SALOPIAN CLUB FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- More details can be found on the Salopian Club website: www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/os-events
- Sporting fixtures at: www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/os-sport (Click on individual sport)
- Except where stated, email: khodge@shrewsbury.org.uk

All Shrewsbury School parents (including former parents) and guests of members are most welcome at the majority of our events. It is our policy to include in all invitations all former parents for whom we have contact details. The exception is any event marked ‘Old Salopian’ which, for reasons of space, is restricted to Club members only (e.g. Birmingham Dinner).

Supporters or guests are always very welcome at Salopian Club sporting or arts events.

Emails containing further details are sent out prior to all events, so please make sure that we have your up to date contact details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 7 – Thu 10 Aug</td>
<td>Saracens Devon Tour</td>
<td>Devon (Various)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 27 Sep</td>
<td>Chapel Choir sings Evensong at Keble College, Oxford</td>
<td>Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 30 Sep</td>
<td>Old Salopian Day</td>
<td>Shrewsbury School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12.15pm onwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1 Nov</td>
<td>Tour of the British Museum</td>
<td>Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 5DG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 23 Nov</td>
<td>AGM 5pm Drinks and Canapés from 6pm</td>
<td>Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, Mayfair, London, W1J 7PY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 30 Nov</td>
<td>Drinks and Canapés from 6pm</td>
<td>All Bar One, Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 3 Dec</td>
<td>Drinks and Canapés from 6.30pm</td>
<td>Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Dec</td>
<td>New York Dinner</td>
<td>New York Racquet and Tennis Club, 370 Park Avenue, NY 10022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10 Jan 18</td>
<td>Salopian Club Epiphany Service</td>
<td>St Mary-le-Row, London, EC2V 6AU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 17 Jan 18</td>
<td>Salopian Club Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Stephenon Harwood, London, EC2M 7SH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 8 Mar 18</td>
<td>Birmingham Dinner</td>
<td>St Paul’s Club, Birmingham, B3 1QZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12 Mar 18</td>
<td>Schools’ Head of the River Race Gathering</td>
<td>The Blue Anchor, Hammersmith, W6 9JF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Apr 18</td>
<td>President’s Dinner</td>
<td>Wadham College, Oxford, OX1 3PN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 20 May 18</td>
<td>A Celebration of John Moore Musicals</td>
<td>The Mansfield Music Centre, Westminster School, SW1P 3PF</td>
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Chairman of Governors, Matthew Collins, commented: “Under Mark Turner’s outstanding leadership since 2010, Shrewsbury has evolved, grown, and flourished. “The move to co-education, which began in 2018, has been fully and successfully realised during this time. “With more pupils on the school roll than at any time in its history, and a fourth girls’ house set to open in September, the School is in excellent heart. It is proud of the strength of its boarding community and pastoral care, the academic, sporting and artistic achievements of its pupils, and the beauty of its campus. “There is further testament to this in the recent ISI inspection report, in which the School’s education quality was assessed as excellent in all respects. “Governors will be seeking a successor with the vision and credentials to lead Shrewsbury through the next stage of its development. “We are looking for experienced candidates from a wide range of backgrounds and expect to make an appointment later this year.”

Sir John Wood (Ch 1936-41)
Sir John Kember Wood MC QC was born on 8th August 1922 in Hong Kong, the only child of the Deputy Chief Justice of Hong Kong, Rossohrue Wood, and his wife, Frances, a PNEU-trained governess. He was sent to prep school in England at the age of eight then on to Shrewsbury School, living with the family of his cousin, Ray Callimore. Many years later, on circuit in Chester, he was ticked to be ejected by Callimore, who was then Under Sheriff of Cheshire. At Shrewsbury he was a respectable scholar and versatile sportsman. He secured a place at Magdalen College, Cambridge, before joining up. Every six months during the war his father would write to Magdalene confirming that his son was still alive and that they should keep his place open for him at the end of the war. He joined the Rifle Brigade in August 1941, just after his 19th birthday, and was commissioned in May 1942, passing out top of his OCTU intake. He was sent on commando training at Lochailort, which he described as one of the scariest things he ever did, but passed out with an alpha grade and an invitation to stay on as an instructor. This was an indication of a life-long skill in developing people which he never lost, always caring for and paying great attention to the ordinary people who are the enablers in any community.

His overseas wartime service-stayed in North Africa, including an adventure carrying gold bullion from Beirut to Aleppo for the Treasury, and continued in Italy, a country to which he formed a long-lasting attachment. He was taken prisoner, having been one of two officers left standing at the end of the Rifle Brigade 2nd Battalion’s brave but unsuccessful attempt to capture the elevated village of Tossignano from recently-reinforced German defenders. The two had to make the difficult decision to surrender when the house in which they were based was blown up. He always acknowledged that the German soldiers helped them to dig out their wounded comrades. Having spent some very cold and hungry months as a POW, he couldn’t look root vegetables in the eye for the rest of his life.

He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in Italy during the period May to August 1944. The citation refers to “Dressing the wounds of those injured in the open under continuous shell fire... coolness and cheerfulness in unpleasant circumstances... during patrols into enemy lines... initiative and unsparing efforts (which) set a fine example to the members of his platoon, whose achievements have subsequently been of the highest order.”

He took the two-year shortened law course at Cambridge and was called to the Bar in 1949. He married in 1952 (Kathleen) Ann Lowe: she remained his best friend and sounding board throughout his life.

He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1969 and a High Court Judge in 1977. He served in the Family Division until 1988, on the Parole Board, and as President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal 1989-1993.

To mark his final year at Shrewsbury, Mr Turner will be taking part in the Birmingham Velo, a 100-mile sponsored cycle ride, with the aim of raising £10,000 for Shrewsbury House (The Shewsy) and Medic Malawi.

On his initiative, these two charities have become closely linked. In 2016, five girls from The Shewsy joined 11 Shrewsbury School pupils to work at the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic and orphanage run by Medic Malawi. This was literally a life-changing experience: before the trip, only one of the girls from Liverpool was confident enough to apply for university. Since the trip, all five of them are now undergraduates, and John Dunbell, their youth worker, says that it was “amazing to see their self-confidence blossom because of their experience in Africa”.

To sponsor him, please visit his online donation page: https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/headmastershrewsbury

To support these two charities, you can make a donation also by clicking on the link below:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/headmastershrewsbury

A gifted and enthusiastic raconteur, there was nothing he liked more than bringing people together, most often around his dining room table, supported by Ann. Their hospitality and generosity were legendary, extending to the friends of their children and grandchildren in each generation. He was a great enabler of others: many benefitted from his wisdom and enjoyed his good humour on these occasions.

In retirement, Ann introduced him to fishing, and they spent happy days on the River Anton. He continued to chat up people from all stations: bus drivers, waiters, those next to him in the hospital queue and, on one occasion, recommending his barber to Boris Johnson. He sold poppies into his nineties and attended chambers and Lincoln’s Inn parties and regimental reunions whenever he could. He never stopped taking an interest in and encouraging young people.

He faced his diagnosis of cancer a year ago with typical determination to beat the odds, never losing his zest and enthusiasm for life, nor the twinkle in his eye. Only a few days before his death in January 2017 he wanted to know the details of the Supreme Court decision on Article 50 (Brexit). He is survived by his wife, Ann, their son, daughter and three grandsons.
One hundred years ago, after three gruelling years, World War I was still raging on the battlefields of Europe, with no end in sight. It continued to claim countless lives both on the Western Front and on the much less written about Italian Front, where my own grandfather, a Colonel in the Austro-Hungarian army, was fighting with his Kaiserschützen regiment high up in the Dolomites in a campaign fought along a 400 mile Alpine front which cost the lives of over 700,000 Italians and some 350,000 soldiers of the Austrian Empire.

On pages 28 and 29 of this issue of the Salopian are set out in facsimile six poems written during the war by boys at the School, published in The Salopian between 1915 and 1917, reflecting on the deaths and lives at the front of fellow Salopians, so recently their friends at School. The sadness and longing with which these poems were written are as fresh today as they were when they were written a century ago. The ‘pity of war’, the phrase coined by Wilfred Owen to describe what he wished to communicate through his poetry, does not change, whatever the era, whatever the war. How appropriate it is then that the winner of this year’s McEachran Prize, in the junior section, was Freddie Williams (Rt, 4) with his talk on the phrase ‘the pity of war’, which moved the judge, Laurence le Quesne as much as it moved his audience. On page 14 of this issue will be found a poem by a contemporary young Salopian poet, Johnnie Dowd (Rb, 4), a spiritual successor of those young wartime poets. His poem, mourning the passing of childhood, may differ from its predecessors in its complete lack of the sentimentality characteristic of Georgian poetry, but underlying it is a similar thought, that childhood and youth are priceless possessions, to be cherished for the short time that they last.

In the modern educational environment, obsessed as it is by measurement and targets, it is easy to lose sight of this most important function of Schools such as Shrewsbury. But the celebration of youth, its capabilities and potential, really lies at the heart of the Salopian ethic and is surely reflected in the breadth of opportunity provided for the School’s youthful inmates to discover and enjoy their talents before the world of adulthood, with its different responsibilities, inevitable restrictions but new and different sources of fulfilment, takes over.

There is much we hope you will enjoy in this issue, not least, in Darwin’s school, the winning photographs in the Biology Photographic Competition to be found on pages 8-10, truly a celebration of life.

Richard Hudson
O
de of my favourite pursuits, of a summer evening, is to sit out under a clear sky and watch the stars come out. There is something deeply inspiring about that moment where, having identified a handful of bright specks, one suddenly realises that, on closer inspection, the night is littered with pinpricks of brilliant light in every direction. In many ways I have experienced the same sensation as I have explored the academic life of Shrewsbury School this year. The brightest stars are obvious of course – excellent A Level results and record-breaking GCSE grades are hard to miss, shining out Venus-like from the horizon but, just like the ISI Inspectors who visited us in the Lent Term, I have quickly come to realise that academic brilliance is all-pervading here and you really don’t have to look very far at all to find it.

The Extended Project Qualification, for example, continues to go from strength to strength in the Lower Sixth – offering pupils the opportunity to select and really get to grips with a topic about which they feel really passionate. This year’s offerings are typical of the diverse interests and directions of our Salopians – from the cultural impacts of Ebola in Sierra Leone, through to the designs of Archibald Leitch and even the economic benefits of micro-plastics in relation to the degradation of marine environments. But the thirst for independence is in evidence well beyond the formal, structured curriculum – something marvellous in the face of a growing, national culture of examination-focused education. *Florent* – a new award for this year – celebrates personal achievements across all curricular and co-curricular activities and it has been a key highlight of my week each Friday to go down to the Pentagon and meet individuals who have done something worthy of note: asked key questions in debates, produced design work of a quality well beyond their years or simply shown real academic resilience.

*Little Bohemia*, another innovation, has offered a platform for anyone with a creative interest to showcase their talent. Occurring once in each half of term, this unusual event and on a slightly larger scale next year. It would be wrong to conclude any summary of the year without making reference to the inaugural Shrewsbury Model United Nations conference which took place at a Coach Weekend during the Lent Term. This initiative has been almost entirely pupil driven and pupil-led throughout and it is a credit to all those involved that it was so successful and that there is a real appetite to repeat the event and on a slightly larger scale next year.

The desire of pupils to challenge themselves expands, of course, well beyond the banks of the Severn and we have seen some outstanding achievements across a range of areas during the course of the year. There is not space here to mention everything, but highlights must include the tremendous haul of medals awarded to many of our scientists and mathematicians in the British Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics Olympiads and has also been selected to be part of the team representing the UK in the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad – a Salopian first. This would be a significant achievement for anyone, but the fact that Isaac Dai is still only in the Lower Sixth Form makes is all the more astonishing.

It is not possible to cover everything here. To me, however, the most impressive feature of our pupil body is that they are able to manage and indeed to thrive on such a varied and busy existence and still find time to challenge themselves, always on the lookout for opportunities to put their intelligence to the test. To my mind, this continues to provide a ringing endorsement of our holistic approach to education and underscores the key message that brilliant examination results are symptomatic of an excellent education, they are not and should not ever be its single object.

Maurice H. Walters
Deputy Head (Academic)
National Science Competitions

Seven of our Upper Sixth biologists joined more than 7,500 pupils across the UK who volunteered to take part in the first round of the Biology Olympiad 2017, organised by the Royal Society of Biology. Between them they won two gold medals (awarded to the top 6%), three bronze medals and two highly commended awards.

Gold Medals: Josh Bray (Rb), Ben Jones (Rb)
Bronze Medals: Lucy Price (EDH), Josh Himsworth (Ch)
Will Bedson (Rb)
Highly Commended: Sasha Lo (EDH), Jake Elliot (Rb)

Eighty-three Third and Fourth Form biologists entered the Biology Challenge, a national competition run as a kind of Junior Olympiad by the Royal Society of Biology. An impressive 58% of them won medals, nearly double the national figure: four gold, 12 silver and 32 bronze. A further ten pupils were highly commended and 14 commended. The gold medallists were Lisa Alekseeva (EDH IV), Anna Cowan (MSH IV), Freddie Lawson (SH IV) and Anthony Siu (I IV).

Lower Sixth Former Isaac Dai (S) won a gold medal in the British Physics Olympiad (see below) and Upper Sixth Formers Andrew Lee (O), Mathew Hedges (Rb) and Alfredo Stock (I) who have been awarded silver medals.

A group of Fifth Form pupils took part in British Physics Challenge 2017 examinations. Abi Watkinson (G), Adam Pattenden (S) and Mark Pangin (SH) were in the top 5.5% who achieved gold medals. Five pupils won silver medals, six won bronze I medals and eight won bronze II.

Our Sixth Form Chemists won two gold, nine silver and five bronze medals in the British Chemistry Olympiad. As with the other national Olympiads, the competition is designed to challenge and stimulate the most talented young scientists in the country and is open to all post-16 students in the UK.

Gold Medals were awarded to Isaac Dai (S LVI) and Andrew Kim (S UVI).

Quadruple Olympiad Gold for Isaac Dai

It has been quite a year for Isaac Dai (S). In February, news came through that he had finished in the top 50 of 1,680 candidates nationwide who entered the British Physics Olympiad, which earned him a gold medal and qualified him for the second round of the competition. Salopians have reached this level before – the last time in 2013 – but as far as the collective memory of the Physics Faculty can recall, Isaac is the first Lower Sixth Former to achieve this.

Then came news that he had also come in the top 50 of the 1,600 candidates who took part in the British Maths Olympiad, swiftly followed by a gold medal in the British Chemistry Olympiad.

After attending a training camp at Cambridge University during the Easter holidays, Isaac achieved the distinction of becoming the first ever Salopian to be selected to represent Team UK at the 11th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics.
Darwin Society welcomes back first Old Salopian girl

In February, the Darwin Society were delighted to welcome back Michelle Degli Esposti (MSH 2008-09) to give a lecture on ‘What we know about the human brain’. Michelle joined Shrewsbury School in 2008 as the only girl in the Upper Sixth and the following year become the first ever female Old Salopian. She is currently studying for a DPhil in Experimental Psychology investigating Childhood Adversity and Life-time Resilience. The project focuses on a better understanding of the long-term psycho-pathological outcomes of people who were maltreated in childhood, specifically looking at risk factors and potential pathways to life-time resilience.

Michelle captivated an audience of current Shrewsbury School students, staff and visitors with her lecture on the different branches of psychology, which included audience participation and many pertinent examples of psychological experiments.

School Mathematics Prizes

The Arnold Hagger Prize – a 90-minute paper open to the whole School – was won this year by David Gao (1 UVI) who finished third last year. He has a conditional offer to read Mathematics at Girton College, Cambridge. Isaac Dai (S IV) finished in second place.

The David Harrison Prize is also open to the whole School and takes the form of a mathematical presentation. Runjie Liao (MSH IV), a new entrant in the Fourth Form, won this year with an entertaining talk on Kaprekar’s constant. Isaac Dai came second with an insightful presentation on the Nash equilibrium in game theory.

Having come second last year, Nicholas Liu (1 IV) won this year’s Powell Prize, narrowly beating Tianci Wang (PH IV) in the final round. This competition, open to Third and Fourth Formers only, consists of a series of weekly problems of a puzzling nature.

Bank of England ‘Target Two Point Zero’ national finalists

Upper Sixth Economists George Hargrave (Rb), Mathew Hedges (Rb), Harris Huntsman (R) and Max Yale (S) won the Midlands and South-West area final of the prestigious Bank of England Target Two Point Zero Challenge in February, thereby reaching the final six of approximately 300 schools who entered. George Hargrave also won best individual contribution at the event; his prize is a month’s paid work experience at the Bank of England.

Target Two Point Zero is an annual competition run by the Bank of England that gives teams of students aged 16 to 18 the chance to take on the role of the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee. Each team assesses economic conditions and the outlook for inflation and then sets the interest rate to meet the Government’s inflation target of 2.0%. They therefore have to decide whether or not to change the interest rate from the rate set by the Monetary Policy Committee and if so whether to increase it or decrease it, and by how much. There is no right or wrong answer; it is a matter of their judgement. Having made their decision, teams prepare and give a short presentation to a panel of judges arguing the case for their decision and answering questions.

“The key to success is how well students answer questions from the panel,” said Mr Merricks-Murgatroyd, Head of Economics. “The Shrewsbury team gave a 20-minute presentation showing real confidence and enthusiasm for the material. They then answered questions for another 20 mins and here they really excelled, demonstrating outstanding understanding of Economics, knowledge of the UK economy and careful considered judgement. The latter part very much reflected the considerable time they have put in outside of our dedicated time to meet on a Thursday afternoon.”

The final took place at the Bank of England in March.

L to R: Max Yale, Harris Huntsman, Mathew Hedges, George Hargrave
National Mathematics Competitions

David Gao, Isaac Dai, Linda Zhao (G LVI) and Angela Liang (MSH LVI) entered this year’s UK Senior Team Maths Challenge, finishing 7th of 88 in the national final held in London in February – a record for the School. A total of 1,290 schools had participated in the regional heats earlier in the year. The competition tests mathematical, communication and teamwork skills, and is jointly organised by the UK Mathematics Trust and the Further Maths Support Programme. The following month, a Fourth Form team comprising George Clowes (O), Hannah Cheng (EDH), Ben Hulme (PH) and Runjie Liao (MSH) participated in a regional ‘Maths Feast’ held at Keele University and also run by the Further Maths Support Programme. They won three of the numerous rounds of extra-curricular and recreational mathematics, resulting in Shrewsbury being the highest scoring school in this event.

The UK Senior Maths Challenge took place in November. 30 gold, 51 silver and 37 bronze certificates were awarded to pupils across the School, with Isaac Dai obtaining full marks. He went on to obtain a distinction in the first round of the British Maths Olympiad with a tremendous score of 47/60. He was placed in the top 50 nationally from over 1600 candidates in the gruelling 3½-hour paper. Among the other five pupils taking part in the Olympiad, David Gao also achieved a distinction.

The first round of the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge was held in February, with 29 gold, 29 silver and 25 bronze certificates awarded to pupils in the Lower School. Of the 29 pupils doing well enough to continue to the next round, Lucas Arkwright (O V) and Reuben Denison (SH V) qualified for the Intermediate Maths Olympiad.

President of the Creative Writing Society is published in a ‘Successful Writers in 2016 Anthology’

A short story by Charlie Johns (I LVI), President of the School’s Creative Writing Society, has been published in an adult anthology. He submitted ‘Cobblestones’ for a competition run by Black Pear Press last summer and was selected for publication in their Short Story Anthology 2016 ‘The Day of the Dead’, which is described as containing “the finest short story writers in the UK right now”.

The Creative Writing Society have been spending this term exploring written responses to extreme settings (most notably the landscapes, both emotional and literal, of the First World War). Braving the elements and “the wind through woods in riot” on Wenlock Edge, they embarked on a Field Day in February that was devoted to ‘The Edge’. This is the theme of this year’s edition of ‘Fire Engine’, an anthology of new Salopian writing, published in June. Copies are available from James Fraser-Andrews (email jrf@shrewsbury.org.uk).

‘Baptism of Fire’ Commemoration of Wilfred Owen

The life and work of Wilfred Owen, Shropshire’s most famous poet, was celebrated with a day of activities at St Chad’s Church on Saturday 28th January, one hundred years after his arrival on the Western Front in January 1917. Sam Bayliss (Rt LVI) writes: “The day, organised by James Fraser-Andrews of Shrewsbury School’s English Faculty to raise funds for St Chad’s Church, remembered the household name who not only pioneered war poetry as we know it today, but changed people’s views of war.

“The day concluded with an evening recital of words and music, devised by James Fraser-Andrews. Led by Director of Music John Moore and Head of Woodwind Maria McKenzie, musicians from Shrewsbury School performed music from the period and beyond – including a world-première of a new setting of Owen’s poem ‘The Letter’ by student Dan Powell (Ch UVI). Readings included Owen’s best-loved poems, letters home, and brand-new writing from the School’s Creative Writing Society.

“The day was a fitting tribute to the poet who revolutionised war poetry after his first experiences of the Western Front in 1917, and who would tragically lose his life only seven days before the signing of the Armistice, on 4th November 1918.”

Schützer-Weissmann Letter Prize launched

A new prize in memory of the late Michael Schützer-Weissmann (MASW), who died in December 2015, has been successfully launched and won by Luke Russell (R III). The task was to hand write a letter and post it to the judge, recently retired Head of Biology Andrew Allott. Open to Third and Fourth only, the entrants had to imagine they were a solitary lighthouse keeper and write a letter to a relative or friend about their life.

31 pupils entered, and, to quote the judge, ‘It was great fun reading the letters. There was a lot of teenage gloom about loneliness and the pointlessness of existence, but also much imaginative thought and some very careful handwriting.’

The prize has been sponsored by Aidan Hartley, the father of Rider (Ch IV) and Eve (MSH V). Aidan was a pupil of MASW at Sherborne where he began his teaching career. The winning letter can be viewed on the school website.

Richard Hudson
Biology Photographic Competition

The judges of the inaugural Shrewsbury School Biology Photographic Competition had a difficult task to choose the winners from among the stunning images submitted in all three categories. The winning photos are displayed on the following three pages. They will also be published in a calendar that will be on sale from October 2017. Please check the school website for further details.
Senior Winner - Morgan Butler

Senior Runner-Up - James Crewdson

Senior Highly Commended - Amelia Marriott

Senior Highly Commended - Miu Tran

SCHOOL NEWS
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Staff Highly Commended –
Jackie Matthews (Biology Faculty)

Staff Runner-Up -
Kate Bronner (Secretary,
Headmaster’s Office)

Staff Highly Commended
John Balcombe (Physics Faculty)

Staff Winner -
Raymond Vandill
(Sitewarden)
### SCHOOL PRIZEWINNERS 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize Category</th>
<th>Winner(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Sidney Gold Medal</td>
<td>V.U. Taugauskaitė (MSH 2014 – 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Harvard Book Prize</td>
<td>L.C. Whitworth (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Richard Hillary Essay Medal</td>
<td>S. Chan (MSH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Darwin Science Prize</td>
<td>L.S. Price (EDH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Dukes Prize for French</td>
<td>J.S. Bray (Rb)</td>
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<td>The Lower Sixth French Prize</td>
<td>C.M.R. Johns (I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bentley Prize for German</td>
<td>S.Y.T. Lo (EDH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bain Prize for Spanish</td>
<td>J.J. Mattinson (Rb)</td>
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<td>The Lower Sixth Spanish Prize</td>
<td>E. Gardner (G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Moss Prize for Classics</td>
<td>S.T.F. Russell (Ch)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Cross Prize for Classics</td>
<td>A.C. Moore (S)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Classical Civilisation Prize</td>
<td>A.I. Lawson (O)</td>
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<td>The Philip Sidney Prize for English</td>
<td>S.K. Randhawa (MSH)</td>
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<td>The Kitson-Clark Prize for English</td>
<td>A.C. Moore (S)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Theatre Studies Prize</td>
<td>N.M. Thomas (G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bright Prize for History</td>
<td>E.M.C. Plaut (S)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Murray Senior Prize for History</td>
<td>S. Chan (MSH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Dorothy David Prize for Religious Philosophy</td>
<td>E.M.C. Plaut (S)</td>
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<td>The Lower Sixth Philosophy and Theology Prize</td>
<td>H.M. Mayhew (Ch)</td>
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<td>The Robertson-Eastace Prize for Geography</td>
<td>G.T. Hargrave (Rb)</td>
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<td>The Lower Sixth Geography Prize</td>
<td>P.S.Y. Lim (EDH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Arnold Hagger Prize for Mathematics</td>
<td>Z. Gao (I)</td>
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<td>The Lower Sixth Mathematics Prize</td>
<td>L. Dai (S)</td>
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<td>The Computing Prize</td>
<td>E.J. Owen (Rt)</td>
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<td>The Arnold Matthews Science Prize for Biology</td>
<td>S. Williams (O)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Arnold Matthews Science Prize for Chemistry</td>
<td>M.W. Hedges (Rb)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Arnold Matthews Science Prize for Physics</td>
<td>A.K.C.O. Stock (I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Lower Sixth Biology Prize</td>
<td>J.L. Westermann (G)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>N. Ruechauseth (Ch)</td>
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<td>L. Dai (S)</td>
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<td>The Upper Sixth Economics Prize</td>
<td>G.T. Hargrave (Rb)</td>
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<td>The Lower Sixth Economics Prize</td>
<td>K. Lam (G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Ramsbotham Prize for Business Studies</td>
<td>F.M. David (Ch)</td>
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<td>O.O. Runsewe (MSH)</td>
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<td>The Global Perspectives and Independent Research Prize</td>
<td>T.J. Spencer Pickup (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Extended Project Qualification Prize</td>
<td>H.P.C. Bramwell (EDH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The James Meilde Prize for Physical Education</td>
<td>C.J. Byrne (O)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Hill Art Prize</td>
<td>K. Tsang (I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Lower Sixth Art Prize</td>
<td>E.G. Fox (G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The History of Art Prize</td>
<td>I.S. Luczy-Wyhowska (G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Photography Prize</td>
<td>M.A.J. Blance (Ch)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The A Level Music Prize</td>
<td>S. Williams (O)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Design and Technology Prize</td>
<td>D.N. Kam (I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bentley Elocution Sixth Form Prize</td>
<td>E.M. Crossley (Ch)</td>
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<td>The Bentley Elocution Fourth Form Prize</td>
<td>I.E.C.M. Wong (G)</td>
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<td>The Bentley Elocution Third Form Prize</td>
<td>P.A. Morris (EDH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The McEachran Senior Prize</td>
<td>S.I. Hervas-Jones (S)</td>
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<td>The McEachran Junior Prize</td>
<td>F.A.R. Williams (Rt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Junior School Essay Prize – Fourth Form</td>
<td>Anna Cowan (MSH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Junior School Essay Prize – Third Form</td>
<td>Tom Allen (Ch)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The David Harrison Prize</td>
<td>R. Liao (MSH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Hawkesley Barbury Prize</td>
<td>B.H. Ford (S)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Rolls Royce Cup</td>
<td>J.L. Westermann (G)</td>
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<td>Fifth Form Academic Prizes</td>
<td>R.H.C. Denison (SH), W.B.B. Hope (Ch), O.J. Mattison (Rb), P.F. McInnes (SH), M.D. Pungin (SH), A.P. Pattenden (S), H.D. Rennant (Ch), J.I.M. Russell (G), E.J. Ware (MSH), A.L. Watkinson (G)</td>
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<td>The Goulding Family Prize for Drama</td>
<td>B.C.P. Higgins (S)</td>
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<td>The Junior Drama Prize</td>
<td>E.S. Niblett (MSH)</td>
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<td>The Keighley Prize for Stage Management</td>
<td>T.J. Brennan (I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Woollam Family Prize for Music</td>
<td>R.H.C. Denison (SH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Guyer Prize for Music</td>
<td>Y. Yu (SH)</td>
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<td>The Russell Prize for Music</td>
<td>N.A. Mielczarek (Rb)</td>
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<td>The Gordon Riley Prize for Music</td>
<td>H.G. Lawrence (O)</td>
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<td>The Senior Debating Prize</td>
<td>J.T.O. Whalaker (Rt)</td>
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<td>The Junior Debating Prize</td>
<td>N.C.P. Yale (S)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The David Spencer Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Boys Sport</td>
<td>D.J. Orchard (PH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Elle Gurden Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Girls Sport</td>
<td>J.M. Price (EDH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Sportsman of the Year</td>
<td>F.D.E. Huxley-Fielding (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Sportswoman of the Year</td>
<td>A.D. Howells (MSH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The West Family Prize</td>
<td>S. Vartanov (SH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Guy Lovett Award</td>
<td>W.E.J. Hayward (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Haynes Cup</td>
<td>O.J.W. Dixon (O)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Cabral Family Prize</td>
<td>A. Penman (Rb)</td>
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<td>The CCF Leadership Award</td>
<td>W.E.J. Hayward (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Duke of Edinburgh</td>
<td>J.E.G. Hill (MSH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Headmaster’s Leadership Prize</td>
<td>M.W. Hedges (Rb)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Headmaster’s Prize</td>
<td>J.T.O. Whalaker (Rt) and A.D. Howells (MSH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Scholarships Awarded For 2017 Entry

**Third Form**

**Academic**

Butler Scholars:
Jamie Davis
Frank Macdonald-Brown
Ranulf Prentis
Poppy Stephens

Moss Scholars:
Peter Crews
Theo Parsons
Dylan Tyack
Tim Antelo

Alington Scholars:
Georgina Cooper
Ossian Finch
Louis Graham
Isobel Hatton
Elspeth Letts
Christian Nicholls
Nell Ware

**Music**

Georgina Cooper – Choral Scholarship
Jamie Davis
Louis Graham
Henry Griffiths – String Exhibition
Isobel Hatton
Flora Kanan
Henry Lees
Christian Nicholls
Sarah Chan
Janet Li
Rosa Li

**Lower Sixth Form**

**Academic**

Bilal Anwar
Felicity Hayward
Alexander Herforth
Veronica Munday
Grace O’Mara
Ioana Roibu
Joseph Shaw
Lili Tong
Molly Worthington
Haochen Yang

**Music**

Laura Chan
Ngo Hin Cheng
Georgia Clark
Dalton Foster

**Sport**

Joseph Archer
Eleanor Corbett
Frank Macdonald-Brown
Isabel Morris
Digby Taylor-West
Dominic Zaza
Oliver Clark
William Hartley

**All-Rounder**

Gregor Beardsmore
Georgina Cooper
Louis Graham
Isobel Hatton
Rory McDonald-O’Brien
Theo Parsons
Oliver Powell
Nell Ware

**Art**

Eleanor Corbett
Hester Lockett
Nell Ware

**Drama**

Georgina Cooper
Iris Kirk

**DT**

Lauren Taylor

**Margaret Cassidy Scholar:**
Dominic Sullivan

**Alex Wilson Scholar:**
Xavier Clarke

**RSSBC Rowing Scholar:**
Henry Fletcher

**Sports Scholars:**
Amelia Callaghan
William Sissons
Kitty Taylor
Emily Holbrook
Devised and organised by a small and extremely hard-working Executive Committee made up of Sixth Form students led by Secretary General Ed Plaut (S), ShrewsMUN 2017 was hailed an outstanding success by delegates, organisers, Chairs of Committees and accompanying members of staff alike.

Together with Ed, Deputy Secretary General Max Morris (S), Joint Heads of Press Michael Schützer-Weissmann (S) and James Whitaker (Rt) and Head of Media Sebastian Hervas-Jones (S) had collectively put in hours of work in the weeks and months leading up to the Conference. They were supported, too, by a team of fellow ‘MUN-ers’ who took on the roles of Chairs of Committees and Presidents of the Security Council, preparing resolutions, and researching and writing briefing notes for delegates.

The Committee was delighted that seven schools from across the UK signed up for the Conference and they were particularly thrilled that two teams from schools from across the UK signed up for the Conference and they were particularly thrilled that two teams from schools from across the UK signed up for the Conference and they were particularly thrilled that two teams from schools from across the UK signed up for the Conference and they were particularly thrilled that two teams from schools from across the UK signed up for the Conference and they were particularly thrilled that two teams from schools from across the UK signed up for the Conference and they were particularly thrilled that two teams from schools from across the UK signed up for the Conference.

During the course of the weekend, the ShrewsMUN delegates debated some of the major global issues currently being discussed in the ‘real’ United Nations, including the question of migration, the Syrian Civil War, sustainable energy in developing countries, cyber warfare, the use of drones in war and the treatment of terror subjects.

Work in the each of the six Committees was intense and productive. In their closing remarks in the final General Assembly, all of the Chairs of Committees paid tribute to their respective teams of delegates for the high quality of debate – commenting that it made the awarding of Commended, Highly Commended and Outstanding Delegates difficult to decide.

“It was great to see all of our hard work and hours of preparation pay off over the weekend, as everything worked extremely smoothly,” Ed said at the end of the Conference. “Everyone really enjoyed their weekend and learned a great deal, either as a delegate, a chair, or on the organisation side of things.”

Michael Schützer-Weissmann agreed: “Given Shrewsbury’s prolific MUN record, it’s extraordinary that we have had to wait until 2017 for our own ShrewsMUN conference. But no matter - it was well worth the wait. For me, the key to this conference’s success was its almost entire dependence on pupils’ commitment and initiative.”

As joint Heads of Press, Michael and James were responsible for producing a newspaper during the weekend, which they published in time to hand to delegates in the final General Assembly. Meanwhile Sebastian, as Head of Media, roamed the Conference with his camera and put together two films that captured the lively spirit and positive atmosphere of the Conference.

Speaking at the end of the Conference, Ed Plaut was warm in his thanks not only to his fellow organisers but also to the members of staff who gave up their weekend to help with the Conference. In particular he paid tribute to Mr Peach, Master in Charge of MUN. “He is the man I must credit with not only introducing me to MUN, but supporting me and mentoring me every step of the way, including to the end of this conference. His leadership of MUN has irrevocably and positively shaped generations of Salopians, who, like me, are eternally grateful for all the hours that he has put into us as MUNners, but more importantly as people. He believed in our vision for the conference, and let us run with that vision with complete control, for which we are so thankful.”

Mr Peach expressed his huge pride in their achievement. “Ed, Max and their team of committee chairs, administrative staff, delegates and journalists shouldered the vast majority of the planning and work for this conference and were a tremendous credit to themselves and Shrewsbury School. Because this conference was their brainchild, they ‘owned’ it, and were thus determined to make their conference a success. It’s strange, but true, but some of the greatest moments that I have experienced in my teaching career (and this was definitely one of them!) have come from standing to one side, doing very little and just watching as talented stars of the future like Ed and his team take flight.”

Ed concluded the Conference with his favourite quote, from Ronald Reagan: “I know in my heart that man is good, that what is right will always eventually triumph, and that there is purpose and worth to each and every life.”
The Drink

In times of thirst I run the tap and cup my hands below it,
The water flowing through will hit my palms before I know it.

Before I move my hands to lips and then begin to drink,
The liquid level in my hands will slowly start to sink.

Water has a striking way of choosing its own route,
It finds the faults within my hands and from them starts to shoot.

From each small pore it trickles through and from the basin runs,
Towards the plughole, cold and harsh, a tunnel with no sun.

Left in my cup is not so much, I sip it up with haste,
I savour now just what I had, let nothing go to waste.

I leave the sink, resume my life, and work and time go on.
That little drink I loved so much will help me carry on.

A drink of water’s not unique – we’ve all had one before,
The drink within this poem though, becomes a metaphor.

The tap is God who serves us all with what we most adore.
The cup is me, my body and the cracks show up each flaw,
The plughole is my later life with stress and work galore,
The water is my childhood: how I wish I could have more!

Culture Clash

By Maja Stockley

This short story, by Maya Stockley (G IV) is taken from Fire Engine: Volume 2, a student-led anthology produced each year by the Creative Writing Society. Edited by Charlie Johns (I LVI) and Sam Bayliss (Rt LVI), it is out now, and available free from the Moser Library.

The air was bitterly cold and the wind unyielding as I stepped out from the warmth and comfort of my school house and onto the path that lead towards my first lesson of the new school year. I watched as scattered groups of students along the path gossiped and chatted with excitement about their summer holidays as they too made way to their own lessons. Some were laughing and gesturing animatedly; some huddled together like penguins seeking shelter from the icy, biting wind and speaking in different languages entirely which brought a half smile to my lips – “penguin chatter for the penguin huddle,” I thought to myself. People always find a way to migrate to what they are accustomed to. In this instance it was where language lay in common. I noticed this a lot.

