



Cricket: OS James Taylor plays for England

Thursday 1 September 2011



Old Salopian James Taylor (R 2003-2008) has been making the headlines over the summer holidays.

At the beginning of August, he captained the England Lions team against Sri Lanka A in the three-match, one-day series at Northampton. James scored two centuries in three games, giving the England Lions a tremendous 2-1 victory (please see the ECB's article [Lions series win Taylor-made](#) for more information).

James was then selected for the senior England team for the one-day-international against Ireland. James was one of three making their debuts for England in this match. Unfortunately, the game was much interrupted by heavy rain showers, and he was caught out on his second run.

James has been playing for Leicestershire since leaving Shrewsbury in 2008, but he still found time to take part in the [Saracens'](#) cricket tour last year.



OS Golf: Trevose 2011 - Competition Report

Thursday 1 September 2011

Did you know that once a year at lovely Trevose Golf Club here in glorious Cornwall, there is an Old Schools competition? Some well known, probably more southerly schools, have as many as six pairs playing. Every year Bill Higson (O 52-57) has valiantly tried to rally a team but there don't seem to be many OS golfers in this part of the world. He has managed to put one couple in for the last few years but where are you all?

On the 22nd August 2011, on a calm warm summers day, Bill (13), who has a holiday home close by, and local resident David Balmford (Rt 48-51,(17)), both pictured at the top of the page, set off in foursomes format for a delightful afternoon. Playing with a young Old Etonian couple (whom they trounced!) they carded a creditable 31 points. They actually managed two gross birdie threes on the way. David pointed out that he had only played two of those six shots. Bill's reply was unprintable.

Regrettably the OS pair was not in the prizes but a great day was enjoyed by all. We'll be there next year. Will you?

Kayaking and canoe trips to Croatia and Wye Valley

Monday 5 September 2011

During Aug 2011, 12 students attended the annual CCF and Duke of Edinburgh Silver training trip and Gold Assessment Trip in Croatia. The teams were trained in Sea Kayak skills prior to departure, and completed a 11 day package of training, and assessments. The groups covered a total of 140kms in total, starting in Dubrovnik, and paddling to the Island of Lopud, Sudjurad and Sipan. The group have written their own blog: [Croatia trip blog](#).



It has been an extremely busy season for the Golds with three different types of expedition: Sea kayaking, Walking and Canoeing.

This year's canoe group undertook a venture along the River Wye. The training began many months ago with a five day camp in North Wales. The students undertook basic expedition and boat handling training in various North Wales venues. The following Easter, the same group undertook a four day practice expedition in North Wales along the River Dee. They also squeezed in a number of pool sessions to perfect their rescue skills. The Wye Expedition was the culmination of months of hard work. The team kept a blog as a record of the adventure: [Gold trip blog](#).



Biology expedition to Sulawesi, Indonesia: full report

Monday 5 September 2011

Richard Case has written a fascinating and detailed report of the Biology Department's expedition to Indonesia that 17 pupils from the Fifth and Sixth Forms took part in during August, along with three members of staff: [Biology Expedition 2011](#). It's worth opening the file for the photos alone, but be warned: it is quite a large Word document!





Sam Ecroyd (Rt IV) wins Bronze and Silver medals for GB in Pony European Championships

Monday 5 September 2011

In the last week of July, Sam Ecroyd and his pony *Three Wells Breeze*, travelled to Poland for the Pony European Championships, the top international competition for ponies run by the FEI (Federation Equestrian Internationale). Sam was picked to be one of the team of 4 to represent Team GB and elected to go in anchor position, - last. With a personal best dressage and clear and in the time across country, Sam was in 5th place going into the show jumping, but breathing hard on those in front of him. This created a real pressure situation and the show jumping was amazingly tense. Sam, cool as ice, and Breeze, seemingly unaffected by her cross country exertions the day before, executed a perfect fault free round to be the only rider and pony in the top 11 to jump clear. This was good enough to bring Team bronze and gain Sam an amazing individual silver medal. Apart from those partnering one pony, (the superstar Noble Springbok who has carried three different riders to Europeans medals), Sam is the first Briton for ten years to gain an individual medal.



So Sam has now won European medals in subsequent years on two different ponies, establishing himself as a rider with serious talent. Although he has officially two more years before he is too old for pony classes, Sam has decided now to concentrate on horses and so faces a huge challenge in the year ahead.



A Week (or two) in the Life of Sue Laister over the summer holidays

Tuesday 6 September 2011

Remarkably few people, even within Shrewsbury School, know much about our Holiday Lets Summer Programme, and yet throughout July and most of August, the place seemed to be teeming with musicians and sportsmen of various ages. In lieu of the normal 'Week in the Life of...' article that we generally ask a pupil to write for us, we instead asked Sue Laister to write about the Holiday Lets programme.



After a rain-affected Speech Day and a sodden wave of goodbyes to most staff and pupils as they left for their summer holidays, Saturday 9th July was a glorious sunny day with the site being a hive of activity. Marquees were dismantled, removal vans and contractors arrived at School House, Pentagon and the Science buildings to commence refurbishment programmes, House cleaners started to tackle their spring cleaning, work continued apace to complete Emma Darwin, and the Chapel hosted a wedding service.

The following day brought the official changeover of catering companies from Avenance to HolroydHowe Independent in KH with staff transfers, stocktaking and remainder of the legalities being completed.

The advance staff party from Discovery Summer started to arrive to set up their campus in time for their students programme. Discovery run intensive summer courses at 6 top independent boarding schools to the overseas market, the programme incorporates 20 hours of English each week along with either a sporting or multi-activity academy. Football, tennis and dance took place on site; Andy Richards, Head Groundsman, was most relieved to hear that horse-riding, golf and adventure sports were held elsewhere! 240 students from 30 different countries made for a cosmopolitan atmosphere, with lots of friendships being made judging by the tearful farewells.



The Maidment Building was in full use throughout the summer with many talented musicians and singers of all ages. English Camerata and ISSMUS (International Summer School of Music at Shrewsbury) stayed again for their 3rd and 4th years respectively, the former certainly taking a shine to Charles Dodson-Wells, one of our duty supervisors, who found him "charming". New groups this year were the National Youth Chamber Orchestra, the National Childrens' Choir of Great Britain and the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. The standard of musicianship was a joy to behold from so many young performers.

On the cricketing front, Giles Bell organised Gents Week and Andy Barnard a festival fortnight of U11's and U12's from 8 different counties in conjunction with the ECB, much enjoyed by all



along with 200 parent supporters. The Andrew Flintoff Academy held another of their regular non-residential cricket courses; 78 aspiring cricketers attended and they were particularly enthralled by the visit of Paul Nixon, a current Leicestershire colleague of OS James Taylor and ex-England wicket keeper.

Manchester United's Academy of 8 to 13 year olds were on site in August, the standard of football even at that age was a credit to the intensive training programme. United have held their camp here for 11 years with some of their graduates now being selected for the 1st team – Jonny Evans, Danny Welbeck and Tom Cleverley to name but three.



Discovery Summer group - July 2011

Finally, it was an early return to school for some with rehearsals of the School Musical "What You Will" before the troupe left for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

In conclusion, it was our busiest summer to date with 9,444 bednights; the success of the programme helps to generate profits to contribute to the school bursary fund and also to replace one of the fleet of minibuses. My thanks to everyone who played their part, no matter how big or small, in ensuring that our guests enjoyed their stay at Shrewsbury however I would like to especially mention my Lettings Management Team of Nikki Bevan, Nicola Prinold, Charles Dodson-Wells, Alice Brett and Darren Wood for all their hard work. Special thanks also to Andy Richards and fellow groundsmen, Steve, Steve and Ian, our intrepid caretakers, Jenny Jones, Michele Hignett, Marcus Matthews and his IT colleagues and to Amanda Francis, Mark Johnson and everyone in KH for cooking and serving 28,740 meals.

Sue Laister

General Services Manager

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Old Salopian Club Governance Review and forthcoming AGM

Tuesday 6 September 2011

The Old Salopian Club Committee met on 5 September 2011 and unanimously approved the proposals of the Governance Review for submission to the Annual General Meeting.

A copy of the [AGM agenda](#), a summary of the [Governance Review Initiative](#), the revised [Constitution](#) and [Rules and Procedures](#) are published here. The AGM takes place at the Schools on 8 October 2011.

All Old Salopians will receive either an e-mail or a letter from the Club President, Richard Barber, alerting them to the proposed changes.

GCSE Awards: Honorary Scholarships and Exhibitions, and Exam Awards

Tuesday 6 September 2011

After an outstanding year for GCSE results, Shrewsbury School is delighted to be in the position of awarding 39 honorary scholarships, exhibitions and exam prizes to pupils entering the Lower Sixth this term.



Honorary Scholarships have been awarded to the following pupils who all gained straight A* grades at GCSE, who were not already scholars:

Tom Bland (Rt)
Harry Cox (Rb)
Mark Lawley (S)
Edward Lloyd (Rt)
Edward Mallett (S)
Libby Naylor (EDH)

Honorary Exhibitions have been awarded to the following pupils who gained 9 A* grades plus 1 A grade (or similar), who were not already scholars:

Martin Chow (SH)
Lucinda Emms (MSH)
James Steele (O)

GCSE Examination Prizes have been awarded to the following candidates with an outstanding number of A* grades.

Edward Elcock (Rb)
Seren Kell (MSH)

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Max Kimpton-Smith (O)
Rosalind Parr (EDH)
Hannah Pritchard (EDH)
Judah Rand (R)
Sam Watts (SH)
Edward Wilson (M)
Harriet Adams (EDH)
Matthew Davies (M)
Ben Gould (G)
Alvin Loh (SH)
Alice Paul (MSH)
Joseph Sansom (PH)
John Annan (S)
James Brent (Rb)
Georgia Bustin (EDH)
Sebastien Constantine (S)
Robert Cross (S)
Olivia Levy (EDH)
Brendan Lung (SH)
Oliver Marshall (Rb)
Alexander Moore (G)
Alex Norman (R)
Hannah Partington (MSH)
Edward Pollock (I)
Alessandro Rebecchi (Ch)
Alun Vaughan-Jackson (Ch)
Alastair Webb (S)
Matilda Whittingham (MSH)
Harry Yeoward (O)

Cricket: 1st XI crowned National HMC T20 champions!

Wednesday 7 September 2011



After great disappointment when the Finals Day of the HMC T20 competition at Lords had to be postponed at the last minute on Speech Day last term, but the 1st XI's match was eventually rescheduled for Wednesday 7th September, at Arundel. This was the third consecutive year that our 1st XI have made it as far as the semi-final of this prestigious competition, and hopes were high for 2011.

The 1st XI Captain, Henry Lewis, has written the following report:

The team's semi-final match was against Wellington College, and excitement was mounting at Shrewsbury as reports kept coming back from Arundel during the match. Wellington were bowled out for 112. Shrewsbury won the match finishing off 3 wickets down and with 5 overs to spare, resulting in a relatively convincing victory for Shrewsbury. This against a Wellington side who had previously knocked out two-time winners of the competition, Millfield.



The final was against Portsmouth Grammar School who had beaten Sedbergh in their semi final earlier on in the day. Portsmouth Grammar were put into bat, and made a very solid start to their innings, however some very good bowling from the Shrewsbury pace bowlers began to turn the game around; Ruaidhri Smith and James Aston in particular. Portsmouth ended up being bowled out for 116. Shrewsbury chased the total down with just 5 balls remaining. Jack Bailey got Shrewsbury off to an excellent start, but it was the exceptional innings from Steve Barnard that really clinched the trophy.

Steve Barnard, who left Shrewsbury last term, is the only player from the winning squad who will not be returning to defend the trophy next

year.

