26. The team achieved a fantastic score of 106 out of a HPS of 120.



The section on patrol between stands

At the prize-giving, the team were presented with the news that they had retained their title they had won the previous year.



Cpl Poshyanonda bombing up a magazine

Thanks go to Capt. Farmer and Maj. Stevens, who accompanied the team on the competition, and to Capt. Simper, Sgt Welsh and Mr Chipperton for their help on Thursday afternoons; and the School training team of Lt Col David, Maj. Billington and WO1 Byrne.

Thanks also to Staff Sjts Susy Watts and Jack Lock, the previous two Heads of Section, for providing the building blocks of this year's team and for the personal help they have given me in offering advice on leadership.

Sjt Chad Usher (S LVI), Head of Army 2017-18



The news this week 100 years ago: 6th - 12th October 1917

Friday 6 October 2017

This week we remember three Old Salopians including Quintus Richardson, who was killed whilst on a practice flight just weeks after leaving school.

Lieutenant **Douglas Heald**, 6th Bn. Rifle Brigade.

Chance's (now Severn Hill), left in 1909. Gentleman of the Runs, Senior Whip, Huntsman. Initially in an office with a Liverpool rubber-merchant during which time he became a first class golfer, carrying off the Captain's prize at Ormskirk club, he later worked in Rangoon with Morrison & Co, rice merchants, and became a member of Rangoon Boat Club as "their best stroke ever seen on the lakes". In 1916 he returned home after recovering from acute malaria and accepted a commission with the 6th Bn., Rifle Brigade, going to France with the 1st Bn.

Died of wounds in Belgium 6 October 1917 aged 25

Buried at Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave VI. I. 4.

Second Lieutenant **William Quintus Newsom Richardson**, Royal Flying Corps

Ingram's, left in 1917 (*pictured right in 1915*).

He had only just left school and obtained his commission a few weeks before he was killed in an accident whilst on a practice flight in the United Kingdom, 6th October 1917, aged 19.

Buried at Maldon Cemetery, England. Grave 42. 54.

To read an article about WQR Richardson that has been compiled by Trevor Neales for the Stow Maries Aerodrome archive, please click [here](#).

Second Lieutenant **Eustace Blackburne Ritson**, 204th Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

School House, left in 1901 with a prize at the Electrical Training Institution, entering Faraday House in January 1902.

After working with the Mexican Light and Power Company for two years, he returned to Messrs Callendar's Cable and Construction Company before joining the Universities and Public Schools' Brigade. Gazetted to the Machine Gun Corps, he went to France several times, eventually taking command of a section taking up ammunition to the guns at the Front. He went forward to reconnoitre and never returned. Belgium 8 October 1917 aged 34

Remembered on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Panel 154 to 159 and 163A.

RSSH: Preliminary Round, English Schools' Cross-Country Cup

Monday 9 October 2017

The Hunt's 2017-18 season kicked off on Thursday 5th October with the County Round of the English Schools' Cross-Country Cup, an event in which we have had previous successes. The aim for this year is for both Girls' and Boys' teams to reach the National Final in Sevenoaks in early December. Tom Jackson (R V) and Chessie Harris (EDH IV) report.

“Both teams looked strong as we made the 40-minute journey to Adams' Grammar and there was a clear confidence in the team as we stepped off the bus. Following a warm-up jog and a look at the course, the teams took to the start line.



"The race kicked off in a fast frenzy as the 30 or so runners jostled for position before the course narrowed. Tom Jackson took an early lead with Oscar Hamilton-Russell and an Adams' Grammar boy following close behind. Tim Clarkson Webb and Harrison Cutler worked together to get into 5th and 6th. Ed Ford-Johnston wasn't far behind in 8th and with Alfie Biggs sitting in 10th, the team looked strong as we started our second lap.



"The second lap quickly became one where we showed the strength of the Junior Boys' Hunt this year. Tom Jackson crossed the line with a comfortable gap and was followed by Oscar, who had also been able to enjoy the second half of the race. Harrison Cutler and Tim Clarkson Webb made up our counters, coming home in 5th and 6th, and with strong performances from Ed Ford-Johnston (8th) and Alfie Biggs (10th), the team claimed an easy victory."

Tom Jackson



"The girls' team did brilliantly, fielding a team mainly comprised of Third Form runners in their first race for The Schools. It was a nice race to start off the season with little hassle on the start line, which led to the group being spread out reasonably quickly. As the race endured the Shrewsbury teams stayed near the front of the pack.

"The girls' team of Chessie Harris, Georgie Nicholas, Lucy Lees, Nell Ware, Flora Kanan and Livy Elliott rounded the final corner as a pack of four. With Georgie making a brilliant sprint finish, we managed to get very high up the leader board."

Chessie Harris

Teacher in Charge of The Hunt, Mr Haworth, commented: "Both teams won their races and both will now progress to the regional round, which will take place in a few weeks. In conclusion, a very good opening performance as the team bids to return to the National Finals."



The Duchess of Malfi

Monday 9 October 2017

Performed and directed by members of the Sixth Form. Review by Director of Drama Helen Brown.