I stepped hesitantly into my classroom, a little fearful of what this new school year would bring. A seating plan neatly written on the whiteboard provided details of my allocated seat and I sat down as I watched my peers file in. The newer students seemed quieter and drifted towards the back of the classroom, which included most of the foreign language speaking students. When the teacher walked in, a silence fell over the class and there was a discernible tension in the room. This particular teacher was not well-liked due to his strict demeanor and an apparent hatred of children. His grey, slicked back hair, dark rimmed glasses and permanent scowl made him intimidating even in appearance. So unless spoken to the classroom stayed as quiet as the night. The room remained silent as each student replied with the
mandatory “yes, sir” as the teacher called out pupils’ names during registration. It felt more like a prison roll-call.

It is understandable for anyone to mispronounce someone’s name, especially when it is alien to them. A teacher, having to say many names during the day, both foreign and native, may understandably not know how to say all of them, so the students correct him, no harm done. Right?

“Sarah?”
“It’s actually Zarah, sir.”
“I apologise, Zarah.”

“Mia?”
“Uhm Maya, sir.”
“Sorry, Maya.”

Common mistakes. Nothing abnormal nor unusual and certainly nothing to make a fuss about. Some names, however, are so unique that they lead to confusion and amusement.

“Tiny Pony?”
Sniggers filled the room.
“It’s T-Tai Ni Po Ni, sir. It’s Chinese.”
More giggling.
“Sorry, Tiny Pony.”

More laughter ensued. I glanced behind me to the girl who spoke. She looked as if she wanted the ground to swallow her up, her face red from embarrassment. I pursed my lips and turned back towards the front of the classroom, the laughter and whispering rolling like a wave above me.

“Ok, everyone, be quiet,” the teacher said sharply. Immediately the noise stopped and he continued. “Chew Rabbit? Oh no, Chew Babeet, sorry.” He corrected after squinting at the paper and bringing it up to his face for a better look. The room filled with sniggering again. “Was that pronounced correctly?” the teacher asked.

“I-Its Chiew Babit, sir.” A small boy a few seats behind me stuttered in answer, his eyes wide in fear. “Rabbit” may in fact have been more appropriate as he looked as startled as a creature caught in headlights, staring fearfully into the eyes of his predator. His foreign accent served only to fuel the laughter as the boy shrank in on himself and lowered his eyes, peering down at his desk. I felt a sympathy tug at my heart and guilt too, guilt for not standing up and doing something to stop the laughter. What could I do though, without the risk of being ridiculed myself?

“This is your last warning,” the teacher said loudly, silencing the laughing students. “If you interrupt this class again, you will all be staying during lunch.” He finished, giving the class a deadly look, then slowly returning his gaze back to the name sheet. “Pai yoo?” I could physically feel the tension in the room from the stifling of laughter.

“Pei Yu, sir.” A girl in my row corrected. Someone snorted, but tried to pass it off as a cough. It was about as subtle as a charging bull.

“I apologise,” the teacher said, in an insincere tone, neither looking nor sounding remorseful. I looked over the desks separating me from the girl. She was resting her head on her hand, a tired look in her eyes as if she’d become accustomed to this already. She didn’t look embarrassed or scared, simply bored and unmoved, and my lips curled upwards at the sight of the unfazed girl. But the smile quickly fell again as the teacher carried on with the roll call, and I heard the whispers and giggles and mimicking of foreign names.

I noticed this a lot.
PARIS

This piece of descriptive writing, by Artemis Cooper (MSH IV), forms part of her IGCSE coursework portfolio.

Paris: the city of romance, historic architecture and designer chic. Once I step out of the boutique hotel onto the streets of Montmartre, I pass (as I do every morning) Le Consulat, the café where the locals gather every morning to debate and gesticulate as only the Parisians can. I see the garrulous, elderly man with his leathery skin, glasses perched on the end of his aquiline nose. His speech is so fast and so impassioned that I can barely catch a word. At his feet, waiting patiently with imploring eyes, is his faithful canine friend, greedily anticipating every flake of buttery croissant. The gathering is completely oblivious to the bustling tourists, frantically looking at their maps, trying to find the quickest route to the Sacre Coeur. The animated but conservative figures communing at the table are in contrast to the brash behaviour of the babbling and twittering foreigners, flocking to the cathedral in an excited gaggle. If I listen carefully enough, I can hear the various foreign languages being spoken, trying to be heard over the busyness of the city.

From the top of the Eiffel Tower, these colourful individuals are no longer distinct. Instead, beneath the cerulean sky, I see the grandeur of the Arc de Triomphe and the majesty of the Champs Elysees. The verdant Trocadero catches my eye with its dancing fountains. There is no doubt that Paris is like a vibrant theatre and I am sitting in the gods, having viewed the tragicomedy of life below, with its clowns and lovers. Soon the black velvet curtains of the night sky will be drawn, embroidered with glistening jewels; the players will return to their solitary garrets, to remove their greasepaint with heavy hearts. I gaze upon the city below me and although I am an outsider and have no part in this play, I feel at peace with the apparent tranquillity of the city.

One of the most appealing elements of the city is its parochial nature, where people commune and one feels a sense of intimacy. It is so far removed from London or New York where there are vertiginous office towers and one feels dislodged in the urban jungle. No, in Paris there are streets crammed with bijou boutiques, boulangeries and patisseries. As I wander down the cobbled streets there is a captivating aroma of croissants that has lingered in the air since brunch. The smell that has the power to lure you back into the café to buy just one more, before they close up for the night. I try and visualise the soft, rich taste of croissant as it melts in my mouth. Drawn by the bewitching chiaroscuro of the Left Bank, I cradle my small, bitter coffee like a precious gift in my chilled palms.

On returning to Montmartre and its lambent café fronts, I see that the sapphire sky has now turned to a deep gold and fuchsia. The hectic street full of tourists has been replaced by bohemian figures packing up their easels and paints. One of them, the one with the beret slanting on top of his head, is making his last fastidious touches to his masterpiece, his eyebrows knitted together in concentration. The dusky light coalesces with the neon frontage of Le Consulat, where the same elderly man now sits, gazing disconsolately at his little dog, who languishes in sleep beside him, his belly full of indulgent morsels. He no longer talks in a loquacious manner but has a cigar drooping from his once active mouth. He glances up towards me and gives me a wrinkled, ancient smile, as if he has recognised me, before easing himself stiffly to his feet, like a rusty tin soldier. He shambles off into the Paris twilight, his part now played and his last lines uttered.
Theatre Review 2017

A RESPECTABLE WEDDING

Tackling Brecht is a weighty task at the best of times, and so Severn Hill’s offering of A Respectable Wedding was a brave one.

Director Ben Higgins, ably assisted by Ed Plaut, kicked off the House play season with real gusto, with an interesting take on a play that is reliant on witty repartee. We were quickly involved in the wedding breakfast of the bride and groom, deftly played by Ella Davies-Jones (on loan from EDH) and Angus Moore. Instantly, we were given the idea that the two were not the model picture of married bliss, two hours into the rest of their lives. Their tension was palpable throughout the performance, until the final and honest reconciliation at the climax.

As with any wedding, hilarity ensued with the rival for the bride’s affection, whom Max Morris endowed with a sense of one-upmanship and putdowns that drew inspirations from the greatest of rivalries – the Inbetweeners.

The bride’s bombastic father wants to hold court and dominate conversation, which Seb Hervas-Jones managed to develop as the play went on. Esther McLaughlin was his counterfoil as the groom’s mother, adding a frisson of a ‘will they, won’t they’ to proceedings; the rest was left to our imagination.

Not left to our imagination was the blossoming relationship of the bride’s brother, played in sardonic style by Ben Oswald, and Jasper Mitchell as the porter’s son, whose inclusion on the guest list leaves us guessing until a fateful scene half way through the play.

Ending the table plan was Cameron Bates, who brought a Captain Haddock quality to his drunken putdowns and sartorial elegance, though I had never known Tintin’s companion was so musical. His long-suffering spouse, played with alacritous zeal by Sebastian Ingram, brought the house down with barbed invective launched at anyone who got in his way.

Toby Percival

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)

From the sublime to the cor blimey: the next house to take to the stage was Rigg’s Hall, cramming thirty two plays, fifty actors and more characters than I could count into the Ashton. The premise is simple – take all of Shakespeare’s plays, cut the boring bits and get straight to the murders, marriages and mutilations. It’s fast, frenetic and hilarious – particularly as directors Chris Cook and Paddy Graham seemed to have corralled every boy in the house onto the stage, complete with ridiculous trousers, comedy wigs and enormous fake knockers. (Am more than a little disturbed by how many of the Riggs boys can fit into my shoes. Even more disturbed by how much they appeared to enjoy it...)

The jokes are groan-worthy – the line “Lend me your ears” results in Anthony being pelted with plasticine ears, Macbeth is playing golf in Birnam woods and the production of The Comedy of Two Well-Measured Gentlemen Lost up the Merry Wives of Venice on a Midsummer’s Twelfth Night in Winter would have the bard spinning in his grave. However, the pace and humour of the piece is infectious, and the enthusiasm of the cast spilled off the stage. The audience response was hugely positive, and many set off for coach weekend still chuckling. With such a vast cast, it is impossible to single out individuals: rather, I would congratulate the whole house on such a fantastic group effort.

HAPPILY EVER AFTER? – DANCE SHOWCASE 2017

My one and only ballet report read: “Helen tries hard, but lands heavily.” It was therefore with unalloyed envy that I watched the extraordinary performances in this year’s inaugural dance showcase, directed by resident choreographer Sian Archer. The students had been given the stimulus of ‘fairy tales with a twist’, and each piece responded to a well-known story, narrated like a sinister episode of Jackanory by Ella Niblett. Fiona Lim and Angel Chan opened the programme with their interpretation of Snow White. Including elements of ballet and hip-hop, their performance was notable for the level of synchronicity the girls achieved and the attack and energy they brought to the stage.

They were followed by Anya Tonks, whose performance of Cinderella was accompanied by Jessie Inglis Jones’ haunting vocals. Coming from a background of classical ballet, Anya set herself the challenge of creating a more expressive contemporary piece, and her work proved that she is developing into a talented and sensitive choreographer.

The show was, however, stolen by Niamh Thomas, whose interpretation of Pinocchio provided a powerful finale to the evening. Niamh was inspired by the famous line, “I want to be a real boy!” which she reimagined in the context of a dancer’s training. Her piece told the story of a girl at war with herself: both desperate to be perfect – like a doll on a music box – and drawn to normal adolescence. Her performance was profoundly moving, demonstrating both the sophistication of her technique and her ability to communicate feeling through movement.

Toby Percival

Niamh Thomas
JULIUS CAESAR

Tackling one of Shakespeare’s most famous and oratorically brilliant plays is hugely ambitious for a house production, but the Churchill’s boys have never been afraid of a challenge. *Julius Caesar* feels almost prophetically significant in the current political climate, with its story of would-be dictators, cynical demagogues and ruthless coups d’état.

The play opens on the streets of Rome, where the people are celebrating the return of Caesar after a string of great military victories. Directors Richard Hudson and Fintan Simmons had chosen to set the play in an unnamed Fascist state: the banners and brutalist architecture of Niki Holmes’ set design harked back to the menace of the 1930s.

Caesar, played with confidence and maturity by Elliot Crossley, is a man on top of his game; he has conquered the world and returned to receive the adoration of the masses. Among the sycophants and toadies who surround him, he depends upon the love and loyalty of his wife, Calpurnia (Anna Cowan) and dearest friend, Mark Anthony (Toby Pattinson).

It quickly emerges that the political machinations of the senate can be harder to navigate than a battlefield, and Caesar finds himself surrounded by plots and conspirators. Chief among these are the ambitious and cynical Cassius – played by a brilliantly slimy Rider Hartley – and the honourable Brutus (Tim Lovick). Brutus’ decision to murder Caesar stems from a genuine desire to preserve the republic, and Lovick’s performance left the audience in no doubt that this truly was ‘the noblest Roman of them all’.

Caesar’s death leaves a power vacuum, and there is no shortage of men wishing to fill it. His funeral becomes a masterclass in spin, as one side and then the other take to the podium hoping to manipulate and harness the power of the people. Brutus speaks first, but his bluff honesty is overshadowed by the rhetorical fireworks deployed by Mark Anthony, whose address to ‘Friends, Romans, Countrymen’ is perhaps Shakespeare’s most brilliant piece of writing. It is always difficult to reinterpret a speech that your audience know by heart, but Toby Pattinson managed to bring a powerful sense of immediacy to these famous lines.

The second half of the play – largely cut in this production – follows the civil war that follows Caesar’s death, culminating in the rise of Octavius (Harry Remnant) as the new dictator. Appearing in the dead Caesar’s regalia, he left the audience in little doubt that while names and faces may change, the archetypes of politics do not.

Helen Brown

FANTASTIC MR FOX

There used to be a great 150-year old beech tree by the side of a lane near the village of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. Known locally as the ‘witches tree’, it was the tree, so Roald Dahl’s children were told, where Mr Fox and his family lived in a hole under the trunk. In turn, this story was shared with the children of the nation when Dahl wrote his timeless classic *Fantastic Mr Fox*.

The U6th A Level Theatre Studies group chose to stage an interpretation of Dahl’s work for their examined performance piece and, whilst normally the examined piece is watched by a select few, this year the Ashton Theatre was almost packed out such was the enthusiasm for seeing the work on stage.

The eponymous Mr Fox was played by a dapper, bow-tied Dan Powell who was very much at home as the enterprising and audacious pater familias of the fox clan. Yet when he loses his tail to Farmer Boggis’s gun and is forced into subterranean incarceration, it is Mrs Fox (a glamorous and stylish Niamh Thomas) who comes to the rescue. As Mr Fox bellowed out the rousing lyrics of ‘Wind Beneath My Wings’ (“Did you ever know that you’re my hero?”), Mrs Fox was prepared for battle, armed with flux jacket, machine gun and other assorted military accoutrements. Mum was very much in charge!

The Fox family’s forays into the farms of Boggis, Bunce and Bean required enthusiastic audience participation (“Come on, everyone, dig!”) and one by one, we were taken into the chicken farm of Boggis, the duck and goose farm of Bunce, and the turkey and apple farm of Bean. The fox family, of course, included the offspring of Mr and Mrs Fox (requiring multiple swift costume changes for Katie Edwards, Claudia Fang and Ella Davies-Jones) and along the way, various other woodland creatures emerged to play supporting roles, including the flamboyant figure of Badger (Niamh Thomas’s dancing skills coming to the fore here) and the cider cellar-dwelling Rat (I began to lose count of the number of roles Katie Edwards was playing!). It was a fast-paced farmyard adventure with plenty of originality and laugh-out-loud comedy. My eldest daughter’s favourite moment was when a rambunctious Bean (peddling with difficulty on a children’s toy tractor) was scolded by Mrs Fox and sent back into the wings, bottom lip pouting and suitably berated. Sophia, our middle daughter, said her favourite moment was when a terrified chicken laid a Cadbury’s creme egg. If our youngest
daughter had been there (it was past her bedtime and she would have been a distinct liability if allowed to watch the show) she would undoubtedly have found greatest pleasure in the doughnuts handed out at the end. Her culinary vacuuming almost rivals the chicken thieving of Mr Fox himself…

A finale of glitter balls, balloons and baskets of treats saw the children in the audience invited on stage for a final dance alongside the performers. As the actors took their bows at the curtain call, they were met with a rousing ovation from an appreciative audience who had been treated to a quite wonderful evening of drama. Performing to a young and unpredictable audience (never mind the notoriously hard-to-please theatre critic Giles Bell) was a gamble, but it was a gamble that paid off with the children (and adults) won over by the fizz and wit of the piece. My children loved it; the fact that our ultra-shy middle daughter got up on stage at the end is an achievement in itself and testimony to the engagement of the piece. The cast of five students gave us energy, wit and creativity in a short play packed full of surprises and theatrical innovation which nevertheless stayed true to the original charm of Dahl’s farmyard yarn. Fantastic!

Peter Middleton

THE PENEOLOPIAD

‘History’, says Mrs Lintott in Alan Bennett’s The History Boys ‘is a commentary on the various and continuing incapabilities of men … History is women following behind with the bucket.’ This was the strong message conveyed by this short, punchy and wholly captivating production of Atwood’s feminist classical satirical fantasy.

The Penelopeiad is Margaret Atwood’s (of The Handmaid’s Tale fame) witty rewriting of Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey, or parts thereof, from the perspective of Odysseus’s long-suffering wife Penelope, feistily portrayed by Niamh Thomas in Helen Brown’s all female production.

Maintaining a kingdom while her husband Odysseus, played with mischievously arrogant self-regard by Flora Moreau, was off fighting the Trojan War was not a simple business for Penelope. Already aggrieved that he had been lured away due to the shocking behaviour of her beautiful cousin Helen, played with a mesmerising mixture of metropolitan sophistication and flouncing vulgarity by Eve Hartley, Penelope must bring up her wayward son Telemachus (Betty Chau), face down scandalous rumours and keep over a hundred lustful, greedy and bloodthirsty suitors at bay. And then, when Odysseus finally returns and slaughters the murderous suitors, he brutally hangs Penelope’s twelve beloved maids … It was a man’s world then, and maybe still is now.

Helen Brown’s visually seductive production does not reflect well on the menfolk, as the women, lounging around the bar in Hades, reflect on their earthly lives on Ithaca while Odysseus enjoyed himself for 20 years at Troy and returning from it. The actresses handled the brilliant script – part classical tragic pastiche, part Manhattan bar banter, part Ladies loo gossip, part elevated Brechtian didactic theatre - with aplomb and very evident enjoyment.

Minor parts were also wittily presented, not least the wonderfully dippy Oracle, played by Stephanie Christenson, emitting the conveniently ambiguous advice for which Delphi was notorious – perhaps the most famous example being, ‘Trust no-one.’

Congratulations also to the many backstage who contributed to a production which felt much more like a School than House play, and left the audience - or should have left them - reflecting on the ‘fake news’ patriarchal flavour of so much historiography.

Richard Hudson
MEDEA

Medea, perhaps the most famous of Euripides’ tragedies, is an intensely difficult play to produce. Dealing with Medea’s own descent into madness and her inexorable journey toward a series of horrific, unthinkable acts – a successful production requires a careful balance of the sensitive and the dramatic. Paul Fitzgerald’s production achieved all of this in a professional, brilliant and quite spectacular fashion to provide a thought-provoking evening of entertainment that will remain in the memory for some time.

The bold decision to present this play using traditional masks certainly presented a challenge to the actors – but one which they overcame in triumphant fashion. Expressive movement and careful modulation of the voice throughout allowed the audience to empathise and understand the characters they created, while the masks themselves – exquisitely crafted by Emily Stokes in our Art Faculty – really did allow us to see the action unfold as it would have been.

The transportation of the audience into the ancient state of Corinth was further enhanced by the stunning and elaborately detailed set. The House of Jason, complete with its classical friezes and ornate wooden doors was of a quality one would usually associate with high-level professional productions and Medea’s appearance at the dénouement, rising above the house in her dragon-pulled chariot was a truly breath-taking coup-de-théâtre. A soundscape of eerie chamber music – dominated by mournful cello and lonely piano – cocooned the action in an atmosphere of deep sadness while the soft, subtle lighting plot effectively demarcated the different scenes, particularly highlighting the choral odes.

Medea herself, played by Nina Churchill, presented with the audience with a woman defiant in defeat, determined to wreak her terrible revenge not just on the unfaithful Jason, but on the state of Corinth itself. Mysterious, angular gestures of her hand combined with some impressive vocal work to produce a disturbing performance rooted in a mature understanding of and sensitivity to the text. Her erstwhile lover, Jason, admirably portrayed by Rhys Trevor, drew us into his frustrations and the simplicity and recklessness of his hubris and flawed logic. Creon (Angus Moore) and the Aegeus King of Athens (Dan Powell) both made easy work of complicated and intense sections of stichomythia – presenting their arguments and exposition with a naturalness and clarity which meant that the audience remained engaged throughout. The same could be said of the Tutor (Sam Browne-Swinburne), Nurse (India Eaton) and, of course, the Messenger (Will Shawe-Taylor) who worked hard to convey the emotional turmoil of Medea’s household and the human responses to the dreadful vengeance she unleashed on the royal family of Corinth. A special mention must be made of Reggie Bell and Alfie Wright, whose innocent and touching portrayal of Medea’s children heightened the pathos of her final, hideous action.

In any Greek tragedy, however, it is the Chorus who play an utterly pivotal role – explaining the action and the meaning in direct address to the audience. This, for me, was where the play really shone – the ensemble (Tiggy Cowan-Taylor, Amelia Cox, Mollie Matthews, Liv Moir, and Eleanor Niblett) worked brilliantly together to dissect the meaning of the preceding scene, to consider the consequences, and to foreshadow the darkness to come. A combination of voices in unison and solo highlights produced vivid and exciting odes that added to the momentum of the play as a whole.

Maurice Walters
Traditionally, the Salopian New Year Calendar has begun with our annual visit to Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, where some of Shrewsbury’s most talented musicians have performed a programme of Chamber and Solo repertoire as part of a highly successful and long-standing Coffee Concert series. This always attracts a large and discerning audience, used to students from the Royal Northern College of Music, and young professionals performing for them. The fact that we are invited back year after year to perform is testament to the quality of the music here at Shrewsbury, and the professionalism which they display in public performance. This year, as ever, there was much to enjoy, including movements from Stravinsky’s ‘Soldier’s Tale’, Hindemith’s Trumpet Sonata, ‘The Shepherd on the Rock’ by Schubert, beautifully sung by Sophia Price, and much more.

Later in January saw the return of one of Shrewsbury’s most recently departed and talented musicians, Henry Kennedy, in concert with his Tyburn Trio. In this he was partnered by Milly Forrest, soprano and Andrei Illushkin on piano. All three are currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music, and all three are making names for themselves there as outstanding performers. Henry showed what a very fine Clarinettist he has become, and the sizeable and appreciative audience in the Maidment were evidently entranced by the virtuosity and musicianship of all three performers. This was the first of four major school-led events involving Old Salopian Musicians, and the link between the School and our Musical Alumni is something that I hope we can really foster in the years ahead.

The inspired evening devised by James Fraser-Andrews which celebrated the town’s links with the WW1 poet, Wilfred Owen, is reported on elsewhere in the magazine, but suffice to say this was a wonderful evening of poetry and music, the one informing the other, and at times a truly moving Elegy to those “Doomed youth” of Owen’s generation. Especially poignant was the setting composed by Dan Powell of Owen’s poem “The Letter”, in which a young soldier in the British Expeditionary Force writes home to his wife, desperately trying to shield her from the horrors of war unfolding around him as he writes. This was sung by Dan himself.

Then it was off to the Barber Institute of Fine Arts at Birmingham University for another wonderful performance of Chamber and Solo repertoire in a concert featuring again some of those musicians who had performed earlier in the term at Didsbury in Manchester. The Barber concert hall is one of the finest Chamber venues in the UK, and the building, which dates from the 1930s, is a wonderful example of pure, untouched Art Deco. The acoustics sparkle, and it was lovely to be able to hold a reception beforehand in these terrific surroundings; something definitely to be repeated another year with hopefully even more Salopian parents and friends able to attend.

It has been a tradition now for many years for there to be at least one major piano recital given by a distinguished professional pianist as part of our Season of the Arts at Shrewsbury. This has been made possible in recent years by the extraordinary generosity of the
parents of a former Music Scholar and pupil in Moser’s, James Bradley. Mike and Fleur, his parents, have supported so many visiting artists over the years: Nicolai Demidenko, Stephen Hough, Paul Lewis, Angela Hewitt, Ilyr Williams, Freddie Kempf, to name but a few.

This year saw the welcome return of one of Shrewsbury’s favourite performers, Peter Donohoe, in a programme that simply took one’s breath away with its power and sheer brilliance of technique and interpretation. Here is a performer at the very height of his powers, who seems always to be capable of more brilliance upon each hearing. His performance of Scriabin’s 3rd Piano sonata was stupendous, and Schubert’s Four Impromptus Opus 142 were the most accomplished performance I think I have ever heard. A near capacity audience of pupils, staff and the general public were entranced by Peter’s wonderful playing from start to finish.

Shrewsbury School’s Big Band is in fine form under the direction of its tireless and energetic conductor Maria McKenzie (shortly to leave us for a term on maternity leave!) and their evening in the Maidment left us in doubt as to how good they are. The concert featured some wonderful Jazz standards, and also featured Third Former Phoebe Morris belting out some great vocal numbers accompanied by the Band.

On Monday 6th March, the Chapel Choir sang Evensong at Lichfield Cathedral, from where many distinguished Music Scholars have come to Shrewsbury. The service included Herbert Howells’ Collegium Regale and Lotti’s Crucifixus, both wonderful compositions and beautifully sung to an appreciative congregation of parents and friends under the direction of Shrewsbury’s Chapel Choirmaster and Assistant Director of Music, Alex Mason.

On Sunday 17th March, nearly 100 Salopian Musicians boarded two Long Mynd coaches for a journey to London to perform in concert at Cadogan Hall, just off Sloane Square. Cadogan Hall is one of the capital’s major concert venues, and just the night before had hosted a professional performance of Bach’s St Matthew Passion, and the next day would see the London Philharmonic Orchestra in Concert there. Sandwiched between them were Shrewsbury School’s Symphony and Wind Orchestras performing a programme that included Haydn’s ‘London’ Symphony No. 104 in its entirety as well as much more. Peter Middleton’s enthusiastic review of this concert is included in the magazine as well, but suffice to say that the day spent in the company of some wonderful Old Salopian Musicians was simply a great Salopian musical moment.

As I write this, the summer half-term exeat is looking an increasingly enticing prospect, for staff and pupils alike, and out of my office window in the Maidment the Shrewsbury campus is looking at its verdant best, framed by a near cloudless blue sky. Although only one half of the term has passed, much has happened.

A special part of our musical community is the Shrewsbury Community Choir, who perform jointly with choristers from the School in larger choral repertoire such as Verdi’s Requiem last year in Birmingham Town Hall, and annually in our St Cecilia Concerts in the Michaelmas Term. They also now have a musical life beyond the confines of the School, giving an annual performance of The Messiah in Shrewsbury Abbey for charity (last year conducted by Old Salopian...
Fergus Macleod), and part of the Choir becoming the English Haydn Festival Chorus, giving annual performances of choral music by Haydn, Mozart and others in St Leonard’s Church, Bridgnorth accompanied by some of the UK’s finest period instrument players and working with soloists of international standing.

This April the choir gave a terrific account of the St John Passion in Shrewsbury Abbey, with Henrike Legner (OS) singing the soprano solo, and Alex Mason and David Joyce being very much key players in the accompanying ensemble. Next year we will return once more to Birmingham Town Hall for a joint concert with school musicians and choristers. It should be noted that the Community Choir are also the most loyal supporters of concerts involving pupils performing during the year, and we are hugely grateful to them for that very supportive role that they play every term. No report on Music since the start of the year can ignore the return visit to the School of yet another great Old Salopian musician, pianist Galin Ganchev. James Fraser-Andrews’ eloquent review, published on the School website, describes this beautifully and in detail. Suffice to say that Galin has lost none of his youthful power and musical charisma and magic. Indeed it has all come on even further during his first year and a half at the Royal Academy of Music, where he is studying with Professor Ian Fountain. He can fill the Alington Hall with both sound, and if fate is kind and there are just rewards for the years of hard work that he has put in and will, I am sure, continue to do in the future, then a great career lies ahead for him. He is a musician with much to say, and one to whom it is well worth listening.

An important feature of music at Shrewsbury is the breadth of styles both on offer to and performed by pupils. A few years ago we were lucky enough to have a terrific group of Sixth Form musicians including Rob and Alex Collins, Cal Winwood and Sam Wilson, who led a jazz outfit named Blasé. They seemed to be in high demand to play at every function in the diary and would also play concerts in town and further afield, including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Recently we were lucky enough to be able to invite OS Sam Wilson (M) back to the School with his current band, Sifaka, who hail from Leeds, where Sam was a student. Sam is a wonderful songwriter and jazz musician, who also knows and loves his rock and African-tinged repertoire, which run through the veins of Sifaka’s music. It was a great evening, enjoyed by a good-sized audience of townsfolk, staff who remembered Sam from his days here, and pupils. He, like other OS singer/songwriters such as Charlie Straw and Luke Lloyd-Jones amongst many others, is really a name to look out for, and Sifaka are well worth more than a second listen. Sam plays keyboard, flugelhorn and shares the lead vocals with Mared, a fabulous singer from Wales, who fronts the band with her amazing vocal range. We were also so lucky to be able to offer current pupil Arthur Yu (SH UVI) a full evening piano recital by himself this term. This took place in the Maidment Building, where we now have a second wonderful Model D Steinway, now looking pristine having had its casework recently completely refurbished in Poland, and with much restoration work having already been done last year. It is a magnificent instrument, and one to which Arthur brought his own brand of pianistic magic. A more fulsome review of his recital has been published on the School website.

Like Galin before him, Arthur is a wonderful pianist and thoroughly deserving of his scholarship to the Royal Northern College of Music, where he takes up a place later this year. To hear a pupil play both the mighty B Minor Sonata by Liszt and Chopin’s C Sharp Minor Scherzo in the same programme, alongside many other substantial pieces of repertoire, and all from memory, was simply wonderful.

And finally, with the quite literally dying last notes of Purcell’s masterpiece Dido and Aeneas ringing in our ears, so wonderfully sung in May by Sophia Price and a talented cast of singing students, all pupils of Jonathan May and Kathryn Turpin, I can bring this musical ramble to an end. It has been quite a journey since the start of the year, and there are more musical tales to tell that must, for reasons of editorial space, go untold, but that have also played a part in keeping the musical life of the School buoyant and fulfilling for all those involved, either as performers or audience. Above all, much of this musical achievement has only been possible through the hard work, training and inspirational teaching of the wonderfully talented team of music teachers that we are lucky enough to have working for us at the School, and also the huge efforts of the pupils themselves, who give tirelessly of their time in what must be one of busiest school environments in the country.

Floreat Salopia

John Moore
ART SCHOLARS EXHIBITION

Annabel Naylor (G IV) - Futurist Figure

Imogen Luczyc-Wyivorska (G UVI) - Abstract Untitled 1

Rory Lockett (Ch IV) - Machine Head

Ludo De Falbe (SH V) - Skeleton

William Biggs (SH UVI) - Lovell Stubbs Copy
“Thanks for the memory”

Pupils at Shrewsbury School have created a mural for Sabrina House Care Home in Shrewsbury, inspired by the people who live there.

The project has been a collaboration between the School’s Art Department, Sabrina House Care Home and Creative Inspiration Shropshire, a social venture established in 2014 by Dr Jane Povey to provide participatory creative arts programmes for vulnerable and isolated people in the local community.

Shrewsbury’s Head of Art, Rose Shawe-Taylor, explains: “I had been wanting to do some activity with Shrewsbury School students which takes art into the community, and Jane Povey’s initiative proved to be the perfect opportunity. The planning stage was the difficult part; how to incorporate a diverse range of memories into a coherent whole. Then one of our students came up with the idea of a series of windows, rather like an advent calendar, and after that the design was straightforward.

“Part of the fun was hearing the residents talk about their memories – from racing pigeons to driving a double-decker bus, and chatting to the lovely staff who made us endless cups of tea. I only wish that Dan, who was at Sabrina longer than any other resident, had lived to see the finished result.”

The residents and staff at Sabrina House have been thrilled with the project. “Having the students from Shrewsbury School visit Sabrina House has enriched the residents’ lives immensely. Those residents who are not able to socialise outside of the home can become somewhat isolated from the outside world. So having the girls and boys visit gives them the opportunity to interact with people from outside, which is particularly important for those residents who don’t have family and friends who visit.

“It has been lovely to see the artists interact with the residents. Right from the first day when the artists were asking residents what they would like the mural to look like, it was plain to see a bond forming. The students showed a real empathy, far beyond their years, which was obvious to all of us looking on. The mural has become a talking point, especially when visitors see it. The residents take great pleasure in pointing out the various sections and chat about something in it they may be personal to them.”

“Being a part of this life-changing experience was not only a privilege but it was also an honour to give back to the community,” said Nifemi Runsewe (MSH LVI). “Socialising with the elderly and the carers at Sabrina House was a key aspect of painting the mural. Not only were we able to ask the elderly people at the care home what memory of theirs they would like us to reflect on the mural, but we also got to know a bit more about them and their lives. So we were able to create a mural that was done with love, as art is the moment where work meets love.

“The mural also brought us students a lot closer together. This project enabled me to feel a part of something a lot bigger than an average school project, whilst making friends I am sure to keep for years to come. At the end of the day, seeing the smiles on the faces of the elderly as they recognised which painting was dedicated to them was the icing on the cake because happiness is not from what we get, but what we give.”

The mural project forms part of a wider collaborative programme between Shrewsbury School, Creative Inspiration Shropshire and care homes in Shrewsbury that has included concerts, sing-alongs and a hugely successful Afternoon Tea Party for guests from Sabrina House and Swan Hill care homes, held at Shrewsbury School in the spring.

Creative Inspiration Shropshire has greatly valued the contribution the Shrewsbury School students have made this year in enriching the lives of residents and staff at local care homes,” said Dr Jane Povey, Creative Inspiration Shropshire’s Founding Director. “The beautiful mural at Sabrina House marks the end of a fantastic first year of collaborative work with musicians, artists and chefs from the School.”
The History Makers

The arrival of the first cohort of girls in the Third Form in September 2014 marked the beginning of a major new chapter in the annals of Shrewsbury School. Together with a small group who joined the Fourth Form at the same time, they were seen as – and in most cases felt themselves to be – ‘history makers’.

After lengthy, careful and detailed planning to ensure that the first year of co-education in the Lower School would be as smooth and as positive as possible, their arrival was eagerly anticipated. While any new Third Former may feel somewhat anxious at the prospect of ‘standing out’ as being new, these girls, in their distinctive new uniform, were naturally immediately identifiable.

As a year group, it is generally agreed that they rose very impressively to the challenge this imposed on them, establishing themselves early on as a strong group, full of enthusiasm, drive and talent. They quickly threw themselves into the life of Shrewsbury School; new sports teams were established – and rapidly began winning fixtures – in hockey, netball and lacrosse, but also fives, rowing and cricket. They volunteered for music ensembles, Chapel Choir, the Junior School Play, the McEachran Prize, Bentley Elocution Competition, Junior Essay Prize, maths and science competitions, and they went on to swell the ranks of the CCF.

September 2016 marked another significant moment in the transition to co-education, when those first Third Form girls moved into the Fifth Form and the School had a full complement of boys and girls in every year group. It also marked the moment when the girls who joined in 2014 had been at Shrewsbury for longer than any other girl who had gone before them – giving them an interesting and respected status with the Sixth Formers who, although they are older, are much newer to the School.

This September, the Third Formers of 2014 will themselves move into the Sixth Form. So as they look back over their years in the Lower School, has their experience of Shrewsbury thus far matched up to their original expectations and perceptions of the School?

Chatting to a group from across all three Houses, the strong friendship and sense of camaraderie between them is very clear. “You make friends very quickly at Shrewsbury, particularly when you’re boarding. And you grow into yourself because you have supportive friends who will encourage you,” they agree. For all of them, the friendliness of the School was one of the major factors that originally attracted them to it. “I looked around loads of other big schools,” says Abi. “But the atmosphere at Shrewsbury is unique. You can’t quite put your finger on it, but it’s a really happy atmosphere.” Those who came for Scholarship assessment days and taster days agree that the friendliness of staff made them feel very much at home. This was borne out during their early days and weeks at the School. “The School is very welcoming – especially in the Houses. And in the girls’ Houses there’s no real hierarchy – the year groups are all very integrated.”

“It’s pretty daunting during Foundation Fortnight when you don’t really know where you’re going. But people were really friendly, especially in the first few weeks. When people saw you looking at the map in the Burney Diary, they’d come up and help you.”

“Coming from a prep school where you are quite close to your teachers and you know them really well, I didn’t think that you’d have the same thing at secondary school. I thought they would be quite ‘off-ish’, you’d listen to them and that’s it. But they’re not like that at all. I get on with my teachers really well and they become… not ‘friends’ exactly, but I have really good conversations with them, especially my tutor.”