Cricket: 1st XI National T20 Champions - full report by Martin Knox

Thursday 8 September 2011

1st Semi Final (toss won by Shrewsbury School)

Wellington College 112 all out (Stephen Barnard 2 for 18, Ruaidhri Smith 2 for 19 , Alistair Pollock 3 for 14, Mark Prescott 2 for 6)

Shrewsbury School 118 for 3 in 14.2 overs (Jack Bailey 62 not out)

Shrewsbury School won by 7 wickets

Final (toss won by Shrewsbury School)

Portsmouth Grammar School 116 all out (Ruaidhri Smith 4 for 17)

Shrewsbury School 119 for 4 in 19.2 overs (Stephen Barnard 62 not out, Jack Bailey 41)

Shrewsbury School won by 6 wickets

As the Finals Day of the HMC T20 competition, had been rained off in July, there was unfinished business in September for First XI cricketers and it was brought to a triumphant conclusion when, after twice losing in the semi-finals, they lifted the trophy for the first time. Moved from the Nursery ground at Lord's to Arundel Castle, the event may have lost some of the glamour associated with "The Home of Cricket", but the alternative venue has a tree-lined splendour of its own and much history besides. Many famous cricketers have been proud to play there, and before the fixture list became as crowded as it now is, the touring team would always open with a match against the Duke of Norfolk's XI. Sussex still visit annually.



Purely from a playing point of view, the switch had the unqualified advantage of restoring full-size boundaries, for playing a senior tournament on the Nursery is rather like holding a golf championship on a pitch-and-putt course. A ball hit in the air, whether timed or not, is likely to go for six, whereas at Arundel only an appropriate combination of strength and skill is rewarded. At Lord's, in the one over possible before the rain came, Sedbergh scored an imposing 24 runs against Portsmouth. In the re-match, it took six overs to match that score, and in the vain pursuit of a high scoring rate, they were eventually all out for 63.

Again it looked like being a bowler's day when Stephen Barnard opened the second semi-final with a wicket maiden. Having restricted Wellington to 57 for 5 by the end of the twelfth over, we could be a little disappointed that they managed 112 (all out), and as three sides had struggled to find the boundary, there was cause for apprehension at the start of our innings – but nobody had told Jack Bailey. With a gesture that defined the rest of the day, he pulled the first ball high over the in-field for four and from that point never looked back. His unbeaten 62 was a magnificent innings, carrying Shrewsbury to a comfortable win with six overs to spare.

The pace bowlers, with Ruaidhri Smith at his fiery best, struck early once more in the Final, to have Portsmouth Grammar School in difficulties at 47 for 5 after eight overs. The Shrewsbury fielding was excellent throughout and the reliability of the catching made a significant difference



at every stage. In the twenty-over format, the ball is frequently in the air and matches are won and lost by having fielders with good hands in the right places. Just as they benefit from boundaries reasonably set back, slow bowlers in particular depend on the support of their colleagues; they were rarely let down. The left-arm spin of Charlie Farquhar, the youngest player in the side, was the most economical, going for only four an over.

With Smith returning to take two wickets in the final over, Portsmouth were bowled out for 116, setting much the same target as in the semi. Could Bailey do it again? Three fours in the first over was the answer. A repeat of the runaway victory in the first game looked less likely, however, when Stephen Leach, who had looked threatening in the previous game, was bowled, needlessly attempting a trick shot. Ruaidhri Smith, another fine striker of the ball, soon followed, run out after a protracted episode of indecision, and so Stephen Barnard came to the crease against a background of some tension. While the scoring rate was not a problem, this was a Final, two major players had just gone, and he was playing his last innings for the school. Being a Barnard, he is, of course, vastly experienced (he probably first played for the Shrewsbury CC 3rd XI at the age of six), and he weighed up the situation perfectly. Batting with calm authority, he demonstrated what a fine all-rounder he is. After briefly playing himself in, he hit a couple of wayward balls to the boundary, and for the rest of the innings proved equal to the best that the opponents could muster, finishing on 62 not out. It was a performance of high class.

When Bailey departed for 41, caught in the deep, the game was as good as won, and Alistair Pollock, another all-rounder from a distinguished stable, got quickly into his stride, hitting the winning runs. He had made useful contributions with both bat and ball, keeping up the pressure when needed. The player of the day, however, must be Jack Bailey, whose total in the two matches of 103 runs, rapidly accumulated, laid the foundations of victory. It is a measure of his superiority that he hit more boundaries in his twenty-seven overs at the crease than Wellington and Portsmouth combined managed in forty.

And so the year group that had won the equivalent ESCA tournament in 2009 had done it again – and emphatically. So few wickets had fallen that the captain, Henry Lewis, did not get to bat, but his popular and positive leadership was evident in the unified performance in the field. Remarkably, there is only one leaver in the side, and while a player as good as Barnard will be missed, it is a strong squad that will be back to defend their title next season. This is never an easy task, for there will be good teams looking out for them.



None of this would have been possible without the expertise and commitment of the coaches, Andy Barnard and Paul Pridgeon. The way in which the players respond to the demands of T20 is the product of thorough and wide-ranging preparation over time, not just before a game. Talent is identified at an early stage and set to work in a challenging fixture list, in the knowledge that encouragement to express themselves against strong opposition makes for confident performers under pressure. On the day, both men resist the temptation to micro-manage, and while the players know that their every move is under intense and critical scrutiny, they know, too, that they must make the decisions in the field and at the wicket. The short game calls for an approach to batting which would have been frowned upon, to say the least, when Andy and Paul were growing up; bowlers, too, must learn new tricks. It is no small feat to have adapted accordingly and to have taken the XI so far, so often. That they care deeply was

never more apparent than in their delight at the outcome. No “dancing in the streets”, perhaps, but they were very, very pleased.

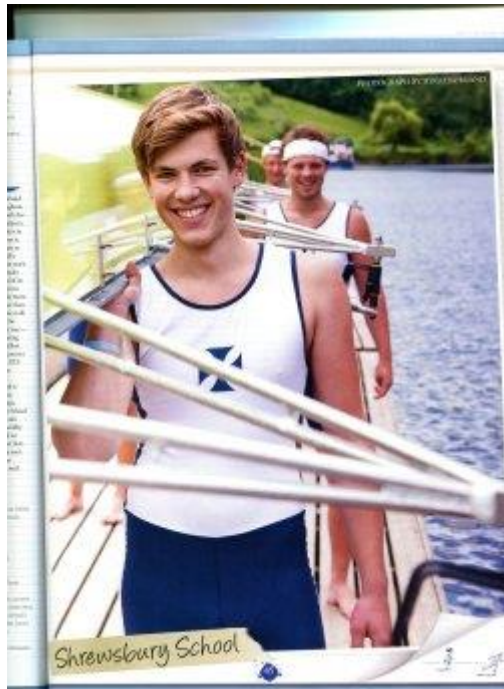




'Shrewsbury is soaring' - Tatler Schools Guide 2012

Thursday 8 September 2011

Shrewsbury has once again been selected by Tatler for their annual schools guide as one of the top public schools in the UK.



They gave us a glowing review, but we were delighted to see that they had also given us a full page photo of rowers, with Ollie Antcliff in the forefront (p. 45), in addition to printing a fun spoof of Darwin's theory of evolution, ending with the ultimate Salopian - 6 of our pupils in front of Darwin's statue and MSB - on the Index page.

Here is their review for 2011-2012:

The introduction of girls to the sixth form has done nothing but good for the school - take that, you naysayers and doom-mongers. Shrewsbury's new head, Mark Turner, describes the female pioneers as 'a pretty feisty lot - gloves off, sock it to them, get on with it' who are 'getting stuck in at every level'. Their numbers are doubling, and a second girls' house was oversubscribed before it was even built. Any plans to extend co-education further down the school, we ask? Mr Turner says they're in a 'discussion phase' and diplomatically refers to 'camps on both sides' - which we watch with interest. Best of all, the boys are stepping up to the mark on the academic front and the school is seeing an increased demand for boys' places too, and so it being, in Mr Turner's words, 'marginally more selective - a positive stirring the Shrewsbury pond a bit'. It's quite some pond: the magnificent campus perches high above the Severn, on the edge of town. The rowers are strokes ahead of most of their rivals, the 1st XI footballers won the National Independent Schools Football Trophy last year and the fives team carried off the National Teams Eton Fives cup for the eighth time in a row. Oh, and the music is sublime: one leaver won a scholarship to America's leading music college. Last year, we were mildly downbeat in our report, but we were wrong: Shrewsbury is soaring.



Cricket: U15A - 2011 T20 National Finalists

Friday 9 September 2011

Following a nail-biting win in a tight semi-final with Sedbergh, the U15A XI unfortunately lost to a strong Whitgift School side by nine wickets in the National U15 Final at Arundel.

Shrewsbury set Sedbergh a challenging target in their semi-final, scoring 130 for the loss of 6 wickets. Following a bright start, Sedbergh soon fell behind the rate, though some sloppy fielding gave Sedbergh an outside chance in the final few overs. Captain Henry Blofield bowled the final over of the match, with Sedbergh needing 11 to win. He bowled it superbly and Shrewsbury won by 6 runs.

Shrewsbury never really recovered from a terrible start to their innings in the final, after Whitgift had won the toss and inserted Shrewsbury. Henry Blofield and George Lewis did their best to fight back and post a reasonable total, but 73 always looked very short indeed. In reply, Whitgift lost captain and England Development player Dom Sibley early, but that ended up their only loss of the innings, and passed Shrewsbury's total in the 13th over.

The U15A XI performed superbly well all summer to reach the National Final, and in addition to the 1st XI's outstanding success this week, it has been a bumper week for Shrewsbury cricket.

PG



First outing for the Girls' Hockey 1st XI - victory

Sunday 11 September 2011

vs Malvern College 2nds – Won 4-1

It was a great start to the season with a 4-1 win over Malvern College 2nd's. Shrewsbury started positively and demonstrated some good attacking play to go 1-0 up after just 5 minutes. We were a little less structured in the defence, but managed to hold Malvern back and get the ball up the pitch throughout the first half. Our forwards continued to play well and Shrewsbury went in 3-0 up at half time, 2 goals from Libby Naylor and one from Katy Mason-Jones. The 2nd half was much closer with Malvern coming back strongly at the defence and scoring after 10 minutes. Rosie Boutflower in goal made some exceptional saves to keep us in it and to round things off, Katy Mason-Jones added Shrewsbury's 4th and her 2nd goal to make the final score 4-1. A good first performance.

Player of the match was Libby Naylor.





RSSH: New Boys' Race

Tuesday 13 September 2011

Saturday saw a tremendous performance by the Third form in the traditional New Boys' Race. Blustery conditions did not deter the 120 or so boys who competed, and the eventual race winner was Oscar Dickins (R) in a time of 8.16. In doing so, Oscar smashed the existing record for the race by a staggering 16 seconds. Behind him was Ben Remnant (Ch), in a time of 8:45, which interestingly would have been fast enough to win last year's race. In third came Gene Ratanadaros (O), with a particularly gutsy performance, finishing in 8:49.

The strength in depth of this Third form group promises great things for the Hunt in years to come.

Congratulations to all who competed.

Mr I Haworth



Football: w/c 5th September 2011

Tuesday 13 September 2011

1st XI drew 2-2 v. Liverpool Ramblers on Saturday, having lost 3-2 to Shrewsbury Town FC U18's on Wednesday with many 1st XI team members away at the National T20 Cricket Finals.