John Webster's most famous revenge tragedy makes *Call of Duty* look like *Noddy's Day Out in Toyland*: the play begins as a love story, as the Duchess marries her low-born lover in secret, but ends with a pile of bodies and a stage dripping in gore. It was a brave choice, then, for three first-time Sixth Form directors (Lucien Whitworth, Will Shawe-Taylor and Angus Moore) and an enthusiastic cast of English A-Level students.



The action was mostly played on the apron of the stage, bringing the action close to the audience and creating an intimate and powerful theatrical experience. The simplicity of the monochrome set was extremely effective; the distorted checkerboard on the floor represented the complex power play between the Duchess (Flora Moreau) and her Machiavellian brothers (Angus Moore and Charlie Johns).



Flora Moreau played the Duchess with quiet dignity, giving her famous line, "I am Duchess of Malfi still", real poignancy and gravitas. Her stillness provided a dramatic foil for Ferdinand's

descent into madness. As Angus Moore scampered around the stage, howling like a wolf, we were left in no doubt that this was a mind unhinged by jealousy.

Perhaps the most challenging role in the play is that of the malcontent, Bosola, who first accepts Ferdinand's commission to spy on the Duchess and is later afflicted with remorse. Will Shawe-Taylor's performance conveyed the complexity of the character's thought process with sophistication and nuance.



As is often the case with student-led productions, the directors had inspired students who had not acted before to take to the boards, and it was clear that they had discovered some promising thespian talent. Particularly impressive in cameo roles were Joe Dodd as the courtier, Delio and Marcus Clark as the Madman, but congratulations are due to all involved.





U18 Girls' Hockey team win County Championship

Wednesday 11 October 2017

Many congratulations to the U18 Girls' Hockey team, who were crowned County Champions last week.



Report by Mrs Kelly, Head of Girls' Hockey:

On Wednesday 4th October, the U18 Hockey squad set out in their quest for the County Championship. Players can only take part in one County Championships, and I made the decision this year to keep the Fifth Form separate and enter them as the U16s team. This proved to be a good decision, as they were crowned County Champions last week!

Keeping the Fifth Form separate meant that the 1st XI would be missing five key players; yet I was confident the girls would have the ability to be crowned champions. We kept hold of our Fifth Form goal keeper Ella Niblett, as Fifth Former Izzy Wong was happy to guard the U16s' goal during their championships.

Hockey is coming on incredibly well at Shrewsbury School, thanks to the positive attitude and commitment of the girls but also to the School's links with Shropshire Hockey and the well-attended Elite Development sessions that take place twice a week for those striving for excellence.



Shrewsbury's first game was against Moreton Hall, a strong team and previous County Champions. We had the majority of possession but failed to score any goals, while Moreton packed their defensive D, making attacking hard. But the girls battled well and never gave up in the 20-minute game. A break-away from one of Moreton's players saw Moreton score and win by 1-0. At full time reality had to be made clear: regardless of how well we played and how much possession we had, in this format of tournament goals counted and we needed to score more!

Shrewsbury played Ellesmere next, another strong team and last year's Champions. Taking on board the importance of securing those goals, the girls worked hard as a unit and won 3-0. A fantastic game to watch, the girls connecting well and putting in to practice well-rehearsed short corners.

Our next game was versus Wrekin. We have played Wrekin already this term and won 1-0. It had been a well-battled game and this County game was to prove to be similarly tough. We needed to win this in order to qualify. The girls were capable of securing another win; it would just require them to be decisive in the attacking D.


The girls won 1-0 - a brilliant game that at times saw our well organised defenders put under pressure.

Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'Sing When You're Winning'

Thursday 12 October 2017

Appropriately enough in the week of the House Singing Competition, this edition of SparkPoint has a musical theme.

Please click [here](#) to open Shrewsbury SparkPoint - 'Sing When You're Winning' as a pdf.



shrewsbury school
SparkPoint 2017

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 6 | OCTOBER 2017
Sing When You're Winning

An Elite Preserve?
It's interesting that as our approaches to society and class change, there are still some aspects of culture that seem to be restricted to a particular class of people. They are markers – it would seem – of 'good breeding' or an indication that one identifies with or espouses the values of a particular group. Among these, music occupies a particular and divisive place. Opera and Orchestral Concerts are still perceived to be very much part of a gaudy-artsocratic lifestyle. Interestingly, this has not always been the case. The notion of straddling through music is almost as old as the human race itself and, in Classical Antiquity, for example, was seen as rather 'common'. The concept of something being 'in' or 'out' is often lambasted in primary school assemblies – but the truth of the matter is that the association of music, or different types of music, with different classes, has affected the development not only of its own cultural journey, but also of our race.
So as we look towards House Singing at the end of the week and a wonderful, well-earned period of relaxation, it's worth stepping back and considering why it is we think about music in the way we do.

SP1716 The Death of Klinghoffer
Set aboard a hijacked liner and dealing the true events which led to the death of an elderly Jewish passenger, Adams' Opera is probably the most controversial ever written or staged. [Click here](#) for more.

SP1717 The RPO Plays Queen
Something that really should not work, and yet, somehow does. Decide for yourself whether this makes the music of the iconic band more palatable or whether this is an eloquent desecration! [Click here](#) to listen to an excerpt!