Do they feel they have had to conform to a certain ‘type’ in order to fit in to the School, or become a different person? The general feeling is that there is no particular Salopian ‘type’ – except someone who “does everything, says yes to everything” and that, if they have changed, they feel they have become “better versions of themselves”. “I was quite shy before I came – but I’m not now,” is the comment from one. “I’ve changed for the better,” says another. “At prep school I often seemed to say the wrong thing but now I’m much better at getting on with people.” “I feel I have a...
much broader perception of people now. I’ve met loads of different people from lots of different backgrounds and I’ve learnt loads of new stuff." “I came from a day school where we looked at public schools as being very posh – and I didn’t want to change from the person I had been into someone else. But I really enjoy it here now. And I can still go back and have as much fun back home as I used to, but also have fun at school. By coming here, you get the best of both worlds. You can talk to people from absolutely anywhere and it’s nice to know that when I go to university and apply for jobs, etc, I’m not going to be stuck just with people from public schools or just with people from day schools.”

When asked about their particular ‘stand out’ memories, it is not the moments of individual glory that are cited (even though there have been many) but rather the times when they have enjoyed a shared experience and sense of being part of a wider school community: House sport, House plays, CCF Camp, the Classics trip (“There were lots of Sixth Formers on it and I wasn’t looking forward to it. But it was so much fun and all the year groups really integrated”), taking Great Expectations to the Edinburgh Fringe, the Sidney-Darwin Dash, the spontaneous and lusty singing of ‘Libera Me’ by the large Salopian crowd supporting the Football 1st XI in the final of the County Cup in Telford last term, and simply “being with people and laughing – at supper time in particular, we all sit together and laugh”. This sense of fun and being part of a supportive year group has given them the confidence to take a ‘have a go’ attitude to life at Shrewsbury. They admit that as there were no junior sports teams when they arrived, they had to get ‘stuck in’. Nevertheless, they have all enjoyed trying new things. For many of them, this was another major appeal of the School. Several had been recommended to come to Shrewsbury by their prep schools “because it’s famous for allowing you to do all sorts of different things”. “It’s so encouraged to just have a go. If you’re brilliant at it, great, keep pursuing it. But it doesn’t matter if you’re terrible.” “If things turn out badly, you just laugh about it.”

Many of them have surprised themselves with things they have discovered they enjoy at Shrewsbury. “I’ve discovered I love science. I generally hated it before, but now I really enjoy it and am doing it for A Level.” “I’ve never done anything theatrical before, but I auditioned for a part in The Picture of Dorian Gray last year and really enjoyed the whole experience. I would never have thought I would do anything like that.”

Beekeeping is another new venture for one “even though I’m actually quite afraid of bees. But it’s great to try new things and take advantage of new opportunities”. And several of them are greatly enjoying being part of the CCF, which has become very popular among the girls – many of them carrying on with it for longer than some of the boys. “At first the boys tended to raise their eyebrows in a kind of ‘Oh no, girls…’ way. But I don’t think that they think badly of us in the CCF now.” “You can end up being in a group and you don’t really notice that you’re the only girl.”

Not all the girls were equally enthusiastic about the prospect of coming to Shrewsbury, however. For some, it meant leaving behind a very different day school environment where they had been comfortable. “Everyone says that schools like this offer so many ‘opportunities’. But before I came, I thought, what opportunities do I need that I don’t already have? I didn’t really understand what people meant by the word ‘opportunities’. But actually it’s more like life-skills. I’ve done debating and public speaking, for example, which I was terrified of doing at my old school. There are so many opportunities to experience different things, like going to watch plays and concerts – there are so many diverse cultural things going on. Everything is accepted and everyone has the opportunity to try everything.”

As they become the first full cohort to travel all the way through the School from the Third Form into the Sixth Form, their message to all new Third Form girls is above all to “get involved”. “It’s OK to be seen as someone who does things. It’s still cool. If someone comes back to House and has won the Maths Challenge or a lacrosse tournament, they’re seen with an equal amount of respect… There’s so much on offer at Shrewsbury and if you don’t take it up then that’s quite sad.”

Annabel Warburg
World War I Poetry

By the summer of 1917, the number of Salopians who had been killed fighting in the First World War had grown to more than 200; hundreds more had been injured, several more than once. Casualty lists were published regularly in the fortnightly editions of The Salopian magazine, together with a steadily growing stream of obituaries.

It may seem strange, therefore, that for the most part The Salopian remains in other respects strikingly unchanged from its pre-war style and content. Compiled and edited by the boys, the pages are full of detailed reports on the regular cycle of sports fixtures, debates, concerts and addresses in Chapel, and the overall tone throughout the war years remains light-hearted, even jovial. There are many irreverent poems (‘An Ode to the School Sanatorium’, ‘Lines to an Old Cricket Bat’) and short stories full of ‘in-jokes’. And as the end of the summer term approaches, there is no hint in the editorials of any sense of dread on the part of the authors as they themselves prepare to leave school for the trenches; instead they agonise over finding something new to write about.

Yet this is not naïve stoicism, nor is it ostrich-like ignorance or an attempt to deceive. As is made clear in the editorial of issue no. 326, published on 31st March 1917, it is a quite deliberate editorial policy:

“Nearly every week we hear of the glorious death of another friend and Salopian. We have only grown used to this as the prisoner grows used to captivity, for every new death of which we hear pains us more than the last. Sometimes we wonder how we can continue to play seemingly useless games while others are offering their lives for us. We continue our games because our friends over there would hate us to stop them, and every letter which they write to us bears the same question. ‘Who won the House Matches?’”

The Salopian was written then, as it is now, for Old Salopians as well as current pupils. Copies may well have been read in the trenches; certainly there were regular contributions from Old Salopians, who wrote quite openly about the realities of life in Flanders fields.

There is a sense that the upbeat tone and the minute detail of match reports are the pupils’ own way of demonstrating that they are “doing their bit”, ensuring that what their fellow Salopians are fighting for is being protected and upheld.

Nevertheless, interspersed among the Hunt reports and the Football triumphs, appear poems that reveal the stark sense of grief, loss and shock as news of the death of a friend or much admired older boy is announced at School. And there are poems, too, written by those serving in the trenches. We publish some of these poems here.

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In Memoriam

ONE OF MANY.

When four years since—a long, eventful day—
I made my start in this small realm of play,
You gave me just the help which I required;
And though I could not value that assistance,
Yet from a distance
I admired.

Others there are, whom I was proud to know,
Who, like you, when the call came, were not slow,
Death found them faithful to the appointed post;
But yours I feel as any elder brother’s,
And spite of others Feel it most.

There is a certain room, and there a bench,
Where we two sat, and in the hours of French
Carved our two names, which there may still be read;
There they remain, their lone memorial giving
Of me the living,
You the dead,

T. O.

Over the Channel (adventurous crossing),
Eager to finish the business, and go;
Tom, you remembered the poplar-leaves tossing
Down by the Severn bank, some time ago?

Out with the Shropshires, unchanged, you were writing
Phrases unchanged from the spirit of old;
For you remembered your friends, in the fighting,
—Things you had told us, and things we had told.

Slow come my words, but my pulses beat faster,
Faster than Severn whose waters we knew.
Death came to you, but for me was disaster;
Hope was too high with us, Days were too few.

Over the margin, Tom, over for ever;
Summer and winter, will you be away,
Yet you remembered the hill by the river?
Part of you laughs there, and is there, to-day.

C. G. B.
In Memoriam.

Sleep on, good friend, now passed unto your Maker,
Gladly for us you gave your life’s sweet breath;
Duty knew well that you would not forsake her,
Faithful as always, even unto Death.

Little you knew how much you meant to others
In the old School you used to hold so near:
Soldier and School Friend were alike your brothers,
Silent your help, your presence ever near.

Now you have gone, and we must bear the sorrow,
How hard that when the night of War shall cease.
When dawns at last the long expected morrow
You will not share with us its welcome peace!

In Memoriam.

Oft in the realms of unforgotten grief
I find one sorrow sadder than the rest,
One woe of all those past regrets the chief,
An oft told tale of bitter interest.

Erewhile had I a friend, of all I know
The dearest, though unworthy of his love;
But him his country’s adversaries slew,
He died the justice of her cause to prove.
Thus was my loss and when this gloomy cloud
Hides for a time the sunshine of my life,
As hid your deep- scarred corpse that pure white shroud
When in your youth you left earth’s petty strife.
Then pray I for the time when you with me
Will tread the paths of immortality.

Time and Change.

July, 1914.
Dripped the trees one glorious blood-red
From the slowly dying sun,
All the leaves were splendid golden
When the summer day was done;
And the ground was stained with crimson
From the shadows of the trees,
While the air was filled with humming
Of the busy, happy bees.

Then I thought how grand and splendid
Was that burning blood-red glow,
As I stood and watched the sunset.
That was many months ago.

Feb. 1915.
Drip the trees one awful blood-red
Though the sun has left the sky;
All the leaves are dead and withered—
Do not ask the reason why.

For the ground is stained with crimson
From the blood of splendid men,
While the air is filled with thunder
Echoing through the wood and glen.
Now I think how ghastly, fearful
Has become that blood-red glow,
Since I stood and watched the sunset.
That was many months ago.

To Shrewsbury, on going to the Wars.

And if I go, and never more am seen
Here in this dear, dear place, where five short years
Have slipped away with mingled joys and tears,

Where many friends and many loves have been;
And if I never come again and find
The signs and landmarks that I knew of old,
And never hear the laugh, and never hold
The hand of friends I loved and left behind;
And if I fall, and never know again
The shouting on the bank, the coach’s cry;
If far away from here I fall and die;
You may forget me and may feel no pain:
But I—though dreaming in the grave I be—I shall remember all you did for me.
Almost from its foundation in 1552 there has been a school library. Thomas Ashton, Shrewsbury’s first Headmaster, provided for the establishment of a school library in his Ordinances of 1578. In these he stipulated the priorities to which surplus income should be applied. After staff housing, he decreed the building of a library and gallery. The library was built in 1596 and was situated in the top floor of what is now the Shrewsbury County Library. It came into proper use in 1606 with the first acquisitions of books and manuscripts.

**A Flavour and Character of its Own**

Since then the library has grown as a notable collection with its own character and flavour, much sought out by scholars and researchers worldwide. In addition to the cultural and scholarly importance of many items in the collections, perhaps the main bibliographical value of the Library to scholars lies in the preservation of the integrity and long historical coherence of a unique collection. The library is perhaps unique for its age and size in being almost completely documented through a Benefactors’ Book and a succession of catalogues. There are catalogues of 1614, c.1640, 1664, 1736, 1788, and ultimately that of Dr Butler of the 1820s, which is still in use today. The catalogues contain many explanatory notes which provide rich sources for the history of the Library. Three of them provide lists of benefactors.

The Taylor Library has received rich benefactions of books bequeathed or bought on behalf of Old Salopians and well-wishers, including doctors, lawyers, booksellers, merchants, dons, parsons and citizens of London, Shrewsbury and elsewhere. Benefactors also include members of staff. The 17th century benefactions are, in the words of a previous Librarian, James Lawson, “a poignant reminder of the school’s origin as a town grammar school”. They are a potent link to the town and the community at large.

The Library started as a chained library, similar to famous medieval chained libraries like the one at Hereford Cathedral. A couple of chained shelves remain in the present Taylor Library to illustrate this arrangement. They are on the right as you enter.

In addition to Taylor’s Library, there are smaller but nevertheless important collections, including those of Evan Thomas, a late 16th century Puritan Preacher of St Mary’s; John Baker OS, our Elizabethan Second Master; Alderman Rowland Heylyn OS, a Puritan City of London merchant, and two Shrewsbury Physicians - Dr Andrew Griffiths OS (1688) and Dr Edward Phillips OS (1713). Today these collections are of great interest to scholars. Because of its mainly 17th century flavour and its rich documentation, it is of supreme bibliographical importance.

**Growth**

From its beginning in 1606 to the Civil Wars in the 1640s, there was a vigorous purchasing policy by the School as well as a continuous stream of bequests. This marked a concerted policy to establish the Library as a central feature of the scholastic life of the School. John Meighen, Headmaster from 1583 - 1635, whom Oldham describes as the ‘father of the library’, was connected to the publishing world through his son, Richard, who was a prominent member of the London book trade. Several merchants, who had made good in the City of London, feature in the donors’ list after 1613. A strange but wonderful acquisition is a number of medieval manuscripts. In 1606 eleven MSS were bought, mainly...
from Lichfield Cathedral. The next year Richard Bostock of Tattenhall, Cheshire, bequeathed a further twelve MSS. By 1640 most of the present collection of Manuscripts had been acquired either by gift or purchase. There are now over 40 bound volumes of medieval manuscripts, but some volumes contain several works bound together so that, counted separately, there are 88 distinct works. Most are written in medieval Latin and archaic English; there is one in Welsh (Gwassanaeth Meir - Hours of the Virgin) and another in medieval French (Norman-French, Arthurian and other Lays). 11 contain the Bible (including two Vulgates, i.e. Latin Bibles), whole or in parts. 16 may be classified as theological. Three are church service books. Six are intended solely for school use as dictionaries and grammatical treatises. Six date from the 12th century, 14 from the 13th century, two from the 14th century and 14 from the 15th century. They represent an interesting variety of handwriting typical of these periods. Some also contain fascinating examples of early musical notation.

In addition, the Library contains over 70 ‘incunabula’ - books printed in or before 1500. The most notable of these is perhaps Caxton’s Confessio Amantis by Gower, printed in Westminster in 1483 and donated in 1669 by Isaac Watkis, a bookseller of Shrewsbury.

In 1737 the Headmaster, Leonard Hotchkis, reorganised the Library and the chains were removed from the books. There exists a record in the School accounts for the receipt of £1-7s-0d ‘for old iron sold that was in the Library’ – presumably the now discarded chains.

The Library doubled in size in 1766 with the bequest of Dr John Taylor (OS) - 'Demosthenes Taylor' as he was called - a distinguished Classical Scholar of St John's College Cambridge and University Librarian. This increased the size of the Library to around 7,000 volumes. The Taylor Bequest immensely strengthened the Library both in quantity and quality. Shortly after Taylor’s bequest the Library had the distinction of a visit from the illustrious 18th century man of letters, Dr Samuel Johnson.

In the latter part of the 18th century the Library was sadly neglected. The room was said to have “been used as a hairdressing salon for boys” and a book, which Dr Butler later wanted to lend to a friend, had first to be fumigated. When Atcherley became Headmaster in 1771 he sent a circular to booksellers in the county asking for the return of books belonging to the School!

When Butler, a bibliophile, was appointed Headmaster in 1798, he immediately set about to reorganise and re-catalogue the Library. This catalogue is still in place today.

The bibliographical importance of the Library, especially relating to rare items and unique editions, was increasingly recognised in the later 19th century under the librarianship of T.E. Pickering. Gordon Duff, bibliographer and librarian of the Rylands Library in Manchester, was engaged to research the collection thoroughly. In 1897 the Manuscript collection was transferred to the British Museum to be reviewed, catalogued and assessed by J.A. Herbert. This was followed by the researches of Basil Oldham, under whose care the Library gained a worldwide reputation among scholars. Oldham is still renowned worldwide as a pioneer of the study of rare book bindings. His works such as J.B. Oldham, *English Blind Stamped Bindings*, (Cambridge University Press, 1952); and J. B. Oldham, *Shrewsbury School Bindings* (Oxford University Press, 1943) are still widely used.

Oldham was an avid collector of rare book bindings and his astonishing bequest of many rare bindings from the 16th to 20th centuries is on permanent display in the Taylor Library.

The Move to Kingsland

When the School moved to Kingsland in 1882, the Library occupied rooms on the first floor of the Main School Building. It came under threat in 1905 when a fire destroyed the entire top storey of the building along with the clock tower. A human chain was formed to pass the books down the stairs and into the Chapel. Some were dropped from the windows. E.B. Mösér, the Housemaster, tried to drag...
the librarian away from his dangerous labour, but failing he
turned and remarked, “Let the wretched fellow burn then”. There
were no casualties; nor, thankfully, were the books
greatly harmed.

In 1916 the Library moved to purpose-built accommodation
in the present Moser Library, conceived by Dr Alington and
designed by W.A. Forsythe, the architect of Oldham’s Hall, as
a home for the Taylor Library, a picture gallery and a Modern
Library of English Literature and other subjects. Until 1967 the
Taylor Library occupied the Kennedy Room, but it was then
removed to its current purpose-built location to make way for
the modern Library.

The Foundation stone of the Library was laid in July 1914 by
King George V from the Square in town, by means of a new-
fangled electric cable to the School. The building was opened
for use in 1916.

The Range of the Collections
The contents of the Library are catholic in subject, covering
a wide spectrum of knowledge, reflecting the interests of the
staff, curriculum and benefactors, ranging from the classics
through science, maths, theology, bibles, medicine, the arts,
literature, music, drama and beyond.

Most of the books of greatest scholarly interest in the Taylor
Library are listed in the Bodleian Catalogue in Oxford, as
well as the on-line English Short Title Catalogue and the
Incunabula Short Title Catalogue.

Some Important Items
- A superb collection of rare Bibles, including a first edition
  of Tyndale’s English New Testament printed in Antwerp
  in 1534; a first edition King James Bible of 1611; Bibles by
  Coverdale, Taverner, Erasmus, Polyglot Bibles, Bibles in
  Latin, Greek, Welsh, Hebrew, Dutch and French.
- First editions of Ben Jonson’s plays; Spenser’s Faerie
  Queen; Darwin’s Origin of Species; a collection of Darwin’s
  letters and other memorabilia; writings and memorabilia of
  Sir Philip Sidney; Newton’s Principia Mathematica.
- A collection of Atlases, by Ptolemy, Augsburg 1521;
  Ortelius 1605; Mercator, & Hondius, Antwerp c.1606;
  Ogilby, London 1675.
- A third Century BC Grecian Urn; the death mask of Oliver
  Cromwell; Fragment of Homer’s Iliad from 1st Century BC.
- Anton Koberger’s Nuremberg Chronicle, printed in
  Nuremberg in 1493.
- The oldest bound book in the collection is The Catholic
  Epistles and Apocalypse, handwritten and bound at the
  Cistercian Abbey in Buildwas (just south of Shrewsbury)
  c. 1150 AD

Students of Harvard University, on their annual visit, study the Darwin
Collection. Aug 2015
The Present and Future

The Library is open on Sundays after Chapel and on other occasions including High Days and Holidays. It is also visited by interested groups of pupils in classes and individually. In recent years, several pupils have worked with the Taylor Librarian and have developed a real knowledge and expertise of rare book studies.

The Taylor Library holds the oldest known copy of the Rules of Football (the 1856 Cambridge Laws of Football). The National Football Museum in Manchester currently exhibit a facsimile of these rules and FIFA have shown a considerable interest.

With the refurbishment of the Moser Building in the summer of 2017, new opportunities are emerging to enlarge the potential of the Library as a rich pedagogical resource and for wider teaching and scholarly uses in the school and the community.

A small teaching group of Shrewsbury sixth form pupils with the Taylor Librarian, Dr Brooke-Smith in 2016

Some Current and Proposed Projects:

- Introductory talks to pupils on the Taylor Library
- Specialist sessions on scientific, historical, and literary collections
- An outline course on Bibliography and Rare Books for Sixth Form
- Closer links to school academic and teaching programmes
- Links with local schools
- A ‘Sponsor a Book’ scheme.
- Digitisation programme for web access to some of the rare collections.
- Descriptive Catalogue Programme.
- Programme of repair and preservation of select rare books.
- Exploration of grant funding for preservation of rare assets of national importance.
Shrewsbury School Site

The period since the Millennium has seen an unprecedented level of development on the School Site. Mindful that many readers may be confused by references to buildings which did not exist when they last visited Shrewsbury School, here are the locations and opening dates of the main buildings constructed since 2000.
Lucy Petch (MSH), Christopher Pearce (I) and Jake Samuel (O) were formally presented with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards at Buckingham Palace on 24th May.

They were accompanied by Major Johanne Billington, who runs the Gold Award at the School. “The Award presentations are usually held at St James’ Palace, but on this occasion they took place on the lawns of Buckingham Palace,” she explained.

“It was a beautifully hot and sunny day, everybody was in high spirits and it was a perfect opportunity to be able to get dressed up, enjoy the spectacular surroundings and soak up the celebratory atmosphere.”

Every Award ceremony is attended by members of the Royal Family, who are introduced to groups of Award winners and their guests. This is the final year when HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh himself will be at the ceremonies, following his announcement that he will fully retire from Royal duties later this year. HRH Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex and his wife HRH Sophie the Countess of Wessex attended the ceremony on Wednesday.

“A number of ‘celebrities’ are also invited to the ceremonies to talk to small groups of participants,” said Major Billington. “Our cohort was accompanied by Steph McGovern, presenter of BBC Breakfast and BBC Watchdog. She was extremely friendly and approachable, and the students had plenty of opportunity to chat to her.

“The Award winners were only allowed one guest each, so families had to draw lots to decide who got the ticket! It was delightful to meet the parents of the students and hear their side of the story of the trials and tribulations of trying to complete the Award whilst still at school, the truth about how tough they really found the expedition, and how rewarding they found the volunteering section.”

The Gold Award is a difficult one to achieve. Thousands of students from all over the world attempt it, but the number who actually complete it is very small. It involves committing to three activities for 18, 12 or six months, in Volunteering (Service), Skill (Hobby) and Physical (Sport). In addition students have to organise their own five-day, four-night residential trip, and undertake a four-day expedition in wild country either on foot or by boat. When undertaken simultaneously with A Levels, this is no mean feat.

“Of the 25 students at Shrewsbury who attempt the Award each year, only about ten ever get to the finish line,” said Major Billington. “With such a low completion rate, it’s clear to see why it carries so much weight when students apply for jobs after university.”

Security for the Awards Ceremony itself was not surprisingly very tight, but once the guests were inside the grounds of Buckingham Palace, they were ushered towards the lawns beside the lake where they were entertained by rousing music played by the Band of the Royal Marines.

“We were then taken into different areas where we are met by a steward and a county Award Representative,” said Major Billington. “Here we were registered, checked again, and briefed on the proceedings. Eventually we were all ushered into a ‘horseshoe’ formation in preparation for meeting a member of the Royal Family. We receive more briefings from a representative from the Duke’s office who was a little of a ‘warm up act’ prior to the main event. Cameras were stowed away, phones switched off and we were all prepped on the manner in which we could address the Duke himself. For those in the know, it’s easy to spot the undercover security and the discrete ear pieces. The whole day is choreographed to the very second.

“Each group gets about ten minutes to speak with a member of the Royal Family. When Prince Edward arrived, he quickly put the group at ease and had everyone chuckling and laughing within minutes. It was clear to see that he very much takes meeting the public in his stride.

“Steph McGovern had the responsibility of introducing the students to the Prince and presenting them with their certificates. She was extremely relaxed and personable and congratulated all the students on their amazing achievement.

“The day finished with more formal photographs and a few more ‘meet and greets’ before everybody was allowed to disperse. I felt very privileged and honoured to be invited to such an important day, and it was a fitting celebration of the achievements of young people everywhere who have invested so much time, energy and effort into such a rewarding programme. Well done to everybody who has ever achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.”
History study trip to Auschwitz and Krakow, Easter 2017

A report by Alex Powell (I IV)

After an extremely tiring term, the prospect of a 2 o'clock start on a cold Saturday morning didn't bode well with the majority of our group. But as soon as we arrived in Krakow, we were ready to get stuck in.

Our first day was spent walking around and enjoying the rich culture of Kazimerz, Krakow's Jewish quarter. We visited Podgorze, the WW1 Jewish Ghetto (Square of Heroes), Schindler's Factory and KZ Plaszow, Krakow's concentration camp. After some free time in the Old Town, we had a traditional Eastern European dinner in CK Dezerter restaurant.

A six o'clock wake-up was another early rise, but I must say the sense of excitement loomed in the air. As we arrived at Auschwitz Birkenau, it seemed that the mood became subdued and suddenly we seemed to be somewhere very life-changing; and so it proved to be.

We entered Auschwitz through the famous ‘Arbeit Macht Frei’ gates and continued to blocks 4, 6, 11 and 27.

Block 4 covered the history of Auschwitz. Block 6 showed the living conditions of the camp and evidence of the crimes; this certainly left a bitter taste in our mouths. Block 11 was the ‘death’ block. This was the prison and place of execution for any criminals of the camp. The original cells still stand.

Finally, Block 27 is the most recent exhibition and it has the world’s biggest book. Sadly it is the book of the names of people who lost their lives in the camp.

Our next visit was to Birkenau, the execution camp. Our tour guides took us to the main railway, where life or death was determined as over 100,000 people disembarked a train to meet their destiny: a life of suffering and grueling work; or no life at all. A question that is still asked today is, which was the best option?

After a full orientation of the barracks and the main gas chambers 2 and 3, we stopped at the ‘pond of ashes’ to lay candles and say the Kaddish, which is the Jewish prayer, along with two other poems. This ceremony, along with the rest of the trip, was the most touching experience of my life and it truly opened my eyes to how lucky we are to live our lives freely, unlike the people who gave their freedom for us. As we were given a chance for reflection and silent prayer, I was able to realise how much we take for granted these days and how we need to reflect more often on why we are able to live our lives as well as we can. If there is one message that I took away from the trip, it was, live life as freely and as well as you can. Never take a day for granted.

That night we ate dinner in a traditional Jewish restaurant. Our third and final day took us to a museum of photographs telling us about Jewish life, which was followed by a meeting with a Holocaust survivor. It was truly riveting to learn about life in the Ghetto and the horrific circumstances in which people’s lives were destroyed within seconds. Our trip was finished off with a visit to Remuh Synagogue and some free time before we headed back to Krakow airport and journeyed home to enjoy our Easter.

Special thanks go out to Mr Chipperton, Mr Mackridge, Ms Milanova and Dr Oakley for organising this life-changing experience.
On Saturday 25th March, we set off for London Stansted with Mr Wright and Miss Higgins to catch a plane to Santiago de Compostela airport. We transferred to La Coruña, where we were met by our wonderfully welcoming host families.

We spent most of the next day getting to know our host families, then met up with the group to watch a La Liga match in the Plaza María Pita, the attractive main square of La Coruña. We then returned to our host families ready for the next day of lessons and activities.

During lessons we revised the Spanish covered over the year. We split into two groups: a Third Form group and a Fourth & Fifth Form group. We walked to the seafront, had a guided historical tour of the city, in Spanish and English, including the marina, Plaza María Pita, the old town and Sir John Moore’s garden. We then caught a bus to Marineda entertainment centre for a Spanish karting activity.

On Tuesday after lessons we attended a tortilla cooking demonstration, in Spanish and English. We visited the park and after lunch walked along the beach to the aquarium. We then climbed to the top of the Torre de Hercules, the steps of the world’s oldest functioning lighthouse, to be greeted by panoramic views of the city and the Atlantic.

During lessons the next day we covered surfing vocabulary before undertaking a surfing lesson in Spanish during the afternoon. The surfing was great, with the waves getting bigger each time. Afterwards we visited the city centre to have a bit of free time in the Spanish sunshine.

The day-trip to Santiago de Compostela was a highlight of the trip. We travelled by train to visit the cathedral and the traditional centre of this beautiful city, steeped in history and a fascinating culture. We stopped off at a well-known cheese shop to sample some famous Galician cheese before lunch. The rooftop tour of the famous cathedral was a fascinating experience before returning to La Coruña in the evening.

We all returned home having considerably boosted our knowledge of the Spanish culture and language. It was an enriching experience for all the group and I would like to thank the Spanish Faculty for organising such a memorable trip.
This is the first time the School has taken U15s away by themselves to an overseas tournament. On all previous occasions they have travelled with a senior squad. Given the intense heat and busy schedule, the group acquitted themselves well and all members came out of the tour with great personal and collective credit. Issy Wong was the first girl ever to be selected for a school cricket team and returned to the UK with an enhanced reputation as a cricketer equal to all the boys we faced from home and abroad. Particular credit goes to the 3rd formers, who were not overwhelmed and returned much better placed to ensure the U14s start the season well.

As a group, they were disciplined and punctual (with a few small exceptions) and coped very well with the new and taxing environment. They were good mannered and were excellent ambassadors for the school. Apart from their dedicated application on the cricket field they absorbed the very different culture of the UAE and coped well with the arduous travelling at the beginning of the tour. Each and every one was a credit to the school and their individual houses. Apart from the accompanying staff, much credit must go Paul Pridgeon and Lauren Walker who had prepared the group well. Despite the heat and fatigue, only one boy fell ill and others managed to keep themselves going whilst not at 100%. Despite the age differences the group worked and got on well. Adam Shantry (Cricket Professional) and Gwenan Davies (Head of Girls Cricket) ensured that the group were physically and mentally well prepared for each and every match and that the cricket ran smoothly, was scored well and subsequently reported on Twitter.

Andy Barnard

TOUR SQUAD
Front row L to R: Joe Pattenden, Daniel Schofield, Issy Wong, Will Sanford-Davies, Jac Evans, Peter Clark, Jack Goodall, Jonathan Snell, Gwenan Davies

Squash

The major difference between this and my previous ten years running squash at Shrewsbury School has been the privilege of working with David Lau (O, L6). David is a quite phenomenal squash player and were he so minded certainly has the talent to play squash professionally. David has a complete armoury of shots combined with a calm and calculating mind that would place him in the top 20 players under 19 in the UK. In fact in Shropshire it is only the current professional players or recent ex professional players who are able to beat David. David has played for the Kingsland Club and has recently won its club championship. David’s play and his quiet and humble demeanour have endeared him both to his fellow pupils and the wider Shropshire squash community. Below David was Alex Webb (R, U6). Alex is the second best player I have seen at Shrewsbury in the last ten years and he never gave less than his best and always chased down the seemingly impossible ball. This was shown in the house semi-finals when playing vs David Lau. David won 77 points to 12 in 20 minutes of continuous play. Alex’s extreme effort levels and athleticism ensured some very entertaining rallies. Below these two captains, Charlie Lennox (U, M) and Stefan Hart (U, R) always worked hard and have made big strides in their games in the last 5 years. Close behind these two are the trio of Harry Wasdell (L6, Rt), Ollie Hall (5, O) and Mungo Hargreaves (L6, R). I am hopeful next year that one of these might be able to turn over one of the OS team. This year David Lau and I won but the OS who are mostly around 25 years old proved too canny although Alex Webb at third string gave it a real go. The OS team are captained and managed by Ben Stirk and OS squash continues to go from strength to strength.

House squash was won by Oldham’s beating Severn Hill in the final. David Lau beat Alex Webb in the school tournament final in English scoring 9-0 9-0 9-0 a feat he has since reproduced against myself!

Myles Harding
The annual Victoria, Sabrina and Williams Sculls took place on Saturday 17th September. The Victoria Sculls was won by Upper Sixth former Matthew Rowe (SH) ahead of a trio of Port Hill boys. The girls’ division was won by Lower Sixth new entrant Jennifer Hallsworth (EDH). The Sabrina Sculls (J16) boys event was won by Adam Pattenden (S) and girls event by Tessa Scott-Bell (MSH). The Williams Sculls (J15) boys event was won by Louis Nares (Rb) and girls event by Lara Gabbitas (EDH).

The Boat Club celebrated its annual Dinner on Thursday 22nd September, following the whole-school Sponsored Walk for the Shewsy. The rowers were treated to a fantastic and well-deserved meal for their efforts. The tremendous atmosphere was complemented by the inspiring story of Matthew Langridge’s journey from junior rower (starting out not far from Shrewsbury) to four-time Olympian in his successful quest for Gold.

Four squads of pupils raced in twenty five crew combinations to the Bedford Autumn Head. The senior girls got the season off to a great start winning the W1M3 and WJ18 doubles. The J15 boys came in 1st and 2nd in the coxed quadruple sculls event out of fifteen crews and picked up second place in both the coxed fours and doubles events. The J15 girls also recorded some encouraging results, with the fastest double coming in 2nd out of a field of twenty one crews. In the quad, the girls came 3rd and 4th out of nine crews.

Over the October half term a squad of thirty three J16 and senior rowers were treated to fantastic conditions on a week-long training camp in Laiaz, Spain. The venue provided excellent land training facilities and the Castrolo de Miño reservoir offered a large expanse of over nine kilometres of flat water to train on with barely a breath of wind throughout the week.

The squad covered a significant amount of mileage during the course of the camp and were delighted to have access to the hotels spa facilities in their down time to recover. Each evening after dinner the pupils were given a short talk by one of the coaches sharing their knowledge to help the pupils to take an active role in their personal development both on and off the water. The wealth of expertise imparted from the coaching team and the strong club ethos was great to be part of. On return the sore limbs and blistered hands were a sign of a tough week of training but after a few days rest the skills, memories and photos will be the most lasting of impacts.

Six RSSBC crews competed at the Fours Head of the River at Hammersmith on Saturday 12th November, which saw four hundred and sixty five crews racing in different events. The pick of the results came from the senior girls’ quad which came fifth in a very strong field. Twenty-one RSSBC crews entered the Northwich Autumn Head on Sunday 13th November. Six of them were the new Third Form pupils racing in their first ever race. In the WJ14 quads’ event, the girls finished 5th and 7th out of the eleven crews. In the J14 quads’ event, the boys had four crews entered and came 2nd, 6th, 9th and 11th of the eleven crews in the event. The J15 boys and girls produced the best results of the day with excellent results in all the events entered including winning both the boys’ and the girls’ quads events.

On Saturday 3rd December the Boat Club had a significant number of crews racing at both the Wycliffe Head in Gloucester and the Head of the Float in Liverpool. The Club recorded some outstanding results, with every age group for both the boys and girls squads bringing home silverware. At the Wycliffe Head there were wins for the senior boys in the Open men’s quad, coxed four, coxless four and pair. The senior girls won the Open women’s double. The J16 boys recorded wins in the J18 coxed fours, J16 coxed fours and novice quad. The J16 girls were third in the novice quad. The J15 girls came second in the J15 quad and doubles event.

At the Head of the Float the J15 boys won the novice and J16 eights events and the novice and J15 coxed quad events. The J14 boys and girls both won their respective octuple categories. The favourable river conditions continued into the Lent term and were to the benefit of the whole club as for the first time in many years all age groups took to the water in January. Two J16 eights raced at the Head of the Severn held in Worcester on Sunday 29th January. The crews both performed well, racing in the J18
category, and came away with second and third place.
The first weekend in February was another busy weekend with the majority of the club racing in either the Wycliffe Big Head or the English Indoor Ergo Championships. Over a hundred boys and girls raced at Wycliffe on the Gloucester Sharpness Canal. The Senior boys split into three eights and put in commanding performances in Elite Eights. The strongest of the three crews in both divisions produced the fastest times of the day by twenty seconds over their nearest opposition from Abingdon School. The next two boats also produced some very strong results, with the second of the three senior boats coming third and fourth in the respective divisions. The Senior Girls were not to be outdone and won the J18 Quads’ event with a winning margin of 15 seconds over the next women’s quad. The J16 girls came third in their event. The J15 girls won their event and posted a very encouraging time. The J15 boys had a strong row but had to settle for second place out of the nine crews entered. The J14s had four octuples racing, with the boys coming in first and second in their event. The girls’ octuple came third in their event.

Twelve rowers travelled to the Manchester Velodrome to compete in the English Indoor Rowing Championships. The J15 girls put in a strong performance to win bronze medals in the J16 event. The J16 boys took two teams with one racing in the J16 event and the other in the J18 event. The team in the J16 event were pushed hard over the first 1500m but then started to show their class as they developed a healthy lead to win the title in an impressive time. The J18 team held their own against the older opposition and secured a well-deserved bronze medal.

The latter half of the Lent term was characterised by some challenging racing in tough conditions. Nine Shrewsbury crews travelled to Nottingham for the Head of the Trent. All the crews managed themselves with distinction with some strong wind and stream conditions. There were impressive wins for the J14, J15 and J16 boys.

Eleven RSSBC crews raced at the West Midlands Junior Rowing Championships held in Worcester on Sunday 12th March. The event also acted as a qualifying event for the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta to be held in Nottingham in April. All of the crews put in competitive performances resulting in five gold medals and three silver medals. The following boats qualified to represent the region at the national regatta: J16 8+, J16 4+, J15 4+, WJ15 4X+ and J14 4X+.

On Saturday 18th March the Boat Club had ten crews racing at the North of England Head. The Senior, J16 and J15 girls took to the water in division one in two quads and an eight respectively. The Senior girls’ quad was the fastest women’s quad of the day and put down a fantastic time despite having to steer around four Novice eights along the course. It was a fitting first appearance and win for the girls’ new boat named the Philip Lapage. The J16 girls had a good row and had to settle for a commendable second place out of five crews in their event. Having only taken up sweep rowing in the Lent term the J15 girls showed their outstanding by dominating the J15 girls’ eight event.