1st XI vs Shrewsbury Town FC

Following a highly successful pre-season trip to Bristol the 1st XI hosted Shrewsbury Town Youth team on Wednesday. With as many as 7 players missing due to T20 cricket final commitments, a depleted squad faced a tough challenge against the full timers. The Town started the game with their under 17 players who had not featured in their full Youth team on many occasions. An excellent first half display from us saw the shocked full timers going into the break 2-0 down- both goals coming from Max Pagnell. However a stronger Shrewsbury Town side took to the field in the 2nd half and eventually won the game 3-2. All 3 goals we conceded were due to their organisation from set pieces.



1st XI v Liverpool Ramblers

The 1st XI had a tough encounter with the Liverpool Ramblers on Saturday. After a stuttering first half performance the teams went in 1-1 at half time with a goal from Henry Lewis. The second half saw a better performance and we scored again through Jack Hudson-Williams. The lead was held until 2 minutes from full time when they equalised to finish the game as a 2-2 draw, which on reflection, was a fair result.

The week has been an excellent workout for the players, who are now looking forward to their programme of school matches and the season ahead.

Other results saw the 2nd XI lose 4-1, the 3rd XI lose 5-2, the 4th XI lose 3-1 and the 5th XI draw 1-1. All Shrewsbury teams competed against their respective teams from the Ramblers.

Mr S J Biggins



A Week in the Life of the Head of School - Will Hunter (Rt)

Thursday 15 September 2011



Friday 2nd September

Friday saw the Hunter family's frantic return from Spain and my own mad dash around the house to find all of the things which I swore I'd packed before I left for the holiday but which had obviously unpacked themselves and taken the scenic route to the Land of Missing Things.

I must admit that the thing I looked forward to most, as Mum and I trundled down the motorway with a Ridgemount sock waving regally to the car behind, was the arrival of my brand-new bike and the riding privileges which come with Postorship.



Saturday 3rd September

The appropriately named “Postors’ Training Day” began with a promising breakfast in Kingsland House provided by the refreshingly eager staff, with their new directives from Holroyd Howe.

We were then rushed into the newly painted Chapel for a quick blessing from the Chaplain. On my way out he caught my eye and the look was expectant and conspiratorial; I knew a reading was on its way.

Then the training began. We were ushered into the Moser Library to discuss various possible scenarios which may confront a Postor in his or her day-to-day goings on; from antisocial behaviour in the Quarry to loutish songs in Quod.

Lunch confirmed my liking of the new KH team as we tucked into salmon goujons and a rocket salad. However, before my plate was clean, the Reverend loomed over me with a “reading taken from John, chapter ten, verses one to seventeen”. Joy of joys!

After a quick debrief of the morning’s events we were sent out to help with the Lower Sixth Induction. The excruciating awkwardness of accidentally pouring water all over someone you have never met was no less painful from an objective point of view. We soldiered on, however, through games involving cereal boxes, contortion and human knots until every boundary of embarrassment had been destroyed.

Then it was a quick dash back to Ridgemount for a shower and change, remembering almost too late that Mr Tonks had asked me to arrange a seating plan for the evening. A hasty arrangement was drawn up and, after a frantic revision of my Third Form Latin; I was ready to say grace.

Later that night I remembered I hadn’t gone to Reception to pick up my new bike! Never mind, I thought, I can get it in the morning...

Sunday 4th September

I arrived at Chapel early to rehearse for my big moment. I struggled through my reading a few times until the words blurred into a sacred smudge on the page before me.

People began to arrive, and if it weren’t for the occasional murmur of “How was your holiday?” you could easily be mistaken in thinking that we’d never been away.

The reading seemed only to make sense to me after reading it a hundred or so times so I can’t imagine how the congregation followed it (however, from personal experience I’d guess not many of them were listening). I recovered my seat and attended the rest of the service with renewed zeal.

After trudging out of Chapel I wandered over to check whether my bike had arrived at Reception, it was locked and had the blinds drawn so tightly that I couldn’t tell if my pride and joy had arrived.



Half past four saw the arrival of the New Boys in Ridgemount, my co-Head of House, Archie Smyth-Osbourne, had deserted me to play a Polo match so I was left to greet nervous Third Formers and distraught mothers on my own. Eventually the time came for the New Boys to meet the Headmaster and I shepherded them away as Mr Percival held tearful parents at bay.

Monday 5th September

Whole School Assembly. Three words with the power to freeze the blood of any Postors in the vicinity within seconds. The nightmare of squeezing the whole school into the Alington Hall was only made more entertaining by the fact that this year has seen Shrewsbury grow to unprecedented numbers; 370 students in the Sixth Form alone!

We persevered and all the students, from wide-eyed Third Formers to weary Upper Sixth, were jammed into the Hall and suitably named “crush hall”.

Suddenly Mr Tonks beckoned me from the front and I began the long walk down the aisle. Instead of worrying what big shoes I was attempting to fill all I could concentrate on was not tripping over my own. However, I made it all the way to the front row without disaster followed quickly by a wave of eerie silence.

The teaching staff had seemed to agree we needed scaring so we were thrown into the deep end right away. Threats of A-level disaster and a lifetime of McJobs seemed to be enough to blast the last memories of summer from our vacant minds and spur us into action.

The afternoon’s Medical Society was a little friendlier but I still felt slightly guilty as I handed a hastily fashioned Personal Statement over to Doc Morgan.

Tuesday 6th September

Mr Tonks and the Headmaster greeted me bright and early for my first meeting as Head of School. As they sipped their coffee and we discussed the new school year, I was slightly distracted by coming opportunity I would have to ride my bicycle to lessons.

At half past eight my world fell apart. The receptionist had seen no sign of a bike. Amazon had let me down again. I rushed back to the house to check the progress of my purchase and was confronted by a wall of incomprehensible jargon; I decided that it meant my transport would arrive the next day.

My double period with Doc Briggs was cut short by a singing lesson in which I belted out a few bars of O Sole Mio and added concerts, recitals and lessons to my rapidly overflowing diary.

I then spent a triple PR guiltily hiding from my Topschools in Quod, watching the awkward comings and goings of the Lower Sixth who still seemed unsure of their right to sit in the Sixth Form Common Room.

Tuesday afternoon brought me to Junior Senior and I was given an opportunity to embarrass myself with a few badly timed “dummies”, missing the ball more than I hit it and showing a perfect example of what a summer of lazing about can do to your sporting ability. I think that my relegation back to Mr Bell’s might 5th XI was more than kind given my performance.

Wednesday 7th September

My Wednesday morning lie-in was brutally cut short by an Early Applications talk in the SLT providing me with the perfect excuse to nip over to Reception to pick up my bike. I was told there was no chance it could have arrived unless it came in a boxed marked “A4 Yellow Exercise Books” which seemed unlikely for some reason.



The afternoon gave me another opportunity to demonstrate my rusty skills on the football field in Junior Senior, followed by a meeting with Mr Hughes to discuss the House Duties Rota which reminded me that I was already behind on creating the list of Postors' duties and threw me into a frenzied whirlwind of organisation.

I then spiralled towards the Maidment Building for a Chamber Choir rehearsal. Mrs Nightingale insisted that our piece was "simple" but the 3-4 harmonic arrangement in an 8-by-2 time signature said otherwise.

Thursday 8th September

No amount of spiritual tranquillity provided by Rev. Dobbie could have prepared me for the horrors of the DUO Interview Course. I was grilled relentlessly for twenty minutes about my desire to study Medicine and just when I thought it was all over I was informed that we'd been recorded. In a later "group discussion" my peers got the chance to see me flounder when confronted with a question about NHS reforms, but I felt much when I watched other interviews just as dire as mine.

The afternoon's Spanish Oral class allowed me to brush off the cobwebs from my linguistic talents (I think I managed to repeat the same sentence thirty or forty times). Almost as soon as I had finished, Mr Sheppe cornered me and solicited my help at the Societies Fair.

Mr Sheppe's attempts to use my Head of School influence to attract new Polo players was met by sideways looks from oblivious, uninterested Third Formers. They seemed a little more intrigued when they saw us smacking a ball around outside the Library and we managed to sign a few potential players, to Mr Sheppe's delight.

On Thursday night an exhausted and bikeless Head of School crashed into bed, with the coming 1st Leagues battle with Severn Hill occupying his thoughts.

Friday 9th September

The morning brought another meeting with the Headmaster, this time I was accompanied by my Deputies, Jack and Henry. It seemed once again that the three of us didn't have much to say, understandable as the school year has barely even begun!

Lessons were, as usual, a grave reminder of the coming university applications and I was moved to redraft my Personal Statement post-haste to ensure at least a place at Bristol if not Edinburgh.

As people whipped past me on bikes during break I couldn't help but curse Debbie at Amazon Costumer Services for her lack of knowledge concerning the whereabouts of my two-wheeled means of transport.

At five o'clock an epic struggle began. After Ridgemount's unprecedented success in 1st Leagues last year, Severn Hill were raring at the bit to prove that our sudden rush of skill and finesse was a rare phenomenon. They were wrong. We fought to the bitter end and many casualties were caught in the crossfire, including a bewildered looking Colonel Jenkins who was battered on the forehead by a rogue strike from Rob Cross. The final score came to 2-1 and, broken and bloodied, we trudged back to the House with our heads hanging in shame.

Saturday 10th September

As any well seasoned Sixth Former knows, Saturday lessons tend to take a back seat. This week was no exception and all anyone seemed to be talking about was the afternoon's football matches and the first Saturday night in Quod.



The gladiators of Mr Bell's 5th XI played a somewhat disjointed yet thoroughly enjoyable match against the Liverpool Ramblers Veteran Team. After a very obviously offside goal from the Shrewsbury team, it seemed rather just that every single other decision in the game went to the Ramblers and the score settled on a frustrating 1-all draw.

After a quick shower I made my way to Quod, not for the evening's revelry but for a chilli and a chat with the Ramblers. It seemed that our Merseyside opponents had outclassed us across the board and, but for the efforts of the Mr Bell's warriors, the Ramblers would have had a clean sheet.

Quod on the first Saturday night of term is always quite an experience, and with well over 300 Sixth Formers

now, this year's was even busier than usual.

Sunday 11th September

An early start. Mr Fanning had insisted that the Postors arrive at St Mary's no later than 9.30am to assist in the setting out of chairs and programmes for the service. So, following a hurried mouthful of Cornflakes, I set off along with my comrades towards town on a miniscule blue BMX borrowed from a bleary-eyed housemate.

Two dicey road-crossings and an exhausting hill later we arrived at the church to find that the chairs had already been set out and we were surplus to requirements. Over a tasteless Costa Coffee we grumbled about the extra half hour we could have afforded in bed.

Squashing the whole school into St Mary's was a slightly more pleasant experience than the Whole School Assembly and seemed to go off well (upturned flower arrangements and broken seats aside). The service was enjoyable and, after a hesitant opening hymn, seemed to fly by.

After packing up what seemed like endless rows of seats, the remaining Praepostors participated in a sluggish and strenuous race back to School. I was victorious but the sheen of glory was stripped off by the realisation that I would have to wait another working day until my own bicycle arrived.

Epilogue *(Wednesday 14th September)*

Still no bike. This is getting ridiculous.

The Headmaster's Reception at Magdalen College: A resounding success

Thursday 15 September 2011



The Headmaster's reception last night at the splendid Magdalen College, Oxford, was a huge success. Around 60 prospective parents and 10 prep heads from Oxfordshire and beyond attended the event, where they were entertained by a Salopian string ensemble and waited on by some of our pupils, before being addressed by our Registrar and Headmaster.

This is the third reception of this kind that we have held away from Shrewsbury since Mark Turner's arrival, and our our Home Team - comprising most of our Housemasters and Senior Management Team - now refer to them as the 'Headmaster's Road Shows'. Organised by Colonel Nick Jenkins with typical military precision, they are a neat and informal way of meeting families and prep heads who may not have visited Shrewsbury recently, or possibly not at all.