SP1718 Dear Evan Hansen
In 2016 a new musical opened in the USA tackling issues of teenage mental health in an innovative and moving manner. Dear Evan Hansen continues to play to sell out audiences and has gained global acclaim. [Click here](#) to watch a number from the show.

THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PLAYS QUEEN

DEAR EVAN HANSEN

Edmund Pook painted the first scenes for the opera of those which effectively transported the readers with the music. He painted America (1833) and (1835), and is believed for their execution of color and spirit and with beautiful execution of the interior of the First Opera House is an excerpt.



Cheadle Hulme Model United Nations Conference

Friday 13 October 2017

Shrewsbury School MUN-ers enjoyed a good weekend of international debate representing Iraq and North Korea at the Cheadle Hulme Model United Nations Conference (MUNCH) in Manchester.



Oliver Bureau and Nina Churchill gained some very valuable experience chairing committees. In addition, the team picked up a few awards, with one Outstanding Delegate, three Highly Commended and four Commended Delegate awards in each committee of about 50 delegates.

Chad Usher (S LVI) was named the Outstanding Delegate in his committee.

Henry Mayhew (Ch UVI) and Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (SH LVI) were Commended in their committees.

And Sam Evans (R IV) was given a Special Mention in his committee.

Tom Allen (Ch IV) also deserves special mention, as he managed to write, speak for and persuade his committee to vote for his self-penned resolution at his first ever MUN conference.

North Korea (DPRK)

Human Rights Council – Tamara Fox (Ambassador)

Human Rights – Ferdinand Neuling

Disec 1 – Henry Mayhew

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Disec 2 – Sam Evans

Special Committee on Women – Grace O’Mara

Environment & Science – Chad Usher

Health – Will Manley

Iraq

Human Rights – Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (Ambassador)

Disec 1 – Mark Pangin

Disec 2 – Ebrahim Jamshid

Environment & Science – Nick Yale

Health – Benson Zhou

Youth – Tom Allen

Grateful thanks to Martin Humphreys for giving up his weekend for the MUN team.

Mr Peach



A week in the life of the Library

Friday 13 October 2017

A lovely account by Head Librarian Jo Elliot of a very enjoyable and satisfying first week inside the newly refurbished Moser Library.

On Saturday 30th October the Moser Library was officially opened after its recent refurbishment (see [news article](#)). This glorious event was a fabulous celebration of the years of planning and weeks of back-breaking work which have made the new-look Moser Library such a success.



I was very new to my post when the Headmaster first mentioned his desire to refurbish the Moser Library. He gave me the enviable task of visiting lots of different libraries to inform our plans at school. I took up the Head's challenge with great enthusiasm and was very lucky to visit lots of wonderful institutions – from public and university libraries to other school libraries and private collections.

We quickly realised that those libraries that best met their users' needs offered a variety of study space which accommodated different styles of study and use of a variety of resources. Our new-look Moser Library therefore has four zoned areas providing silent, quiet, social and group study spaces. The study desks have been carefully designed to provide task lighting and integral sockets so that students have the space to use both print and on-line resources. In each of these zones there are comfortable leather armchairs to encourage students to curl up and read.



The refurbishment also addresses some practical issues we faced in the library. The brand new shelves – beautifully crafted in oak – are all adjustable. This enables us to fit all our books (whatever their size) together on the shelves – making it much easier for students to find what they are looking for. We also have three bespoke display cubes in the library foyer which are designed to display books face out – giving the library foyer an exciting bookshop feel.



We are so lucky at school to have a fantastic collection of ancient books and some wonderful watercolours. The value and fragility of these artefacts meant that they were previously housed in locked rooms to which students had only limited access. We now have very prominent display cabinets in the Churchill's Room, which are purpose-built to both protect and display treasures from the Ancient Library.



Cleverly designed picture storage in the Moser Gallery, which protects our watercolours from light and theft, means that the gallery is now always open and provides additional, inspirational study space.



One of my favourite spaces in the library is the Group Study Room, built into the roof of the old Moser Gallery. This quirky, light-filled room, which didn't exist a month ago, is a bookable space which students can use for group projects, staff can book for meetings and seminars and which provides a quiet haven for exams. Demand for this space is already quite high. In the last week a group of students have used the room to practise presentations and drama recitations, American SAT exams have taken place there and I have research skills tutorials booked in for after half-term.



Response to the library has been overwhelmingly positive. It has been an absolute delight seeing students and staff using and enjoying the new facilities. As he left the library yesterday, Dr Foulger kindly commented, “I love this space” and one of our Upper Sixth students told us that he intends to work here all the time.

Indeed one of our targets for the refurbishment was to increase the number of students who choose to study in the library. A comparison of this week’s daily usage statistics with those from the same period last year show that we have made a good start on this.

w/b 3/10/16	199	116	138	135	150	91	34
w/b 2/10/17	302	175	266	201	235	181	50

On our first day open to students I sat at the library enquiry desk (itself a gorgeously designed space) and looked into the Kennedy Room. From my comfortable vantage point I could see a group of students working hard at the study desks, one student sitting in an armchair listening to an audio-book and another curled up reading a novel. This is what the space is designed for.



The news this week 100 years ago: 13th - 19th October 1917

Friday 13 October 2017

This week we remember two Old Salopians who were both killed in action in Belgium.