It was the turn of the boy’s crews and Novice girls in the second division. The 1st VIII were not to be outdone by the Senior girls and didn’t hold back as they took first place and recorded the fastest time of the day in impressive fashion. This was the first race for the new 1st VIII boat, the Robert Beeston. The 2nd VIII and J16A VIII’s both put in very strong performances to win the J18 and J16 events respectively. The 3rd VIII put in a strong row to come forth in IM5 8s’. The J16B VIII came second to the King’s 2nd VIII in the J17 VIIIs. The J15B Quad raced over the short course in J15 quads, coming fourth. It was a great sight to see our Novice Senior girls out racing in the octuple at their first ever race.

The Boat Club took nine crews to compete at the Schools’ Head of the River on Thursday 23rd March. Unfortunately strong winds hampered the event and the decision was made to run the course over the first short section which equated to a race time of around five minutes. Gusty and wavy conditions made it challenging racing for all involved. While the crews dealt with the conditions competently it was frustrating not to be able to show the progress they have made in recent months.
The results were as follows: 1st VIII: 9th of 31, Girls 1st 4X: 11th of 29, 2nd VIII: 5th of 14, 3rd VIII: 2nd of 4, J16A VIII: 5th of 21, J16B VIII: 5th of 11, Girls J16 4X: DNF, J15A VIII: 5th of 31, Girls J15 VIII: 10th of 19.

Nine Shrewsbury crews took to the water at Dorney Lake on the last day of the Lent Term for the Junior Sculling Head. The highlight of the day was a convincing victory for the J15 boys in the octuple, retaining the title won the year before.

The WJ18 4X came 9th of 31 crews, the J16 4X 11th of 30 crews. The WJ15 8X+ came 4th of 6 crews. The J14 boys had four octuples entered and came 4th, 31st, 37th and 59th of 61 crews.

**Athol Hundermark**
Hope-Simpson Ergo Challenge

Records tumbled at the annual Hope-Simpson Ergo Challenge held in the Alington Hall on the last Monday of the Michaelmas Term.

**The overall winners were:**

**Boys:**
1st - Churchill’s
2nd - Oldham’s
3rd - Port Hill

**Girls:**
1st - Mary Sidney Hall
2nd - The Grove
3rd - Emma Darwin Hall

The winners in each year group (**record-breaking teams in bold**):

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<th>Year Group</th>
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Football 2015-16

(The Editor apologises for the omission of this report from the Summer 2016 edition of the Salopian. For the sake of completeness it has been included along with the 2016-17 season report.)

Having taken over from the retiring Mr Biggins, the traditional pre-season tour was an exciting, if slightly intimidating, way to start my tenure as Master in Charge of Football at Shrewsbury School. It provided an excellent platform for me to spend time on the grass introducing and implementing my football philosophy on a new group of players. It also provided me and Mr Hughes with a terrific opportunity to access the squad and identify areas of strength and aspects we would need to focus on and develop as the season unfolded. A first game as Shrewsbury manager against an U18 side from Rio Ave, a Premeira Liga side in Portugal, was a little tougher than I had hoped and was a real baptism of fire. However the tour would prove to be a terrific way to prepare for the start of the season.

The regular school season began on the Saturday after school started, our training continuing throughout the first week of term until Liverpool Ramblers came to town. The oldest amateur club in the world are still going strong and they regularly bring five teams to Shrewsbury on the first Saturday of the term. A game that we largely dominated on possession would see us concede two set piece goals and end up drawing 2-2. This game would largely epitomise how our season would transpire. Apart from the Bradfield game where we were beaten by a far better side, we only ever showed glimpses of our true potential. It was a disappointment to go out in Round 1 of the Boodles ISFA Cup to St Bede’s, Manchester (away) 2-1, in a game that could have gone either way. One piece of the Boodles ISFA Cup to St Bede’s, Manchester (away) 2 of our true potential. It was a disappointment to go out in Round 1 of the Boodles ISFA Cup to St Bede’s, Manchester (away) 2-1, in a game that could have gone either way. One piece of the Boodles ISFA Cup to St Bede’s, Manchester (away) 2-1, in a game that could have gone either way. One piece of

The highlight of the season in terms of performance would have to be the 3-2 win against Manchester Grammar School away. In torrential rain the boys were magnificent and thoroughly deserved the win against a side that only lost five times throughout the season. The season also saw the School enter the Shropshire County Under 19 knockout cup for the first time in six years. A terrific 7-1 victory against local rivals, Shrewsbury 6th Form College, gained a semi-final place against TNS Under 18s (Walford & North Shropshire College). Against a side that contained no fewer than eight Shropshire County players and the England Schools Under 18 international keeper we produced the most pleasing defensive and disciplined performance of the season. With three regular starting 1st XI upper Sixth players missing, the team showed great determination to take the game to extra time. Although we eventually lost the game to one of the strongest Colleges nationally we can be content with our achievements in our first season back in this tournament.

Captain Jake Morris deserves a special mention for his efforts throughout the season. Jake also represented the Shropshire Schools Under 18s County side that won the Midlands Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower sixth) also represented Shropshire Boys’ Federation for the first time in 15 years. Josh Malony (Lower six...
However that togetherness and a sheer determination not to be beaten would see us not only equalise in the final minute but eventually go on and win the tie 7-5.

Next up in the last 16 were the City of London School at home. Despite dominating large phases of the game, we again found ourselves staring at extra time until Jamie Whelan stepped up and whipped a free kick into the top corner to seal a 3-2 win with only minutes remaining. A 5-2 victory against Thomas Telford in the English Schools FA (ESFA) competition gave the boys all the confidence they needed with the quarter final looming against our local rivals, Repton. In a cagey affair the boys stood up to a strong, physical and direct Repton side to claim a deserved 2-1 victory. Josiah Chilaka grabbed the first on the stroke of half time before Josh Malyon calmly converted a penalty late on to secure the win.

The Lent term would see the 1st XI continue to operate as such as preparation started for the semi-final against Millfield away. The addition of fixtures against Hampton and Bede’s Hailsham gave the Lent term additional focus. Having already drawn 3-3 against Millfield in November, we knew that the Boodles semi-final would be a game that would be decided by the smallest of margins. And so it proved.

Having gone 1-0 down in the first five minutes, we got back on level terms through Charlie Tait-Harris. We knew going in at 2-1 down at half time wasn’t a disaster, with a strong wide behind our backs in the second half. Josh Malyon equalised from the penalty spot before we went in front for the first time in the game through a George Newton header. We couldn’t quite hold on and with five minutes remaining Millfield converted a penalty to get the game back on level terms. Patrick Jacob made a terrific save in the last minute with the Millfield striker through on goal to take the game into extra time.

The extra time period was tense, with both sides largely cancelling each other out. We did however have a half chance to win it, only for the ball to fly agonisingly past the post. In both games this season the final result ended 3-3 so this time the game would have to be decided by the dreaded penalty shoot-out. Both teams missed one out of their first five penalties. Having gone first we were only one save away from going through from penalty 5 onwards. Unfortunately we missed our 10th penalty and the Millfield captain stepped up to convert his penalty to secure a 9-8 victory. Whilst penalties are the worst way to go out of any competition, the boys can take solace from the fact that the two games that we played against Millfield this season both ended with scores of 3-3 after normal and extra time. For penalties to have to decide the game against one of the strongest, most consistent independent football School in the past five years shows just how well our boys played on the day.

Let’s hope this year’s journey is an inspiration to all our potential 1st XI footballers in the lower years.

The season wasn’t finished, however, as we gained a well-deserved 4-2 victory away against Bede’s before narrowly losing to Thomas Telford in the County Cup Final. Although it was a disappointing result to end what had been a terrific season it was testament to how far we had come as a group that we gave a Thomas Telford side, made up of 13 external Scholarship entrants to the school, such a run for their money. On the night, we just didn’t get the breaks that we possibly deserved, but that’s football.

A special mention must also go to our Under 15B team who went through the Michaelmas term unbeaten, winning all their games played. They also got through to the quarter final of the ESFA National Cup B team competition, losing 3-0 to the eventual National champions Cardinal Heenan School from Liverpool. The opportunity for all of our B teams to play in a recognised National competition has added an additional strand to a very comprehensive fixture programme available to all our footballers.

Football across all our age groups is definitely flourishing at Shrewsbury School. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the 1st XI group this year and we will sorely miss the boys that are leaving. Josh Malyon deserves a special mention as team captain. He has been a rock at the centre of defence and led the team with drive, determination and humility.

We wish all our 2017 leavers the very best with their future footballing pursuits and we hope to see them back at School as part of the Old Salopian squad in the coming seasons.

Steve Wilderspin
Season Overview
This was a season plagued with every difficulty that could have been thrown at it: every big home fixture we’d organised was cancelled for various reasons. The 1st XI footballers did brilliantly to reach the semi-finals of the ISFA cup; this did mean a mixed programme for half the term for the many fives players in that team, which seemed to carry on after the semi-final too. Our build-up to the Nationals, then, was anything but ideal, though our seniors did get some high-level games in the weeks before the competition.

National Fives Championships 2017
U15s were first to play, starting on Sunday 19th March.
Shrewsury 3 (Alex Whitworth & Tommy Price) had looked strong through their group games and had played ever better fives in the knockout matches that followed. In the last 16 they were drawn against the top seeded Harrow pair and, though they maintained the highest standards of play, Alex and Tommy couldn’t find the weapons to match the Harrovians’ consistent approach shots.

Shrewsury 2 (Tom Castling & Marcus van Wyk) were developing their game, trying not to rely as much on a big cut but earning wins in rallies. Their fast hands and breathtaking retrieving of low balls (no mean feat for two giraffes) made them a difficult pair to beat: they are ones to watch as they will develop an ability to put pairs under serious pressure in future years. This year, St Olave’s 1 had just too much accuracy and court nous for them.

Shrewsury 1 (Peter Clark & Arthur Garrett) saw off the challenge of Harrow 3 in straight games, showing an all-round ability: they retrieve very well and attack very effectively too.

Peter and Arthur played against St Olave’s 1 in their quarter final. They started well, taking a 10-4 lead in the first game which St Olave’s managed to claw back. Shrewsbury lost the game 12-13 but responded in precisely the right way, winning the next two 12-6, 12-6 despite some very impressive passages of play by the stronger Olavian player. At 5-4 ahead in the 4th, the Shrewsbury supporters headed off as the last bus home was leaving at 7:15pm. The match turned. Peter and Arthur didn’t find quite the same accuracy into the buttress that they had before nor the killer volleys. The opposition also raised their game and took chances. In the 5th game Shrewsbury went to a 1-8 deficit with a strong run of returns from the Olavians.

We fought back and held the opposition at 8 while scoring points here and there. At 8-6 they had nearly turned the tide but St Olave’s broke the drought and scored two points. Though we replied with two of our own, we couldn’t quite hang on and lost the deciding 12-8.
These are a year group to watch: a number of players all at a good level.

U16s
In the U16 tournament, all but one of our 10 pairs (5 fifth form and 5 fourth form) progressed from their groups. Particularly pleasing was that Castling & van Wyk and Clark & Garrett topped their groups. The latter pair then withdrew to be sure of being rested for their U15 quarter-final. Our 5th form players all came second in their groups, with the performance of the day coming from Will Barton and Mike Jacob – showing an intensity never seen from them before and quite possibly fuelled by the prospect of another day away from school – to play some of the best fives we’d yet seen from any of our pairs. Will’s movement and interception at the front of court was remarkable; Mike played one mid-court volley that would make it into any coaching video and is in serious contention for goal of the season, despite having been played in the wrong sport and not having resulted in a goal, but a point. Sadly they drew a seed in their next knockout round and, though they battled well, I got the sense they had thrown a lot of physical and emotional energy into their previous game and they couldn’t quite find the same intensity again. The better the opposition, the more difficult it is to maintain such energy too.

Castling and van Wyk showed real class by managing what none of the 5th form could: they made it through to the last 16 and therefore to Tuesday’s play.

Cope & Hope had a tough day: their pool was still being fought out an hour after many of the knockout rounds had started. They narrowly lost two games in this closely-matched group and found themselves in the plates, having expended much energy for little reward.

Hiro Shu and Ed Evans, playing as Shrewsburys 10, managed the impressive feat of winning the prestigious B plate (for group qualifiers eliminated in round two) – after two full days of fives.

In the senior competition, five of the seven pairs in the group stages progressed from their group. Of these, our second, third and fourth
pairs all came top. Dan Orchard and Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield were seeded so joined at the round of 32. Sam McLoughlin and Ross Orchard made short work of their 3rd round match, winning 12-6, 12-3, 12-4. Tom Bromley Davenport (returning from back trouble) and Tom Brunskill progressed smoothly until meeting the top seeds in the last 16: a tough draw.

Three senior pairs made it through to Wednesday’s last 16. Toms Brunskill and Bromley-Davenport drew top seeds St Olave’s 1 and despite getting further into the game, into longer rallies and learning what this level of fives requires, they lost in straight games. Ross Orchard & Sam McLoughlin drew Highgate 1 and saw them off in four games despite a spirited resistance to book their place in quarter finals. Dan Orchard & Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield saw off Westminster 1 without drama or trouble. The quarters therefore contained 2 Shrewsbury pairs, 2 Harrow pairs, 2 St Olave’s pairs and 2 Eton pairs.

Sam and Ross met Harrow 1 in the quarters and were unable to get into the match against this strong pair. Nonetheless, to have reached quarter-finals shows significant improvement over the sixth form from these two, who hadn’t made it close to that stage in previous years.

Adam and Dan met Eton 2 and won the first game 12-4. Eton then got into the match and we didn’t: Eton won the next two game very narrowly (14-13, 13-12) and Adam and Dan had not yet started playing the fives of which we knew them capable. It was now about the last match left on the courts (our seniors had all stayed to support) and the next two were must-win games. The fourth played out like the second and third but we won 14-12 to level at 2-2. Finally Adam found the level at which he can play and simply took over the match: we won the 5th 12-2, in almost record time. If only he’d done that three sets earlier, we’d all have been eating dinner at a respectable hour!

In the semi-finals, Dan and Adam played top seeds St Olave’s 1, a match which was going to require their best performance of them. Sadly we never found the form that had been elusive until the 5th game the previous evening; in semis not playing at our top level meant we did not really compete. The frustration started to show and didn’t help us. Nonetheless, over these two years, both have turned from competent players into genuinely dangerous ones. I hope to see them – indeed all of our leaving U6th - on the courts again in future!

The U14s
5 of the 14 Shrewsbury pairs reached the last 16 of this big tournament (Eton managed 7, Harrow 1, Westminster 1, Charterhouse 1, Lancing 1)

Among them were Ed Bayliss & Rohan McCourt, Shrewsbury 3, who were 2-0 up against Eton 4 and cruising, the opposition having visibly given up, when Eton’s coach came to watch the game. The opposition found their resolve and a real battle ensued: Eton narrowly won both the third and the fourth games to level 2-2 with the momentum theirs, but Ed and Rohan proved themselves not to be quitters by any stretch: they pulled through in the 5th and booked their spot in the quarter finals. Though it would have been easier for us if Eton had capitulated in the third game, I’m delighted they didn’t as the close encounters, strongly contested, are where players really show what they’re made of.

Four Shrewsbury pairs in the quarter finals (Eton managed two, Harrow and Westminster filled the remaining slots). Ed and Rohan joined Dan Schofield & Finn Sansom, Guy Gowar & Ted Davis and James Bermingham & Jack Fraser Andrews. Finn & Dan enjoyed a solid win over Eton 2; Guy & Ted thumped Westminster 1 12-0, 12-1, 12-5; Ed & Rohan had positional weaknesses exposed by Harrow 1 and James & Jack met a strong Eton 1 who never let them in.

Two pairs in semis: Guy and Ted now met Eton 1. They lost the first game 12-5 then let Eton run away with the second and had lost 12-0 almost before they knew it. But to their credit they showed themselves not to be capitulators and they battled in third game, losing it 12-8. It had been a good run for them and there is promise here for the future. Dan and Finn played Harrow 1 and won.

In the final, Dan and Finn, again, would need to bring their best game to compete against a technically excellent Eton pair. They did play well but seemed to be nervous throughout the match and didn’t cut or return as well as they could. Their opponents were better players but we didn’t have the day that would allow us to put them under pressure and see how they dealt with it. Dan naturally strikes a ball beautifully and Finn is an excellent, controlled athlete – given a some more consistency and a game that puts opponents under more pressure, they could be a top pair in the coming years.

Again, getting four pairs to the quarter finals demonstrates our ability to produce a number of strong pairs and credit must be given to Matt Barrett for coaching the basics of the game to the whole 3rd form year group. The fact that one of our second pair stepped onto a fives court for the first time in January and reached a semi-final shows what MWDB is able to do!

The Ladies
Nina Lange & Sophia Breese won the Ladies’ tournament despite a slip-up in game 2 of the final that left them 1-1 against a good Highgate pair which contained a two-time winner of this competition. This was the only time they looked troubled in the tournament; it’s worth noting they can still play together next year and Sophia will have another year left after that!

Isy Wong and Adelaide Sillar reached the final of the U15s but were beaten by a technically excellent Berkhamsted pair. Morgan Butler and Sophie McCormack won the Girls’ festival, playing against the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz in the final, having knocked out Adelaide Sillar and Georgie Nicholas in semis.

The girls continue to blaze a trail: to be competing against and beating pairs who have been playing for significantly longer than they have is a testament to their work and athleticism and the enthusiasm and technical coaching of Gwenan Davies and Andy Barnard. Sophia having now won the senior competition with two years left at school is testament to this rate of progress and we very much hope she will get a triple crown!

The Mixed
We entered 14 pairs into this and did well, two pairs reaching semis. Nina Lange and Dan Orchard reached the final against Highgate 1; this was 1-1 after Nina’s Ladies win and Highgate’s late arrival; given Nina had a flight to catch, it was curtailed at that point to be finished at a later date.

The revelation of the week was the Fourth Form, who were stars and were commended by opposition coaches, hotel staff and others for their excellent behaviour.

A footnote for the historians: Sophia Breese and her brother Tom therefore become the first brother and sister both to have won titles at the Schools’ Nationals since the late 1990s, early 2000s (C & S. Cooley: what became of them?).
Rugby

First XV

Rugby continues to build on its strengths in the school, and has achieved much success over the season. Each year group has made strong strides forward, with our coaching staff working hard to build on the enthusiasm shown from the boys. At 1st XV level, this has been helped with the recruitment of Peter Cook as head coach and Billy Harding as his assistant. Peter Cook’s wealth of experience from playing and coaching at the top level has helped to broaden the boys’ understanding and how to develop their game. Within the squad Oliver Dixon has been a fantastic leader of a strong squad, which gained notable victories over Wrekin College, Oswestry and Repton. Tight losses against strong opponents like Welbeck showed the nitty grit that the 1st XV had developed over the season, demonstrating increased determination and skill. The season certainly took an upward turn when some of the footballers returned to our ranks, with men such as Kwaku Antwi, Ivor Fetherstonhaugh and Angus Drummond adding pace to our back line.

It was on the Sevens circuit that the team achieved its most notable success though, with victory at the Stonyhurst 7s competition. Travelling to the depths of Yorkshire for a tough national competition, we were victorious in the plate competition – the first silverware collected by the senior squad at a national competition. This was a great success story, which shows above all the strength in rugby talent across the school.
Under 16

The Under 16s continue to be a delight to watch, and have this year maintained their high levels of success. Though blighted by injuries, this did not deter the squad from pulling together to search for victory. This great strength in depth saw them gain success against Repton 1st XV (28-12), Bishop Vessey’s 2nd XV and King Henry VIII’s 2nd XV. It was only when they came against a strong Welbeck U18 2nd XV that the U16s lost their first ever 15-a-side match at Shrewsbury after 24 consecutive wins. With this record broken, the U16s showed ever more desire to demonstrate their class, and their run in the U16 County Cup encapsulated that. Tough games against Adam’s Grammar and Abraham Darby showed their mettle, as they came from behind in each game to win. The county cup proved to be an eye-opener in the work that we need to do with game control. On a pitch with a howling gale from one end, we performed admirably to be only 3 points down at half time. With the wind on our backs, the sensible option would have been to kick the ball into the opposition 22 and make them play from there, as Wrekin had done in the first half. Alternatively we constantly tried running the ball, putting ourselves under undue pressure. This will not work at the top levels, but we were luckily saved from embarrassment by a Toby Pattinson try to win the game 5-3 and take the County Championship again.

The Sevens season proved more difficult this year, with injuries proving too difficult to overcome as our backline seemingly disappeared as we got closer to Rosslyn Park. This was a real pity, though the boys have the opportunity to do well over the next two seasons as U18s. The boys all deserve praise for their efforts so far, though special mention must be paid to Tom Plaut’s leadership, Harry Remnant’s silky running, Toby Pattinson’s speed, Frank Morris’ side-step, Joe Scott’s grunt, and Alex Schoelles’ tackling.

Under 15

At U15 level the boys have been inspirational this year. With a minimal squad of only 15 players, they have played out of their skin to register an unbeaten season, and reach the final of the County Cup. Mr Bird has been hugely impressed with the attitude of the boys, and the excellent camaraderie that is shown in both practice and matches. As they start to link up with the older boys over the next couple of years, there are clearly some exciting times ahead. Above all their destruction of Wrekin College 40-5 in the County Semi-final will live long in the memory. Special mention must be made of Oli Shutts, Frank Mansell, Harry Sutherland and Jack Goodall, who encapsulate the positive attitude and drive within the squad.

Under 14

At U14 level the large squad have not had the opportunities that they may have hoped for, but when they have arrived they have taken their chances to show some superb talent. The A team have some superb players, such as Will Stanford-Davies who has been a splendid captain, leading from the front and setting an example in his attitude to training and on match days, whilst Ed Craik has played out of position at prop despite being a skilful centre. Only losing one fixture across the whole term, the U14s again show that Shrewsbury can stand up with the best schools on the rugby front. This was most notably displayed in their tight match with Stowe School, and also in the County Cup semi-final which they won 43-10 against a solid Marches team.

All-in-all, a fantastic rugby term for Shrewsbury; the strength in depth continues to grow, whilst rugby itself flourishes with the boys demonstrating superb attitude to their sport.

Chris Cook
Back in December 2012, on a cold and windy day in Bolton when six young RSSH runners managed to place second at the national final of the ESAA Cross Country Cup, we started planning ahead. The years 2016-17 would, it was felt, be our time. Having managed in the previous three years or so to narrow the gap on the likes of the Judd and St Albans, we knew at that stage that we still had some way to go before we had a shot at eclipsing them. In this crop of young athletes, though, we felt we had a chance. And so it proved to be: in January 2016, five of those six runners ran in our ‘A’ team at the Knole Cup, and helped us to achieve Shrewsbury’s first-ever title there by a solitary point. With three of those original six runners still at the School into the 2016-17 season, we felt confident that it would be possible to build on that success this year, and perhaps even establish a platform for future dominance of cross country running.

However, with Mr Middleton’s decision to move on to his Senior Leadership role in the School, and with the passing through of talented runners like Oscar Dickins, Ben Remnant and Henry Newbould, this season would be far from straightforward, and there would necessarily be an element of transition. Nevertheless, spurred on by the leadership of Huntsman Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R), one of the biggest running talents the School has witnessed in decades, supported ably by our whips, Will Hayward (R) and Scott Hatton (S), we were very well served by boys at the top of the School. Moreover, the membership of the Hunt has grown every year in the last decade, and with this kind of depth we’ve got a great opportunity to build for the future. We’re also pleased with the direction that girls’ running is now taking, though the loss of a very strong U6 year group from 2016 left us a little bereft at the top of the School.

It was very exciting, then, to see some excellent talent coming through in the Third and Fourth forms.

The Michaelmas Term provided its usual highlights of the Third Form Race, the Tucks, and the Paperchases – three excellent examples of House sport. In the Third Form Race, held on the first Saturday of the term, an exciting new crop of runners was evident over the historic ‘Benji’ course of 1.5 miles. There were particularly strong runs from Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R), winning the boys’ race in an impressive 8:16 (equaling the second-fastest time in this race), while in the girls’ event Francesca Harris kicked off an exceptional season with an astonishing time of 8:25, setting a new girls’ record. Severn Hill managed to pip Rigg’s to the boys’ House title, while Francesca’s run helped Emma Darwin Hall to the girls’ win ahead of Mary Sidney in second.

In the Tucks, held on the last day before the October Exeat, Rigg’s felt confident of victory in the boys’ race, with Freddie Huxley-Fielding and Will Hayward being ably supported by the likes of Owen Mock, Niklas Amthor and Tom Jackson. Conditions were perfect for a quick time, and Freddie – who despite his dominance of School running in recent years had yet to claim a Tucks win – led from the front and was never seriously challenged. His time of 18:16 was particularly impressive given that the course was probably around 300m longer than last year’s. Will Hayward took a predictable second, but Severn Hill put up a strong fight, with three runners inside the top six. The run of the day could arguably be from Sam Western (PH), who as a fourth former managed to place 7th, showing what a bright future of running he’s got ahead
of him. Francesca managed another storming performance to win the girls’ race by almost three minutes, placing 26th among the boys! Lillian Wilcox (EDH) took second, also an impressive achievement from a 4th former. This enabled EDH to claim another House title, ahead of MSH by 16 points. In the boys’ House race, Rigg’s prevailed despite a strong challenge from Severn Hill, winning by 19 points, with Churchill’s forty points further back.

The Paperchases was a chance for the Hunt members to show off the form they’d built up over the term. In the U15 House race, Tom Jackson (R) set off at an electrifying pace that everyone thought would mean he tied up before the end, but in actual fact he’d judged this short course just right and claimed victory by a good margin. He’s an exciting talent and likely to be leading the line for us in a couple of years with the progress he’s making. Louis Nares (Rb) managed to place second, ahead of Sam Western in third. Rigg’s bagged another overall victory, ahead of Port Hill in second and Severn Hill in third. The girls’ U15 House race was won, rather predictably, by Francesca Harris, again ahead of Lillian Wilcox in second, and Lucy Lees – who has shown tremendous potential as a runner this year – making it an all-EDH podium. In the Senior race, results closely mirrored the Tucks, with a Huxley-Fielding/Hayward one-two, and the top Houses – Rigg’s, Severn Hill and Churchill’s – taking the same positions. In the Senior Girls’ race, Huntswoman Immie Evans (G) managed to take victory ahead of Sophia Dixon (MSH). This enabled the Grove to claim their first running title of the season, ahead of EDH in second.

The last week of the Michaelmas Term also provided an excellent opportunity for our Hunt runners to learn from one of the world’s top coaching talents, Gavin Smith, who stayed with us for a week as our third ‘Coach in Residence’. Gavin has worked with some of the world’s best runners in Kenya, and has since started up his own online coaching company. In a very busy week, he provided practical and theory sessions, as well as some group discussions with our top runners in helping them to prepare for big races. This support proved extremely helpful, not just to the runners, but to our coaching staff, who all learned a great deal from his insights and experience.

The end of term also saw the national final of the ESAA Cross-Country Cup, for which our intermediate boys (3rd and 4th form) had managed to qualify. In an exceptionally strong field, our boys managed to place 10th overall,
with Tom Jackson running very strongly to take 13th place, while Louis Nares (Rb) and Paddy Barlow (R) both placed in the forties. This was the first time we’d managed to qualify for the final since 2013, and to place 10th was a tremendous achievement for them, and is testament to the potential that this young crop of runners has over the next two or three years. It’s also a mark of their ambition that as a team they were a little disappointed with this, having hoped to sneak into the top five.

Before the beginning of the Lent Term, we took a handful of runners to mid-Wales in the beginning of January for a pre-season camp, based near Rhayader. This was suggested by our senior whip, Wil Hayward (who just happens to live up the road), and it proved to be an excellent choice. In some pretty chilly conditions, we managed to get some fantastic training in, making the best of the area’s stunning landscape. As well as being a great opportunity to sharpen up the training done over the Christmas break, this was also a chance for the team to come together and foster a real cohesion. The closeness of this group, and the way they helped each other get through the difficult morning sessions, reminded me of what this club is all about.

Our key focus in the early part of the Lent Term was of course our attempt to retain the Knole Cup that we won for the first time in 2016. We felt quietly confident as we arrived at the snow-covered course, but we had no way of knowing how well prepared our rivals would be, and the course itself is so tough that it’s impossible to predict how each individual will respond to the challenge. In the event, the performance by the Hunt was tremendous. While last year we won by a solitary point, this year our winning margin was significantly larger, aided considerably by the performances of both Freddie Huxley-Fielding, who managed to win the individual title (the first time since 1998 that Shrewsbury School has managed to achieve this), and Wil Hayward in third. With support from Harry Remnant (Ch) in 16th, Charlie Tait-Harris (S) in 20th, Sam Western in 35th, Cameron Anwyl in 42nd and Owen Mock (R) in 44th, our strength in depth enabled us to take a convincing victory.

In the girls’ race, Francesca stunned everyone by finishing third – this from a third former, against very dedicated, experienced sixth-form runners. If anyone had any doubts about the extent of her potential, they were put to rest after this performance. Further back the field, there were strong runs from Lillian Wilcox in 38th (herself only a fourth former), Immie Evans in 47th, and Lucy Lees in 50th.

Soon after the success of the Knole, we were focussing our attention on our next big challenge, the King Henry VIII relays at Coventry. The school last won this event back in the 1990s, and it’s been a goal of ours for many years to get our name back on the winners’ board. We had hoped that this might be our year, but sadly we
didn’t quite get the luck we needed. Monty Hardcastle (I) came down with glandular fever, and Charlie Tait-Harris (S), who has been a top performer at Coventry for the past few three years, was unavailable because of a clash with the football 1st XI, so we were always going to find this one difficult. What we weren’t quite prepared for was just how good the opposition was, and it’s great for the competition that the quality of the top ten schools has gone up so much in recent years. Schools like St Anselm’s, Sedbergh and Loughborough Grammar have made tremendous strides forward in recent years and these are now very much the teams to beat, as well as the traditional stalwarts of the Judd and St Albans. In the end, we weren’t quite as competitive as we’d have liked, placing 6th overall. However, the two teams just ahead of us – Sedbergh and St Albans – were only two seconds ahead of us, and we were less than forty seconds behind St Anselm’s in second. Loughborough Grammar managed a fantastic performance to take the win by nearly two minutes, and it’s perhaps some comfort to us to know that, even at our very best with a full-strength team, they would have been unbeatable. In the girls’ race, Shrewsbury finished a creditable 18th. With only one of the four legs run by a sixth former, and two run by third formers, it’s clear that this team has the chance to improve considerably over the next two or three years.

The season closed with very strong performances at MANISCCC at Oundle, where again Freddie managed to take the victory. We were pipped by Sedbergh into second place in the Senior Boys’ team race, but did manage to claim the Colts victory, with great performances by Paddy Barlow and Tom Jackson (who claimed the individual win). In the Midlands League, we also managed to claim overall league win in the Colts, having been ably served by the likes of Jackson, Barlow, Watts, Western, Hamilton-Russell and Clarkson Webb over several races. The Spring Relays were held at Attingham Park for only the second time since moving from Birmingham’s Sutton Park, and this time it fell to the RSSH to host. It’s a beautiful course, and we took full advantage of ‘home soil’, winning the boys’ race by some distance. The girls managed to place third. The final event of the year was even closer to home: the Steeplechases, held on the last day of the Lent term. Beautiful weather greeted us for this special House race, a relay in five legs around the School site. Rigg’s were strong favourites, but Churchill’s put on an excellent display in the first three legs and were in the lead when Harry Remnant crossed the line, but the speed of Will Hayward, followed by Freddie Huxley-Fielding, proved unmatchable. Churchill’s managed second, with Severn Hill taking the last of the medal positions ahead of School House. In the girls’ race, the Grove took a convincing victory ahead of Mary Sidney Hall, with Emma Darwin Hall taking third. Overall then, it’s been an impressive season for both boys and girls. While we were disappointed not to place higher at Coventry, the satisfaction of retaining the Knole Cup certainly eclipses this. The many individual and team successes, especially among the younger years, suggest that the club is in rude health as we prepare for the 2017-18 season.

Ian Haworth
Lacrosse

It has been a good lacrosse season, with the U15 team having school fixtures against Haberdasher’s Monmouth and Moreton Hall as well as a North Schools’ tournament. The tournament was fast and furious, each match consisting of two ten-minute halves with no half time, and with only two minutes’ break between each match. We were victorious against Queen’s Chester, Timperley and Mellor and only lost by one goal to Queen Margaret’s York.

The U15 county trials also took place during the Lent Term, with more Shrewsbury players selected than ever before.

Georgia Kannreuther (MSH IV) and Poppy Collingwood-Cameron (EDH IV) were both selected for the A team. Annabel Naylor (G IV), Mary Lees (EDH IV), Willa Bowman (MSH III) and Lucy Lees (EDH III) were selected for the B team along with Laura Elliott (G IV) who was selected as Captain.

The senior lacrosse focus for the term was the National Championships, which were played in Guildford. Six games on day 1 would determine which division we played in on day 2. The girls played some superb lacrosse to finish the day with three wins and three loses. This meant we qualified for Division 1 (one division down from the main ‘Championship Division’), which was a great achievement and an improvement on last year when the team only reached Division 2.

Although pleased to have reached Division 1, it obviously meant much tougher games for the girls on day 2, and the team were visibly tentative going into match 1. However, once the nerves settled they proved that they were up to the challenge, winning their first game 6-4 against Withington. Unfortunately, they narrowly lost the next two games, which meant that they drew St Paul’s in the knock-out stages. Although they fought hard, they were unable to able to break down St Paul’s defence and lost 0-3. Nevertheless, it was a great performance from the whole team, with special mention to Phoebe Wasdell (MSH V), Mimi Ashworth (EDH V), Mimi Mason-Hornby (G IV) Clemmie Baynes (G IV) and the Captain Imo Luczy-Wyhowska (G UVI).

Netball

This year we have been able to field more netball teams than ever before: nine in total, seven of which have had regular fixtures throughout the season. We had a total of 52 fixtures during the Lent Term. The 1st team found it tough going but continued to improve as a squad throughout the season. Jenimna Price (EDH UVI) captained the side well, always full of enthusiasm and keen to develop team play. The 1st team finished the season with some of their best play in a tournament at Malvern St James: a great 9-8 win over the hosts was the highlight of the day.

With a full quota of Fifth Form girls for the first time, the senior netball teams had strong numbers and great depth. This meant that the 2nd team won seven out of their 11 games with a goal difference of +70 and the 3rd team remain unbeaten with a goal difference of +71. The 2nd team was led superbly by Eily Kerr (EDH UVI), who was an inspiration to all with her work ethic and tactical understanding. The 3rd team were much stronger than most oppositions and recorded large wins over King’s Chester, Ellesmere College and Adams’ Grammar School. They were led by Katie Edwards (EDH UVI), whose movement and accurate shooting ensured a very successful season.

There has been much success with the junior netball this term, with both the 14A and 15A teams dominating most school fixtures, resulting in goal differences of +25 and +99 respectively. The U15 team finished on a high at the county tournament, coming runners-up. The U14 had already had their county tournament last term and were also runners-up, which meant they qualified for the Midlands finals in January. On a cold and wet day, there was some very tough opposition, but the new young team played well despite missing key players through injury. All in all, a good season for the A teams and exciting to see what can be achieved in the future. It was also great to have both 14B and 15B sides for the first time, demonstrating the depth we have in school netball.

Nicola Bradburne
**Shooting**

During the Easter holiday, Hattie Bramwell (EDH IV) spent 12 days competing with the Under-19 GB Rifle Team against teams from South Africa, Canada and Australia in the South African Fullbore Bisley Championships.

Shooting 42,000 rounds over the 12 days of competition and in temperatures of 35 degrees, it was a test of stamina as well as skill. The GB team did exceptionally well, winning three team medals and a number of individual medals. Hattie was not only the youngest member of the GB team – and indeed of the whole competition – but she was also the most decorated, winning a total of eight individual medals.

The Under-19 Fullbore shooting competitions were completed over many distances ranging from 300 to 1,000 yards using open sights. The rounds fly at 3,000 per second and at longer distances it can take up to a second for them to reach the target. So the rifle shooter not only has the rifle and target to contend with, but also the wind – which can cause havoc. They must interpret the wind by watching the wind flags which are on the range and adjusting their sights accordingly.