The Salopian spirit ensures that each 'Road Show' is tremendous fun, and the Colonel's enthusiasm for detail ensures that they also run smoothly. We hope and expect to be organising more such events across the country.



Changes to KH and Shrewsbury's caterers

Thursday 15 September 2011

At the start of the summer holidays, Shrewsbury School's catering contract was taken over by Holroyd Howe Independent, an award-winning catering company that specialises in the independent education sector.

Any staff working over the holidays became aware of the change almost straight away, when the presentation and style of the food on offer improved dramatically. Over the following few weeks, a number of structural changes to KH were implemented, so that by the start of term new exits had been knocked through so that trays could be deposited and people could leave KH without getting caught up with those who were coming in. The dining hall itself has new tables and chairs, and the counters have also been replaced, giving the whole place a much fresher and more modern look and feel.

This, we are told, was just Phase 1 of the refurbishment!

The queues at lunchtime on the first Monday of term were long, but pretty good-natured! Now that people know where they're meant to be going, though, things have improved dramatically.

Further details about our food, and this term's four-week rolling menu, are available on our [Food at Shrewsbury](#) page on the website.



Classics: First and Second prizes in national Gladstone Essay Competition

Saturday 17 September 2011

Ellie Moodey (MSH UVI), has been awarded first prize in the national Omnibus Gladstone Competition - the UK's premier essay prize in Classics - for her essay *'Is Ovid in the Metamorphoses more interested in pornography or moral lessons?'*

When writing to John Godwin, our Head of Classics, with the good news, the Editor of Omnibus, Dr. Karen Ní Mheallaigh, wrote *"There was a record number of 60 entries this year, so the competition was very tough. Among a group of six truly excellent finalists, Ellie's essay stood out as the most vivid and imaginative, and was written with panache."*

This excellent news continues Shrewsbury's extraordinary success in this national competition. Last year, George Ellis was also awarded First Prize for his essay *"Courting controversy: Shakespeare's use of Ovid in Venus and Adonis"*; in the each of the previous three years, one of our pupils has won the runner up prize.



We were all delighted to hear about Ellie's prize, but were thrilled when John Godwin received a second email from The Omnibus editor later in the day, telling him that another of our students, Angus Thompson (G UVI) had been awarded the second prize. Dr. Ní Mheallaigh's email this time round just has to be repeated:

"...another one of your students, Angus Thompson, has won the runner-up prize in the Omnibus Gladstone Essay competition for his essay 'How good a storyteller is Homer?' As I explained earlier, the competition was extremely tough, especially among the finalists; it was invidious, really, to choose between the two winning essays - Angus' essay was absolutely outstanding for the quality of his scholarly research in particular and for his truly impressive knowledge of the Iliad.

"I'd like to offer you my warmest congratulations on such brilliant and talented students - I would be delighted to see work of this calibre produced at undergraduate level. If they are intending to progress to University (as I suspect), I am sure they will enrich whatever classes they join. It is obvious that they have a very inspiring teacher! I hope you are very, very proud of them both, and I wish them both all the very best of luck for their bright and promising futures!"

Ellie and Angus will receive their prize money (£200 and £100 respectively) from the Gladstone Memorial Trust in due course, and Ellie's essay will also be published in the next edition of Omnibus, along with the names of all the finalists.



Our first rowing Cassidy Scholar: Harry Lonergan (O LVI)

Saturday 17 September 2011

Shrewsbury School, and particularly Oldham's Hall, is delighted to welcome the first Cassidy Scholar for rowing since the inception of the award.

Fresh from his appearance at the *Coupe de la Jeunesse* (European Championships) in Austria, with Salopian team mate Sam Lapage, Harry Lonergan has made his mark in the Boat Club already pulling the quickest 5k ergo time in School - by some 46 seconds. He has settled exceptionally well in his House where he shares his bedsit with 1st VIII crewmate, Max Kimpton-Smith.

Harry joins us from his Thames-based clubs Walton and Tideway Scullers School, where he has been a proven tough competitor in a sculling boat.



We wish him every success and happiness in the Sixth Form at Shrewsbury, and are confident that he will add strength to what should be a good year for the RSSBC.

Paul Manser

The Margaret Cassidy Scholarship is an annual award for a boy entering the Sixth Form at Shrewsbury School with a record of outstanding sporting ability in football, cricket or rowing.

The award has been donated to the school through the exceptional generosity of two Old Salopian brothers and named in memory of their late mother. The award is worth up to 100% of the fees, according to parental means.

The Sixth Form Assessment Weekend - for 2012 entrants - is on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th November, during which any candidates for specialist scholarships will also be tested.



Shrewsbury School's Music & Arts Programme 2011-2012

Saturday 17 September 2011

Shrewsbury School has launched its 55th season of music and arts programme with an exciting line-up of events for 2011 and 2012. The 55th season is packed with some fine musical and drama performances which cater for all tastes and ages - from the informalities of open mic nights to the glories of Mozart, with performances of his coronation mass and a concert staging of his opera 'The Magic Flute'.

The season's highlights include:

- The world-renown pianist and former 'BBC Young Musician of the Year' Freddy Kempf
- The international award-winning vocal group Voces8
- Traditional folk musicians Phil Cunningham and Aly Baines
- The Philip Clouts Jazz Quartet
- The Carter Wind Quintet



The 2011-2012 programme also includes a wide range of other recitals and concerts; many of the concerts by the pupils themselves are both free and open to the public.

Further details of forthcoming music and arts events during the Michaelmas Term can be found on www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/arts-events, and copies of the 2011-2012 SSMA programme are available from Darren Wood in the Maidment

Building dkwood@shrewsbury.org.uk.

The opening of Emma Darwin Hall, our second girls' house

Saturday 17 September 2011



'When all this is over,' said the princess, 'this bothersome Growing Up, I'll live with wild horses.' New grass, a new adventure, a new Boarding House and more than a ripple of applause; Emma Darwin Hall claimed its destiny overlooking the most beautiful playing fields in the world.

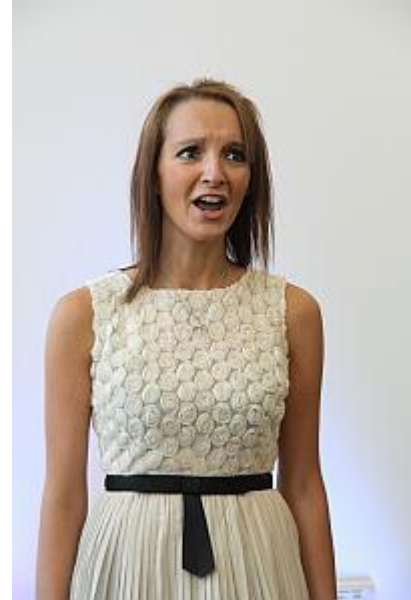
Over one hundred and fifty guests gathered in a newly created courtyard to celebrate the coming of age of co-education at Shrewsbury and a sister house to Mary Sidney Hall. With Peter Hankin's remarkable portrait of Emma Darwin overseeing the gathering, the Headmaster spoke eloquently about the inspirational wife of a genius, who so perfectly embodied the artistry of her father's family (the Wedgwoods), the scientific intellect of her mother's family (the Allens) and the philosophical non-conformism of her husband, Charles.



Paying tribute to those who helped bring Emma Darwin Hall to life, Mark Turner went on to thank the visionaries who conceived of the project and the facilitators who made it happen. From the governors, to Jeremy and Isobel Goulding, to bursars old and new, to the architects, the builders, and to so many support and teaching staff at Shrewsbury, the pioneering girls and the people who live and work in the building owe an enormous debt of gratitude.



Emma Darwin Hall's first Housemistress, Kait Weston, contributed with supreme dignity and good humour to the sense of occasion with thanks in particular for the wisdom and expertise of Mary Sidney Hall Housemistress, Sara Hankin, before taking a moment or two to reflect upon the value of role models such as Emma Darwin for the girls in the house. One other such role model is Gessica Howarth, one of the first female graduates from Shrewsbury who alongside studying Mathematics at Oxford University is one of the most exciting young opera singers in the country. Gessica's extraordinary performance of a Handel Aria, so sensitively accompanied by Director of Music, John Moore, was breathtaking in its emotional power and artistic subtlety.



Following such a moment would require something very special indeed. Fortunately, Ruth Padel, a great-great-grandchild of Emma and Charles Darwin, who was described by The Telegraph as, "a poet and scholar with a beautifully patient understanding, reminiscent of Ted Hughes, of how the natural world invests itself in our experience," provided the audience with a spellbinding, personal account of the lives of Emma and Charles. Beyond all things, the audience was told, Emma comforted. For Charles this would have been an immense source of relief following a difficult early life where he found some sanctuary from school and upbringing working on his scientific experiments in a potting shed. Disagreements on the subject of religion were painful

for both Emma and Charles, but their marriage had a depth and quality to it which proved steadfast and lifelong. With, passion, poetry, anecdote and visible delight, Ruth Padel moved and informed in equal and consummate measure. Her words will surely echo through the rooms and corridors of Emma Darwin Hall for years to come.

It fell to Isabella Barber, Head of House, to voice the thoughts of all present with a heartfelt thanks to Ruth Padel for sharing her time and wisdom so generously. With that, the guests made their way back into the courtyard for an excellent 'al fresco' late lunch and the opportunity for conversation.

After some considerable time, and with Astarte rising over the western Shropshire hills, the guests began to leave and the first young residents of Emma Darwin Hall paused to reflect upon their own trail of destiny. When all of this bothersome Growing Up is done, Emma Darwin Hall will have played its part in ensuring that future generations of exceptional young women will, in their own individual ways, find that they have the gift of understanding how to live with wild horses.

Struan Hellier





Headline - Classics: First and Second prizes in national Gladstone Essay Competition

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RSSH: Stunning win for Juniors at Manchester Relays

Sunday 18 September 2011

Encouraging news from the Manchester Relays. Seniors were placed third, the Intermediates second, but a stunning win for the Juniors (exclusively third formers) in their first run for The Hunt. Congratulations to the junior quartet of Oscar Dickins (R), Ben Remnant (Ch), Tom Sykes (PH) and Oliver Pope (PH).



The first Hunt fixture of the year is the annual Manchester Relays, a stiff early test on a flat and fast course against some of the top cross-country schools in the country, including the 'heavyweights' Manchester Grammar, West Hill, and Lancaster Grammar.

At this year's annual Manchester Relays, the Hunt were able to select five strong squads at Senior, Inter, and Junior level. Our Senior quartet of George and Ed Mallett, Tom Cousins, and new entrant Seb Blake got the squad off to a decent start with a third place behind Lancaster Grammar and Manchester Grammar. We would normally have expected to be more up in the mix here, but a difficult opening leg meant we were always going to struggle, despite Seb Blake pushing us into the lead during his second leg effort.

In the Inters, the quartet of Rory Fraser, Otto Clarke, Freddie Hill and Henry Young went one better, with a runner-up spot behind Lancaster Grammar. However, it was in the last race of the day that the Hunt really shone, with our newest runners in the 3rd Form putting on the RSSH vest for the first time. Ben Remnant (second placed in the New Boys' Race) ran a strong first leg, though was unable to even come close to the lead runner (not surprising, since the athlete is one of the UK's top athletes at this level). Step up Oscar Dickins (who the previous week had smashed the New Boys' record), who not only reeled in first place (despite a gap of over 200m), but pushed on to establish a 50m lead of our own. Oli Pope of Port Hill did his job perfectly, ensuring that we were still in contention going into the final lap, and as he handed over to fellow Port Hill athlete Tom Sykes, whilst the lead had exchanged hands, the gap looked attainable. Sykes ran in typical gutsy fashion, and with each step seemed to be closing on the lead. With 600m to go, he stepped up the pace and took the lead off Manchester Grammar, and we crossed the line comfortable winners.