Second Lieutenant Geoffrey Nield Whitehead, 11th Balloon Coy. Royal Flying Corps. Churchill's, left in 1907. He went to Christ Church, Oxford and worked with his father in Laisterdyke, Yorkshire, before joining up. He was the elder brother of Alfred Gordon Whitehead, who was killed on 29th January 1918.

Killed in action in Belgium, 15th October 1917, aged 29.

Buried at Duballow A.D.S. Cemetery, Belgium. Grave I. E. 11.

Lieutenant Norman Smart, 1st/8th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers attd. Machine Gun Corps. Rigg's, left in 1916.

Killed in action, Acting Captain, in Belgium 16 October 1917, aged 24.

Buried at Aeroplane Cemetery, Belgium. Grave VI. A. 12.



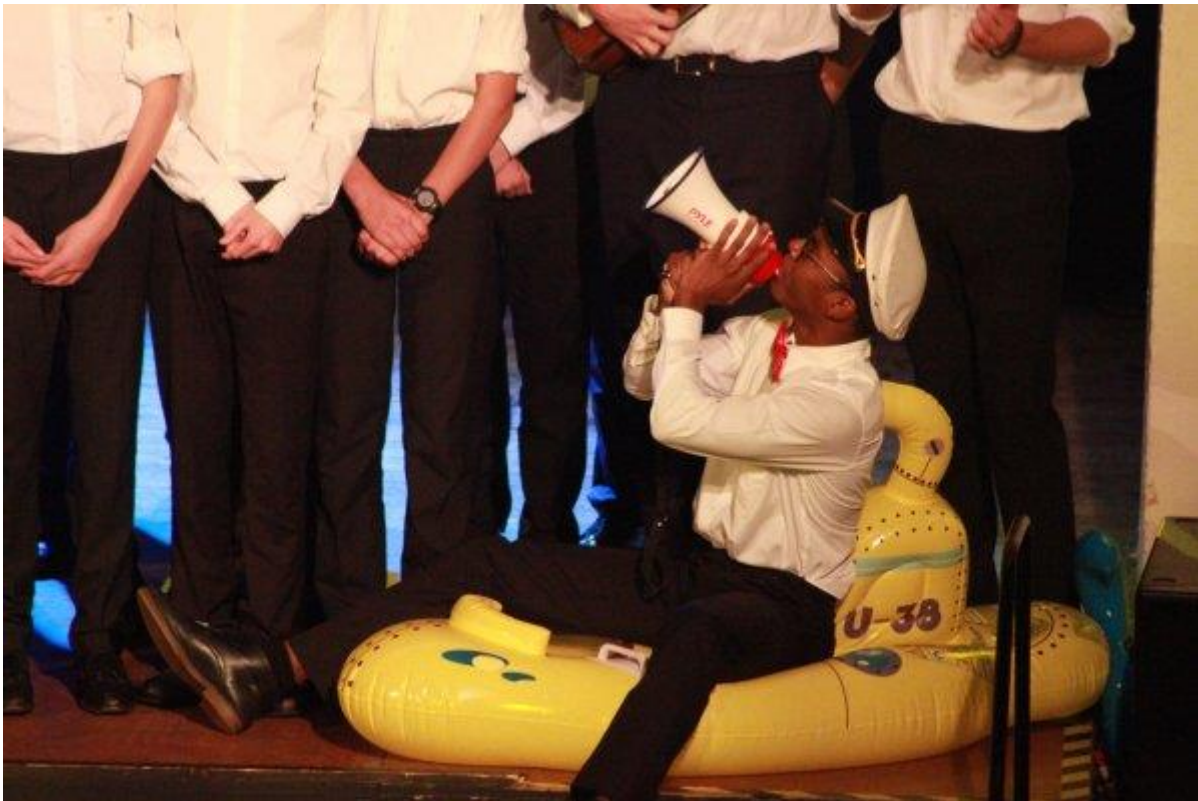
School House win the Unison trophy in the House Singing Competition!

Friday 13 October 2017

Having won the Part Song trophy for the past couple of years (as well as the Unison and Overall trophies before that), the reputation of School House in this hotly contested event is second to none. This year, we plumbed the depths of our talent and enthusiasm with a fantastic rendition of The Beatles' "Yellow Submarine".



The performance was lively, fun and above all, tuneful, which is a remarkable feat for a house of almost 80 teenage boys! In awarding us our fifth major trophy in the competition in the last five years, the judges said there was a significant margin between us and the next house. Personally, I feel that the Unison trophy is a particularly special one because it reflects the house ethos of working together; all the boys on stage supporting each other, regardless of whether they consider themselves singers or not. It was a great team effort and very much in line with our house motto: "Ubi Concordia, Ibi Victoria" – where there is harmony, there is success!



Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (LVI) added a special "je ne sais quoi" as Captain of the Yellow Submarine with his megaphone!