“The GB U19 Rifle team 2017 consisted of eight shooters, three girls and five boys, from all over Britain, as far as Guernsey to Northern Ireland” Hattie explains. “Our three-and-a-half-week tour was split into three main sections: acclimatisation, competition and R&R. “During the acclimatisation we did some physical fitness to get used to the altitude as well as team bonding activities. By the time the shooting started, we had begun to get used to the heat, reaching up to 37°C. However, the slight glitch was that, having been used to T-shirts and shorts, we now had to shoot in a thick jumper and shooting jacket, which is made of canvas and leather, so on the first day we were all boiling! The distances we were shooting ranged from 300m all the way back to 900m.

“The team as a whole were very successful, especially as the pressure was on after last year’s team broke a junior record in one of their shoots. We won all three of our matches against the South African U19s, which was fantastic.

“Some of us also went on to get individual medals in the individual part of the competition, which lasted for 12 days straight. I somehow managed to get eight individual medals. My coach at Shrewsbury, Tom Rylands, who is an Old Salopian, was also shooting for the Senior GB team who won all their matches too, beating countries such as Australia, Canada, America and, of course, South Africa. This is only the second time a current Salopian and OS have been on the same rifle tour. Tom will also be shooting with the GB team in Canada this summer, when I will be shooting with the British Cadet Rifle Team out there too.

“The final part of the tour was great fun, as we had a day in the Kruger as well as doing other activities like white water rafting and tree canopy zip lining.

“I was extremely lucky to be part of such an amazing tour and I hope future Salopians can go on to do the same.”

**Equestrian**

L-R: Lyonel Tolleighache, Paddy Barlow, Scott Walker, Freddie Blanchard-Butter, Will Blanchard-Butter, Bertie Speed, Esther McLaughlin, Jim Sheppe (Master in Charge), Ned Moreau (Milo Herbert not pictured)

Lily Freeman-Attwood at Bonheiden

Shrewsbury School equestrians have had considerable success in recent months. Lily Freeman-Attwood (EDH IV) claimed two ‘grand prix’ titles at the Bonheiden Youth Festival in Belgium during the Easter holiday: riding a new pony, Valmy de Treille, she won the big tour 1.25m pony grand prix; and on her trusty steed Topspin, with whom she had considerable success last year, she won the junior 1.40 grand prix. Lily has also qualified with her pony Capability Brown for the Pony Foxhunter Championship Final at the Horse of the Year Show, which takes place in October. In May, she competed as part of the GB squad for the Nations Cup, held in the Netherlands. And at the end of the Summer term, riding Valmy de Treille, she won the very prestigious Charles Britton Equestrian Construction Winter JA Classic title.

Jack Ashworth (S UVI) on Kafka and Thomas Tulloch (R UVI) on Bally Blackjack, have been selected to ride for the North Wales and West Midlands team at the National Under-18 Eventing Championships this summer. Both boys already compete at Under-21 level and have had wins and excellent results throughout the season.

At the end of the summer term, the Shrewsbury School Polo players acquitted themselves well at the SUPA National Championships, which were held at Kirtlington Polo Club near Oxford. With a roughly equal number of wins and losses, the two teams earned middling rank places in the prize-giving.

The A Team, captained by Scott Walker (SH LVI) and assisted by Freddie and Will Blanchard-Butter (both SH LVI) and Milo Herbert (R V), beat a Stowe team in their first chukka but went on to win against a combined side and Felsted. Bertie Speed’s (I LVI) combined Bradfield team lost their first two chukkas but, in perhaps the most vivid aristeia of the afternoon he seized control of the ball from a Marlborough side and led his team to an elegantly achieved victory.

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The B team, captained by Esther McLaughlin (EDH UVI) and reinforced by Ned Moreau (R V), Paddy Barlow (R IV) and Lyonel Tolleighache (Rt LVI), fell to another Stowe side in their first chukka but went on to win against a combined side and Felsted. Bertie Speed’s (I LVI) combined Bradfield team lost their first two chukkas but, in perhaps the most vivid aristeia of the afternoon he seized control of the ball from a Marlborough side and led his team to an elegantly achieved victory.
“Wenn ich Kultur höre, entsichere ich meinen Browning” (roughly translated: “When I hear the word ‘culture’, that’s when I reach for my revolver”) has been attributed to Hermann Goering. The Reichsmarschall would have found himself particularly trigger-happy over the past six months, if he had surveyed Old Salopians singing as a choir in St Mary-le-Bow, enjoying Evensong at Westminster Abbey, playing with the School Orchestra at Cadogan Hall, and viewing an extraordinary exhibition of Canaletto’s paintings in The Queen’s Gallery.

Nor have our OS sportsmen been idle. Semi-finalists in the Arthur Dunn Cup (football), finalists in the Barber Cup (Fives), and finalists later this year in the Grafton Morrish (golf) – these have been just some of the highlights in the plethora of sports currently being played by our alumni and alumnae.

After yet another memorable Birmingham Dinner and university gatherings at Oxford and Cambridge (a programme we are keen to expand to further universities), the Club embarks this autumn on its usual busy programme, starting with Old Salopian Day on Saturday 30th September. All Old Salopians are welcome to the day’s activities, but the evening dinner will concentrate on those who left the School pre-1957, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, and 1997, together with Housemasters and staff from those eras. We very much hope that Salopians from those years will seize this once in a decade opportunity.

The Club office has seen a change in personnel, with Kate Hodge succeeding Janet Scholes as Events and Administrative Officer. Janet departed in early April with our immense thanks for all she achieved in her two years as Administrator.

Meanwhile the Director staggers on………

Floreat Salopia
Nick Jenkins

Salopian Club Events

Christmas Drinks Parties in London, Birmingham and Shrewsbury

Once again the Salopian Club seasonal drinks parties saw record numbers of OS attending and enjoying the three very different and enjoyable events.

Around 220 Old Salopians of all ages attended City Drinks at the Travellers Club in Pall Mall. Some were 2016 leavers and the oldest was 88! Prior to the gathering, the AGM of the Salopian Club took place in the Old Still Room at the Club and this also saw a good turnout of some 25-30 OS. The meeting was productive and lively, with most present engaging in the various discussion points, and some of this continued on to the drinks party upstairs. The Headmaster, Mark Turner, thanked the assembled OS for all the support given to the School and summarised some of the recent and future developments.

The Birmingham Drinks Party was held at All Bar One, Newhall Street. We were fortunate to be joined this year by a small group of current Postors and a number of young OS who are living or studying in the Birmingham area, as well as many familiar faces from the West Midlands area. Our thanks, as ever, go to Richard Woodgate (Rt 1954-59) for organising the event.

We welcomed some 120 Old Salopians, current and former parents and members of staff to Christmas Drinks in the Alington Hall on 2nd December, where they enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine, champagne and canapés before many made their way across to Chapel for the Carol Service.

Old Salopian Thai Gathering

Old Salopians living and working in Thailand met up shortly before Christmas at ‘Beer Belly’ 72 Courtyard, in the trendy Thonglor area of Bangkok. The organiser and OS Rep in Thailand Stuart Markes (S 1992-97) reports:

It was a really nice turnout and everyone was in a festive mood, with many people back on vacation from university and us older ones on Xmas/New Year holiday. We had a turnout of approximately 27, including the girls who can more than hold their own with the ‘Shrewsbury banter’ plus a couple of British Old Salopians who just happened to be in Thailand at the time. We reminisced about our former teachers and there were plenty of loud cheers for Colonel Jenkins and for some reason also Mr Giles Bell seems to be quite popular amongst the Bangkok-based Old Salopians.
We ate, drank, talked, joked, laughed and just thoroughly enjoyed the night. A special mention must go to Peera Rayamas (R 1992-97) who was the most senior of the attendees. The mix was nice, ranging from those of us who went to school in the late 90s/early 2000s to those who graduated last summer, and represented nearly all the boarding houses. Now we are all looking forward to the next meeting.

**Oxford Students’ Gathering**

Old Salopians studying in Oxford were invited to a gathering in the King’s Arms on Friday 3rd February. The event was organised by Ed Carroll (Ch 2010-15) and there was a good turnout of students from the various Oxford Colleges and Oxford Brookes. A very good evening was had by all.

**Salopian Club Sports Committee Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Salopian Club Sports Committee took place on 22nd February at the offices of Stephenson Harwood, Finsbury Circus. OS sporting representation has been increasing steadily and it was good to see that there was a great turnout, with most sports represented.

**The Salopian Club Annual Birmingham Dinner**

Richard Woodgate and his Birmingham Committee can always be relied upon to produce a typically stylish Salopian evening, and this year’s OS Birmingham Dinner proved no exception. The cuisine was better than ever, the musical entertainment from John Moore and his pupil singers never disappoints, and our President, Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, eloquently addressed the Salopian gathering without a note. Even without the presence of some regulars who had unaccountably absconded to the Cheltenham Festival, almost 40 Salopians sat down to dinner. As always, one of the spring highlights of the Salopian calendar.

**Young OS Party**

Despite the counter-attraction of Six Nations Rugby on a Friday evening, about 60 young OS gathered in the lively surroundings of the Blues Kitchen, Brixton, on the evening of Friday 10th March for drinks accompanied by welcome platters of food. Although audibility became more of a problem as the music volume increased (?), OS contemporaries clearly enjoyed meeting up and look forward to another gathering planned for the summer. Particular thanks are due to the Joint Young OS Chairs, Henry Unwin and Felicity Davies, for organising such a successful evening.

**Annual Salopian Gathering in Dubai**

This year’s annual Dubai Salopian get together was held at the very swanky Wakame Japanese fusion restaurant in the heart of Dubai’s ‘Old Town’. There was a slight gap in the rain with the government’s seed clouding programme, which brought about a perfectly clear evening. Guests were greeted with a well-mixed ‘welcome cocktail’ in the specially sectioned-off bar area peppered with the Salopian coat of arms to make everyone feel right at home to mingle and get to know one another.

A month earlier, my wife and I had the hard task of carrying out a menu fact-finding exercise at the restaurant. Having been over-satisfied with their selection of dishes, we were confident and excited for everyone to experience the selected culinary delights that were on our set menu.

It was great to see several existing Salopian parents invited by the School, as well as the Salopians in the region who attended: 1st VIII rowers Iain Jones and Mark Towers; fellow Severn Hill contemporaries Nick Green (who travelled from Bahrain especially); his brother Julian Green (who travelled from Abu Dhabi) and Nik Tryggvason; Mark Anderson, who also travelled for the event especially from Bahrain; Dubai residents Edward Gallagher, Tom Keep, Mike Rigby, Kartike Kathuria, newbie Ben Jones and myself; James Fielding, who runs a polo academy and has represented the England team; and finally world-famous surgeon Dr Jaffer Khan, who sadly had to leave early for an emergency.

It was wonderful to hear from the School’s representative, Kathy Campbell, about recent news from Shrewsbury and equally to hear everyone’s personal Salopian news before tucking into the 5* supper accompanied by free-flowing drinks. After supper, many of the Old Salopians and their partners continued the evening on the roof-top bar with stunning views of the city, which capped off another thoroughly memorable Salopian evening in Dubai.

For any Old Salopians moving to the UAE and wishing to be a part of the Salopian community, please feel free to contact me at rupert.connor@gmail.com.

Floreat Salopia

Rupert Connor (S 1992-97)
John Cross (Rt 1939-43) was awarded a Commendation and Badge by the Chief of Army Staff, Nepalese Army, in March 2017. Part of the citation is: “...His contributions to the noble profession of arms, in particular to Jungle Warfare and Counter Insurgency, have been keenly studied and largely internalised by the Nepalese Army, as was his advice on setting up the Nepalese Army Rangers.” John comments: “I need not say I am inordinately proud to have it and bow my head in gratitude at the unexpected. It is a British first. Floreat to you all.”

Charles Talbot (O 1945-49) was appointed an MBE in the New Year’s Honours and invested by the Princess Royal on 25th April 2017.

Keith Ferris (R 1944-48) writes: I regret that I haven’t featured in any newsworthy triumphs. My only contribution to world literature has been an occasional letter in the national press (Daily and Sunday Telegraphs, The Independent, The Week and, suitably, “The Oldie”) and in some more unlikely publications such as The Kent Messenger, The Campbeltown Courier, The Greenwich Visitor, Het Zwolse Kourant (Netherlands) and “Big Band Jump” (US)!

Sam Berry (Ch 1948-53) writes: The note from Robin Butler in the Winter 2016 edition of The Salopian recalling Adolf Morath and the book A Portrait of Shrewsbury School sparked long submerged memories for me. For some reason I was given the task of showing Morath around the site, one of the results being a photograph of me (or rather, of the back of my neck) taken from the roof of the Alington Hall. Another photograph in the book is the Biology Vth, of which I was a member. The original print has been doctored (censored?) to remove both the benignly overseeing John Woodroffe and me. At the time (summer 1953) I had been given the offer of a place to read medicine in Cambridge, but I got cold feet about this and told my house master (Alec Binney) that I didn’t really like people enough to be a good doctor. His response was to send a telegram “Berry reading biology” to Cambridge. I did indeed spend the next three years reading biology, although I had to bow out of zoology because I was very bad at drawing and of botany because I couldn’t remember the names of plants. That left genetics, which was somewhat hazardous because I couldn’t (and can’t) cope with calculus and my Cambridge professor (Sir Ronald Fisher) had more or less invented the subject. This meant I had to leave Cambridge after my first degree and before Fisher discovered my no-doubt culpable incompetence. I moved to do a PhD at University College London (ironically in a Department previously headed by Fisher).

My time in Cambridge was not wholly mis-spent. I went on to a career as an academic geneticist (Lecturer, Reader, then 26 years as a Professor); the first two books I wrote were Teach Yourself Genetics (based on my lectures to first year university students) and Adam and the Ape, an account of the compatibility (indeed, the complementarity) of evolutionary biology and biblical Christianity.

Genetics changed radically during my time at Cambridge. A few months before I started my degree, a somewhat mature postgraduate in my college, Francis Crick, had published a paper proposing a “Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid” (i.e. DNA), in collaboration with a brash young American, Jim Watson. Fifty years later (2003), my son Andrew (Ch 1975-80, by then teaching at Harvard, co-authored a book DNA: the Secret of Life celebrating the Golden Jubilee of this discovery, with the same Jim Watson.

David Gilkes (M 1949-54): see article on page 64

Anthony Wieler (Ch 1950-55) While a student at Oxford University in 1957, Anthony Wieler founded the Oxford University Modern Pentathlon Association and organised the first ever match against Cambridge University. He attended the 60th anniversary Varsity Match versus Cambridge in April 2017.
Christopher Booker (Rt 1951-56) celebrates 30 years living quietly and happily in a delightful old rectory on the Somerset Mendip hills, where he enjoys occasional walks with his holiday neighbour Richard Hudson, Housemaster of Churchill's. He continues to write a weekly column in the Sunday Telegraph, much annoying his readers by criticising the way the Government is setting about Brexit, and is now the only Salopian left contributing 'satirical' material to Private Eye. He is currently completing a learned paper for the Global Warming Policy Foundation provisionally entitled The Great Global Warming Scare: A Case Study in Groupthink (which should annoy a few more people, especially if they don't read it). He has two sons, one of whom runs a successful university-related company in India, together with his clever Indian wife who has at last presented him with a beautiful little grand-daughter. The other runs a business called Lights of London, making stylish lampshades in Bethnal Green.

Anthony Cordle (I 1953-57) After 35 years of marriage, my wife Miranda passed away in August 2001. I was very fortunate to remarry Cathy Buchanan, whose South African husband Loggie had also died. We live in Constantia just outside Cape Town and the family owns a private game reserve, Mount Camdeboo which is two or three hours north of Port Elizabeth in the Karoo. It is run as a commercial business and visitors are more than welcome (www.mountcamdeboo.com). I visit London two or three times a year to visit family and friends.


Guy (a.k.a. Nick) Faber (Ch 1956-61) writes: I spent my working life as a solicitor in Harrogate in North Yorkshire until about a year ago when we moved to North Oxford to be nearer children in London and Cheltenham. I've left most of my old mates and acquaintances in Yorkshire so it would be good to meet up occasionally with any Os's based in or near Oxford who might remember me (or indeed who don't!) for a coffee or pub lunch somewhere in these parts. As my legal career is more or less behind me, I now spend much of my time writing speeches for almost any important occasion - weddings probably being the most popular. Otherwise my interests are largely of the sporting variety - racing, football, rugby etc.

Robert Law (Ch 1954-59) neglected to include his email address in the last edition of The Salopian. He would be delighted to receive news of his contemporaries on ro.law@btinternet.com

Selby Whittingham (S 1955-59) writes: We have just celebrated J.M.W. Turner's birthday (23rd April) with a party, as we do every year. Among those attending were curators from the Watts Art Gallery, a visit to which we plan in June with a number of Old Salopians. It is commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of G.F. Watts and has launched a forum on museums devoted to particular artists, on which I organised a colloquium and tours in Paris in 1990. The Watts Artists Village near Guildford has undergone a transformation in recent years. Also worth a visit is Turner's villa at Twickenham, Sandyoncombe Lodge, reopening this summer after extensive restoration. Its late owner benefited from the advice of Tony Rushton (Os and Private Eye).

1960-69

Mike Popham (M 1956-61) was made a Life Member of the National Union of Journalists on 9th March 2017. He also continues as a committee member of the UK branch of the Commonwealth Journalists Association.

Charles Martell (O 1959-64) Cheesemaker to HRH the Prince of Wales and Royal Warrant Holder, is in nomination as High Sheriff of Gloucestershire 2018-2019 subject to Her Majesty's approval.

Stephen Wright (S 1960-64) celebrated his 70th birthday in December 2016 with friends at the London Rowing Club where he has been an active member of the recreational squad since 1999. He retired from the Diplomatic Service in 2007 with a knighthood in the Order of St Michael and St George after a career of 39 satisfying years of diplomacy culminating as British Ambassador to Spain. This also gave him the opportunity to scull in Brussels, Washington DC and outside Madrid. Now he is observing with as much calm as he can manage the dismantling of a life's work as we prepare to leave the EU.

Tim Cawkwell (Rt 1961-65) has published his second cricket book, The Tale of Two Terriers and the Somerset Cat, about the contest for the cricket county championship in 2017 which was unprecedentedly exciting. (See Publications)

Col. Robert Wilsey (M 1962-67) (See Publications)

Darryl Walker (DB 1964-68) will be holding an Exhibition of Paintings at the Bear Steps Gallery, Shrewsbury from Sunday 6th August – Saturday 19th August 2017 http://www.art-pipedreams-online.co.uk/

John Byle (DB 1965-69) stepped down in 2017 after 16 years as Executive Director of the Rift Valley Institute, a research and public information organisation established in Eastern Africa by himself, Jok Madut Jok and Philip Winter. He continues as Legrand Ramsey Professor of Anthropology at Bard College, NY. In 2016 he was a Fellow at the Cullman Center at the New York Public Library; in 2018 he will be George Soros Chair at the Central European University in Budapest.
1970-79

Clive Bonny (M 1966-71) Clive’s herbal botanical drinks www.SlimRoast. Ltd have been voted National Winners by 300,000 Health and Fitness magazine readers for supporting wellness and fitness in people of all ages and abilities. Clive has also published a new online e-book Writing Rites and Wrongs on good and bad use of English Language. (See Publications)

1980-89

Mark Jerome (M 1972-77) has left KPMG after 25 years and has been appointed head of Internal Audit at the Green Climate Fund.

Phil Robinson (Db 1976-81), formerly Residential Agency Manager for a leading Surveyors practice in Shrewsbury, is currently in the process of setting up his new business as a Financial Adviser and Associate Partner with St James’s Place Wealth Management and will continue to be based in Shropshire.

Nick Gill (O 1970-75) writes:
Having worked all my career in the utility sector in the areas of electrical engineering, health and safety and risk, I stopped full-time work in 2011. By this time, I had worked in the local electricity distribution company and then, when it merged with the water distribution company, I worked for both. Who said electricity and water don’t mix?! I returned to work for the local electricity company the following year, but on a four-day week basis for six months. Then, three years later(’), I stopped and created my own risk consultancy, which I have been doing now, part-time, for just over two years. I am currently pursuing Non-Executive and charity opportunities.

I live in Hale, south of Manchester and have a lovely family, having married Di in 1984. We have three children: our elder son is an officer in the Welsh Guards; our younger son works for a creative marketing company in Media City; and our daughter is in her final year at Nottingham University. Lacrosse is a keen interest for all my family, along with triathlon competitions (especially for my wife). I try to keep up by swimming, cycling and playing tennis each week. In fact, as I rapidly approach my 60th year, I am entering my first triathlon.

Vice Admiral Clive Johnstone, CB, CBE (SH 1977-81) writes: I left school having loved life – lived to the full – at Shrewsbury. Leaving seemed to pass in a rush and it has only been recently that I have realised how much I missed the reassurance of the grounds, river and the people as soon as I left it. Travelling seems to be the thread that binds everything together from then on. Joining the Navy (with John King), Durham University and Britannia Royal Navy College followed. Deploying to most points of the Compass as my career evolved, I went on to serve in ships ranging from Minesweepers to Aircraft Carriers. Indeed, I was privileged to serve on HMY Britannia during its last major cruise to take part in the handover of Hong Kong. Alongside operational assignments in and off Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Kosovo, Iraq, the Horn of Africa and Lebanon, I had the most incredible luck to meet and marry Alison Duguid (a professional opera singer) and now many years later we have two daughters emerging from their own A level rush.

Staff posts and senior assignments in the Royal Navy and Whitehall have followed command of little and big ships at sea – an unforgettable experience and a very great honour. Sadly the seagoing life comes to an end, leaving this ‘fish’ out of water; wrestling with policy, personnel, operations and training issues from a desk. In October 2015 lady luck smiled and I took command, as Vice Admiral, of NATO’s Alliance Maritime Command – NATO’s Maritime Commander and the Maritime Advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

When not working, I mentor elite sportsmen and help run Royal Navy & Royal Marines Football and Boxing. It’s a lovely way to stay in touch with the heart of the Navy and nurture young people and their prodigious talent. I am also very proud to be a workplace champion for diversity in all its forms.

Two fundamental things stand out from my time at Shrewsbury. First was the fact that Shrewsbury didn’t teach us how to lead; instead the environment and history nurtured a leadership spirit that allowed one to grow as one was ready: altogether more powerful and resilient. Indeed, I am still struck how many of the lessons I have learnt have their genesis in House Meetings, Chapel and the River. The second is that I recognise that most people operate from a fear of vulnerability and not from a position of strength. If one is able to take care of an individual and make them safe and allow them to feel safe, then you will see them blossom and they will grow into one of the key members of the team. I think it was Hugh Anderson who first mentioned the importance of care and respect and it had never left me. We still travel around the country to meet the demands of the Navy but home is our beautiful cottage on the banks of Loch Fyne, where ‘Argyll time’ gives us all space to read, talk to each other and smile.

David Allard (R 1980-83) writes: I am still enjoying the French lifestyle, having now spent over 25 years in my adopted country. I am still happily married and we live close to Lyon. We have two sons who have opted for engineering as a career (and not like their financial father and mother!) with the eldest currently studying in Vietnam. I look back fondly to my Salopian days and still use a lot of those unique Salopian skills!
Nic Coward (DB 1979-84) has been appointed as the first independent Chair of England Golf, the governing body for amateur golf in England which was formed in 2012 by a merger of the English Golf Union and the English Women's Golf Association. In a 20-year career at the top levels of British sport, Nic has been the General Secretary of the Premier League, the chief executive of the British Horseracing Authority, joint chief executive of the Football Association and a director of Wembley Stadium. He has also been a non-executive director of the FA, was treasurer of the CGPR (now the Sport and Recreation Alliance) and first chair of the global Sports Rights Owners Coalition. He now consults to a number of sports and entertainment businesses in the UK and around the world, as well as having non-executive roles away from sport.

Simon Frew (PH 1982-87) In April 2017 Si Frew moved to the Cayman Islands, where he is working as a Banking Consultant for CIMA. This is the view from his new home on Seven Mile Beach. He can still be contacted via his travelblog www.sifrew.com.

1990-99

Rev Andrew Towner (Rb 1990-95) worked as a Maths teacher and CCF officer for five years before joining the Church, which he now serves in parish ministry. He is Chair of the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Education, as well as Board of Finance Trustee. He is married to Katie and they have three young children aged seven, five and three.

Robert Barber (SH 1995-97) After leaving Shrewsbury, Rob went on to UWE in Bristol to study Business. Since the beginning of 2004, he has been living in Botswana and running luxury safaris throughout the country with his company Golden Africa. He married Charlotte Bennett-Diver in Downe, Kent in February 2016, and they both now live and work running the company in Maun, Botswana, the gateway to the Okavango Delta. Following their second wedding ceremony which was held in the Okavango Delta a couple of months after their UK wedding, and conducted by a local Khoi San tribe with whom Rob has worked for 13+ years, they now organise weddings for other couples in the Botswana bush, alongside their luxury mobile tented safaris. Recently they have extended their business from tourism to include property and investment in the country as well. They are always on the look out for bright and motivated young people to volunteer on gap years, summer breaks at university, or on placement years, to come out and join them for a couple of months, bringing a useful skill set whilst gaining exposure to the tourism industry. Rob can be contacted on rob@golden-africa.com.

Dominic Gill (G 1993-98) writes: I'm currently living with my wife in Los Angeles, California where in 2011 we founded Encompass Films together. This is a film production company born out of the ITV documentary 'Take A Seat' about my 20,000-mile ride on a tandem from Alaska to Argentina inviting strangers to join me on the back seat. Much of our time is spent travelling telling the stories of brands or individuals, the common thread always being a sense of adventure in the truest sense of the word: not necessarily scaling mountains or jumping off them (though it often involves that!), but always travelling and exploring – be it the street corner or the most remote places on earth – with a sense of curiosity. I've found Southern California to be a perfect base. While we have access to some of the best production minds and facilities in the business, we also live next door to mountains, oceans and deserts that couldn't be sufficiently explored in ten lifetimes!

An everyday shoot in LA in a flashy car

Iain Nelson (Rb 1993-98) is engaged to Brooke Ross. Their wedding will be on Long Island in May 2018. Iain is a management consultant and Brooke is a writer and magazine editor. They live in Brooklyn, New York, with Scallop, their basset hound.

2000-09

Alastair Newman (I 1996-2001) writes: After nearly 11 years working as a patent attorney in London, I shall be returning to University in Cambridge this September with my wife Serena and children Sebastian (4) and Genevieve (1). I’ll be training for ordination as a Church of England priest at Westcott House and Robinson College, where I originally read Chemistry 15 years ago. This is a really exciting change, and I can’t wait to see what the future holds!

Stephen Wood (M 1998-2003) and his wife, Catherine, are happy to announce the arrival of their son Hugo William, born 28th January 2017.

Tom Gerrard (SH 1999-2004) announces his engagement to Katherine Teasdale. They met at Durham University and are getting married in September in Wiltshire.
Oliver Clarke (PH 2002-07) is the new owner and head chef of the renowned Paris restaurant La Regalade on avenue Jean Moulin in the 14th arrondissement http://www.laregalade.paris/

Frank Guan (O 2002-07) has recently started his new life in the Silicon Valley after completing his MBA degree from University of Chicago. He was recently married to Sophy Ma after being together for seven years. They first met during their times at University College, London. Frank is seeking Salopians in the west coast of America. Please feel free to reach out at zilin_guan@hotmail.com

Anthony Mangnall (O 2003-08) was selected as the Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate for Warley, West Midlands in the June 2017 General Election.

Oliver Webb (S 2004-09) is currently competing in the FIA World Endurance Championship. In May he was drafted into the Strakka McLaren racing squad for the Blancpain GT Series, Silverstone 3 Hours. Oli and his fellow teammates fought valiantly up to eighth overall at the chequered flag, finishing up as the lead McLaren. Oli is now preparing to race at Le Mans and at the Spa 24 Hours (27th-30th July).www.oliwebbracing.com

Joe Leach (M 2004-09) is Captain of Worcestershire County Cricket Club.

2010-16

Alice Brett (MSH 2009-11) won the Mixed National University Fives Championship at Eton for the University of Liverpool. (See reports on pages 71 and 79)

Molly Derbyshire (MSH 2009-11) writes: During March and April 2017 I trekked through the Himalayan mountains, celebrating my 24th birthday on 1st April, and on 3rd April I made it to Everest Base Camp at 5364m above sea level. It was probably the toughest mental, physical and emotional challenge I have put myself through, and a massive relief to reach Base Camp. I am in awe of the men and women who challenge themselves even further to summit this incredible mountain, including Old Salopian

Michael Wood (M 2000-05) is delighted to announce not only his engagement to Lucy Linforth, but also the publication of his first academic book, Heiner Müller’s Democratic Theater: The Politics of Making the Audience Work. After a delightful five years at Shrewsbury, Mikey followed in the footsteps of the excellent and inspiring Chris Minns and Huw Peach and went on to study German (and Philosophy) at the University of Oxford, where he completed his BA in 2009 and an MPhil in 2011. He then moved back to his native city of Edinburgh for a PhD at the University of Edinburgh, generously funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which he obtained in 2014. In 2015-16, he was the Susan Manning Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Edinburgh. And he has remained at Edinburgh, having been awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship by the British Academy for his research into Anglo-German literary and cultural exchange in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with a specific focus on the influence of German drama on the work of Sir Walter Scott. His book Heiner Müller’s Democratic Theater is the outcome of the research conducted for his PhD, albeit revised and repackaged to no small degree. (See Publications)
Sandy Irvine, whose story first inspired me to try and get to Base Camp one day. I have been raising money for two amazing charities: Mind - The Mental Health Charity and Diabetes UK, and would greatly appreciate any donations through this link https://www.justgiving.com/teams/MollytoEverest

Imola Atkins (MSH 2010-12) is currently studying Tibetan and is planning on doing some more travelling to India and Nepal soon. She graduated last year in Theology and Oriental Studies at Oxford, with a focus on Tibet, and is still taking part in some of the lectures and classes there.

Daniel Delikatnyi (O 2010-15) has started a clothing brand, TRVNK, which is based in Bristol where he is at University: https://www.trvnk.co.uk “Influenced by international culture (Eastern Europe in particular), we combine fashion with political, philosophical and humorous aspects of life.”

Jake Samuel (O 2010-15) is studying Sport and Social Science at Bath University. This summer he will spend six weeks as part of a Volunteer Zambia project working with the NGO Sport in Action. His main responsibility will be to event manage the ‘Zambia 50for50’ challenge involving a team led by former Olympian and current head coach Mel Marshall that includes Olympic Champion Adam Peaty and other top athletes. The challenge will be to undertake ten hours of sport for five days (15th-20th August) in five different locations in the capital of Lusaka, with five different sports (volleyball, basketball, football, netball, triathlon). The athletes will be playing against hundreds of young Zambian school children and they aim to raise a minimum of £50,000. All the money will go to projects funded by The Perfect Day Foundation across Lusaka, aimed at enhancing the lives of young Zambians. For more details and to make a donation, see www.theperfectdayfoundation.org

Henry Newbould (Ch 2011-16) writes, “I spent three months volunteering at Restart Africa with Ben Jones (S) and Matt White (S). We helped raise money while we were out there by running the Eldoret Half-Marathon with Oscar Dickins (R and ex-Huntsman), who was working on another volunteer project in Eldoret (see feature on page 80). During my time off I climbed Mount Kenya, Mount Longonot and did a safari in the Masai Mara. It was almost definitely the best experience of my life and I’m so glad I came back – as I promised to do after our Hunt trip in 2015.”

Antonia Wordie (EDH 2014-16) has been elected as Captain of the Women’s 1st Lacrosse team at Bath University.

Bouldly going where no Salopian has gone before?

Quickly disillusioned with their jobs overlooking the supposedly gold-paved streets of the City, brothers Max (Ch 2004-09) and Alex (Ch 2006-11) Bould have found a new way of making a living by combining that legendary Salopian charm with their entrepreneurial flair. In January this year they established themselves in Cambridge as baristas in their own coffee shop, Bould Brothers, enjoying a prime location opposite the Round Church, a stone’s throw from St John’s, Trinity and Magdalene Colleges.

Unsurprisingly, this sociable, intelligent and charming duo have quickly established a reputation, not only for their coffee but for the unpretentious ambience of their diminutive coffee house. Visiting them on a recent trip to Cambridge (as their former Housemaster ever solicitous for their welfare), I was pleased to see them serving a steady stream of clearly very loyal and appreciative customers.

What has proved your greatest challenge, I asked Max, a former Churchill’s Head of House, well versed in dealing with the more frequent crises which beset the House in those days? ‘I would say that for both Alex and me,’ Max replies, ‘the most challenging aspect of the past few years has been working out what does and doesn’t make us happy, in the context of a career. We both, somewhat naively, thought that large salaries and kudos-carrying jobs were the ultimate goal, but quickly found that for us, it was the fastest route to unhappiness. It has been difficult to take the risks required to start a new business, but is already paying off. If your work makes you smile, and you’re good at what you do, even the most challenging situations are approachable.’

Richard Hudson
David Gilkes (M 1949-54) When you get to a certain age you look back more and more on your life, what you have done or what you should have done and what influenced you in the decisions you made. My Shrewsbury education was one of the greatest influences and I have always cherished my five years at the School.

Why was I sent there (as were two of my younger brothers, Patrick and Roger)? One was because our parents knew Jack Wolfenden, the then Headmaster and secondly because our grandfather, Arthur Gilkes, was a pupil in the 1860s. He taught at the School until 1886 before becoming Headmaster of Dulwich College. He was also one of the staff who was instrumental in moving the School to its present site in 1882 and was very active in levelling the common with pick and shovel.

I was fortunate to be placed in Moser’s with Alan Phillips as Housemaster. My first Study Monitor was Richard Raven and my next Study Monitor was Michael Heseltine. And I was also fortunate to be taught by Jimmy Street, Guy Furnival, Michael Charlesworth, Lawrence Le Quesne, and ‘spelled’ by Frank McEachran. I was also under the influence of Hugh Brooke in the first cricket eleven and Robin Moulsdale in the fives four.

So what did I do with my splendid Shrewsbury education? Two years National Service with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, with service in Egypt and Cyprus, was followed by three years at Christ Church, Oxford University, reading History, and having decided not to go into teaching, I trained and worked as a Chartered Accountant in the City of London. Working in the City was not a life-long occupation to me, so in 1967, having married a charming lady from Hamburg (now in 2017, four daughters, four granddaughters and eight grandsons) we went to Hong Kong to work in the Administration of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and in 1975 I became the University Bursar.

Hong Kong in 1967 was in the grips of the overspill of the Cultural Revolution in China, and life for a young family was not exactly easy. However, stability could be found in the Chinese University. The University was founded on the basis of three colleges which had come over from China in the 1950s and 1960s. There was a feeling among some that we could emulate an Oxbridge system, but... However, as the first American Vice-Chancellor said, “This University is British in Structure, American in practice, and Chinese in spirit.” It now has over 20,000 pupils with a full range of subjects, a strong research base and eight colleges.

To be part of this build-up was a great experience. My life was made much easier by the fact that Hong Kong was going through an economic boon and the Government was enthusiastic to finance university education, as were the Hong Kong Chinese entrepreneurs.

It was with great regret that we left Hong Kong in 1997. An MBE award for educational services was given. And we left behind many lifelong friends. We also left behind the Chinese University Cricket Team, which I founded, and a copy of Keck’s spells in the English Department (what a wonderful introduction by Lawrence Le Quesne). Also we were involved with the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong, of which I was President for eight years. And Edith left behind many friends from the German Swiss International School where she was the Registrar; and last by no means least, other Old Salopians of whom there were quite a few.

We retired to Suffolk because some kind friends recommended me for the Bursarship of Orwell Park School, an outstanding preparatory School near Ipswich and overlooking the river Orwell. I retired from there in 2005, and we travel and keep abreast with our large family.

Willie Jones

We are grateful to Andrew Evans (SH 1970-1975) who contacted the Salopian Club to say that he and his wife had recently visited Willie Jones (Staff 1959-1977) at his home in Sapporo, northern Japan. "Those who knew him will be pleased to hear that he is well, though now 87 years of age; he has a number of projects on the go and has a loyal group of students (mainly Japanese ladies), to whom he delivers a weekly Shakespeare tutorial.

Michael Charlesworth once remarked that it was no business of a signpost to be travelling in the direction to which it pointed. Having first come into contact with Willie at a time when his function was, indeed, to be something of a signpost, and having benefited from the guidance, I have to report that he has not suffered the rooted fixity implied by Michael’s aphorism.”