This is the first time the Hunt have won this trophy, or indeed any trophy at the Manchester Relays, so it was a very positive start to the season, one that promises more success to come.

PJM

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Girls' hockey vs vs Shrewsbury Sixth Form College

Sunday 18 September 2011

Shrewsbury won 6-0

Another promising performance from the Shrewsbury girls' hockey against the 6th Form College made it 2 wins from games.

Both sides were guilty of a slow start, with neither team hitting their stride early. However, Shrewsbury increased their intensity and the pressure soon told, as the girls took the lead to go 1-0 up with a well-worked goal from Katy Mason-Jones. From here, Shrewsbury went from strength to strength, increasing in confidence and producing a fluid attacking performance.

Further goals followed from Libby Naylor and Elen Murphy, but player of the match went to Katy Mason-Jones for her hat-trick. A good performance all round for Shrewsbury with lots of positives to take from the match. Final score; an emphatic 6-0.

Salopian cricketers help Shrewsbury CC win the ECB National Club Championship

Sunday 18 September 2011

On Saturday 17th September, just ten days after our 1st XI won the HMC T20 at Arundel, two of that team played for Shrewsbury Cricket Club in the ECB National Club Final at Derbyshire County Cricket Ground.

In a pulsating final that went to the wire, Shrewsbury CC won by 3 wickets with 2 balls to spare. The winning team contained no fewer than six past or present Shrewsbury School players, including 3 previous 1st XI captains: Tom Cox (M 2006), Joe Leach (M 2009) and Alex Blofield (PH 2010) together with Michael Barnard (Rb 2009) Stephen Barnard (Rb 2011) and Stephen Leach (M UVI). And just for good measure, the team also



boasted a Shrewsbury School 6th form applicant for 2012 - Edward Barnard!

The club and school have retained a close link over the past century, and the success on Saturday comes some 28 years after the club previously won the National Club Championship in 1983.

Cambridge Granta CC: 220 for 8 (45 overs)

Shrewsbury CC: 224 for 7 (44.4 overs)

Shrewsbury CC won by 3 wickets and a longer report can be found on the [ECB website](#) and [the Shropshire Star website](#).



Sports results: w/c 12th September 2011

Sunday 18 September 2011

Week Beginning 12th September 2011

Date	Sport	Opposition	Team	H/A	Result	Score (Shrewsbury's score is first)
Mon 12 th September	Football	Codsall Community College	1 st XI	H	L	1-3
		Codsall Community College	2 nd XI	H	L	1-2
Tue 13 th September	Football	Idsall School	2 nd XI	H	W	5-1
			U16A XI	H	L	4-2
			U15A XI	H	W	3-2
			U14A XI	H	L	0-2
		Codsall Community College	3 rd XI	H	L	1-2
			4 th XI	H	D	1-1
Wed 14 th September	Football	Hulme G.S., Oldham	1 st XI	H	W	2-0
			2 nd XI	H	W	4-2
			3 rd XI	H	W	5-0
		Cardinal Griffin Catholic H.S	4 th XI	H	L	0-1
			Sandwell Academy	U16A XI	H	D
		U16B XI		H	L	1-2
		U15A XI		A	L	0-9
		U15B XI		A	W	5-0
		Priory School	U16DXI	H	L	0-2
			U15A XI	H	L	0-16
	Church Stretton School	U15C XI	H	L	0-10	
	Hockey Girls	Shrewsbury Sixth Form College	1 st XI	H	W	6-0
	Swimming	V Wrekin College				Cancelled
Sat 17 th September	Football	Kings School Chester	1 st XI	H	L	2-3
			2 nd XI	H	L	0-2
			3 rd XI	H	W	1-0
			U15A XI	H	W	4-1
		Abbeygate College Chester	4 th XI	A	L	1-5
			U16C XI	A	L	1-8
	U15 XI		A	L	0-1	
RSSH	Manchester Team Relays				See Bulletin	
Sun 17 th September	RSSH	Shrewsbury Seven Bridges 10km Race				See Bulletin



Football: w/c 12th September 2011

Sunday 18 September 2011

A busy week in the football calendar saw no fewer than 26 games being played between Monday 11th and Saturday 17th September 2011, with varying degrees of success.

1st XI

Vs Codsall Community College

The 1st XI played very well, passed the ball nicely and scored three well constructed and well taken goals. Max Pragnell(2) and Jack Hudson-Williams were amongst the goals. We dominated the game and could have won by a greater margin. A comprehensive 3-0 victory.

Vs Hulme Grammar

Once again the 1st XI dominated the game, recording roughly 75% of the possession. Yet despite their dominance they were quite negative when in the attacking half of the pitch. Despite this the game ended in a 2-0 victory, with both goals coming in the final five minutes of the game. Although we did create several good chances to score, we will have to be more decisive with our passing and become more creative if we are to push onto the next level.

Vs Kings Chester

The third game in a week proved a little too much for the boys as they were beaten at home 3-2 by Kings Chester. Somewhat of a lacklustre performance, meant the boys finished the week with a defeat, however preparation for the latter stages of the season is taking shape.

In other results, the 2nd XI recorded their first victory of the season, beating Idsall 5-1, quickly followed by their second victory beating Hulme Grammar, 4-2. The U'16 A's were beaten 4-2 by Idsall, however responded the following day with a 1-1 draw against Sandwell. The U15 A's had a mixed week, combining a heavy defeat against Sandwell with two excellent victories against Idsall (3-2) and Kings Chester (4-1).

Mr S. Biggins

U14A vs Idsall School

An experienced Idsall side were the first challenge faced by the new boys of Shrewsbury School. Representing the school for the first time was something many of the boys were excited about and their performance didn't disappoint. After dominating large spells of the first half, the boys were unlucky to go in at the break 1-0 down. Despite some excellent attacking play, no goal could be found and Idsall capitalised by scoring with their only real attack of the half. The second half became somewhat disjointed with many substitutions being made, however again the boys showed some promise for the season ahead. The final score ended as a 2-0 defeat, however some might say the score line does not always tell the full story!

An extremely positive first display from the new boys, and it signals the start of an exciting season ahead. Coupled with this their time representing Shrewsbury School has begun.

Mr S. Clancy



A Fortnight in the Life of Alfie Grocott (PH 3)

Tuesday 20 September 2011

Alfie has somehow managed to find the time to write up his personal account of 'Foundation Fortnight' - the induction programme for all the 128 boys in the Third Form.



As we drove through the gates and into school on my first day, I must admit that I didn't know what to expect. How hard would the lessons be? Would I make any friends? Would I enjoy the sport? However, I was quickly reassured by the end of my first day in the Third Form that I was going to love Shrewsbury, although it was fair to say that my feet still haven't touched the ground.

After spending nine years at my prep school, Packwood, I felt I was ready to enjoy some new experiences; and I certainly have! In my first week alone I have sampled German, Rowing and Fives, all new experiences for me and for most of my year group.

There have been many highlights, but in my eyes none more important than meeting those in my new house, Port Hill, and experiencing some of the famous camaraderie. I've already made some good friends in the house and hopefully it will stay that way for years to come. I particularly enjoyed the massive 'Kick about' that was organized for my house on the first afternoon.

Tuesday saw me worrying about the Swimming Tests, something I was very keen on passing, as I couldn't wait to row for the first time; my fears were unnecessary, as just about everyone passed and was therefore eligible to go out on the river. However after the initial happiness at my success, came the dreaded Top Schools. Two hours on only my second day! However, I was assured by a kindly sixth former that after Foundation Fortnight, my work-load would eventually settle down.

The highlight of the week came on Wednesday, the first time I ever stepped into a rowing boat. After a quick lesson on technique and a go in the brilliant 'Tank', we were allowed on the river, a truly exhilarating but terrifying experience. It was at this time that I realised how



addictive rowing can be, and so myself and about sixty others signed up to do it on a regular basis.

On Thursday we were shown some of the huge number of Societies on offer. One of my friends decided to sign up for polo, despite the fact that he had never ridden a horse in his life, simply because he “liked the shirt”.

Friday was a particularly humid if not, tropical, day and I have to admit I was pouring with sweat. Unfortunately, this wasn’t helped as I had to run about half a kilometre back to my house to retrieve my copy of Hamlet which I had been specifically told to bring to my English lesson. This taught me a valuable lesson; don’t forget your books or you might just have to run half a kilometre to go and get them.

Saturday dawned, the day of the famous New Boy’s Race. This is a gruelling two kilometre run around the school. After what seemed like forever, the finishing line came into sight. Just as I began to relax, one of my friends appeared from nowhere and sprinted ahead. Incensed, I summoned my last reserves of strength and after fifty agonised metres, regained my lead and ran through the finish. I was quite proud to discover that I had finished in 35th place.

That evening there was a quiz in the Allington Hall for all the new boys, which turned out to be great fun and all who participated had a great night.

I returned home at 9pm, by now, exhausted. What an eventful and enjoyable week it had been. That night I fell asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow and I found myself dreaming of rowing for the 1st Eight. What would my second week at Shrewsbury have in store for me?

Well, the second week here proved to be as busy as the first. To begin with, on Monday the entire Third Form were relieved to hear that Top Schools was cancelled. However, our happiness was short-lived, when we discovered that we had the initial assessment tests, a huge IQ exam upon which some of our predicted GCSE grades would be based.

On Thursday, half of the Third Form took part in our weekly music lesson, which to my dismay involved solo singing in front of the rest of the group. Singing is not my forte and I felt myself blushing crimson and thrusting my hands deep into my pockets as I was told to stand up. My rendition of ‘You Raise Me Up’ was met with hilarity.

Saturday involved the brilliant House six a side football tournament, which was great fun for all involved. My team Port Hill B’s, started off with a win against Ridgemount, but were thrashed 7-1 in our second match against the eventual winners, Oldhams. However we made it through to the quarter finals- where we were unfortunately savaged by the massively skilful Severn Hill.

As a dayboy, I am not used to going to school twenty one days in a row, but this is in fact exactly what happened due to Third Form Chapel on Sunday. A happy occasion for boarders, (possibly the first time seeing their parents in two weeks), it was just another excuse to be dragged from our beds for the dayboys. That night, I collapsed on my mattress and immediately drifted off into a deep and contented stupor.



Old Salopian Cricket Tour to North Devon - The Report!

Wednesday 21 September 2011

Tourists:

Ben Chapman, Scott Corbett, Richard Mackay, Tom Chapman, Richard Nichols, Max Lillee, Mark Ferguson, Tom Cox, Jack Brydon, Ben Marlow, Nick Graham, Sam Hoskins, Tom Williams, Seb Marsh, Tom Shaw, Linley Portsmouth, Jack Rose.



Results:

Match 1 vs North Devon CC

Won by 60 runs

Shrewsbury Saracens 274-7 declared (T. Cox 104*, T. Chapman 45, B. Marlow 45)

North Devon 214 all out

Match 2 vs North Devon CC

Won by 6 wickets

North Devon 300 – 5

Shrewsbury Saracens 301-4 (T. Cox 106*, B. Chapman 84, L. Portsmouth 51)

Match 3 vs Somerset Stragglers

Lost by 60 runs

Somerset Stragglers 257 – 9

Shrewsbury Saracens 197 all out (L. Portsmouth 43)

Twenty/20 Tournament vs North Devon CC & Strollers

Cancelled due to rain

Match 4 vs Taunton CC



Rained off

The Shrewsbury Saracens have enjoyed a vintage summer. After the nail-biting victory in the Cricketer Cup 1st Round earlier in the year, few would have thought the tour to North Devon would see similar moments of drama unfold. The club secretary, Paul Nichols, and president, Nico Williams, could hardly contain their excitement as the Saracens, under the 'new regime', battled to secure two famous victories over their hosts.