No less impressive was the School House Part Song. Whilst we were well and truly beaten by a phenomenal EDH recital, which made it all the easier to hand over the trophy, it is worth pointing out the School House a cappella singers were the highest placed of all the boys' houses. Our Part Song comprised Mrs Besterman's arrangements of the "Londonderry Air (Danny Boy)" and "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head". Led by Henri Cramsie (LVI) and Llyr Heyward-Jones (UVI), the boys produced an excellent performance that, had it not been for the outstanding competition from the girls, might well have won on any other year. It is testament to the high quality of the piece that the boys have been invited to sing it in front of their peers in a couple of chapel services later this term. It was great to see representation from every year in the house in a large, talented and dedicated group.



The Part Singers (L-R): Gordon Chong (V), Milton Tai (IV), Llyr Heyward-Jones (UVI), Reuben Denison (LVI), Henri Cramsie (LVI), Jonty Gould (IV), Jac Williams (LVI), Theo Gabb (IV), Fred Blanchard-Butter (UVI), Freddie Lamson (V), Amos Cheung (IV), Marcus Cheung (UVI), Elson Kwok (UVI), Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (LVI), Fadi Masri Kayali (IV), Douglas Kennedy (IV) and Albert Horne (III)

The Tucks

Earlier in the day, the house donned their running shoes for the annual 5km run around some muddy fields – supposedly the oldest cross-country race in the world. As usual, I gave the new Third Form boys an extra incentive: if they could beat their housemaster, they would earn their house tie*. Congratulations to Huw Hacket Pain and Peter Crews for successfully achieving this! Mark Pangin (LVI), our Senior Captain of Running, justified his title by winning the Street Cup, which is awarded to the boy in School House who completes The Tucks in the quickest time. Well done to everyone who took part; to run this gruelling course and then to get on stage a few hours later and win the Unison trophy in the House Singing Competition really highlighted the famous School House spirit!



The start of the race....



Mark Pangin (LVI) leading School House home

*Albert Horne also earned his house tie for his contribution to the Part Song and Matt Chan for being an outstanding ambassador for School House in the school's U14A team; he thoroughly deserves his growing reputation as one of the top footballers in the school. He is an excellent role model on and off the pitch.



Royal Marine cadets retain the Pringle Endurance Course Trophy

Friday 13 October 2017

After an intensive five-week training programme, nine Royal Marine cadets were selected to take part in the prestigious Sir Stewart Pringle Trophy, held last weekend at the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre in Lympstone, Devon. Among them was Emma Graham, the first female cadet to represent Shrewsbury School in the competition.



Max Craik, Monty Hardcastle, Tom Plaut, Harry Remnant and Freddie Williams had taken part in the competition before, but Emma, Luka Cassidy, Henri Cramsie and James Martin were all competing for the first time.

Shortly after arriving, the team was briefed on what they were to face during the gruelling two days ahead, before setting up their camp on Woodbury Common. The team were encouraged to enjoy the brisk October evening and the stars as they spent the night under bashas. Rain, an important element of any military training, was duly ordered for 05:30 the following morning to help prepare cadets for the ten stances that they had to complete on the first day of the competition.

The team started with the first aid stance at 07:00 sharp, before patrolling to the other nine stances that were dotted across Woodbury Common. After an exhausting day, the team finished on ambushes, a new addition to the Pringle competition, at 17:00. The stances included a variety of tasks, ranging from observation to command tasks and camouflage and concealment to battle

exercises. Everyone acquitted themselves admirably, and all of the Directing Staff commented on Shrewsbury's strong showing. Scores are not published until the end of the whole competition, but the team came first in map reading stance and almost scored full marks for their contact drills. Special mention should go to Max Craik and Monty Hardcastle, our Section i/c and 2 i/c respectively, who were a crucial part of the success of the day, motivating and leading by example throughout.



Despite finishing the first day late in the evening, all teams were up early the next morning for the second day of competition. We started with the endurance course, which all Royal Marines need to finish if they are to complete their training. With obstacles such as the Sheep Dip and Peter's Pool, it has a fearsome reputation and cannot be taken lightly. Click on the image below to watch Emma Graham go through the Sheep Dip.

Shrewsbury has won this in previous years; and this year's team did exceptionally well to maintain the School's excellent reputation and retain the Endurance Course trophy.

A solid display in the final discipline, Drill and Corps knowledge, brought the competition to an end and all the teams nervously waited for the final results to be announced. In the end, we discovered that we had come fourth overall, which maintains our strong overall record over the past few years.



All of the team and the squad members: Alex Ainslie, Ralph Furse, Elizabeth Ware, Harry Wasdell and James Weir deserve praise for both their commitment and skill.

Importantly, everyone enjoyed the experience and greatly benefitted from competing against another 14 schools and the instruction given by serving Royal Marines. Although we did not achieve the first place that we had hoped for, the hard work and dedication of the Section shown during training were visible throughout the competition. Each member gave everything they had and all now have a great insight into military life.

Ciaran O'Rooke



Lacrosse success

Sunday 15 October 2017

Congratulations to the U18 lacrosse team, who finished 2nd out of nine schools in last weekend's North Schools' Tournament - a great achievement.



And congratulations to School Captain of Lacrosse Clemmie Baynes (G UVI), who has been selected for the Shropshire County Lacrosse U18A team, and to Mimi Mason-Hornby (G V) who only took up goalkeeping last year but has now been selected as goalie of the Shropshire U18B team.