Spotted in Abergavenny...
Old Salopian Arts

Towards the end of its second full year, the Old Salopian Arts scene is in rude health, with many OS working in the worlds of Theatre, Music, Art and Photography. A very well attended round of events has also seen Salopians gathering to sing, play and be entertained in a range of activities.

Following on from last October’s excellent Exhibition of OS Art, which was arranged by Head of Art Rose Shawe-Taylor and which included works by leading artists Max Bacanello and Timothy Morgan Owen, together with photographs by Kit Oates, the season ended with a visit to the Queen’s Gallery in May. It featured a wonderful and illuminating talk on the paintings of Canaletto by Desmond Shawe-Taylor OS and a convivial reception. The event, like many others, was heavily oversubscribed and hugely enjoyed by those lucky enough to secure a ticket.

With greater emphasis on participation, the New Year opened with a memorable Service of Epiphany at St Mary-le-Bow in the City of London, where a choir of more than 25 OS performed to a professional standard under conductor Patrick Craig. The Service was led by Gavin Williams, former Chaplain to the School, and included readings by Sir John Stuttard, former Lord Mayor of London, former Headmaster Jeremy Goulding and others.

March witnessed an Orchestral Concert at Cadogan Hall, where more than 15 OS, many of them professional players, joined the School Symphony Orchestra under the baton of John Moore on another evening memorable both for quality and conviviality.

One other highlight of the year was a gathering for Evensong at Westminster Abbey in February. The event was organised by Gavin Williams, who is currently Chaplain at Westminster School. Despite the attentions of Hurricane Doris, Club members were treated to some fine singing, a fascinating tour of the Abbey and a splendid reception at the School.

Plans for the Calendar Year 2017-18 are now being drawn up. They will include -

- A Gathering and Reception at Southwark Playhouse for the musical ‘Superhero’ (Producer Tim Johanson OS) – Wednesday 12th July 2017
- Open Mic Evening in conjunction with the Young OS Group in September
- A visit to the Elgin Marbles, British Museum (led by Nicholas Barber OS) – Wednesday 1st November 2017
- A gathering and reception at a National Theatre production with Salopian connections – Autumn 2017
- Service of Epiphany at St Mary-le-Bow – Wednesday 10th January 2018
- Evensong at the Middle Temple in February
- A celebration of Musicals composed by John Moore – the Manoukian Music Centre, Westminster School – 20th May 2018

Further details and timing will be available from the Club in due course.

Information and Participation

If you are not already on the mailing list and would like to be kept informed of activities, please contact the Salopian Club: oldsalian@shrewsbury.org.uk

It is very much hoped that the Club will be able to run an Arts Noticeboard in the future, that will keep members up to date with one another’s activities in the Arts.

Meanwhile, we are extremely grateful for the support and enthusiasm received from a wide range of Old Salopians who are active in the world of arts, in particular to Henry Southern, who acts as Vice-Chairman and to Richard Eteson and Patrick Craig, whose energy and contacts have resulted in a memorable series of events. Above all, our thanks to Nick Jenkins and to former administrator Janet Scholes, who have been so helpful and professional in supporting and publicising these activities.

Peter Fanning
Chairman of the Arts Committee
Old Salopian Football Club

The Old Salopian Football 1st XI season started very slowly but results improved dramatically, as the side matched last year’s fifth place finish in the Arthurian League Premier Division. The first three months featured too many draws and only a couple of wins but a new year, fresh legs and great availability from January truly delivered a season of two halves.

For the first time in the Premier Division, the 1st XI won six league games in a row and scored the second highest number of goals of any team in the top division. The rocks at the back, Charlie Pilkington and Alex Blofield, have had tremendous seasons. George Wade-Smith, our very own Kante sitting in front of the back four, has allowed the rest of the midfield to show their creativity to provide our talisman, Thomas Kelly, with the service required. The 1st XI has seen an influx of new players such as the talented Oliver Brown, Max McClure, Will Briggs and Elliott Christie, with the likes of Rory Griffiths and Roy Chatterjee coming into the fold and producing great performances and important goals. We head into the summer break with our heads held high knowing we are very close to becoming a title-challenging team.

The 2nd XI were also slow to get out of the blocks, earning just one solitary point from their opening seven matches. After a long hard look at themselves, they put together a crucial run of wins against teams in and around them in the league and they eventually finished in sixth position, one point above the relegation zone. They live to fight another season in Division Three. Notable performers for their commitment and availability during the season were Guy Williams and Alasdair Grant. The 2nd XI team were unlucky this season with injuries to key players, including the player of the season last year, Lewis Brown, along with Tom Hargreaves and Oliver Black. Unbelievably, 36 players represented the 2nd XI this season, with some talented players coming through the ranks.

Having reached the Final last year, only to lose in extra time to Tonbridge, the Club’s Dunn side began the season looking to mount another challenge for the historic Arthur Dunn Cup. The team again performed admirably on their run to the semi-final (scoring 13 and conceding only 1) but this year they were knocked out in a gruelling semi-final replay to the Old Reptonians (who then went on to lose to the Old Carthusians in the Final). The hunt continues.

The Old Salopians fielded a Team in the annual Liverpool Ramblers Easter Festival, winning both matches 5-0 and 4-0 against Bolton Old Boys and Liverpool Ramblers ‘A’ respectively. The weekend was a great success and included two days of football and a couple of cracking nights out in Chester.

The end of season dinner, held at the Warrington Hotel in Maida Vale, was enjoyed by all in attendance. After a last-minute cancellation from MDHC, the OSFC must wait another year for the torturous tail of his worst ever game in charge of the School 3rd XI. The 1st XI Player of the Season trophy was awarded to Thomas Kelly after scoring an incredible 19 goals in 22 games. The Club hopes he will look after the trophy better than the last time he won the accolade. The Matthew Sasse 2nd XI Player of the Season award went to Ben Davies, who was simply faultless in the crucial wins that kept the team in their league.

Plans for the Club’s summer football tour over the August Bank Holiday weekend are currently being finalised, with Budapest, Lisbon and Barcelona as the clear front-runners. There is already a squad of 15 from ages 22-35 without a confirmed location, clearly proving the Club’s great social scene and the appetite for Old Salopian Football action. The Club has been blessed with several exciting new recruits in recent years but more are always welcome. We have two teams playing on a weekly basis (September through to April) in and around London with midweek training at a central location. If you are interested in playing for the Club, please contact Oliver Heywood (ojheywood1@hotmail.co.uk) or Rob Hawkin (rwhawkin@hotmail.com).
2016/17 has turned out to be a busy and enjoyable year for Sabrina and its members. The 150th Anniversary celebrations marking the formation of the RSSBC in 1866 were rounded off beautifully by the excellent dinner, attended by 165 Sabrina members and other Salopians and their partners/spouses, which took place on 5th November on board the Silver Sturgeon on the Thames at Westminster. What a great evening it was and one which encourages us to think of another suitable anniversary to commemorate or an event to celebrate – perhaps a win for the School at Henley next!

On 22nd February, we had a boat-naming ceremony at the School boathouse for the First Eight’s new Empacher. The honours were done by Jonathan Beeston who had made a substantial donation towards the cost of the boat. The boat was named Robert Beeston in honour of Jonathan’s father. These beautiful boats now cost £45,000 so his generosity is hugely appreciated. Although the School’s Head had to be rowed over a much-shortened course on 23rd March because of the windy conditions, the annual get-together at the Blue Anchor, overlooking the river at Hammersmith, took place as usual with about 75 Sabrina members and current crews’ parents and supporters attending. This is always a fun event and you should put it in your diary for next year – Monday, the 12th March 2018.

On 7th May, there was a reunion lunch in the Bowring Room at the School Boathouse for crews coached by Bill Sayer and Martin Orviss over the period from 1999 to 2005. This was on the second day of Shrewsbury Regatta, so there was plenty of activity to watch over the course of the day. Philip Randall and the Morgan brothers competed on behalf of Sabrina and the School fielded numerous crews. A good time was had by all, enhanced by a beautiful and warm sunny day. This article is being written in mid-May for publication in mid-July, and a number of events in our calendar have not yet taken place but will have done so by the time you read this article.

From 6th - 23rd June our President, Miles Preston, will have been taking part in a Round Britain Tour with 47 Rolls Royces to mark the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts’ Club and the 110th Anniversary of a Rolls Royce Silver Ghost being driven for more than 14,000 miles without stopping involuntarily in 1907 – thus establishing Rolls Royce’s reputation for reliability.

A number of get-togethers for Salopians were being planned as he drove around the UK. Hopefully, some of you now reading this article will have been to one of these events. It is hoped that there will have been a combined Sabrina and Old Salopian Golfing Society golf match and dinner at Huntercombe, just outside Henley, on Tuesday 27th June. This event has been held on a number of occasions over the years but sometimes has not worked out for want of participants. We are very much hoping it will happen again next year as well, so if you are one of those apparently rare people who has both rowed and enjoys a game of golf, please get in touch with our Honorary Secretary, Rod Spiby, to let him know that you are interested in joining in next year.

On Henley Friday (30th June) to mark ten years since the First Eight won the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup in 2007, a party of about 50, including the crew, their families, friends and members of staff who were involved in this victory, will have held a celebratory dinner at the Five Horseshoes near Henley. A true ‘Floreat Salopia’ occasion if ever there was one! Henley Saturday (1st July) will have heralded our very much enjoyed and ever-expanding drinks and lunch party in the Henley Cricket Ground in Remenham Lane adjacent to the Regatta car parks. We regularly have at least 200 people attending this event, which provides what is probably the best opportunity to bump into your friends from your time at Shrewsbury, who you may only see at Henley Regatta. Whether you came this year or were not able to make it, make sure you put it in your diary for next year! An event not to be missed.

Sabrina Rowing

After the great success of last year’s Thames Cup crew, about which there is a separate article below, this year’s rowing has been in a consolidation phase. With the departure of the crew’s coach,
Paul Manser, for a well-earned sabbatical, Philip Randall focussing on single sculling in a serious way and two or three other members of last year’s crew retiring or choosing to row less intensively, Phil Wood has worked ceaselessly to keep sufficient people together to compete in an eight. He managed to form a really good crew, including some Sabrina members who have only recently stopped rowing intensively at School or university, to row in the Head of the River on the Tideway, only to find that the event had to be cancelled because of the adverse weather conditions. He is optimistic that Sabrina will field an eight to compete at Marlow and try for qualification for the Thames Cup at Henley for a second year in succession. By the time you read this, we will know how things have turned out. Phil is planning to have a really competitive crew for the 2017/18 season so, if you have recently finished rowing at Shrewsbury or university or have taken a few years off but fancy the excitement and camaraderie of being a member of a good crew, please get in touch with him (email philip.wood@stantonralph.co.uk).

Over the course of the year, not only has Phil been working on having a crew for this season and preparing the ground for a 2018 crew to represent the Club, but Miles Preston has started to gather together Sabrina members who live within travelling distance of London Rowing Club at Putney to form a Sabrina group there – either to row with the ‘Irregulars’ or to provide support for the group. So far, there are some 19 members of this group, of whom six are rowing.

After stopping rowing when he was 22 and having taken 44 years to get back on the water, Miles is only too aware that if you have rowed seriously, when you stop after leaving School, university, the National Squad or whatever, your instinct is never to get back in a boat because it will be a waste of time if you don't train at least six days a week. Miles is hoping to persuade Sabrina members, who may well now have high-pressure jobs and family commitments, that there is merit in getting back on the water, even if it is only once a week or even less, to get some exercise and fresh air and, most importantly, to meet up with some kindred spirits away from the pressures of everyday life.

Therefore, if you are someone who has given up rowing but can see that it might be fun to have the odd outing with other Sabrina members and you live within travelling distance of London Rowing Club, please get in touch with Miles. (miles.preston@milespreston.co.uk).

**RSSBC Scholarships**

Over the past year, Sabrina has embarked on developing the RSSBC Scholarship scheme with the objective of granting scholarships to two pupils a year to support them for two years in the Sixth Form. So far, one student started at the School last September and another one will start this September. The aim is to have two such pupils in the Sixth Form at any one time. The people we are looking for have to be both very intelligent and in the absolutely top echelon of rowing in the country for their age.

To do this, Sabrina has to find £30,000 per annum, which is a considerable amount of money. If you would be willing to give something towards this scheme, no matter how much, please will you get in touch with our Captain, Nick Randall. Obviously, large donations are very welcome but a monthly donation over a period of time of £5 or £10, particularly if Gift Aid is available, will be a great help as well. Don’t feel, therefore, that if you cannot make a large donation, there is no point in making one at all. On the contrary, any donation will be most welcome and will go towards helping to finance someone through the Sixth Form and, who knows, to enable the School to win at Henley again!

**A Sabrina First**

As luck would have it, in the year that marked the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the RSSBC, Sabrina managed to attain an historic achievement in the form of an eight made up of Sabrina members (many of whom hadn’t competed at top levels for some years) qualifying to take part in the Thames Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta.

In 1932 Sabrina competed in the Silver Goblets and Nickall’s Challenge Cup at Henley and in 1946 a Sabrina four competed in the Wyfold Challenge Cup, but never before had the Club produced an eight good enough to race in a Henley event.

The crew formed in the autumn of 2015 and trained solidly through the winter months, competing in four head of the river races at Chester, Wallingford, North of England and the Head of the River Race on the Tideway. For the main Head, as a new entry, the crew started in 183rd position and ended up in 98th place, breaking into the top 100 - a very creditable performance.

Training continued into the main racing season, with the principal aspiration being to qualify to compete at Henley, the previous year’s crew having failed to do so by a small margin. In preparation for the Henley Qualifiers, the crew entered Marlow Regatta with hopes of doing as well as it could.
Marlow Regatta at Dorney Lake

With Marlow Regatta at Dorney Lake and Henley Qualifiers fast approaching towards the end of June 2016, the crew stepped up their training programme with up to four water sessions a week and ergo tests in between. The hard work paid off, with the crew’s average 2k ergo time now well below the previous year’s and all members noticeably leaner than ever before! It was time for the real tests though.

Marlow was held on Saturday 18th June and was less than a week before the Henley Qualifying races, so the pressure was on to put into the races what we had been doing in practice. The crew were drawn in the first time trial of the day, which meant a very early start! After a good row, the crew finished 3rd in their time-trial, putting them into the A final. For some of the crew, this may have been the final opportunity for a win at a major multi-lane racing regatta. What was even more special was that it was on Dorney Lake, the home of the Olympics in 2012. With a pre-race team talk from Coach Paul Manser, the boys and cox Lettie Tay were fired up for the final.

After a sluggish start, the crew were lying in 4th at around 750m, when they found their rhythm. In the next 750m they rowed through all the other crews to take the lead by the 1500m mark, before rowing through to the finish to win in a time of 6.12 by 2/3rds of a length. It was a fantastic row and a huge effort to come through to win: their greatest achievement so far.

Henley Qualifying Races

Spirits were high as the crew travelled down to Henley on 24th June 2016 for the Thames Challenge Cup qualifying races. The weather was poor and the river up, which didn’t favour the new-look ‘lightweight’ crew. With the largest ever entry to the Thames Cup (55), the fastest 13 crews from a total of 35 crews would go through: the pressure was really on. After a good row came the anxious wait. Within around 45 minutes the results came through over loudspeaker across the boat tents – when Sabrina Club’s name was called: an amazing result and one that made history - the first time a Sabrina VIII has ever qualified to race at Henley, and the first Sabrina crew of any size to race at Henley since 1946. The last few years of commitment had finally paid off and should not be under-rated, particularly bearing in mind the quality of the crews taking part in this event with nearly a third from overseas.

Thames Challenge Cup first round

After moving down to our base just outside Henley, the crew enjoyed a few days getting out onto the river to soak up the atmosphere of Henley before their 1st round race on Wednesday. The draw was released and unfortunately the crew were pitted against the highly fancied Fujian Rowing Club: the Under-23 Chinese National Silver medallists, whose average height was 6ft 3 in... The conditions on the day were again atrocious, with rain and a high head / cross wind, which didn’t favour the Bucks side for Sabrina. The crew went off hard to the island and were still within reach of the Chinese VIII, but they proved too strong for the much lighter-weight Sabrina crew and pulled away, winning the tie. It would not be a surprise to see some of the Chinese crew taking part in the Tokyo Olympics in four years’ time. The Sabrina crew showed excellent strength and form in very difficult conditions though – and what a fantastic achievement to qualify and race at Henley!

A big thank you for all the help and support the 2016 crew received from coach Paul Manser, Director of Rowing Athol Hundermark, Boatman Andy Clark and the rest of his team at the Boat Club, the Sabrina Committee and friends and families of the crew in helping make this happen. The crew for both Marlow and Henley 2016 were:

Stroke - A Hagger (PH 86-91)
7 - J Russell (PH 90-95)
6 - R Shropshire (I 91-96)
5 - P Randall (O 99-02)
4 - J Kynaston (Ch 08-13)
3 - M Walker (M 92-95)
2 - P Wood (M 92-97)
1 - R Homden (Rb 09-14)
Cox - L Tay (MSH 13-15)
Coach - P Manser (DB 74-79)
Old Salopian Fives Club

The 2016-17 season was one of significant progress within the OS Fives Club. We successfully (ish) fielded two teams in the League. The first year is always one of transition, however it has built a sense that the Club is opening up to cater for all abilities. The Club feels bigger and more vibrant, and most importantly the ingredients for success are bubbling away.

Notably, we had eight Salopian players in the quarter-finals of the Northerns, one Salopian (schoolboy) in the semi-finals of the Northern, two quarter-finalists and one semi-finalist in the Kinnaird, finalist in the Alan Barber Cup, winners of the Aberconway Cup, winners of the Veterans Cup, three women in the Varsity match, and one half of the mixed university winners. So there is significant talent across all ages. I even have confirmation that our leader, Richard Barber, will play at our end of season dinner on 1st June. I reckon that this may represent the largest span of ages of playing members in a season by any club.

Kinnaird Cup
Many congratulations go to Ed Taylor on reaching the semi-final of the Kinnaird, which is the largest national competition on the fives circuit. Congratulations also go to emerging pair of the year Rex Worth & Tom Cox who reached the quarter-finals of the Kinnaird, beating the third seeds who have not been beaten by a seed lower than themselves in many years.

Northern Tournament
Our annual trip to the Northern Tournament, which is the second most prestigious pairs' competition, was also extremely successful. Ed Taylor, Rex Worth, Tom Cox, Chris Hughes, Tom Welti, Sam Welti, T Walters, and Grant Williams (honorary Salopian) all made the quarter-finals, while Seb Cooley and Dan Orchard (Captain of Fives at Shrewsbury) made the semi-finals. It was a significant achievement to have so many get through to the latter stages of the competition.

Alan Barber Cup
(See Richard Barber’s report on the final, below)
We were losing finalists again this year, going down 2-1 in the final against the Old Olavians. The Alan Barber Cup, the favourite competition for Salopians, pits the top three pairs from each school alumni club. Frustratingly, we keep losing at the final hurdle but we are obsessed with changing our fortunes. That said, it was an incredible achievement to get to the final. The Salopian team were: Ed Taylor, Chris Hughes, Henry Lewis, George Thomason, Ian Hutchinson and Tom Cox.

Photo (L-R): Ian Hutchinson (OS), Howard Wiseman (St Olave’s), Ed Taylor (OS) and James Toop (St Olave’s). Ian Hutchinson has been one of the greatest of Salopian fives players and this was his last match for the Club – an historic moment.
Aberconway Cup
This is the national Fathers and Sons / Father and Daughters competition. This year it was won by Grant Williams & Guy Williams against the Salopian pair of Mike Hughes & Chris Hughes. These two pairs have won the competition a total of ten times.

Veterans’ Cup
The over 40s' national competition (they don’t like it being called Veteran) was won (again) by Grant Williams and Mike Hughes. They have won the competition a total of nine times (also note that they are significantly older than 40) and Mike Hughes has won the competition 10 times.

Varsity Fives
Not only has Shrewsbury produced some of the best women players in the country, they are also much more intelligent than their male counterparts, as shown by being bright enough to get into Oxbridge. Pair one of the Varsity match had three Salopian players: Esmé O’Keeffe was playing for Cambridge against the all Salopian Oxford pair of Rosie Parr and Hannah Pritchard. The all Salopian pair emerged victorious 3-0.

Mixed Universities Championship
I am very pleased to announce that after heartache in previous years, Alice Brett and her Liverpool University partner Aroop Bhattacharya won the Mixed Universities Championship. The calibre of players on the day was incredibly high, with players who have already gone far in some of the national championships. Aroop would admit that he was not the best male player in the draw, so he was fortunate to be paired with the best female player. Many congratulations.

We shall be celebrating a very successful season with a dinner following an evening of Fives on 1st June, and we will quickly be starting the new season in September.

Finally, on behalf of all of the OS and wider Fives community, our thanks go to Rex Worth who stepped down as Club Secretary at the beginning of this season. He remains Club Treasurer and an integral part of the success of the OS this season.

The Alan Barber Cup Final 2017
The final of the Alan Barber Cup, the EFA’s premier inter-school trophy, was played at Eton on 26th February between the now traditional finalists, the Old Olavians and the Old Salopians. The competition, founded in 1965 by Alan Barber, then President of the EFA, and won in its inaugural year by the Old Edwardians, was first won by the Olavians in 1973; in the 21st century they have won it 16 times with only one break, in 2003, when it was won by the Old Salopians. The sense of rivalry between the two schools can be gleaned from the fact that the Salopians have reached the final 22 times, winning on just three occasions, while the Olavians and the Salopians have contested the last seven finals in succession.

It would have been difficult to witness the game of Eton Fives played to a higher standard across all three courts than the feast of Fives provided by these outstanding players.

In the first court, James Toop and Matt Wiseman, multiple Kinnaird winners and finalists, faced Ed Taylor and Ian Hutchinson in a match played at a tremendous pace with rallies at times of a length and vigour that defied belief. In the end, the greater accuracy of James and Matt proved too strong for the determination of Ed and Ian but the scoreline of 3-0 does not begin to do justice to the excitement of the game and the skill of all four players in raising the game to such heights.

In the second court, Seb Cooley and Howard Wiseman, also with countless Kinnaird winners’ cups between them, were a formidable pair for Chris Hughes and Henry Lewis to take on, but the track record of their opponents did not faze the more youthful Salopians for a moment. They were ‘into’ every rally and there were even moments when one or two rare mistakes were forced upon the Olavians. But the gravity-defying agility of Seb and his crisp cutting and hitting to an impeccable length, combining with the ever-reliable support from Howard, proved too strong for them. It was a riveting match to watch but after an exhausting tussle the Olavians again emerged winners 3-0.

In the third court, former National Schools’ Champions George Thomason and Tom Cox faced Dave Mew, a former Kinnaird semi-finalist, and Tony Barker who had recently played in the Cambridge first pair. The Olavians took the first game 12-9, but George and Tom fought back magnificently in the next 3 games to take the match 3-1 as the sun set, a huge credit to their skill and determination.

So once again, to the acclaim of all, the Olavians, with their unique brand of skill and athleticism, retained the Trophy for the 17th time in total and for the 14th time in succession. They still have far to go to match the Old Cholmeleians’ 23 wins in total, though only one more to equal the Cholms 15 in succession between 1977 and 1991. The Olavians’ firepower does not seem to waver, with their ability to put out a national champion or semi-finalist on all three courts – but the now more youthful Salopians will be hunting them down relentlessly. What an enticing prospect future years will bring!

Richard Barber
The Old Salopian Hunt

The members of this Club are dispersed all over the world and span the years from its inception in 1953. There are many occasions when contact between members is made and, whether running fit or not, memories of time spent in The Hunt are rekindled. It may be recalling when we would run beside the still waters of Bomere Pool, having an All-Up on top of Lyth Hill or perhaps attending the testing competitions held at the beautiful estates of Attingham or Knole. In many cases, members continue to run in events or just for general fitness, but sometimes, even though the head remains young of mind and with good intention, the body decides otherwise, either through injury, malady, or that ridiculous ailment referred to as ‘ageing!’ Whatever period of mobility you find yourself at, be consoled that your Club is striving to motivate and encourage the next generation of Hunt runners to join the fold and continue what was started 64 years ago.

With that in mind, several of us gathered together once again on The Drum on Saturday 3rd December 2016, to take on the young Hunt team in the Annual Meet. We had equal teams of 13, which included ‘talent’ on both sides! First of all, past and present Huntsmen were lined up under “The Lizard” for a photo, demonstrating nine Captains’ smiles on parade.

Cliff Simpkin, Richard Hudson, Anthony Hickson, Ben Remnant

Thanks go to Kait Weston for joining our ranks as well as Martha Pownall, Michael Johnson, Cliff Simpkin, Richard Hudson and Anthony Hickson for enhancing a very solid team. Gratitude goes to the course markers and to the Grounds Staff for their help in making this event work so well. There is a full report on www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/os-hunt-news and then click on the 2016 tab at the top right of the page (where you will also find the results page at the “here” word at the bottom).

New Huntswoman Board

There was the unveiling of the new Huntswoman Honours Board, Tea and Prize Giving in the Hunt Gym, followed by our Committee Meeting and AGM, where ten members were able to scrutinise the Club’s progression and interaction with the RSSH.

Along with Gordon on the table, were OSH Committee Members Oli Mott, George Mallett, Cliff Simpkin, Kait Weston, David Thomas, Anthony Hickson, Freddie Huxley-Fielding, Peter Middleton, Peter Birch and Bob Parker.

Oli Mott, made his tenth kill in 19 minutes 6 seconds, 22 seconds in front of Huntsman Freddie. There were some equally close times from Peter Middleton (our latest recruit), Olly Laws and George Mallett, and with six to count, Ben and Liv ensured our place in the ‘Winners’ Enclosure’ by three points, enabling our first win for eight years.

The OSH Committee

(out of picture). Then at 7.30pm it was time to welcome 14 guests to our Annual Dinner in the Hardy Room of Kingsland House.

Two weeks later, on Saturday 17th December, there was a proper OSH VIII attending the 64th Annual Alumni Race at Roehampton, near London. The event is bigger, with 228 entrants from 34 schools’ alumni clubs starting and running through a varied cross-country course on Wimbledon Common. After their attendance at the Shrewsbury Run, we were so pleased to have George and Liv join the team, along with returning stars of the OSH. The organisers Thames Hare & Hounds have started using a new system for results (which can be seen on https://opentrack.info/c/alumni/alumni/finish) which showed that we greatly improved our position to 9th, thanks to George (S 2007-12) finishing 11th and Ben Hebblethwaite (R 1986-91) at 33rd.

Liv was our third counter at 88th and Rupert Lougee (SH 1988-93) was 110th. Justin Jeffrey (SH 1985-90) at 120th beat his brother, Nick (SH 1988-93) who came in at 146th. Simon Pickles (M 1971-76) at 153rd had encouraged me into 156th place (which is an improvement for me!). Do have a look at the full report on our website page (as detailed above) and go to the Old Salopian Hunt Facebook page to see many photos and comments on these and many other occasions.

Nine Huntsmen

Captured for history were Huntsman Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) in ‘Hunting Pink’, last season’s Ben Remnant, George Mallett (for 2011-12 season), Oli Mott (2002-03), Peter Birch (1970-71), Olly Laws (1997-98), Liv Papaioannou (from last season and of EDH 2014-16), Immie Evans (G) as the current Huntswoman and Anna Thompson (for 2012-13).

A good crowd of spectators saw the start, moving to the Queen’s Terrace to encourage us along the top of the School Bank, before returning to applaud the finishers. Our Captain,
Provisionally, our next Annual Run with the RSSH could be on Saturday 2nd December 2017, as well as the Annual Dinner. The TH&H Annual Alumni Race at Roehampton might be held on Saturday, 16th December. However, confirmation of the dates will be made later, on our website and Facebook pages, as well as by other means. At this point, I invite members to join me on Friday 13th October in Meole Brace for the start of The Tucks Run. I intend to run it for the third year since I left the School and it would be great if another OSH Runner could increase our ‘Green & Gold’ presence on the day.

The grainy photo shows me trying my best to Couple-up the Hounds inside the Moss Gates, for the last time on the School Site, at 2pm on Monday 12th October in 1970, before the ‘Throw-off’ of The Tucks.

However, things didn’t go to plan, as three Moserites decided to start ten minutes early! The following year, it was started from Meole Brace. In those days, the Huntsman and his Whips and Gents did not compete, so Geoff Sample (Rt) killed and Stefan Nowinski (Db) was second, followed by Simon Caswell (M).

On St George’s Day, I was able to welcome eight new members into our Club, at the annual Hunt Presentations Evening, where awards and gratitude are given, as well as announcing the new Officers of The Hunt. The next season will see Monty Hardcastle (I) become the 183rd Huntsman, assisted by the Senior Whip, Owen Mock (R) and the Junior Whip, Nik Anthor (R), to whom we wish the very best for the next year.

There have been a flurry of charitable events attended by members of the OSH, including Passy Goddard (G 2014-16) who ran the London Marathon for St John’s Ambulance, as did Tatty Hunt (EDH 2013-15) for Cancer Research UK. Ben Remnant (Ch 2011-15) with Oscar Dickins (R. 2011-15) and current Senior Whip, Will Hayward (R) ran the Welsh Three Peaks for Balloon Ventures; James Humphis (SH 2008-13) ran the Manchester Marathon in 3:48 for York Nightline; Jake Samuel (O 2015-15) ran the Bath Half-Marathon for Volunteer Zambia; Charlie Godman (M 2011-15) also ran the Bath Half-Marathon amongst others for Marie Curie; Michael Johnson (S 1955-60) ran The Vitality 10k. in May in London for the Octavia Foundation; and then Oscar Dickins, Henry Newbold (Ch 2011-16) and Matt White (S 2011-2016) ran in The Rift Valley Red Cross Eldoret Half-Marathon in Kenya for the Restart Centre in Gilgil. Isn’t it amazing where the OSH Vest turns up! Well done to all.

By the time you read this, the digitisation of The Hunt records should be completed. This project was instigated last year and some 8,000 pages of handwritten Hunt Books will have been copied and preserved in digital files.

The first page of the first journal is from October 1831, showing the Huntsman A.L. Maynard’s list of Fox-Hounds. Because proper fox-hunting was frowned upon at the School at that time, the boys decided to invent their own sporting entertainment, going out to run through the Shropshire countryside, using hunting terminology, which as we know became ‘The Hunt’. The hounds were given code names and they were led out of town from the old School on Castle Gates to the fields, mostly to the north of Shrewsbury, by the Huntsman and his Whips. It’s fun to see that he also had additional officers of the pack, such as Dog Feeder, Veterinary Surgeon and Horse Butcher. Perhaps our new Huntsman, Monty Hardcastle, should consider reintroducing these old positions!

I see that the first run that has been written up by the Huntsman was held on Saturday 18th October, 1831 and it starts with ‘Met at Mr Tuck’s Park Inn, Drayton Road, after drawing cover near the Severn …’. He talks about crossing the canal and going to Sundorne, before “we came to The Fox Hotel, where the Gentlemen refreshed themselves with a hearty glass of ale”… an early form of energy drink! He records that the hunt lasted for one hour and twenty minutes, covering about ten miles.

If any of you are interested in the digitised Hunt records, do get in touch with me.

Some of you may have already heard about The Welsh Castles Relay, which is a two-day, 20-stage, 211-mile staggered relay race from Caernarfon to Cardiff. It is organised by the Les Croupiers Running Club. We hope to raise an OSH Team to enter the 2018 WCR Race to be held in early June 2018. Each team requires 20 runners (plus reserves) and also extra helpers to assist. A Captain will need to co-ordinate the team entry and will probably have to register an application to enter before January 2018, so if any of you reading this has any interest in this event, would you please get in touch straight away by writing to me or Oliver Russell (ojr@shrewsbury.org.uk) or Peter Middleton (pjm@shrewsbury.org.uk). There is a large amount of information about the WCR, starting with their website info page www.lescroupiersrunningclub/welsh-castles-relay-2016.

As usual, I would be pleased to hear from you by e-mail on info@crbirch.com or get in touch on the Old Salopian Hunt Facebook page.

Peter Birch (DB 1966-71)
Old Salopian Yacht Club (OSYC)

The OSYC will be again be entering a Shrewsbury boat in the Arrow Trophy (13th-15th October 2017). The Arrow Trophy is a sailing competition between independent schools, raced as an annual weekend regatta in yachts crewed by former pupils. It is an event that gives us the opportunity to introduce novice racers to competitive yacht racing, as well as provide experienced sailors with challenging racing in a matched fleet of one design yachts.

The event takes place in the Solent off the Isle of Wight, aboard Sunsal’s fleet of F40 racing yachts. The yachts are collected from Port Solent (Portsmouth) on the Friday evening and then sailed over to Cowes Yacht Haven. The event format is fleet racing on the Saturday, finishing up in Cowes late afternoon, followed by a lively and entertaining Arrow Trophy Dinner at Cowes Yacht Haven, with further racing to follow on the Sunday morning and then a return to Portsmouth by mid-afternoon.

Additionally, OSYC members continue to offer crewing opportunities to race or just be out on the water:

- Will Collins has opportunities for Old Salopians to race aboard his First 310, ‘Dogmatix’, in the Junior Offshore Group (JOG) series. JOG organises a variety of highly competitive races for IRC rated yachts on the South Coast. A number of OSYC members raced very successfully in 2016 with Will on Dogmatix, which won the JOG Offshore Class 6 trophy.
- Further, Steve Gorst has organised an OS sailing trip in Conwy as part of a 1976 reunion. As Steve writes: ‘I have two Old Salopians coming out with me in May and another six in June, all from the 1976 leavers. As a group we are all from the school sporting fraternity, having school colours for Cricket, Football and Rugby between us and it is nice to see how the healthy lifestyle we learnt at school has carried us through life well. We are going to be taking part in pursuit races between Conwy and Anglesey in my old Moody 33. As she is a solid old boat that can take heavy weather, we are hoping for a good blow... The Salopians are coming from as far afield as London to take part and are all beginners in sailing but they are still keen to raise the Spinnaker and go for it. The North Wales Cruising Club in Conwy are hosting the event and will be laying on a BBQ during the afternoon and evening after the racing. If this goes well it could become a regular feature on the club calendar and could potentially be opened up to other years.’

New members are always welcome and if anyone would like to join the OSYC, participate in the Arrow Trophy (13th-15th October 2017) or take part in any crewing opportunities, please contact the Secretary, Will Collins – email: welc@hotmail.co.uk. All are welcome, especially recent school leavers, whatever your experience.

Will Collins
(SH 1982-85)
Old Salopian Squash Club

Adaptation has long been a matter of some importance to the Salopian psyche. Some have observed that this process often pursues a somewhat sluggish course; so much so that the more things appear to change the more they stay the same. Much like the unprecedented diversification of the Salopian intake in recent times, this cannot be said of the rapidly developing (though still youthful) OS squash team and their activities in London this year, on which it is my privilege to report.

Our second full season since the Club’s revival has borne witness to encouraging progress both off the squash court and inside it. In recent months a commendable number of able-bodied men have volunteered their services in the hopes of alleviating the sedentary trappings of office life, and have had partial success. This influx of talent has significantly bolstered the squad and has helped us produce some gratifying upsets over the course of the year.

There was precious little in the run up to Christmas to indicate that such an optimistic overview of the team’s activities in the end of season report would be possible. We began with a resounding 4-1 defeat at the Southbank Club against an Old Tonbridgean side that had fully come to terms with the state of disrepair that their home courts proudly preserve. While most of us floundered as the ball ricocheted off the walls at unlikely angles, plaudits must go to William Briggs for his quick acclimatisation to the tricky conditions, which paved the way for a hard fought victory over his opposing number. A narrow defeat against the Old Etonians followed, and then another shortly afterwards against the MBBS who pulled in the ringers this time round to defeat us at the key seeds, but there was a notable victory by Henry Brown which should be mentioned. Both fixtures were lost 3-2.

This poor streak of form was unfortunate as we knew that our participation in the fast approaching Londonderry Cup was unlikely to spark a resurgence in our gameplay, having drawn the ever formidable Lancing College for our first round tie. Over the last two decades Lancing has only been bested in the cup by Millfield – a team crammed with internationally ranked players of some merit – and had occasionally managed to overcome even them. The less that is said about this wintry 5pm bout the better: as the clock struck 5:30 the scoresheet read 5-0.

By this point morale had reached rock bottom. Some of our more shell-shocked members were considering defecting to the OS Golfing Society. Our fragile egos were in desperate need of a triumph, however small. The Old Reptonians rose to the challenge, and the altruistic spirit that their genial team of Old Boys so reliably embodies bequeathed us a much needed 3-2 victory. Special mention on this occasion has to go to team captain Ben Stirk who led from the front with an astonishing display of stamina that enabled him to whittle his opponent down in a lengthy war of attrition.