Ben Chapman (tour organiser, now ex tour captain) has run the trip to Devon for a number of years now, but has struggled to handle the pressure of both the organisational side of things and the captaining of a Saracens touring team. It is widely known the Saracens can be a volatile bunch to manage, especially after a day or two under that thatched pavilion at the idyllic Instow cricket ground. After the second ever 'tour crisis management meeting'*1 held during the early hours of Monday morning, it was decided that Ben's younger and more agile brother would take over as tour captain. After this announcement the Saracens officially 'raised up the OS Flag' and they certainly did not look back.

The North Devon locals and supporting Shrewsbury contingent were provided with many scintillating moments on the tour: a couple of centuries from Tom Cox, some superb fielding performances including possibly the greatest ever catch on tour from debutant Linley Portsmouth, an unbelievable run chase and even a visit by the current headmaster, Mr Turner! The infamous touring twins, Scott Corbett and Max Lillee, (think Mr Stamper and Elliott Carver*2) were not sure what to make of this visit from the new headmaster. Surely they were not in trouble again?! Surely they could not be getting another double extra lesson having broken all the official school records from 1995-2000. Luckily for Scott and Max, Mr Turner was just enjoying a relaxing break down in North Devon and he left before the evening court session took place.

Such is the excitement of the tour, players start arriving in Devon on the Saturday beforehand to prepare mentally for what might unfold. Reports from Bideford from the Saturday evening suggest good fun was had by all and Mark Ferguson had worked his usual magic with the locals. Well, the stats never lie... Sunday evening normally results in a tour briefing and a lovely roast in the superb Wayfarer Inn which has hosted the Saracens in recent years and things did not change this year. Richard Mackay wanted to play a few "games" just to get the tour started off. This was, as it is every year, an error in judgement. It would be no surprise therefore to report that Richard took an unofficial day off tour, later in the week, just to recover from the antics on Sunday evening.

Monday finally arrived and we were graced with beautiful blue skies. A first for a good few years! The Saracens were very eager to put in a good performance and having won the toss chose to bat. Tom Chapman and Richard Mackay took to the crease with their usual over-exuberance and dismal chat. The latter was also sweating profusely and making all sorts of interesting noises, most probably due to the antics from the night before. However, they set the standard for the day and got the team off to a great start. 70 odd for 0 and the Saracens were looking good. As usual they gave their wickets away just before lunch for purely personal reasons. A quick collapse followed and at 124-5 and the Saracens were struggling but Tom Cox and Ben Marlow batted magnificently to take the side to up to a very respectably score. Tom Cox, having travelled down from Shrewsbury that morning and arriving (late) at about 1.34pm, was immediately told to get his pads on. A few quiet words about 'the new regime' and Coxy was ready to go out and score some runs. 104* was just what we needed. We declared on 274-7 which was about par, although a very gettable total if North Devon batted well.



What North Devon were not expecting was a Tim Bresnanesqe opening spell from Nick “The Greek” Graham and a similarly fiery spell from the other end from Richard Nichols. All the Saracens proved their worth: Mark Ferguson rolled back the years and bowled some unorthodox, yet menacing right arm slow. “A different class!” exclaimed the president. A couple of wickets for the Ferg and he was content, although as usual had something to say about it. Scott Corbett managed to roll his arm over (just) and took a wicket too. Ben Marlow put in a great spell and it was a pleasure to have such a talented Marlow on tour after the various contributions from Charlie over the last few years. Everyone bowled well but it was Max Lillee who took the key wicket of the North Devon batsman. Craig Overton, who has represented Devon and England Under 17’s, simply couldn’t handle Lillee’s flight and guile and was walking back to the pavilion not too long after he appeared from it. The Old Salopians were bouncing. North Devon simply could not handle them on this day; they were bowling good lines and fielding like demons. Catches were being held (although in Richard Mackay’s case were being avoided at all costs) and we wrapped up the final wicket with a couple of overs to spare thanks to safe hands, Sam Hoskins. The wild celebrations that ensued went long into the night and a great evening was had by all.

Tuesday morning came too soon for some of the touring party, but fortunately we were saved by one or two latecomers on tour. Jack Brydon appeared from London and debutants Jack Rose and Linley Portsmouth also arrived. The latter two immediately reduced the average age of the side (but more importantly the average weight of the side). Their youthful and athletic ability in the field made a huge difference and it was a pleasure to behold. Richard Mackay and Scott Corbett looked on like two bemused hippos struggling in the August heat as these two sprinted around the boundaries saving valuable runs at any given opportunity. Cries of: “the new regime!” were being heard all over North Devon and it was a pleasure to hear. Catches were being held again and we were just about staying in the second game thanks to the efforts of Jack Rose who bowled a superb 15 over spell. North Devon, who won the toss earlier in the morning, had put in one or two other stars of their league 1st team and their side also included a current Unicorns player in Glen Querl. They set us 301 to win. It could have been worse and as we sat in the changing room after they had declared we were struggling to recall when a Saracens team had last chased down 301!

The negative thoughts were soon gone and we headed out to bat. Despite losing a couple of early wickets we knew our strength was in the middle order. Portsmouth, Cox and Chapman B all contributed and we were just about in with a chance to win at 243 – 3 with 7 overs remaining.





Pictured: The OS flag flying high on our way to a famous victory over North Devon. Chapman B 77 & Cox T 72 * leading the Saracens home.*

However, shortly after the photo was taken Ben Chapman went for 84 and the pressure was back on. Tom Chapman entered the fray and the Saracens still needed 36 off four overs. After some hefty blows this was reduced to 8 off the final six deliveries.



The Saracens anticipating a famous victory! (From left to right: S. Corbet, M. Lillee, J. Brydon, T. Williams, S. Marsh, B. Marlow, R. Mackay, N. Graham)

The Saracens contingent on the boundary were getting particularly noisy and sensed a famous victory. North Devon brought on their key spinner to bowl the last over. The Saracens would have to work hard here as they would be hitting into the strong wind which was blowing in from Lundy Island. Running hard (not Chapman T's forte) and hitting the ball on the ground was the key; losing a wicket at this stage would surely prove costly in our attempts to win again.

First ball presented a glorious opportunity for a boundary as a low full toss was offered up to Tom Chapman. He hit it well but it went straight to the man on the cover boundary for a single. 7 required off 5. Pressure on. Cox guided the next one down to third man. 6 required off four. A boundary was surely required. Hitting into the wind would be very difficult so Chapman's options were somewhat reduced. Everyone was outside the pavilion as this extraordinary game reached its denouement. As the third ball of the over was delivered Tom Chapman eyed it up, connected with his full force and watched it disappear somewhere towards Lundy. It was an almighty blow and the celebrations commenced immediately! What a win! The Saracens could not believe it and yes the new regime had managed to achieve two from two! It had been a great game and another superb memory to take back from Instow. The Saracens had not done the double over their old rivals for many years but it was a pleasure to be part of the touring team that day.



Tom Cox after scoring a 2nd century in as many days and leading the Saracens to victory!

On Wednesday morning we somehow managed to get out of bed and made our way to Lynton and Lynmouth for the fixture against Somerset Stragglers CC. The cricket did not manage to reach the exciting levels of the first two days but nevertheless it was a reasonable performance. It was here, though, where we witnessed two quite remarkable things. First, for those of us watching we were lucky enough to see one of the greatest catches of all time. Many have spoken about when a certain Chris Rogers (ex Australia, current Middlesex player) was caught by a young David Walker off the bowling of Matt Randall. This, however, was a different class. Fielding at cow corner, Portsmouth, sprinted round the boundary to fling himself out to catch the ball which was about 2 metres in front of him. Travelling exceedingly quickly (it was going for a flat six) Portsmouth somehow managed to cling onto it. Catch of the century...quite possibly! The other remarkable thing which happened that day was an amazing sighting of the aforementioned Dave Walker. Well, we thought it could have been him after rumours reached the ground that a 50 foot whale had beached itself at Lynton. After a quick investigation took place confirmation came through that it was in fact a whale and not Dave.

On return to Instow we held the inaugural Shrewsbury Saracens Tour Sports Quiz, which was won after a bit controversy, by Mark Ferguson, Nick Graham and Linley Portsmouth. Richard Mackay, the archetypal quiz master, ran the evening superbly well and it was nice of 'Jabba' to finally contribute on tour. Unfortunately the Thursday and Friday were rained off, although we did manage a brief, 10 over battle against the Strollers on the Thursday. This did not prove to be very successful, but it took nothing away from what was a superb week



Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



The Shrewsbury Saracens would like to welcome any young budding cricketers to join us on the tour to Devon. Please contact Ben Chapman*3 if you are interested in touring in August 2012. It is great fun and good cricketing ability, although helpful, it is not hugely important. You only need to ask or look at some of the current tourists to realise that! The two most recent debutants, Jack Rose and Linley Portsmouth can vouch that it is a very entertaining few days.

The Valley of the Rocks

***Notes:**

1 – The first tour crisis management meeting was held in 2001 when Dave Walker's position as wicket keeper became untenable.

2 – from Tomorrow Never Dies, James Bond film

3 - Ben Chapman bjnc9@hotmail.com

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Old Salopian Concert on Friday 7 October

Thursday 22 September 2011

October Gathering

As part of the Gathering, there will be an informal concert in the Maidment Building on **Friday 7 October at 7.30pm**.

Join the Director of Music, John Moore and a company of musicians drawn from the current and Old Salopian musical community for an evening of music to welcome the Old Salopian Day on 8th October. Please click [here](#) for a poster.

There will also be a concert as part of the October Day at 1.15pm on Saturday 8 October.



Shrewsbury coach nominated for prestigious Player of the Year Award

Monday 26 September 2011



Shrewsbury School sports coach Alan Richardson, who has played first class cricket for Warwickshire, Middlesex, England 'A' and now Worcestershire, was nominated last week for the prestigious Natwest PCA Player of the Year Award 2011, but was pipped by Somerset and England's Marcus Trescothick.

Alan, who has assisted Shrewsbury's Cricket Professional Paul Pridgeon over the last 12 months, took an outstanding 73 wickets in the LV County Championship Division One for Worcestershire this season, and was the leading wicket taker in the division. Alan will once again coach Shrewsbury School cricketers this winter, as well as the School 3rd XI football team.

Alan signed a new contract with Worcestershire this season and will combine his winter coaching at School with off-season training at New Road.

New Entrants' Concert 2011 - one to remember for years to come

Tuesday 27 September 2011

On Saturday 17 September 25 new Third Form boys performed to a capacity Alington Hall in one of the most memorable New Entrants' Concerts in recent years. Director of Music, John Moore, introduced proceedings and paid tribute to the musical education they had received thus far at their respective prep schools, highlighting how much the school was looking forward to nurturing their talent further over the next five years.



As a newcomer to the teaching staff, I was staggered by the level of accomplishment on display - a level that many school sixth forms would be proud of. Amongst the many instrumental highlights were Henry Thomas's performance of Goedicke's virtuosic Concert Etude for solo trumpet and Kevin Jim's Tarantelle by Goens for solo cello. There was also some extremely impressive solo singing from former Hereford Cathedral Chorister Nick Entwisle performing Michael Bublé's 'Everything', accompanied with an 'ear-catching' piano groove from Mr

Moore, whilst Alex Bennett's rendition of an Adèle number performed at the piano à la Elton John, literally brought the house down.