They will both represent Shropshire in the U18 County Tournament on Sunday 12th November.



Clemmie Baynes and Mimi Mason-Hornby



The Arrow Trophy Weekend 2017

Sunday 15 October 2017

... or Sick as a (Sea) Dog...

Born and bred in Shropshire, the largest landlocked county in England, it is safe to say that sailing has never been my forte. Memories of Sunsail holidays involve frequent bouts of panic supplemented by Colonel Jenkins' occasional prayer to Poseidon, god of the sea.

These past experiences never filled me with confidence to pursue the sport any further.



Nevertheless, this didn't stop me from joining a crew of old Salopians in this year's Arrow trophy sailing regatta. The Arrow trophy is a sailing competition between independent schools that takes place every year just off the Isle of Wight in the waters of the Solent. It's a fantastic event and is open to all old Salopians from experienced sailors right down to beginners.

This year's OS crew was organised by the race secretary, Mark Oates (PH 2003-2008), who did an excellent job of getting everyone ready and on board for what was going to be a thrilling weekend!

Having met the crew, we set sail from Port Solent on the Friday evening in our Sunsail F40. It wasn't long into the trip before we found ourselves in the shadow of HMS Queen Elizabeth, harboured in Portsmouth Harbour. James Pitt (SH 1979-84), former naval officer and vice

patron of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, was able to brief us in detail on the construction of the largest warship ever built for the Royal Navy whilst swerving around an Admiralty mooring buoy.

Reaching Cowes Yacht Haven Club, we raised the Shrewsbury flag and made our way to the local curry house for some pre-match tucker. This is something I would later regret.



Saturday morning, zero sleep and still feeling the effects of a last night's curry - it was all hands-on deck. Only I wasn't on deck I was in the loo – head in my hands. Not even Poseidon could help me now, the race had begun!

Where Poseidon couldn't help, the winds certainly could for the weather conditions were relatively calm and it wasn't long before I pulled myself together and re-joined the team on the foredeck under the guidance of William Matthews (Rt 2003 – 2008) and George Hall (SH 2005-2010), both experienced sailors.

The start of each race (6 across the weekend) is always full of adrenaline and excitement. It is a chance to shout, heckle and scream "PROTEST" as loud as you can at the judges, whilst narrowly avoiding oncoming rivals. Our captain James Pitt, an incredibly suave individual, showed immense composure in these moments of madness and failed to stoop to such lows. This job was reserved for Will Collins (S 1980-85), the terrier of the pack, who took no prisoners and rebuffed snide remarks thrown in our direction.

The start line behind us, we had the chance to lower our testosterone levels and focus on our sailing. This was of course until something went wrong which in sailing invariably happens often. I found these moments most entertaining.



The first episode involved the dreaded spinnaker! A spinnaker, often called a kite, is a sail designed specifically for sailing downwind. It has the resemblance of a parachute and floats off the bow of the boat. It is also one of the harder sails to let out and pull back in without any issues.

Not long into the first race, the spinnaker was lifted from the cabin, having been neatly folded away by Mark Telfer (O 1965-1970) and Freddie Becker. In a moment of excitement and urgency, Tim Becker (R 1977- 1982) accidentally ripped open the bag carrying the sail causing the spinnaker to spill out before it had even reached the bow of the boat. Losing our place in the race, tempers started to flare and it wasn't long before insults were thrown across the pit - much to amusement of those on the foredeck.

The second incident involved the Jib sheet which had somehow become tangled up in the spinnaker halyard which had subsequently knotted and couldn't fully unravel. Our tactician - a ringer - Dominic Breen-Turner, came to the rescue. Assessing the situation and not saying a word, he climbed the mast (all 60ft of it) whilst we were still beating upwind on the second lap of the race. His life was now in the hands of Tim Becker who was on the winch. Tim, a barrister, has put down many in the court of law but on this occasion, he showed clemency and safely lowered Dom onto the deck after his heroic deed.

Whilst yacht racing has its moments there are times when it is remarkably relaxing. Leaning over the side of the boat, we had a chance to get to know one another better and share the odd story

from our days at school. It was interesting to listen to Megan Redhead (MSH 2015-2017), who left Shrewsbury only a few months ago, recall her time at Mary Sidney Hall.

A fellow Riggite, Tim Becker and I found ourselves sitting next to each other. Tim won't shy away from telling you his entire life story and how he was once married to a bond girl, much to the embarrassment of his son Freddie. It wasn't long before I got Tim, a "dramatic" baritone, to sing the school song in Latin at the top of his voice (Rex Edwarde, te canamus Pium Fundatorem..... Floreat Salopia).

After a long day's sailing, dinner was served at the Cowes Yacht Haven. A chance to don a jacket and tie and look like upstanding gentlemen, or at least the Salopians did. It wasn't long before the police arrived and a rather young member of another school was taken away in a haze of drunken stupor. You can't take these schoolboys anywhere!



Whilst we didn't win any awards that evening we were in the top half of the fleet, leaving behind the likes of Cranleigh, Kings Canterbury, Marlborough, Pangbourne, Berkhamstead, Harrow, Radley, Uppingham, Oundle and Stowe in our wake. Overall it was a brilliant weekend, ending with two more races on the Sunday. This time we were skippered by Will Collins who did not disappoint at the helm.