This could have been a pivotal moment in our season, having granted us an opportunity to gain some momentum. This was not to be, as several key members of our squad over-indulged over the Christmas break and others fell prey to injury. Early January saw us face the Old Harrovians who, in spite of a staunch performance from Rupert Parry, came out on top at 4-1, with MBBS following suit in identical fashion shortly afterwards. We then made the journey up to Shrewsbury to face this year’s fine batch of pupils and honorary pupil Myles Harding, who had the humility to play at number 2 string this time around. Much good spirited fun was had by all and the Old Boys managed to avenge last year’s contentious loss with a nail-biting 4-2 victory.

A comprehensive away win against our philanthropic friends the Old Reptonians (5-0) preceded a tightly contested loss at the renowned facilities of the RAC against their Under-35s team (3-2), with Jonny Williams and Ben Stirk scampering around to conclusively win their respective battles against their opposing numbers. The team saved the best for last however, as we faced an Old Harrovian side that have proven to be indefatigable opponents over the last couple of years. In the pre-match team talk our skipper Ben Stirk suggested that we aim for the front corner nicks indiscernitably and without restraint. Pepped up by this unwarranted display of faith in our abilities, we found ourselves at the front corner nicks indiscriminately and without restraint. Pepped up by this unwarranted display of faith in our abilities, we found ourselves at two games apiece, with the final result squarely resting on the broad shoulders of Nicholas Davies. Shortly after an encouraging start all seemed lost as he took a nasty fall in the first game which saw him writhing on the floor with a bloodied knee. Fortunately Ben was on hand to clarify that this wasn’t the type of rolling nick he had been envisaging, and once back on his feet his wicked wrist steered us to an historic first victory over the Harrovians.

It was great to end the season in such fine fettle, and to have been able to deepen our playing squad over the course of the year. That said, we are always on the lookout for Old Salopians of all abilities and welcome all prospective newcomers looking to get involved. Our games are played in London, with our home turf being the prestigious MCC courts just outside Lord’s Cricket Ground, so please get in touch if you’re even mildly interested.

Floreat Salopia

Jonny Williams
(R 2004-09)
Old Salopian Golfing Society

Old Salopian News

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OSGS members rounded off 2016 on their customary high notes with Guests’ Day at Ashridge, originally instigated by Dan Graham some 15 years ago. Twenty golfers gathered on a bright, autumnal morning, with the trees in a magnificent array of colours to match the list of visitors. For here came the President of Ashridge, Sir Michael Simmons, whose father George will be remembered by those in the Third Form in the 50s or those who acted in the Speech Day plays under his direction, notably The Masque by Paul Dehn, performed to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of our Foundation. Or was that Arnold Hagger, one asks?

The cast included Robin Blackhurst (Rigg’s) as Judge Jeffreys, who went on to be the only Salopian to become President of the Oxford University Dramatic Society. Narrowly missing a Golf Blue, Robin played for the Divots. He was dubbed the non-acting President, as the parts he played hardly required him to act, such as Petruchio in The Taming of the Shrew. Kiss me Kate, indeed. The President of Hadley Wood, John Bolton, (also Brookie’s Rigg’s) was in the frame as well: your writer must stop name-dropping Riggites.

The winning team with 84 points: Simon Shepherd & Dan Shelland (Guest) and Patrick Carr (Rigg’s) & Peter Diggle (Guest)

Runners-up with 83 points: Michael Simmons & Michael Cox and John Bolton & Michael Cunnane (Guest)

The longest drive was struck effortlessly by Stephen Shaw. In alphabetical order, there also ran: Dan Graham, Tim Lewis, John Parker, Donald Shaw and Mark Summers.

Diary Note: OSGS Guests’ Day at Ashridge is on Friday 27th October 2017.

New Zealand, 5th November 2016

We were lucky to enjoy dry, clear autumnal conditions for our final fixture to the New Zealand Golf Club, near Brooklands for our eighth visit to this exclusive members’ club on a Saturday morning. Salopian members include Dan Betts, Philip Sabin and Tim Turnbull, who were absent without leave. We welcomed to this august gathering newcomers Charles Dickson and his brother James, originally of Royal Lytham, along with their cousin Nick Davies, David Umpleby (Organiser of The Campion) and Michael Smart from Tandridge GC.

Results:

Nearest the Pin on the 5th: Rex Worth
Nearest the Pin on the 10th: James Dickson
Longest drive on 11th: Rob Mays (guest)
Longest drive on 18: James Mainwaring (all of 300 yards)
Winners of the Robert Walker Cup: Angus & James Pollock (41 pts)
Runners-up: Charles & James Dickson (39 pts)
Third place: Peter & Rex Worth (37 pts) (former winners)

Honourable mention: Peter Thwaites & Charles Wilson (36 pts)

Diary Note: OSGS returns to NZGC on Saturday 4th November 2017.

Denham: 30th March 2017

The morning play produced several beta plus plus scores, as exemplified:
32 pts: James Shaw
33 pts: Frank Higham, Will Mackenzie
34 pts: Will Hawkley
35 pts: John Bolton
37 pts: Winner: Tim Backhouse

It was good to welcome firstly Christopher Prentice, home at last after five distinguished years residing in the Villa Wolkonsky as HM Ambassador in Rome, and Tom Gerrard who had planned leave from his office to play.

After the customary delectable lunch, the afternoon St Andrews Foursomes over 12 holes were not quite so beta: Winners: Stephen Shaw & Tim Backhouse (25 pts)
Runners-up: John Bolton & Mark Summers (23 pts)

Once again we owe a huge debt to Anthony Parsons who organised the day for us with spotless efficiency and his innate authority as one of Shrewsbury’s finest golfers in recent decades.

Hoylake, 31st March 2017

The heavens provided a blustery day at RLGC, Hoylake. This made the Open Championship course a stiff test. The first nine were particularly tough – not many people hit the 6th green in two for nearest the pin in two – in fact the winner Jonathan Perkins struck two 3 Woods to put his ball nearest to the flag.

After midafternoon the sun came out and there was blue sky and clouds – but the wind still blew! Everyone thought that the back nine would be easier, but this was not reflected in the scoring. The Hoylake greens had recently received a magnesium treatment. The President, Anthony Smith, commented that they were not as quick as usual. This said, they looked magnificent with their freshly mown stripes with a rich dark green colour in the late March sunshine.

An early supper of gammon, pineapple, fried egg, chips and peas was served to everyone in the Club dining room at 3.45pm followed by a vote of thanks to RLGC Members for hosting OSGS and the Prize Giving Presentation by the President.

The prize winners were:

Nearest Pin in 3 on 3rd Hole: Charles Tustain
Nearest Pin in 2 on 6th Hole: Jonathan Perkins
Nearest Pin on 13th Hole: J. Perkins (again!): Richard Hanson was second closest and was given the prize

Longest Drive on 15th Hole: Chris White

Fasti Additions

Thursday 27th July: Evening Golf & Supper from 4pm at Royal Mid-Surrey
Friday 13th October: Golf at Royal Porthcawl
Hugh Brooke Prize for Gallantry (oozing from every pore): John Upton
Third Prize 32 pts: Chris White
Second Prize 33 pts (on last 6 – 7pts): Mark Schofield
Our thanks go to Charles Hill who organised the day brilliantly, winning First Prize 33 pts (on last 6 – 11pts).

Kek spell:
“I am not a man: I am dynamite.” (Friedrich Nietzsche)

Diary Note: OSGS returns to Hoylake on Friday 13th April 2018

Tandridge, 21st April 2017
Triangular Match versus Old Alleynians & Old Tonbridgians
The sixth encounter of this three-way match since its inauguration in 2012 brought another delightful day at Tandridge GC. As usual, the Club provided us with a really outstanding three-course lunch. The Old Alleynians have had a stranglehold on the event, winning in each of the first four years, broken by the Old Tonbridgians last year.
There is something about this competition that seems to be destined for an Old Alleynians’ win. 2017 was no exception to that rule, as they came in with a stunning score of 174, so winning by 5 points. Their highest scoring pair shot 47 points, implying at least 11 birdies!
The OSGS pairs were as follows:-
Simon Cullingworth & Will Hawksley: 40 pts
Peter Renshaw & Simon Shepherd: 39 pts
Charles Shaw & Frank Higham: 42 pts
Rob Cutler & Stephen Shaw: 40 pts
We came third with the Old Tonbridgians second, with 169 pts.
The OSGS aggregate was our best score since the competition started and would have won on the first three challenges.
’Nil desperandum Teucro duce…’
We shall keep trying, under the indomitable captaincy of Stephen Shaw. Here is a Moserite who engages the OSGS teams, year after year, with warmth, patience and mirth. The consensus was that the Challenge should continue.

Hawkstone Park, 27th April 2017
The match against The Schools resulted in an OSGS whitewash, which belied some close matches. We had an excellent day, with Hawkstone in great condition and no rain to interfere, and the OSGS team performed superbly to recover the Rensburg Bowl with a 6 – 0 win!
The winning OSGS pairings were:
Anthony Smith (President, OSGS) & Harry Walker (grandfather of last year’s Captain of Golf)
Paul Pattenden & David Schofield (father of four Salopians)
Charles Hill & Will Hughes
Harry Boutflower & John Upton
John Ingram & John Sellers
Chris Conway & Peter Stewart
This match started in 1996. All 21 years of meetings have been arranged with consummate attention to detail and cost by Gerald Smith (Rigg’s): Arise, Sir Gerald.
These reports demonstrate the commitment of OSGS to provide members with the pleasure of great golf in great company on great championship courses.
At the AGM at Blackwell on 25th September last year, a proposal from Peter Worth was unanimously agreed whereby Salopians up to the age of 28 years will receive very attractive discounts to encourage them to join OSGS and play in meetings, details to follow, but those interested – who have read thus far – should spread the gospel and apply to:
Tim Lewis – Honorary Secretary – Salopian Golfing Society
timjlewis2014@gmail.com Tel: 01491 641651

Halford Hewitt 2017
After the excitement of reaching the semi-final last year, the golfing gods decided to pair us against Tonbridge in this year’s first round, the 2016 winners and team we would have played had we won the semi-final last year! Since we last won the competition in 1993, Tonbridge have appeared in ten finals winning eight of them. We were not favourites(!), but after last year’s successful run we hoped that we might catch them off guard.
After missing last year’s event, Alex Stewart was available, but Messrs Ferguson and Cassidy, both very strong players, had business commitments and were unavailable. Will Campion
Old Salopian Women’s Sport

The OS Women have continued with their South London netball league over the past five months and have gone from strength to strength within their team abilities. We are currently into our third season and our games are improving each time. With a solid group of core players, we have had some challenging matches with people really developing within their positions. Our next challenge will be to continue with our attack and produce some seriously competitive games of netball. Our matches are tight each week, with key defensive players such as Annie Brenniall showing serious power when marking the opposition.

We are still in the early stages of the OS Women netball career; however, we have had very positive feedback so far. The umpires are encouraged by our improvement each week! With the team being made up of a variety of year groups, the girls will be able to spread the word amongst their peers to encourage others to play and even start up other teams.

Ellie Hill (MSH 2008-10) and Tom Wordie (SH 2004-09) put on an outstanding performance at the Feltmaker’s Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament at Queen’s Club. There were a total of 24 teams in the competition with an initially fiercely competitive ‘round robin’ section playing the best of nine games. This determined who proceeded to the quarter-finals where there was an incredibly high standard on all courts.

In the last match, the uncle and nephew combination of Angus and James Pollock were beaten by another strong Tonbridge pair, which included an ex-England International. They never reached the same heights as their successful run last year and succumbed on the 16th to another birdie. To put the three Tonbridge birdies into perspective, the 16th at Deal has recently changed from being a par five to a par four of some 460 yards in length. It was playing slightly into the wind as well. Great golf.

So it was off to Prince’s for the plate for a mini Hewitt made up of the 32 losers in the first round playing scratch foursomes knockout with three rather than five pairs. After safely negotiating Clifton in the first round, we played The Leys, winners of last year’s plate, and came short two and one, with the two games we lost finishing on the 18th. James Mainwaring, who had come to the Hewitt as first reserve, played in both games in the plate, partnering Jon Howse to two good victories.

After the heady heights of last year’s semi-final, it was back to earth with a bump! However, there were a lot of positives to come from the week. Although we did not beat Tonbridge, we did give them a good match; and with some better putting, a couple of the matches might have gone our way.

Something to concentrate on! The debuts of Laurie Briggs and James Mainwaring in the plate increase the size of our squad and bring some youth for the future. They are both good players who we hope to see in the Hewitt team for some years to come.

Once again, the annual plea for Salopian golfers of any age who are able to play category one golf and would like to test themselves against some of the best amateur golfers in the country to get in touch with the captain andypollock@btinternet.com and come and play in some of the excellent Salopian events throughout the year.

Thanks again to our supporters, President Anthony Smith, Charles Edwards, Hugh Ramsbotham, who were there in person, and Tim Lewis, Sandy Bell, Nicko Williams, Anthony Parsons and Peter Broad, who were in touch by various means!

Tim Lewis (R 1950-55) and Andy Pollock (I 1971-74)
is now in its seventh year, saw 13 pairs from seven different universities take part. The Liverpool University pair, Alice and her partner Aroop Bhattacharya, used their skill and sheer determination to out-play all the other universities and put on a magnificent performance in the final. Having both played an exhausting semi-final, the final was a real test of their stamina and tactical abilities. The Cambridge pair gave it their all; however, Alice and Aroop pipped them to the post to gain the trophy. Massive congratulations go to Alice and Aroop for achieving such a great award, especially as this was Alice’s final year at university.

Molly Derbyshire (MSH 2009-11) is currently managing the Polo team at Wycombe Abbey, where the team has just taken part in the SUPA Polo Senior Nation Championship on 5th March. She found herself in a tricky situation when her team were up against Shrewsbury School! The Salopian team managed the win this time; however we wish Molly all the best with her team in the future.

We were fortunate enough to be invited back to the OS Football Dinner on 5th May, where ten of us were able to join forces with the OS boys to hear about their season and celebrate their successes over a meal and drinks in West London. Thank you again; we always have a great evening!

If you would like to be involved in OS women’s sport, please contact Elle Gurden (MSH 2008-10) e.gurden@hotmail.co.uk.

Elle Gurden (MSH 2008-09)
Return to the Home of Champions

By Oscar Dickins (R 2010-15, Huntsman 2014-15)

Flying out of Addis Ababa four years ago, after a fortnight in Ethiopia and Kenya scrambling around dusty tracks with the Hunt, I remember being completely sold on the East African runners' way of life. They follow a simple routine: an early morning run at sunrise when the air is still cool; for breakfast milky, sweet tea with porridge or ugali (a dense and bland mash of baked maize flour and water) and a nap to follow. The day unfolds with series of run, eat and then sleep processes. They run when their body feels ready to train which is about three times per day. This may sound horrific to most British people, but I thought that their relaxed peaceful life was all you need.

Despite our best efforts to skip certain classes in order to train more times a day, the Hunt's training regime remained the same and the air in Shropshire at 6am on a winter's morning is slightly too cool. There was slim prospect of becoming a professional athlete and teenage temptations tended to outweigh a life dedicated to long distance running. The Hunt's tour to East Africa in 2013 was nevertheless extraordinary and, with half of the first eight yet to reach 15 years of age, that season we put in some astonishing performances. It was the foothold for the Hunt's recent triumph on the national stage.

During our stay, we visited the Restart Centre, where Henry Newbould and Matt White have spent some time working this year. It is an inspirational place because of the orphans' lives it changes and the way it helps them. There are lots of enterprises attached to Restart to help funding. There was a small vegetable farm, homeopathic plant gardens, eco-friendly fuel briquettes production and the Sanata Women's Group, which aims at employing women and utilising their artistic needlework. This showed me that small enterprises can make a huge impact and how much potential there is for development.

I didn't imagine that in the near future I would be fortunate enough to go back and run in Kenya, although I did want to do something charitable if I took a year out. Just after finishing my A2s I found out about International Citizens Service and then about Balloon Ventures. Balloon helps entrepreneurs in Uganda, Ghana, The Philippines and... Kenya. I was not considering doing much running in my gap year – I was ready for a year off – but the idea of going back to Kenya really excited me, plus the fact that Balloon targets entrepreneurship, which was an area of potential development that I had observed. So, I angled in on Kenya and then ended up in Eldoret, which is the 'Home of Champions', and all of a sudden I am surrounded by the best runners in the world. As I type, Eliud Kipchoge from the Eldoret region just ran a marathon in 2.00.25, the fastest ever marathon. It was not hard for me to throw myself rapidly back into training mode. I met an international athlete in my village called Laban who I trained with for a while; unfortunately I was too fast and he didn't want to hold me back any longer.

The work I did with Balloon Ventures was life-changing for me. My team of three, which included a Newcastle graduate from London and a Kenyan volunteer, helped five local entrepreneurs for three months. Living with a Kenyan family and working closely with the small businesses for an intense period of time, I made lifelong Kenyan and English friends. The experience would not have been so rewarding if I hadn't already found my passion for running from the Hunt and been able to return to the Home of Champions and join in with what they do best.
A Glimpse at Times Past

SALOPIAN AND SABRINA MEMORIES OF THE 1950s

A bell-note, the term came back to me the other day. The moment when the oar hits the water, catching a small pocket of air, which rings out. 'Daddy' Hadland, our coach in Moser’s called for bell-notes at the beginning of the stroke and to lie back at the end, drawing the handle of the oar right up to the chest. He had rowed for Jesus, Cambridge under the renowned Australian oar, Steve Fairbairn.

During my first two or three years at the Schools I coxed rather than rowed. One afternoon, as our four was rowing past the boat-house I saw a pleasure boat capsize just in front of us. The passengers were flailing about in the water. "Easy all" I cried out, unable to resist such an opportunity and, as the boat slowed I dived out, swam to the nearest woman in distress, held her by the head and started kicking on my back to the shore, in approved life-saving manner. She half turned her head, gave out a great belch of whisky and said in a thick Irish accent "Don’t worry about me lad, save yourself!"

I don’t remember if any others in the crew had gone in too, but the follow up was a splendid parchment scroll from the Royal Humane Society for “going to the rescue of three persons who were in imminent danger of drowning in the River Severn at the Quarry, Shrewsbury, and whose lives he gallantly assisted to save.”

Art and painting was my great love. It would have been two or three years after the escapade on the river that I founded the grandly named Da Vinci society. J. B. Oldham, the founder of Oldhams, lived just down the road from Moser’s and befriended me for want of a better term. (He was undoubtedly homosexual but never did me any harm.) He taught me not only to distinguish between dry gin and gin and French but also about the renaissance artists, which doubtless led to the rather grand name for a straightforward art appreciation society in which our art master Mr Broadbent rather than J.B.O. was involved.

1952 was the school’s fourth centenary for which Paul Dehn wrote Call-over, a masque with music by the Schools’ music master, John Stainer. The music lent heavily on W. S. Gilbert and was fun, but the text or rather poetry of the masque was of another order. It was superb. Dehn is thought of as a minor poet but his work is charming and a delight to recite. I was fortunate to be given the part of John Smith, a new-boy, and the opening scene shows Smith reading the inscription in Latin below the statue of Philip Sidney. The statue comes to life and, throughout the masque, introduces the new-boy to famous Salopians of the past from Darwin to Judge Jeffreys of the Bloody Assizes. A week or two before the opening Paul Dehn came down to hear a performance and subsequently he took me out to a stately home one afternoon to hear me recite some parts. I remember his gentle admonishment, as we sat against a stone wall on the grass among the wild flowers, watching the birds around us. “Not Phillipus, but Phillip’s” he said “you don’t hear the ‘u’”. I still treasure a copy of his book of poems Romantic Landscape published by Hamish Hamilton in 1952 and inscribed ‘To Christopher Penn fellow bird-watcher and the original leading actor in “Call-over” from a grateful author, Paul Dehn, Shrewsbury, June 1952.’ George Simmons, with whom I shared the lead, was magnificent as Philip Sidney and kind yet instructive in rehearsal.

It was a memorable experience and a copy of Call-over was given to Prince Philip when he and the Queen came to visit the school to commemorate the fourth centenary; but strangely, Jack Peterson, the Headmaster, who had been a friend of my father’s when they were both boys at Shrewsbury, told him that it had done me no good. Perhaps he was thinking of my academic performance for which, apart from an abiding interest in history, I only had limited aims; and, once I had gained admission to Brasenose, Oxford, I left school, without even taking my ‘A’ levels, but saving my parents the summer term’s fees.

Christopher Penn (M 1950-1955)
Common Room Appreciations

David Gee has compiled a record of the contributions made to the School by each of his colleagues who were members of the Common Room in 1950 and in the years that followed. He believes that many of them have exercised a profound, benign and inspirational effect upon the School and the current quality of its life and they richly deserve to be commemorated in this way. In the last edition of The Salopian we published his appreciation of Russell Hope-Simpson, who taught at Shrewsbury for more than 40 years, eventually retiring in 1965. In this edition we include his appreciation of Stacy Colman, another towering figure of the Common Room during that period.

Stacy Colman DSC

Stacy Colman’s contribution to the life of Shrewsbury School, both as a boy and as a master was as varied and substantial as it was distinguished: nihil quod tetigit non ornavit.

He joined the School as a scholar and a member of W.H. Moore’s House in 1920 and showed early signs of academic distinction, securing a Classical award at Balliol before he was seventeen, which was augmented to a full Domus Scholarship before he left the School. He won the Moss Prize twice and was awarded the Sidney Gold Medal. This academic achievement was placed in a much wider context of all-round activity, on the river, on the cricket and soccer fields, in the fives court and in the Paperchases. He was a member of the orchestra, an editor of The Salopian and in the Sixth Form he was appointed a praepostor.

His career at Oxford continued in the same remarkable vein. He took a First both in Mods and Greats and gained honourable mention in University Classical Prizes, a further distinction upon which a Balliol contemporary commented “it does lift one out of the rattle of Firsts in Mods”. He rowed in the Balliol crew under the captaincy of David Bevan and in the company of the Crown Prince (later King Olav) of Norway and he competed at Henley.

He returned to Shrewsbury as a young master in 1928, for a sojourn which was to prove comparatively brief, but in which, as well as playing his full part in the formidable team of colleagues who staffed the Classical Faculty, he restored the fortunes of Chances on the river (thereby having played a significant part in both the Houses which were later to merge as Severn Hill) and in which he served as the Chairman of the Mission Committee.

Then it was back to Oxford in 1932 to take up a Fellowship at Queen’s and to serve as the Greats Tutor in Ancient History, and later as Dean. It was there that he met Sallie Edwards and they were married by Canon Sawyer, (who had been Stacy’s headmaster), in the School Chapel in December 1934. Taking a wise precaution against Sawyer’s renowned forgetfulness, Stacy had lined up Revd. Joe Whitfield as a potential substitute, if the Canon should fail to appear! Stacy and Sallie not only shared high intelligence but also a remarkable identity of interests, which led to a very happy marriage, shadowed only by their inability to have children. They lived in Ashton Road at No.4 The Schools, Chance’s old house, moving up, during the War, to a flat created at the top. The entrance lay down a small flight of stairs, and there was a notice which said ‘Top Flat’, with an arrow pointing downwards. Stacy enjoyed pointing this out as an excellent example of an oxymoron. There was always a cat (or cats); Stacy was devoted to them. Sallie described one of the few occasions when Stacy was really worked up, when a cat climbed a high tree from which it could not get down. The Fire Brigade was sent for: Stacy, in Sallie’s words, was ‘nearly demented’.

Stacy returned to Shrewsbury for an even briefer period in 1935 before he yielded, with considerable misgivings, to the insistent persuasion of his uncle, the Archbishop of Melbourne, that he should accept the post of Headmaster of Melbourne Grammar School in Australia. Michael Charlesworth comments that the appointment proved to be disastrous. He went to a school with a fine tradition but it was going through an undisciplined phase. The staff were old, the governors older; neither contemplated change with any enthusiasm...The school really required a Headmaster with the qualities of a Sergeant Major with heavy boots; Stacy was a sensitive Oxford scholar. Stacy quickly realised that the move had been a great mistake: equally quickly he appraised what needed to be done at the school and concluded that he was not the man to do it. However, he left a list of ten suggested priorities for his successor, who later reported that Stacy had been absolutely right about them all.

So it was back to Shrewsbury for the fourth – and final – time, where he remained until his retirement – a period of twenty-eight years. As before, his contribution was characteristically versatile and distinguished, but two of its aspects were pre-eminent – the first as a teacher of Classics and the second as a Housemaster. Stacy rejoined the Classical Faculty under Jimmy Street and succeeded him as Head of Faculty in 1946. Together they presided over what proved to be the ‘golden evening’ of Classics at Shrewsbury School, after 150 years of outstanding success. The results can be seen on the Honours Boards....It particularly pleased Stacy that, for six years running, his pupils appeared in the Balliol election, several times in the first position. Later at Oxford and to a lesser extent at Cambridge, his pupils almost monopolised the University classical prizes.
and in many instances to surpass the achievement of any of 'second-class citizens' were transformed, during the course of a small and dispirited group of boys, regarded by the boarders as a teacher. There was something about his fastidious presence and idiosyncracies. Trains were one of the enthusiasms: three journeys a week by rail, on Shrewsbury's Classical Scholarship.

Stacy recorded the remarkable story, publishing a monograph, *Sabrinae Corolla*, on Shrewsbury's Classical Scholarship. To be taught by Stacy was an unforgettable experience; though his methods might now be considered old-fashioned, his expositions were crystal-clear, his enthusiasm was infectious and his challenging standards enabled his pupils to excel themselves. Professor Colin Leach (O 1945-1951) comments that 'forty years and more have passed, but the voice of Stacy Colman still rings in my ears, imploring the form not 'to keep your knowledge in little boxes', or asking 'why do you utter your recitation as though it were a seedman's catalogue ?...he made us want to achieve – impossible task – the Platonic standards that he set ...he constantly sought to broaden our horizons, not least by encouraging us to read outside the syllabus, by introducing us to a range of classical music, by paralleling Greek history with that of the Middle East, or by explaining the multiple and distinct strands which went to make up the Old Testament. He took us to Henley and to the Greek plays at Cambridge and Bradfield. Stacy could have been an Oxford don or a headmaster: he tried both, but it was as a schoolmaster at Shrewsbury that he found his true métier.' (Stacy declined the offer of the Headmastership of Uppingham.) Another pupil, Harold Beaver (S 1942-47) writes: 'I have never forgotten his sensitive, patient, skilful touch as a teacher. There was something about his fastidious presence (real, devoted scholarship, as I now know) which no other more boisterous or obviously jovial master achieved. He became for me – and has remained – a touchstone of quality, of finesse, of caring attention to detail. As we sat side by side, reading my tentative efforts at Greek and Latin composition, he did not merely correct or mark them, he reinvented them, as it were, from my own groundwork and transfigured them. That is how I learned, not just Latin or Greek, but the patient adjustments, the tonal, grammatical and lexical considerations by which clear, terse writing is achieved.'

Stacy showed the same painstaking devotion as Master of the Day Boys, by which he initiated the process in which a rather small and dispirited group of boys, regarded by the boarders as 'second-class citizens' were transformed, during the course of the next thirty years into a confident community able to match, and in many instances to surpass the achievement of any of the other Houses. Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons (DB 1950-1955) writes 'Stacy Colman was, of course, first and foremost an outstanding scholar and teacher but those of us....under his tutelage were conscious of a much broader contribution to our development....He had as much time for the non-academic boy as for the scholar and was an enthusiastic supporter of all house activities, sporting and cultural. He set standards in all spheres to which all could aspire but which few could achieve. Example, encouragement and patience stood out among his many qualities. The passage of time has shown me just how much I personally owed to this giant among Salopiains.' When Stacy was asked in later years to comment on his tenure, his very short and simple reply provided the explanation of the transformation he had achieved: 'I loved the job' he said.

There were several areas of school life in which Stacy played a very significant, if rather less prominent role. The first was as School Librarian and Archivist, a position in which he first assisted and then succeeded the venerable and formidable Basil Oldham. Although Stacy always protested that he had no formal training for the role, his scholarly and meticulous qualities fully equipped him to discharge it admirably. He effected a much-needed reorganization of the archive and made the Ancient Library more accessible to the boys. He also ensured that he was succeeded by another meticulous scholar, James Lawson. During the Second World War, Stacy took charge of the Boat Club and coached the 1st VIII, in succession to the legendary 'Kitch', who, Stacy claimed, had taught him all he knew about rowing. As Lt Colman, Stacy served in the School CCF and in the wartime Home Guard.

There was a lighter side to all this dedicated commitment. As a young man Stacy participated fully in the boisterous life of bachelor community in the New House. On one occasion, when a thunderstorm threatened and the 'inmates' were waiting, in full ceremonial dress, to go out on parade, he and George Simmons 'drew their swords and rushed into the garden, where they enacted the confrontation, on Mount Carmel, of Elijah the Tishbite with the priests of Baal.' Stacy appeared on the stage, in a staff pantomime, as Cinderella, (with Hans Penderlebury as the Fairy Godmother). He played Ariel in *The Tempest*, 'flitting around the gardens of Kingsland House' and also Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*, leaving a deep impression on the audience by the quality of his diction. As Michael Charlesworth comments, 'humour, wit, lightness of touch accompanied all Stacy did'.

Like all memorable schoolmasters, Stacy had his enthusiasms and idiosyncrasies. Trains were one of the enthusiasms: three hundred books on trains were found in his house when he died. Indeed, reading was his principal leisure occupation; his personal library contained over two thousand books. Radio and television (which he called 'the Tele blackmail') were banned. Taking snuff was one of the idiosyncrasies: in retirement Stacy took fellow members by surprise when he passed round the snuff box after his weekly visit to take lunch in the Salop Club.

The prospect of many years of happy retirement with Sallie, to which Stacy had so much looked forward, was sadly broken by her death, after only four years, in 1970. Stacy's grief was compounded by a further bereavement when his brother died a year later. Stacy sank into a depression which necessitated a major surgical operation. That he eventually recovered both his physical health and his good spirits and that he lived for a further twenty years was very largely due to the friendship, companionship and devotion of Janette Shepherd, who encouraged him to take up the threads of his life again and to whom he owed and fully acknowledged his enormous debt of gratitude. However, the bedrock of his achievement and the mainspring of his resilience was his deep Christian faith, evidenced by his faithful attendance in Chapel, his preaching and his role as a Lay Reader, his teaching of Divinity to the Sixth Form and in the ethical standards he set not only in the classroom and more widely in the School, but which informed his own personal life. He died in 1993.
Super Cycling Man Reaches South-East Asia

Will Hodson (Rt 1990-95) is aiming to complete the world’s first bike ride across every continent on earth, including Antarctica. Dressed in a Superman costume, he is visiting schools all around the world, inspiring children with his message that #WeCanAllBeHeroes and is raising £100,000 for Parkinson’s UK (Will’s father has Parkinson’s) and several other charities. He set off from the UK in May 2015. Two years and 30,000 kilometres later, he is now in Cambodia.

The last update I wrote for The Salopian about my world cycle was just before Christmas when I was in China and struggling to stay warm during winter. Every day I’d be wearing several layers of clothes with thick boots and ski gloves to keep some kind of feeling in my fingers and toes. Camping was bitterly cold and I would regularly have to scrape the frost off the inside and outside of my tent in the mornings. Not a great way to start the day, I assure you! One night high up in the mountains I couldn’t face another freezing cold evening in my tent and decided to knock on a few doors to see if I could sleep inside somewhere. Unbelievably, the family in the first house I knocked on said I could stay with them. By chance they were also celebrating New Year, so I was dragged off to dance around a large bonfire - the perfect way to keep warm!

This incredible kindness of strangers has been a constant theme of my world cycle so far. In China I was treated to dozens of meals and on several occasions complete strangers even bought me a hotel room to stay in! After cycling for many hours each day and sleeping in a tent, I cannot tell you how much I enjoy the simple pleasure of a real bed and a hot shower.

As well as the kind people and wonderful scenery (especially in Yunnan province in southern China) I will also remember China as the time I stopped cycling solo for a few weeks and joined up with another cyclist – an amazing 21-year-old from England called Ed Pratt - who is aiming to become the first person to unicycle around the world. Together we played basketball with Buddhist monks, sang karaoke at a Tibetan New Year party and built campfires to stay warm when we camped. The levels of fun and adventure definitely went up a few gears when I was cycling with Ed. But after four weeks, we eventually split up as we were going different routes to Bangkok. Who knows, we may meet up later on our world cycles?

China was also where I had my first major bike breakdown. One night I noticed a creaking sound coming from my front wheel. I stopped and noticed a clean break right through one of my front forks, probably under the strain of all the bags I am carrying on my bike. I was in the middle of nowhere at the time, miles away from any big town or city. I think at the start of the journey this kind of major problem would have really stressed me out, but over time I have definitely mellowed. One of my biggest lessons is not to panic if things go wrong, as pretty well any problem can be solved if you keep your cool and break down whatever the problem is into smaller parts. So after asking the internet for advice on how to fix this problem, I was able to do a temporary and slightly comedy repair job using a spoon handle, some zip ties and a few chopsticks and managed very carefully to cycle the broken bike 100 kilometres to the nearest big town where I could wait for some new parts to be delivered from the bike manufacturer.

I really enjoyed cycling across China, but I was incredibly happy when I crossed into country number 22 - Laos - in March this year. This was the start of South East Asia which promised flatter roads and warmer weather. After cycling in China for so long (almost six months!), this border crossing also reminded me very clearly that I was still steadily making progress on my way around the world.
Cycling in Laos was a real treat. So many smiles and waves from local people. Some children would come sprinting from their houses just to shout “SABAIDEE!” (Hello!) to me and give me the biggest high five slap possible on my hand as I cycled past. I pretty well lost count of how many waterfalls I came across, jumped off and swam in. Laos was wonderfully wild.

In April I crossed into Cambodia.

After coping with the cold of Chinese winter, I am now at the other end of the spectrum and struggling to stay cool in the 40 degree heat here. If I want to make any kind of progress, I have to get on the road as early as possible and my average day might look something like this:

6am until 10am - cycle
10am until 4pm - find a service station or restaurant I can stay at in the shade somewhere for the hot part of the day
4pm until 6:30pm - cycle

I am now in Siem Reap and have just spent the last few days visiting the many temples around Angkor Wat. For so many years I have dreamed of seeing the crumbled ruins of these temples where trees have been allowed to run riot with their roots tangling themselves up in the brickwork.

All I can say is that it feels really good to finally make these dreams become reality. This is one of things I talk about when I visit schools, along with the importance of being kind to others and not giving up when things get tough.

That’s what being a hero is in my opinion and I really believe that we can all be heroes…no superman costume required, but it is a lot more fun if you put a pair of pants and a cape on too!

A few weeks after Super Cycling Man sent us this news bulletin, he emailed the Salopian Club again with news of his arrival in Bangkok:

So, approximately two years after coming to see everyone in Shrewsbury School UK just before I set off on my epic adventure and being allowed to cycle through KH, I popped into Shrewsbury International School last week in Bangkok.

I was shown around by old boy Stuart Marks, met up with Mr Holroyd…who I still have to call Mr Holroyd and not Stephen, even though I left the School over 20 years ago!

Will is raising £100,000 for Parkinson’s UK and several other charities. If you want to donate or contact Will please go to www.supercyclingman.com
PUBLICATIONS

Clive Bonny (M 1966-71)

Writing Rites and Wrongs

Clive Bonny is an award-winning management consultant. His online e-book promotes good use of English. It is full of tips and techniques on business writing, PR, marketing, blogging and influence psychology. Available from Amazon or by emailing Clive@consult-smp.com.

Tim Cawkwell (Rt 1961-65)

The Tale of Two Terriers and the Somerset Cat

Sforzinda Books

On 23rd September 2016, the last day of the County Cricket Championship, three teams were in contention to seize the crown. Somerset would win if Middlesex and Yorkshire could wrestle themselves to a draw at Lord’s. They almost did, but 28 balls from the end of the fourth day of the final game of a cricket season that had begun six months earlier, Middlesex grasped the winning prize.

The scrap for the 2016 County Championship title between Middlesex, Somerset and Yorkshire began in Taunton in early August 2016, and Tim Cawkwell’s book follows the twists and turns of the championship for the next two months right up to that dramatic final day’s play. The text captures the exquisite intricacies of the story, and is built around the day-by-day accounts of Somerset v Durham in early August, and of the Somerset v Nottinghamshire and Middlesex v Yorkshire matches in late September. The whole is enriched by some 60 of Tim’s own photographs.