The variety of musical styles on offer was impressive ranging from Lawrence Hartley's dexterous Bach on violin and Angus Hay's tuneful Gibbons on the trumpet, to Douglas Major's own composition 'Dangerbeat 6' for solo drumkit and Julian Chesire's solo for keyboard and loop-station. It's exciting to see these diverse young performers rubbing shoulders with each other and Shrewsbury is the kind of school that can give a platform for all whatever your interest.

The music facilities at Shrewsbury are second to none, and with an annual concert programme embracing young performers as well as artists of international repute, the school continues to be a magnet to gifted young musicians.

*Alex Mason [AEM]
Director of Chapel Choir*

Exceptional Pre-U results

Tuesday 27 September 2011

We were delighted to receive a letter from the Chief Executive of the University of Cambridge International Examinations recently, congratulating us on the achievements of our students in the second examination series of Cambridge Pre-U exams.

Eight of our students were awarded the highest possible grade - Distinction 1 (D1) - in either French or Physics in 2011.

To put our students' achievements in perspective, the next grade down - Distinction 2 - is considered to be the equivalent of an A* grade.



LOWER 6TH STUDENTS

Jack Flowers – French
Kiran Morjaria – French
Linus Plassmann – French
Tabitha Price – French

UPPER 6TH STUDENTS

Mohamed Janahi – Physics
Philip Lackner – French
Stephen Lilico – Physics
Thomas Elcock – Physics

Tabitha Price is currently spending a week at [Villiers Park](#), Cambridge where she is taking part in an intensive Spanish course for gifted students.



Girls' hockey vs Kings Chester

Wednesday 28 September 2011

Shrewsbury came up against tough opposition this week, but gave a performance to be proud of.

Kings were very strong, particularly in attack and the Shrewsbury defence were under pressure from the beginning. Despite an early onslaught, Shrewsbury kept their structure and passed the ball well, moving into the oppositions half demonstrating good skills to break into Kings' defence. Kings continued to push hard, but Shrewsbury kept the score to 0-0 at half time.

Kings came out even faster after half time and scored an excellent goal within the first 5 minutes. Shrewsbury maintained their position and played some excellent hockey, showing real progress, but couldn't manage to hold Kings off, leaving the score 2-0 at full time. Player of the match was Rosie Boutflower.

Despite the defeat, a performance full of character from the girls was pleasing.



Football: w/c 19th September 2011

Wednesday 28 September 2011

School teams took part in no fewer than 14 fixtures on Saturday against a variety of opponents, including the annual senior fixtures vs the Old Salopians. In an excellent game of football, the 1st XI lost 2-1 to a talented OS XI, but an outstanding goal from Jack Hudson-Williams, involving most of the team, was some consolation. Some senior and junior levels played Repton, West Bromwich Albion Satellite Academy and Shrewsbury High prep School, the highlights of which were probably the good wins vs Repton for the U15B and U15C XI's.

Mixed fortunes in the ISFA Cups at U15 and U18 level this week. The U15A XI lost to a very talented Bolton School team that had achieved National success at U13 level. However, the 1st XI faced a tough Grange Grammar School side in their 1st Round match, and came out victors 2-1, and now face Winchester College in Round 2. In the ESFA U18 Cup 2nd Round this Wednesday, the 1st XI face Abraham Darby School at home at 4pm. The U16A XI lost 3-1 to Belvidere School on Wednesday in their ESFA Cup match.

Full reports below.

1st XI Football

vs Grange Grammar

A hard fought victory in the 1st Round of the ISFA Boodles Cup. The match was delicately poised at 0-0 at half time but we scored 2 goals early in the second half through Max Pragnell and Howard Stringer. Grange scored in the latter stages of the game leaving a tense 15 minute period for us to survive.

We now travel to Winchester College for the 2nd round on Wednesday October 5th, on the back of a well fought 2-1 victory.

Vs Old Salopians

Shrewsbury welcomed one of the youngest Old Salopian teams for some time, providing an excellent encounter. A goal direct from a corner and an excellent finish from Rory Griffiths gave the Old Salopians a deserved 2-0 lead. The school however played extremely well in the second half and dominated the game. A delightful piece of play saw Jack Hudson-Williams bring the school back into contention with a strike from 25 yards. Despite continued pressure from the current schoolboys we could not find the elusive equaliser.

A thoroughly enjoyable occasion enjoyed by everyone involved.

Other results saw the 2nd XI continue their recent good form by beating the Sixth Form College 3-2, whilst the U16A's were defeated in their 1st round ESFA cup game against Belvidere (1-3) and the U15A's crashed out of the ISFA cup at the first round stage to a very strong Bolton side.

The U14A's recorded their first victory in Shrewsbury blue with a win against Kings Chester (3-2), followed by a comprehensive victory over WBA U'13s (10-1).

Mr S. Biggins



Richard Raven's 80th Birthday Dinner - Friday 16 September

Wednesday 28 September 2011

Over 90 Salopians gathered at the London Rifles Club to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Richard Raven (M 1945-50 and pictured left, below, with Careers Master, Chris Conway) and also to initiate a **Severn Hill Alumni** that will meet every few years.



Guests included Headmasters Simon Langdale, Ted Maidment and Jeremy Goulding (attending with Isobel), numerous former colleagues and lifelong friends. All of Richard's immediate family attended as well as many Boys from Richard Raven's 13 years as Severn Hill Housemaster. Former housemasters Simon Funnell (and his wife Sheila), and David Gee were joined by the current Housemaster, Paul Vickers. Many guests travelled from afar, including Michael Eckford who flew in from New Zealand.

Leading the tributes, James Lazarus mentioned Liz Raven's pivotal contribution to the lives of those from the House. Whilst reminding guests of Richard's eccentricities, James drew attention to Richard's exemplary life of service, to the House and the School, the Old Salopian Club and all its Sporting Clubs, his family – to whom he is devoted and all his many friends. James also reminded guests of Richard's immense contribution to the wider Shropshire community – 'not just to the great, but also to the downtrodden and those in need'.

Speaking for all those present and many who had sent in goodwill messages, James drew attention to Richard's 'incredible moral authority – combined with an equally strong sense of humour and self deprecation.' His Severn Hill boys had all had instilled in them the clearest possible sense of right and wrong.

The guests presented Richard with a clock inscribed with the words 'RNER, To Commemorate Your 80th Birthday, from all your many Severn Hill and Shrewsbury Friends.'



In response Richard thanked Guests for coming and for his gift. In a wide ranging and witty speech he paid tribute to many former colleagues including all his Headmaster colleagues, the many Presidents of the Club present, friends from the Staff, House Tutors and Susan Vincent, House Matron for 18 years. Richard reminded guests of Donald Wright's immense contribution, not only to the life of the School but also to his own career.



The evening flew by and many were still present at the 'chucking out time' of Midnight. **James Lazarus**





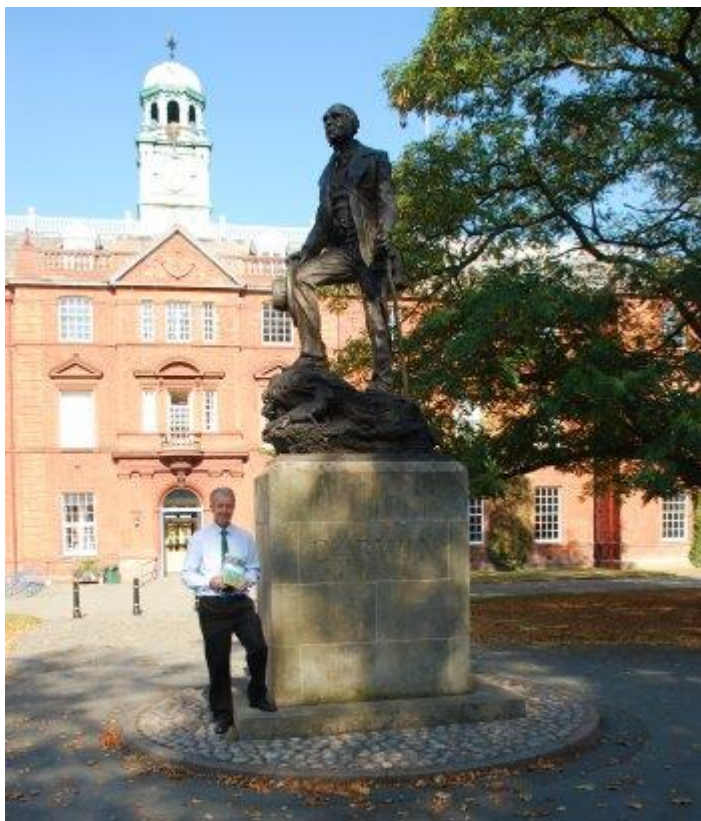
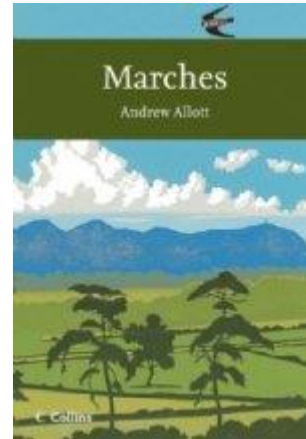
Head of Biology's book is published

Wednesday 28 September 2011

Andrew Allott, Head of Biology, has had his book on the natural history of The Marches published by Harper Collins, in their [New Naturalist series](#). The authors of the New Naturalist series are generally renowned experts, professionals and reputed scientists, which makes the books much revered and often used as authoritative introductory textbooks.

The borderland between England and Wales has long been a region of contention. Its distinctive geography, wedged roughly between Welsh mountains and English river beds has not only isolated this rural, sparsely-populated slice of land, but created a unique identity.

Stretching along the bordering counties with England – Cheshire, Shropshire and Herefordshire – the Welsh Marches are made up of a mixture of mountains and moorlands, farms and wooded river valleys. The natural history of the region is like most parts of the British Isles – inextricably linked to the activities of man across many thousands of years.



Andrew wanted to write the book to flag up the amazing natural history of the area, which he felt was not recognised widely enough, and to promote its conservation. It is a very special part of the world that we live in here, and he wanted more people to understand its origins and what needs to be done to protect and enhance the wildlife and the landscape. There are thirteen chapters in the book, and each explores a different theme.

Andrew suggested the subject to Harper Collins and then went over the hurdles of writing a synopsis followed by a sample chapter for them to consider. They then gave him the contract to write the rest of the book.

"It's taken five years on and off - you can imagine that I got very little done in term time, although I was given a sabbatical break of five weeks at the end of the summer term

one year to do the field visits needed. I spent a lot of time bringing together information from a huge diversity of sources, and I also consulted a lot of experts in particular aspects of the natural history."

Our Head of Science, Steve Adams, describes the book as *"beautifully produced, reflecting the author's deep respect for and knowledge of the subject matter and inviting the reader to absorb him or herself in the book."*

Shrewsbury

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Harper Collins write: *"Andrew Allott brings together a wealth of material in the latest New Naturalist volume, much of which is published here for the first time. Presenting the first large-scale survey of this unique part of the country, he offers a complete natural history of the area, covering the hills, fossils, ice ages, meres, mosses, forests, streams and rivers, whilst also focusing on man's impact on the region, the changing wildlife, the impact of agriculture and the consequences of past and present industrial action."*

Please see the [Harper Collins website](#) for more information.



Badminton & Fencing w/c 19th September 2011

Wednesday 28 September 2011

BADMINTON

vs Wrekin College

The first Badminton fixture of this school year started off according to plan by securing a victory over our regular competitors, Wrekin College. The games were played in a Mixed Doubles format, 1 game up to 21 points. The squad selected began with Pair 1, Jirapas Tantipiriyakij (SH) and Janet Wong (MSH). They formed a strong pair, winning all four games and conceding only 43 points. Pair 2 was Kiran Morjaria (I) and Amanda Azman (MSH), who also formed a strong pair, winning all four games and conceding 51 points. Pair 3, Awin Chaikul (S) and Gift Suwannarat (MSH), won two games. Pair 4, Ken Lo (O) and Mook Boonthongrungtawee (EDH) unfortunately won only one game but for both of them this was their first match for the school.