Asked if I would do it again? Yes, I'm not the best sailor and nor do understand what many of them are on about half the time but I thoroughly enjoyed myself and without a doubt will be back next year.



The Champion Trophy

Sunday 15 October 2017

...Look who's been beating the past-masters at their own game.....

Anthony Smith (I 1954-59) writes:

The 2017 final of the Champion Trophy was held at a warm and breezy Royal Birkdale on Sunday 15th October. Thanks to the efforts of the competition organiser David Umpleby (SH 1990-95), we had two young finalists ready to play on the due date.

Oliver Banks (O 2004-09) had managed to overcome Richard Barber (SH 1955-60), Frank Higham (O 1968-72), Peter Thwaites (R 1960-64), Rex Worth (S 2002-07) and 'General' James Shaw (R 1964-68) en route to the final, while James Taylor (R 2003-08) had prevailed over Bill Russell (M 1950-55), Chris White (R 1974-79), previous holders Will Painter (R 1967-71) and Anthony Smith and former Halford Hewitt player Michael Brabner (R 1963-67) to get to Birkdale.

The Open Championship was held on the Links in July and the course was in pristine condition. So much so that James - giving 8 shots - started with a birdie three, something that all the competitors in the Open would have coveted. Oliver with a stroke won the 2nd, and the match looked on. However, James - recently retired former Test cricketer, and arguably the best Salopian cricketer ever - played the next four holes in level par to create a commanding lead.

Whenever Oliver clawed a hole back, James then responded with a birdie; he had three in all, and the match concluded when Oliver lost his ball at the 15th. In fairness to Oliver, he hadn't experienced 'links' golf before, and perhaps he used the wrong type of shot on a few occasions.



Shrewsbury

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Take nothing away from James who all but holed in one at the difficult short 12th, and played as though he had been a golfer for years. Suffice to say that he has only been playing for 12 months, following his unavoidably early retirement from cricket. His hand/eye coordination is obvious, and his handicap will come tumbling down if his golf continues in this vein.

This year we were fortunate to have the company of Louise Spencer, daughter of the late Ian Campion the trophy donor, together with niece Emma and brother Stephen of our esteemed Hon Secretary Tim Lewis (R 1950-55).

David Umpleby also caught 'the milk train' from Euston to support the final. Louise kindly presented the trophy to winner James Taylor, and thanks go to David Umpleby for his organisation, Stephen Lewis (R 1954-58) for keeping us all on our toes, and particularly to Royal Birkdale for their extremely kind gesture of allowing the final to be played on their magnificent course.

The news this week 100 years ago: 20th - 26th October 1917

Friday 20 October 2017

This week we remember three Old Salopians.

Second Lieutenant William Reginald Sturston Smith, 28th Sqdn. Royal Flying Corps. Oldham's, Cricket XI, left in 1916.

While at school he had a remarkable cricket season in the XI. He was first played as a bowler ("and no-one is likely to forget his extraordinary action which was calculated to put off any batsman") but in the course of the season he developed so much as a batsman that, though in his first match he went in last, in his last he went in first.

Reported missing in action, he subsequently died in France as a prisoner in German hands, 22nd October 1917, aged 19. He was "straight and unassuming and simple and warm-hearted." – *The Salopian*

He is remembered on Arras Flying Services Memorial, France.

Captain Matthew Rodney Wood MC, 18th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. Pickering's (now Churchill's), left in 1914.

Previously wounded, and awarded the MC, he was subsequently killed in Belgium, 22nd October 1917, aged 21. His Colonel's letter indicates that "He was one of the original officers of my Battalion and I was as proud of him as if he had been my own son. He was a most capable Officer ... and I had great confidence in him."

He is remembered on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Panel 54 to 60 and 163A.

Lieutenant Richard Standeford Pullen, 1st Bn. South Staffordshire Regiment. Haydon's (now Rigg's), left in 1900 for Mason College, Birmingham. Captain of Sandwell Park Golf Club.

"He gained no distinction at school but was one of those – and there are hundreds of them – who was living unobtrusively among us, only waiting for the opportunity to show their sterling quality" – *The Salopian*. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and then was killed in action while leading his Company with the greatest gallantry in an attack which presented extreme difficulties in Belgium, 26th October 1917, aged 34.

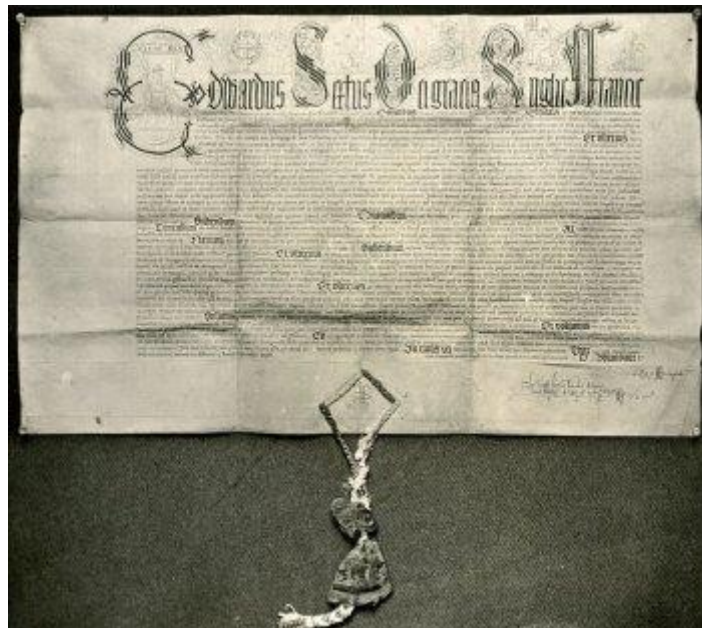
He is buried at Hooge Crater Cemetery, Belgium. Grave XVII. K. 10.