Shrewsbury School won in total by 11 games to 5. The result gave an encouraging start to the season, and it was good to welcome back a team and staff that have given us many enjoyable matches over recent years.

J. Tantipiriyakij (capt.)

FENCING

Shropshire Open at Wrekin College

We were delighted to take a team of eleven along to the Shropshire Open Championships this year.

In the Mens Foil event Marco Lee (Shrewsbury School) finished in a respectable tenth position, losing to Richard Morris (Cambridge University) 15-13 in a very tense and thrilling match. Final standings saw Marco Lee (10th), Stephen Li (17th), Charlie Godman (25th), Chris Williams (31st) and Ollie Marshall (45th), all gaining respectable and pleasing finishes.

Mr K. Holding



A 'fairytale finish' for Alex Wilson XI at the Memorial Football Match

Wednesday 28 September 2011

Alex Wilson Memorial Match Sunday 25 September

A football match, in memory of **Alex Wilson** (Rb 2003-08), who was Captain of Football while at Shrewsbury School, was played at the School on Sunday 25th September. Two strong sides, the Alex Wilson XI and an Old Salopian XI, provided a very entertaining game on a slippery, wet pitch. In spite of the conditions, a large crowd turned out to support the two teams. It proved to be a very competitive game with close chances at either end.



Captained by Alex's older brother Henry, the team made up of Alex's contemporaries kept their nerve in the shoot-out against a star studded OS outfit.

At the end of normal time the game was tied 0-0. Consequently the players agreed that the match should be decided by a penalty shoot-out. In a 'fairytale finish', Henry Wilson, brother of Alex, put away the perfect penalty to ensure that the Alex Wilson XI were victorious by 5 goals to 4. There are plans to make this game a regular fixture within the Old Salopian calendar.

The match was the official launch of the Alex Wilson Foundation which aims to raise enough money to place a Shropshire Lad into the school where Alex excelled between 2003-8.

Despite ending 0-0, the match was full of chances, especially the second half and keepers Tom Shaw for the Wilson XI and the OS' Richard McGarry excelled throughout.



Former First XI stars were everywhere on both sides and it made for an attacking and attractive game.

A full account of the match, by Alex's brother, Henry can be found [here](#).

Alex Wilson XI: Tom Shaw, Michael Barnard, Mike Williams, James Franklin, Mark Tomley, Toyin Mustapha, Ben Freeman, Henry Wilson ©, Adam Parker, Rory Griffiths, Ally Lloyd, Freddie Pragnel, Ben Williams, Rhys Bevan

Old Salopian XI: Rich McGarry, Oli Harrison, Charlie Pilkington, Harry Fildes ©, Rob Hawkin, Robbie Williams, Tom Kelly, Oliver Heywood, Hamish McKenzie, Jack Brydon, Ben Alderson, Jack Travers, Ben Cooke, Alex Gittins, George Blakemore



Old Salopian footballers take on the School

Wednesday 28 September 2011

Old Salopian Football

Old Salopian Football returned to Shrewsbury School on Saturday 24th September. On a bright, chilly afternoon, 5 Old Salopian teams took to the field against the School. Playing conditions were excellent and the pitches in immaculate condition. Large numbers of spectators enjoyed the spectacle and every match was fiercely contested. As the scores below show, the majority of games were very tight indeed and in most cases the final result could have gone either way.



Pictured: The Old Salopian 2nd Team

Results:

OS 1st XI won 2-1

OS 2nd XI won 2-1

OS 3rd XI lost 3-2

OS 4th XI won 6-0

OS 5th XI won 4-3

The Old Salopian Football Club has enjoyed a superb start to the season, with 3 straight victories. An influx of new, exciting young players and a successful short tour to Amsterdam has certainly been a fillip for this year's 1st XI side. The team is playing attractive football, and is scoring plenty of goals. The Old Salopian 2nd XI has also started the new season with one draw and one win. Both teams ply their trade in the Arthurian League in London and always extend a very warm welcome to former Shrewsbury School players seeking to play football in the London area. **Alex Baxter**



School vs Old Salopians

Shrewsbury welcomed one of the youngest Old Salopian teams for some time, providing an excellent encounter. A goal direct from a corner and an excellent finish from Rory Griffiths gave the Old Salopians a deserved 2-0 lead. The school however played extremely well in the second half and dominated the game. A delightful piece of play saw Jack Hudson-Williams bring the school back into

contention with a strike from 25 yards. Despite continued pressure from the current schoolboys we could not find the elusive equaliser.

A thoroughly enjoyable occasion enjoyed by everyone involved.

Steve Biggins

RSSH: Global press coverage

Thursday 29 September 2011

Roger Robinson's article on the RSSH and the 2011 New Boys' Race in the *US Running Times*

Roger Robinson, erstwhile International athlete, and now one of the world's leading academics on the origins and history of world running, has written various articles about the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt and its significance as the world's oldest running club (and also, recently, an article on the significance of Shrewsbury's athletics as far as the origins of that sport are concerned).



Roger was in the UK earlier this month, and spent some time in the school's archives undertaking further historical research on the Hunt. He and his wife Kathrine Switzer (the first woman to officially enter and run the Boston Marathon) were able to watch and enjoy this year's New Boys' Race, won in spectacular fashion by Oscar Dickins.

Roger's article on the New Boys' Race has now been published in the [US Running Times](#). Please note that

the picture used in the article (primary school children running a race under the observation of Scottish soldiers in kilts) has absolutely nothing to do with the New Boys' Race!

The photo of a Boston Marathon official trying to throw Kathrine Switzer out mid-race made headline news across America in 1967. See www.kathrineswitzer.com for more information.





A Week in the Life of Eliza Hodgson (EDH LVI)

Thursday 29 September 2011

Wednesday

The third week into the start of my new school, and I already feel stuck into a routine; still this doesn't make waking up for breakfast any easier!

I head off to lessons at ten to nine, more awake after an energising breakfast of KH porridge! After a busy morning of hard work and a quick change into my rowing kit, it's down to the river for some sculling practice with Mrs. Wilson. We ventured upstream for the first time, and made huge progress with our technique.

Later that night after tea and call over, we had our first part song rehearsal – while it's a bit unfinished now, by the time we get to house singing competition Emma Darwin will stand a good chance!

Thursday

Thursday morning starts off with chapel, a slightly earlier start but it means a quicker walk to lessons. There are fewer lessons on a Thursday leaving the afternoon free for activities; as an artist I head to the studio to work on my life drawing. After four hours of work, it's down to the boathouse to do an ergo session with Bridget and Mrs. Wilson. A much-desired tea is the next stop on the way back to house from the river. After a stressful session of Top Schools, Ridgemount arrives in our hall for the first house play meeting; "Forty Years on". We're all very excited. Then it's off to bed.

Friday

My Friday begins with the same morning routine of breakfast, call over, and lessons. Right after lessons, I head down to the river for a technique session in the double with Bridget. We race back to house after rowing to get changed for Liv's Mexican birthday dinner! Great fun and back in the house for a good night's sleep.

Saturday

Finally the weekend! A short day of lessons followed by a tour around campus with a prospective student for the Open Day. Then the first girls' house rowing competition, which came to a draw for the two girls' houses – Emma Darwin is hoping to turn that around next house rowing, but a fair start to the new competition. I took a leisurely walk around town with some friends, and returned in time for tea. After a busy school week, I relaxed and watched films with friends before heading to the Sixth Form Quod.

Sunday

Chapel Choir rehearsal bright and early on Sunday morning - no chance for a lie in! Followed by a lovely 'New Entrants' chapel service. Brunch was especially delicious after the morning rehearsal and service; full English with lashings of ketchup! A calm day to balance out the busy weekday routine was well spent working and resting. Finishing the day with a film in Quod.

Monday

The start of a new week, and I found myself back in the daily routine. After lessons it was house



hockey against MSH, resulting in an EDH victory! Unison house singing practice followed, it's really coming together! After a bit of Top Schools and a visit to the gym, it was time for bed.

Tuesday

Due to the sponsored walk taking place on Thursday, the day began with a chapel service with Reverend Dobbie and the rest of the Sixth Form. A long day of lessons was followed by a session on the water, and ergo training. After tea, I had a long but productive chapel choir; in preparation for the Old Salopian Chapel service in a few weeks' time. Then it was time for some Top Schools followed by sleep.

Wednesday

Wednesday came with blue sky and a summer heat of 26 degrees! After lessons it was a perfect day for rowing on the river, we rowed an eight upstream. Straight from rowing, still in sports kit, I spent the remainder of my afternoon in an art lesson. Tea-time, then Top Schools followed by a French Speaking lesson. The whole house is resting up and getting to bed early, in preparation for our twenty mile sponsored walk tomorrow for 'The Shewsy'.



Sports results: w/c 19th September 2011

Thursday 29 September 2011

Week Beginning 19th September 2011

Date	Sport	Opposition	Team	H/A	Result	Score (Shrewsbury's score is first)
Tue 20 th September	Football	Mary Webb	U16B	H	L	0-6
			U16D	H	W	3-0
Wed 21 st September	Football	Shrewsbury Sixth Form College	2 nd XI	H	W	3-2
			3 rd XI	H	L	0-4
			4 th XI	H	D	2-2
			5 th XI	H	D	0-0
			6 th XI	H	L	0-3
			7 th XI	H	L	0-4
			Grange Grammar (ISFA Boodles Rd I)	1 st XI	A	W
		Bolton (RS ISFA Cup)	U15AXI	A	L	0-10
		Belvidere (ESFA Cup Rd I)	U16AXI	A	L	1-3
		Kings Chester	U14AXI	A	W	3-2
	Ludlow	U16B XI	H	L	0-1	
		U15B XI	H	L	2-3	
		U14B X			Cancelled	
	Hockey	Kings School Chester	1 st XI	H	L	0-2
Badminton	Wrekin College				See Bulletin	
Fri 23 rd September	Football	Thomas Telford School	U16CXI	H	L	0-6
			U15CXI	H	L	0-9
			U14CXI	H	L	2-7
Sat 24 th September	Fencing	Wrekin College			See Bulletin	
Sat 24 th September	Football	Old Salopians	1 st XI	H	L	1-2
			2 nd XI	H	L	1-2
			3 rd XI	H	W	3-2
			4 th XI	H	L	0-6
		Repton	5 th XI	A	L	3-4
			6 th XI	A	L	0-2
			7 th XI	A	L	0-2
			U16B XI	H	L	1-2
			U15B XI	H	W	5-2
			U15C XI	H	W	4-1
			U14BXI	H	L	4-6
			U14CXI	A	W	2-1
			WBA	U14AXI	A	W
		Shrewsbury High Prep	U14DXI	A	D	3-3

The 2011 Sponsored Walk

Thursday 29 September 2011



All students and staff have been out today, taking part in a twenty-mile walk over the Long Mynd from Plowden to Pontesbury, via Ratlinghope and Stiperstones. A small group ran the course, but the rest took it at a more leisurely pace.

A whole-school sponsored walk is organised every five years, in aid of Shrewsbury House ("The Shewsy"). It is an opportunity to raise a significant amount to help this youth club in a deprived area of Everton, which is itself one of the most deprived constituencies in Europe.

Sixteen coaches were provided to transport the walkers at the start and finish of the walk, and there were frequent checkpoints along the way. Lunch was laid on by our catering staff at the Brow Farm campsite in Ratlinghope.