The Foundation of Shrewsbury School, 1552

Monday 23 October 2017

On 10th February 1552, Edward VI sealed the charter for a 'Free School' at Shrewsbury.

It was endowed out of the revenues of the newly dissolved ecclesiastical colleges of St Mary's and St Chad's, on the petition of Richard Whittaker, a rich Shrewsbury clothworker and bailiff, and Hugh Edwardes, a London mercer born near Ellesmere of an ancient Welsh family.



King Edward VI's Charter

The Royal Charter provided for a master and an usher to be appointed by the Corporation to provide a free grammar school education to all comers. The School was to be governed by regulations agreed between the Corporation and the Bishop of Lichfield.



One of the original School buildings, now part of the town's library

In anticipation of the Charter, property was acquired for the future school near the Castle. However, it was another nine years before the Revd Thomas Ashton, generally regarded as the first Headmaster, took up his post.

Thomas Ashton was born in about 1500 and was an early graduate of St John's College, Cambridge, of which he was a resident Fellow 1521-41. This college was one of the key centres of the Protestant reformation and by the time he came to the hitherto Catholic town of Shrewsbury in about 1561, Ashton had a reputation as a powerful Protestant preacher with influential friends at Court. Ashton worked closely with the town authorities and became in effect the first Protestant 'public preacher' in Shrewsbury, having a major impact not only on the growth of Shrewsbury School but also on the religious history of the town.

During his time as Headmaster, the School was described by William Camden in his book *Britannia* as "the best filled in all England, being indebted for [its] flourishing state to the provision made by the excellent and worthy Thomas Ashton. Besides the children of the gentry of this county and North Wales, many of the first people of the kingdom sent their sons there."



"Mr Ashton's first plays upon the passion of Christ began in Salop"

Ashton's most famous legacies to both town and school were arguably his Whitsuntide and Passion plays, which were performed in a semi-circular amphitheatre (now the site of the town's Quarry Swimming Pool). They were extremely popular, attracting audiences from far and wide across the county, probably numbering several thousand.

It may have been in one of those productions that a young pupil named Philip Sidney – who joined the School in 1564 and later became the renowned Renaissance soldier, statesman, diplomat, poet and earliest famous Salopian – made his first dramatic appearance.

In the latter years of his headmastership, Ashton was able to increase the endowments to the School and lay down a series of ordinances, or rules for its governance, which lasted until 1798. These brought about the further expansion of the School, including the construction of a new school building on the site of the original – where the School remained until its move to Kingsland in 1882.

(With acknowledgement to 'Shrewsbury School 1552 - 2002' by Robin Case and www.shrewsburylocalhistory.org.uk)



The news this week 100 years ago: 27th October - 2nd November 1917

Friday 27 October 2017

This week we remember three Old Salopians.

Private Harold Penry Garnons Williams, 760676, 1st/28th Bn. London Regiment (Artists' Rifles).

School House, left in 1915. Although the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records his rank and Regiment as above, the school Roll of Service records that "at the time of his death he was a 2nd Lieut. in the R. Welch Fusiliers".

Killed in action in Belgium, 30th October 1917, aged 19.

Remembered on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Panel 153.

Private Stanley Gething, 763850, 1st/28th Bn. London Regiment (Artists' Rifles).

Bennett's (now Severn Hill) left in 1908 after developing a marked musical talent. He was one of the School's best pianists in recent years, and devoted himself to a career as such.

Killed in action in Flanders, Belgium, 30th October 1917, aged 27.

Remembered on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Panel 153.

Captain Godfrey Fitzhugh, 25th Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Churchill's, left in 1890. He served with the Montgomery Yeomanry in the South African War (Queen's Medal, 4 clasps) before he succeeded to the Plas Powell Estate near Wrexham, becoming JP for Montgomery. He was seconded to the Welsh, and was killed in action in Israel, 31st October 1917, aged 44

Buried at Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel. Grave K. 13.

Alex Wilson Memorial Football Match

Tuesday 31 October 2017

After a rainy weekend, the weather finally stayed dry for the seventh annual Alex Wilson Memorial Football Match on Sunday 1st October, which saw Old Salopians and Alex Wilson XI teams battle it out on the field once again.



There was, as usual a good turnout and after a hard fought match, the score was Alex Wilson XI 1-2 Old Salopians XI.

Afterwards, refreshments were served at the Top of the Shop, followed by a raffle and a speech by Henry Wilson in which he confirmed that the Alex Wilson Scholarship has been adopted by the school as an official award which will be funded by the School.