Underpinning this story is a debate about long-form cricket versus blast cricket. At a time when the long form of the game is at risk of being pushed to the margins as old-fashioned and unprofitable, it produced one of the most extraordinary spectacles in its long history, proving that its arm-wrestling and subtleties are as exciting a form of sport as ever.

Daniel Corbett (I 1955-60) and Charles Edwards (R 1955-60) have sponsored a book about their university:

Portrait of an Era – Trinity College Dublin in the 1960s
ISBN 9780955325359

It contains more than 200 pages of colour and black & white photographs showing Trinity College Dublin during the Golden Era, when it was “small enough to be a college yet large enough to be a university”. It was a time when everybody knew each other and the entire student body fitted easily into the beautiful Georgian buildings, situated in the very heart of Dublin. Taken by the undergraduates themselves, the photographs are accompanied by anecdotes and memories. “They illustrate why it was such a privilege to be at Trinity in those days and some of the reasons why the experience would never be forgotten by those people lucky enough to ‘have been there’.” It will also appeal to those who were not at Trinity during that era but who loved Dublin and Ireland as it was then.

Copies are available from Daniel Corbett, email: dasc@danielcorbettco.com

Col Robert Wilsey RM (M 1962-67)

The Italian Vetterli Rifle: Development, Variants and History in Service

Andrew Mowbray Publishing Inc

The Vetterli holds a special place in military history. One of the first bolt-action rifles issued for military use, it had a service life in Italy of 70 years. While the longarms used by Italian forces have long been popular with collectors, until now there has been relatively little information about them available in the English language. Robert Wilsey’s new guide covers all of the variations of the rifle and carbine, and charts the history of the Vetterli’s development both in single-shot form and with a variety of magazine feed systems. It charts the use of the rifle on active service in campaigns in Europe and Africa including Ethiopia, Somaliland, Libya, Ireland, Russia, China, Turkey and the Spanish Civil War.

“The first part of the book ends with an interesting miscellany, including the training carbine, Model 1934, anti-aircraft sights and the Asaasen rifle grenade of 1912. The reader will find this section of particular interest, as it broadens the scope of the book from a mere catalogue of military rifles to one of much wider interest.” – Militaria History

In his research for the book, Robert Wilsey even uncovered a connection between the rifle and Shrewsbury School. He includes a photograph of General Sir Bernard Paget GCB DSO MC, GOC-in-C Home Forces (Ch 1901-1905) inspecting Shrewsbury School OTC and Home Guard detachments on 25 June 1943, which features the ex-UVF Vetterli Fucile mod.1870/87s. On parade are also Major DJV Bevan and Lieutenant DS Colman, both Shrewsbury School masters.

Former Shrewsbury School Head of History and School Archivist Mike Morrogh helped with some of the research on the School’s OTC and also with an interesting section that analyses Irish use of the rifle by both the Ulster and Irish volunteers around 1912-1914.
Michael Wood (M 2000-05)

Heiner Müller’s Democratic Theater: The politics of making the audience work

Boydell & Brewer


Heiner Müller’s Democratic Theater is the outcome of the research Michael Wood conducted for his PhD, albeit revised and repackaged to no small degree. In it, he studies a selection of works by the German playwright Heiner Müller (1929-95), who is widely acknowledged as one of the most important playwrights of the latter part of the twentieth century and certainly one of the most influential since Bertolt Brecht; indeed, Müller’s 1977 text The Hamletmachine, consisting of eight pages of almost utterly unstageable carnage, remains a firm favourite on university syllabuses in English, modern languages, drama, theatre, history, and politics departments across the world (and, like Müller’s other ‘plays’, is well worth a read!).

Heiner Müller’s work takes the baton from Brecht in looking for ways in which to make theatre audiences active, thinking participants that might change their own political, social and economic reality. With one eye on the historical contexts in which Müller’s plays were written and staged and another on the details of the texts and the audiences for whom they were written, this book hopes to demonstrate that Müller’s works point to how theatre can be a productive political force in times of historical upheaval.

Heiner Müller’s Democratic Theater is also written to be readable for and of interest to people who aren’t academics or university students. So, the author hopes, it might just tickle the fancy of the general reader with an interest in European history, politics, literature, and/or theatre…

Hardback copies can be ordered online from the publisher Boydell & Brewer and via Amazon. Old Salopians are warmly invited to order their copy through the publisher’s website (www.boydellandbrewer.com) and quote BB130 at the checkout. Doing so shaves a tidy 30% off the price.

Selby Martin (Master 1973-93)

From Communism to Community

YouCaxton Publications

Review by Martin Knox

Selby Martin came late to teaching and such as has been his modesty over the years that his many friends in the Salopian community know little of his earlier career in the Diplomatic Service. No-one could be less given to name-dropping or the pursuit of reflected glory. Seldom indeed did we hear the intervention, “When I was in the Foreign Office…” though given that he was serving in the Moscow embassy at the height of the Cold War, at a time when the Iron Curtain was about to take physical shape, the temptation must have been strong. It is not that Selby was secretive about his past, for he would answer questions to satisfy curiosity, but only now, well into his eighties, does he step into the limelight with a comprehensive account of his life and times.

The cover of this splendid volume might mislead the casual observer. Where does Communism come in? Could this be the story of a double agent, another Cambridge spy? Nothing could be further removed, for the author is the very type of an English gentleman, who, for all his scholarly curiosity, is never in the least danger of “going native”, still less of changing sides. In his account of the Moscow years and of a later posting to Bulgaria, Selby depicts a world of frustrating, and at times frightening, suspicion and tension. That he does so in a matter-of-fact narrative, rather than a rhetorical rant is all the more telling. In this and other sections, he combines personal experience with history, geography, and a very well-informed presentation of the social and political context. He is helped in his researches by the fact that his mother kept his letters home (he was an assiduous correspondent), added to which is the full diary of record that he kept, no mere jottings, but a literate and lucid narrative, in keeping with the rest of the text. It is clear that he responded sensitively to his surroundings and, starting with an affectionate description of the family home, he is always alert to his environment, with a strong preference for the outdoor life.

With that in mind, it emerges that war-time evacuation to Scotland proved to be more congenial to him than it would have been to a confirmed city-dweller. We also discovery early on his passion for fishing, a hobby which he practises
Selby’s progress through prep school and public school is scrupulously charted and, as elsewhere, he reports the rough with the smooth. It is intriguing to read that another boy is reported as being “well-behaved, except when under Martin’s influence”. Selby a bad example? I don’t believe it! He must have reformed, as he was later appointed head boy.

At Marlborough, he develops the interest in Modern Languages which was to play such an important role in his career - or careers. He takes National Service in his stride, an interlude before going up to Cambridge and it is while he is in the RAF that we see a hint of the schoolmaster-to-be: “I enjoyed taking teams and refereeing…” The Cambridge years he records fairly briefly, the main event of the period being a tour of Scandinavia. Even his degree result is put at arm’s length by the use of the passive: “The Tripos part II exams had been taken…”

Thus armed with a 2:1 in Languages, Selby sets off in search of a job. One diary entry concerning rival candidates for the Diplomatic Service is revealing: “…some behaved with disgusting pretentiousness and affectation, as if they were the cream of the aristocracy and sure to get through”. Strong words from a usually moderate pen. Though he may not have been one of these Chosen People, Selby is accepted and so begins a period of almost twenty years travel and experience which forms the backbone of this book. One photograph of the author in Moscow with his boss, the Ambassador, sums up his starting position of Private Secretary, “deferential, glad to be of use”. As he worked his way up via contrasting postings in Russia, Bolivia, Pakistan and Bulgaria, Selby addresses the challenge of getting to know each country and its culture and now in his memoirs he passes on the fruits of his labours. And of course there are the tales from the riverbank. Wherever he goes, Selby does not spare the rod.

Rising through the ranks as he was, Selby was on course for a senior posting, if not one of the glittering prizes. He would have his day at the Palace and letters after his name - and yet he gave it all up to go into teaching. Why? He had had enough of “the interminable round of cocktail parties and official entertaining” and he just wanted to teach. Given the success he made of his second career, the energy with which he threw himself into school life, the wonder is that he waited so long. With typical professionalism, Selby takes himself off to Leeds University for a Postgraduate Certificate of Education, a rewarding experience about which he contributes a valuable chapter on the psychology of learning.

At Shrewsbury he finds the community promised in the title, and, as David Gee does in his recently published history, he responds warmly to the corporate spirit of the place, “joining in” with all the gusto of someone half his age. One of the last of the “Form Masters”, he laments the demise of that role, for which he would have spoken up, given the chance. As another who went down with that particular ship, I second his sentiments concerning the educational value of the form system, while recognising the pressures which led to every subject being taught in a different set.

Selby also writes of his involvement in games, his work with beekeeping (still going!) and above all of his long association with Michael Hall and the Basic Year. His affinity with the outdoor life extends to his readiness to “rough it” for a fortnight on annual Camp in Wales, where his contribution was immense.

That he had made the right decision, as far as one can ever judge these things, is never in doubt, though he ends with a moment of wistful questioning. He found his niche in Shrewsbury, the town, as well as the School, for he has been an active member of the Civic Society. He can be a doughty campaigner for what he believes is right, fashionable or not. A chapter on changes at Shrewsbury since he retired identifies some trends which do not meet with his approval and with the honesty which has characterised this whole endeavour, he is not afraid to say so. Do not, however, expect to read here a disgruntled veteran sounding off from the sidelines. Selby makes clear his appreciation of “a great institution”, about which he cares.

Scholar, diplomat, educator, campaigner, Selby Martin is himself something of an institution. His autobiography tells of a man of high principles, who minds about etiquette, who believes in the notion of service and who has lived out his belief. His autobiography, written entirely without vanity, charts the life of a good citizen, whose example will endure.
Mike Andrews (SH 1940-45)

Mike Andrews was born on 6th November 1926. He was a great oarsman and rowed not only for Shrewsbury, but also for Oxford and Harvard Universities. He had a successful merchant banking career in the City, was Director of various companies and sat on the Council of Lloyds Insurance. He continued working until well into his 80s.

Mike was a passionate fisherman and loved spending time fishing in Scotland.

He was a very modest man, with a dry sense of humour and a ready wit. He died on 30th July 2016 aged 89 and is survived by his wife Sylvia.

Frank Cassels (I 1933-37)

Frank Cassels was born on 3rd September 1919 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He joined Shrewsbury School in 1933 and had fond memories of his time there. After leaving school he joined the Indian Army, serving with them until 1947. He then served a further eight years with the Royal Artillery, achieving the rank of Major.

He married Anne in 1957 and spent the rest of his working life farming in Wiltshire, Dorset and Devon, where he built up a successful dairy herd. They retired to the Isle of Man.

Frank died peacefully in Okehampton in October 2016. He is survived by his five sons and 13 grandchildren.

David Cave (SH 1953-57)

David Cave was born on 16th September 1939 and lived most of his early life with his parents at Seisdon Hall in South Staffordshire. He attended Birchfield School, Wolverhampton before coming to Shrewsbury in 1953, to be followed later by his brother, Malcolm (SH 1957-60).

During his time at Shrewsbury, David developed a keen interest in photography and was a very active and supportive member of the School’s Photographic Society. His talent and burgeoning abilities for this art form provided the foundation for what was to be a career in photography that spanned more than half a century.

David further developed his skills at Wednesbury College where he met his wife, Lynne. They were married in 1964 and had two daughters, Elizabeth Needham-Bennett, a senior producer with BBC News in London, and Kathryn Wright, Clinical Veterinary Director with West Midlands based Connaught Veterinary Practice.

David worked as an industrial and commercial photographer, documenting huge changes in technology and travelled all over the world for companies such as Kvaerner, Trafalgar House, Pioneer Concrete, British Steel/Corus/Tata, Hotpoint, Cannon and Creda. His photographs recorded life in the West Midlands and documented the glass industry in Brierley Hill. He was also the official photographer for the Princess of Wales when she visited Wolverhampton in 1992.

Throughout his life, David devoted himself not only to his family, but also to the service of others. A committed Rotarian (founder member of Tettenhall Rotary Club), he became a major player having twice received the Special Paul Harris Fellowship Sapphire Award for his service to the community through Rotary. Their motto “Service before self” sums up
David’s life perfectly.

One of many examples of his kind and compassionate nature was his reaction after hearing of Sense International India, a charity set up to provide education to deaf and blind children and adults in India. He was so profoundly touched that in 2001, at the age of 62, he embarked upon a rigorous fitness training programme in preparation for a challenging Himalayan mountain trek in aid of the charity. His efforts raised over £4,000.

Last year David was diagnosed with motor neurone disease but he continued to work until a few weeks before his untimely death at home in March 2017, aged 77.

Roger Chovil (Rt 1959-64)

Roger Chovil, who died on 18th April 2016, was born in Guatemala and came to England aged eight to attend Eagle House, where he later became Head Boy. Arriving at Shrewsbury in 1959, he soon made his mark as an all-round sportsman, becoming both 1st XI goalkeeper and 1st XI wicketkeeper. In both these positions, he displayed enormous enthusiasm and flamboyance. He could be seen diving to right and left to reach balls, however impossible it might be. Whether in goal or behind the wicket, he issued a continuous volley of instructions to team mates, who received them with varying degrees of enthusiasm! However, his approach was always to encourage others to make the most of their ability. This kindly and caring characteristic was to continue right through his life, both family and professional.

He was Captain of a number of the Ridgmount House Teams, including Rugby, Boxing and Shooting. He was also a highly rated History student, in his final year achieving residence in History Upper Sixth A.

In 1963 he became Head of House in Ridgmount and went on to become Head of School the following September. He was also Junior Under Officer in the CCF, the most senior position a boy could hold.

Leaving the School at the end of 1964, he sold sports goods at Bentalls, the department store, and for a short time taught at a school before embarking on his mainstream career as a Chartered Accountant. After qualifying with Deloitte Haskins and Sells, he was made a Partner in 1978, and eventually a Senior Audit Partner. He remained with the firm as it merged with others to finally become PWC and was responsible for the audits of several of the largest companies in the country. He retired in 2002. Many testimonials from his former colleagues demonstrate that he was greatly trusted and they also much appreciated the fact that he was able to bring a sense of humour to even the most serious of situations. The firm’s tribute to Roger described him as “an inspirational audit partner”. He was also affectionately known as “chirpy Chovil”.

Following his retirement he took up several non-executive directorships and continued his work with the British Council. In 1974 he married Liz and they commenced a partnership lasting over 40 years and had three children, Lucy, Tania and Charles, who between them produced six grandchildren who gave him great joy. For a long time he carried on playing cricket for Esher where he was a Life Member. Later in life, he was a Governor of St Paul’s School in Thames Ditton, reflecting his lifelong commitment to the Roman Catholic Church. He also continued his association with PWC as a member of its former Partner Committee.

Roger was unwell for some years before his death but remained cheerful and determined to the end. The words of Mrs Johnson, Headmistress of St Paul’s, seem to sum it up perfectly: “Roger Chovil was a clear-thinking, precise and immensely good man, but would no doubt like to be remembered for the fact that he was also great fun”. Another friend described him as “a lovely, sensitive and generous man”.

David Christie (Staff 1967-83)

Perhaps unusually for his generation, David Christie had several different careers. It was only after eight years as a commodity trader in London working for Tradax that he decided to embark on a teaching career. He arrived at Shrewsbury School in 1967 with his wife Elizabeth and their four children, Louise, Katharine, Alastair and Stephanie – and so began 16 happy years at the School during a period of extraordinary change under the leadership of Donald Wright (Headmaster).

David was born in Shillong, India in 1935 – the first of four children, having a brother and two sisters. His father was secretary to the last three Viceroy’s of India – and what an extraordinary time that was. Partition happened in 1947 about the time that David was leaving his prep school, Brambletye, and starting at Eton College.

Fast on his feet, swift in the pool and with a mean left hook, he was an all-round athlete and became captain of many of these sports. But it was not until he took up an oar that his life took a very definite course. At 6’2” and over 14 stone, he was an imposing man and a natural talent in the boat, although at the time he perhaps did not expect such a life-long association with the sport – an association that deepened in 1953 when at the age of 17 he first met his future wife Elizabeth, the vivacious, blond daughter of the Chairman at Henley Royal Regatta. It was love at first sight, but it was another five years before they married.

Following Eton and National Service in Malaya with the 11th Hussars, he went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge where he read Economics and Geography and where he continued his passion for rowing, gaining two Blues. He rowed for CUBC in the 1958 and 1959 Boat Races, winning the former in which he rowed at seven with his future brother-in-law, Peter Rickett, who rowed at six. Competing at Henley Royal Regatta for Pembroke, he was a member of the College eight that won the Ladies’ Challenge Plate in 1957 and the College coxless four that won the Visitors’ Challenge Cup in 1959.

At Shrewsbury he had five years as River Master from 1968, during which time he devoted himself with total application to the Boat Club. He believed that sculling and training in other small boats was the best foundation of a winning VIII. He invented the ‘Small Boat Head’ at Shrewsbury, a unique initiative at the time which was later much copied.

He coached the 1st VIII between 1969 and 1973 but also had success coaching small boats, notably the winners of the Junior Double Sculls National Rowing Championships in 1973 (Daniel and Hanna). On standing down as River Master in 1973, he joined the council of the Amateur Rowing Association and was a Junior International Selector (Chairman 1980-81). Although many students will remember him for his skill and encouragement on the water, many more remember him for his many contributions off the water. As a Form Master he taught English, History and Divinity and helped champion the relatively new curriculum of Business Studies, which he taught...
to A level. He developed a very personalised approach to his teaching and would often find talents in his less academic students that then developed into life-long characteristics for those concerned. His friendly manner and eclectic interests made him a memorable tutor to many; he was Tutor at Moser’s and School House and Assistant Housemaster at Day Boys. He also put much energy into re-vitalising the Fencing Club with quite dramatic results. Previously a small-time activity for a keen few, the standard of fencing rose year by year while David was in charge, to such an extent that Shrewsbury virtually dominated the West Midland fencing scene, winning 17 gold, 23 silver and 24 bronze medals during the Christie years. Together with Selby Martin, David inaugurated the Bee-Keeping Society, which has flourished at Shrewsbury School ever since, recently celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Travelling beyond the Salopian scene during the Christmas holidays of 1970-71, he led a party of 17 on an Educational Cruise in the Mediterranean, visiting Athens, Crete, Cyprus, Santorini, Gythion, Malta, Florence and Pisa.

David’s family had a long association with Jersey, and an opportunity arose to redevelop his grandparents’ farm which had been idle for over 14 years. The land was more sand than soil, which helped him to the decision that he would grow lavender. So in 1983 David and Elizabeth left Shrewsbury School to move to Jersey and together founded Jersey Lavender – a successful entrepreneurial endeavour befitting his many years teaching Business Studies. He became extremely knowledgeable about lavender, holding a National Collection of Lavender and breeding several new varieties of the plant.

He retired in 2002 when he passed Jersey Lavender to his son, allowing him time to take on roles in management of The Opera House, The Jersey Arts Trust, The Jersey Zoo Landscape Committee and as Church Warden of St Brelades – although little after the sad death of his wife Elizabeth in 2013.

David had three varied careers: city trader, school teacher and farmer, but his involvement with rowing was a constant. He worked as a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta last year, as he had done for the 33 years before that. As a natural polymath with diverse careers, knowledge and interests, he left a strong impression on many people, particularly those he taught or coached. He will be remembered for his patience and tenacity, his kindness, care and support, his gentle nature and integrity as a true gentleman. David died at home in Jersey on 25th March 2017 after a relatively short illness.

Andrew Gray (M 1972-76, 1st VIII and son-in-law)

Philip Cockcroft (DB 1944-47)

Philip (‘Phil’) Cockcroft was born in Shrewsbury in 1930, one of three children of Ernest Cockcroft and Alice Gough. Several generations of his family were born, and spent their lives in, the Shrewsbury area – a tradition that Phil was very content to maintain until the last part of his life. His relatives were local business people with property interests in the town, including some prominent public houses.

After preparatory education locally at Presfelde School, Phil became a day boy at ‘The Schools’ and was an energetic participant in many aspects of school life. He was a Junior Training Corps member and he boxed for his House, but it was rowing that became Phil’s greatest passion and in which he excelled most. He represented the School competitively, mainly as a ‘sculler’ (his preference), but also in larger boats on occasions. Unbeknown to him at the time, Phil was once described by the Pengwern Boat Club coach as “the best oarsman on the river”.

A Shrewsbury man in every sense, Phil made an active contribution to the town’s commercial and recreational activities throughout his life. He was a respected figure in business circles as an insurance assessor for the (then) Sun Alliance Insurance Company. Outside work and into retirement, Phil was an avid gardener and ornithologist – and had an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of the latter. He loved the Shropshire landscape and knew it intimately through the pursuit of these interests and extensive walks across it.

In addition to part-time employment in the Science Department of Meole Brace School, Phil was a member of the local Ornithological Society, a volunteer countryside ranger at Lyth Hill and an occasional steward at the Shrewsbury Flower Show. He was also a lifelong follower of Shrewsbury Town Football Club and continued to attend matches into his later years.

Family was Phil’s greatest focus and pleasure. He shared his life with Pam, a ‘Shropshire lass’ and nurse, whom he married in 1957. Together, they travelled abroad widely (as far as Australia) and eventually moved to Cornwall (a place of many family holidays) in 2015 to be closer to their sons, Graham and Neil, and four grand-daughters. Phil is also survived by his sister, Ethel (who remains in Shrewsbury). A kind, generous and selfless man, Phil passed away in Truro in August 2016, aged 85, and is greatly missed by family and friends alike.
Peter Davenport (DB 1968-72)

Peter was born in Birmingham on 8th September 1954, the only child of Percy and Mary, moving to Shrewsbury in 1961. He attended Shrewsbury School before going up to Oxford to study Law and Classics at St John's College.

After graduation, Peter was articled at the Shrewsbury firm Lanyon Bowdler, later qualifying as a solicitor with Wayman Hales in Chester before becoming a partner at the same firm. Hill Dickinson later acquired Wayman Hales.

Peter sadly lost both his parents at an early age. His mother passed away when Peter was in his early twenties and his father died when he was in his early thirties. Peter was very close to his father and his death must have been very hard for him.

Peter was an extremely kind and generous man, scrupulously polite and well mannered. I honestly cannot recall seeing him lose his temper in the entire time that I knew him. I suspect this may have something to do with the fact that Peter began his retirement at an early age. It was some time before he retired completely. Peter took his time about retiring but he did manage to escape work completely some ten years ago. Peter enjoyed his retirement as it gave him endless opportunities for pottering and tinkering.

Peter was a keen climber, hill walker and skier and would regularly go on skiing holidays with friends. He was a great friend and supportive colleague to many people over the years. His illness was brief, which is a small mercy, and he received excellent care from Clatterbridge Hospital and the Pinetum.

Rupert Hollick

Barry Fearn (I 1947-52)

Barry Fearn followed his brother into Ingram's in 1947 before going on to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences.

He was introduced to rowing at Shrewsbury and later became a proud member of the Sabrina Club. He rowed for Caius at Henley and also stroked his boat to win their oar in the May Bumps of 1954. Had the lightweight boat existed, it is likely he would have won a Blue.

On leaving Cambridge, he studied medicine at St Mary's Paddington. Once qualified, his National Service was spent as the Regimental Medical Officer to the Royal Irish Fusiliers, firstly in Libya and then in Germany. As at Shrewsbury, he made a wide and loyal group of friends. It was in Libya that he met his future wife Gay and they were married in 1962.

After his National Service ended, Barry specialised in Orthopaedics. After qualifying as a junior doctor, he took his young family off to Khartoum for a year in 1969, arriving on the same night as the moon landings. This was a time of coups and much unrest in the Sudan; but, Barry loved the rough and ready environment and the work. The family flight home was rather fraught after the pilot announced his name: Barry remembered him as the man whose arm he had amputated after a motor accident and he was already missing an eye.

Upon returning from Africa, Barry was appointed Consultant in Cuckfield and Brighton. He developed a particular interest in sports injuries long before this branch of medicine became mainstream. He worked with both Brighton and Hove Allian FC and Sussex Cricket Club, where his interest in hand surgery helped many batsmen whose hands suffered as a consequence of poor protection from fast bowlers. As the Senior Consultant, Barry and family spent Christmas days visiting the hospitals, where the turkey had to be carved, the operating theatres and staff visited and the sherry drunk.

His other passion in medicine was teaching, and for many years he was heavily involved in mentoring and teaching junior doctors throughout the South and South-East of England. He founded the Sprint Charity, whose aim was to educate and train junior orthopaedic doctors. He was a particularly skilled and caring surgeon who was held in very high regard by colleagues and patients alike.

Throughout his life he maintained a love of the river, coaching both Caius and Brasenose College boats and commentating for many years at Marlow Regatta.

Barry rarely if ever missed Henley, although he did give up one day to visit his first grandchild in hospital, hours after his birth, resplendent in Sabrina tie, Caius blazer and Leander socks! This grandchild has just left Ingram's. Many of those he had rowed with and coached would pass many hours in the car park over sumptuous picnics and the odd glass or three.

Barry continued his links with the military as 'The Doctor' to a number of Territorial Regiments for over 25 years, for which he was awarded the Territorial Decoration. Several generations of Yeoman and Signallers benefitted from his pragmatic attitude to medicine and the military and he was always a major part of the Officers' Mess at annual camps, in both a professional and social capacity.

His appointment in Sussex allowed him to participate in one of his great loves: opera. With Glyndebourne on the doorstep, he was an enthusiastic supporter for over 40 years. He and Gay travelled widely for opera and to experience new places and people; his thirst for culture was unabated up until he became bedridden last year.

For a man so dedicated to orthopaedics, his wider knowledge, both general and medical, was encyclopaedic. He lectured at numerous world and local conferences and once presented a piece on 'Welly Wanging Finger' (a common injury at county fairs from throwing wellington boots) on Esther Rantzen's 'That's Life' – he was never one for taking himself too seriously!

Barry's last visit to School was in 2015, when three generations of Fearn Salopians were present at Old Salopian Day. He died last November from pancreatic cancer, which had been diagnosed in 2005.

He and Gay celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2012. He is survived by Gay, their four children and ten grandchildren.
Mike Harding (DB 1962-67)

Tributes to Mike Harding, former Honorary Secretary of the Old Salopian Eton Fives Club from 1979 to 1998, have been pouring in since his untimely death this year at the age of 68.

Under his leadership the Club flourished: he enthused fellow players of all standards with the best ethos of the game and a tremendous sense of fun. For many, Mike characterised the very best of alumni sport and the OSEFC fixture card always had enough Fives for people of all abilities. He was meticulous in chasing members in their wilderness years (ages 18-25), and always made everyone welcome (usually with a pint of beer).

In the Eton Fives world, Mike set an example that every Club Secretary should aspire to and it is difficult to think of any other club that has been run with the efficiency, willingness to be accommodating and the sheer joy of the game that Mike brought to the role. His keenness to support the game in general, and OS Fives in particular, was unmatched. Mike will always be remembered for making Fives, first and foremost, a convivial occasion and ensuring that there was plenty of socialising afterwards among team members and the opposition.

Further accolades recall the high esteem in which Mike was held: “a delightful man”, “a lovely gentleman”, “one of life’s stars”, “a colossus”, “one whose outlook on life and sport was so much admired”. Mike was everyone’s friend and his smiling and cheerful presence always brought a sense of warmth and happiness to any gathering. It was wonderful to see a wreath in the shape of a Fives ball at Mike’s funeral; that cannot have happened often before.

Richard Barber, President of the OSEFC, said, “Mike had no great pretentions as a Fives player: but he loved the game, he was a merry soul, a happy encourager of everything to do with Shrewsbury Fives, especially the young; and as our Secretary, he was efficient, courteous, firm, hard-working, omnipresent, always visible, splendid company both on the court and off it, and a good friend to all. And he is still spoken of with respect and affection throughout the world of fives as the model of how that supremely important role of Club Secretary should be carried out.”

Mike was proud to have been born a Shropshire lad and to have gone to Shrewsbury School. He was probably ahead of his time in taking a gap year between school and university, touring through Morocco followed by six months in Canada. He greatly enjoyed his time at St Andrew’s University, where he studied biochemistry, although he later became an accountant. He was articled to Whittingham Riddell in Shrewsbury and while working for them, auditing at Morgan Edwards, he met Mel who was working there as Secretary to the Managing Director. They married in 1980, moved to London, and were blessed with the birth of Clair in 1982. Together they forged a strong family life.

Mike worked for Hinds the jewellers in Uxbridge from 1981 until his retirement in 2012, becoming Financial Director. Needless to say being the friendly person that he was, he maintained a close liaison with former colleagues, who always invited him to join them on social occasions. The family moved from London to Holmer Green in Buckinghamshire while Mike was working for Hinds. Seven years ago, they moved back to Shropshire.

Mike was interested in other sports beyond Fives and he found time to follow football, rugby and rowing. He also had a love of animals and supported rescue centres.

In recent years, Mike had not enjoyed good health, suffering from arthritis and heart problems. But he always remained cheerful and positive, thinking of others before himself. He will be remembered as a man who lived a full life, taking and giving in equal measure.

Dr Francesca Humphreys (1963-2016)

Francesca Humphreys (née Darvell) was a Shropshire girl. Her life had an old-fashioned symmetry. Born in Shropshire, died in Shropshire. Schooled in Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury GP, Shrewsbury School doctor, governor of the High School and Packwood, doyenne of Ridgmount. Married at St Edith’s, Church Pulverbatch, her funeral in the same church. In Shrewsbury School Chapel she learned to pay the organ in her teens and baptised her children in her thirties. Recently, hundreds remembered her there, too.

Francesca had many circles of friends, from the High School, Cambridge, medicine and Ridgmount. She loved people and was an awesome communicator. Her emails to friends in her final months were brutally frank but never self-pitying. She was an optimist and a rationalist and although these two sat uncomfortably together towards the end - as she described her illness, her wonderful carers and the grimness of her treatment - she never lost her sense of humour or proportion.

She never hid anything from her children and this surely explains their courage and fortitude during her final illness.

Francesca was born in Shrewsbury on 20th June 1963. She was to be the eldest of four daughters of John and Lucy Darvell. John a respected Shrewsbury dentist on Town Walls, Lucy a mid-wife at the RSH. This was an awesome tribe, sometimes referred to in hushed tones as The Sisterhood. Educated at The Convent and Shrewsbury High, in 1981 Francesca won a place to read Medicine at Queens’ College, Cambridge. At Cambridge she discovered two life-long loves, partying and rowing. She threw amazing parties (not least at Ridgmount) all her life and loved to dance. She was Ladies’ Captain of Boats at Queens’ and trialled for the Lightweights.

Henley was an annual pilgrimage and, always a planner, she insisted on Henley regalia for her Thanksgiving. Despite her first diagnosis and major surgery shortly before the 2007 regatta, she was determined to support the Shrewsbury VIII that year. She was ecstatic at Shrewsbury’s one-foot victory in the final of the PE and promptly commissioned John Alford to commemorate the victory in oil. Francesca lives on in the crowd scene of that work, which hangs now in the Arnold Ellis Room in Ridgmount.

She had been a very diligent student at school, but these Cambridge distractions took their toll and she failed pharmacology once too often, thereby losing her place at Guy’s.

She always claimed to have spotted a (future) third love at Cambridge – her husband-to-be – at a drinks party at Downing. He has no recollection of the encounter. They met again in London when she was re-taking pharmacology and he was studying (sic) for the Bar. An early career goal was paediatric cardiology and she managed to talk her way into the Royal Brompton Hospital as a researcher. Several academic papers followed and carry her name. Francesca married Martin in 1989, by which time he had eschewed the Middle Temple for the City and she had qualified from King’s College Hospital. It says a lot about Francesca that, having married an investment banker, she kept smiling when he became a schoolmaster.

A spell at Eton led to a job at Shrewsbury and Francesca followed Martin home. She was not best pleased, but she got stuck in as she always did and was soon a partner at Mytton
Tony Lee (Rt 1937-42)

Tony shone brightly from an early age. At Shrewsbury he was Captain of Rugby, Vice-Captain of Soccer, in the Cricket 1st XI, Praepostor and Head of House, and won a Bursary to read Classics at Cambridge. This was cut short when he enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1942 at the age of 19.

His naval war service consisted mainly of patrolling the East Anglian coast and the Thames Estuary in very fast motor torpedo boats. Based at Felixstowe, he was fortunate to meet Thelma Richardson from Norfolk. Thelma was the WREN skipper of the Admiral’s barge. Their romance blossomed and they married at the end of the war.

After being demobbed from the Navy, with the rank of lieutenant, Tony returned to Cambridge to train for the Colonial Service and in January 1948 he, Thelma and their baby Jane sailed on the Langibby Castle to Dar Es Salaam in what was then the British colony of Tanganyika. Two more daughters, Annie and Caroline, were subsequently born there too.

Tony spent 14 years working in the Colonial Service in Tanganyika, with his last posting being District Commissioner in Morogoro. He loved his time in East Africa and spoke fluent Swahili. He was an energetic young man and his work took him across vast territories occupied by many different tribes, often in his own imported Citroen DS.

During his time in East Africa he helped to establish the Maasai Mara National Wildlife Reserve; he worked with a team of veterinary specialists and agriculturalists to help people improve their land management and farming techniques, from building terraces out of waste, to visiting the local witch doctor to persuade him to arrange a culling of cattle, necessary because of a drought. With his ever-practical approach, he set up a brick factory to ensure that a needed hospital was built.

At the age of 38, Tony left the Colonial Service when Tanzania became independent under Julius Nyerere in 1962. For a short period the family lived in Leamington Spa and Tony had worked for Joseph Lucas Engineering as an industrial relations manager. He did not enjoy working in industry and when he was asked to join a government team to manage the political turmoil in Aden, he jumped at the chance. The rise of Arab nationalism had produced violent politics and Aden was a dangerous place. There had been some 280 guerrilla attacks in the 12-month period before Tony arrived.

Tony had the very difficult responsibility of security, liaising between the British Army, the Administration, and the warring local factions of a newly-formed government. Dick Eberly, who worked with Tony in both East Africa and Aden, describes him in his book about that time: “...He was a big fellow, a giant of a man, with a cheerful laid-back outlook and a wry grin; and I had always admired his wife Thelma, given to extravagant gestures, always laughing and a generous and a cheery hostess”.

The British withdrew from Aden in 1967 and Tony was sent off to another hotspot in the decline of the British Empire: the tiny Caribbean island of Anguilla.

The island had been administratively linked to St Kitts, and when the British Government sought to divest itself of its Caribbean responsibilities the Anguillans did not want to be run by St Kitts. There was unrest. Tony was appointed Commissioner of the island. The situation calmed a little, but nevertheless Harold Wilson’s Government felt the need to do some quelling and sent a large invasion force: two navy frigates, 300 paratroopers and 50 London policemen. The tiny Anguillian population offered no resistance. The press had a field day, Tony Lee was front page news and the event was dubbed the Bay of Piglets.

The New York Times remarked: “...Perhaps the most nonchalant man in Anguilla these days is the man most under attack...through it all he has remained calm, matter of fact and good-humoured...”

In his book Caribbean Life and Culture, the West Indian politician Sir Fred Philies wrote of Tony that he had: “...been much impressed by his calm demeanour and obvious sincerity of purpose... He came to this most difficult assignment full of hope that he would be able to help guide a community which was devoid of any orderly government... It is fair to point out that conditions would have been infinitely more disastrous if Lee had never been sent to Anguilla”.

He is still regarded with great affection in Anguilla. One important legacy of his time there was to safeguard, in perpetuity, the right of beach access for all Anguillans in the face of luxury tourist developments. When he visited eight years ago he was received by the islanders as an old friend.
Tony left the Foreign and Commonwealth office in 1970. The children had grown and he had more conventional jobs in the City and in Cornwall. In 1983 he was delighted to be appointed Assistant Secretary General of the Order of St John based at St John’s Gate, Clerkenwell. He was back in the sort of work he enjoyed and did well. With the Order he was much involved in the support of the St John Eye Hospitals in Gaza and Israel. His involvement and understanding of Palestine and the Palestinians led to his final job as director of the Arab British Centre, where he was for ten years till the year 2000. He retired at the age of 75.

Sadly Thelma died at this time and Tony moved to Aldeburgh without her. He nevertheless went on to make a full life for himself here. Always sociable and involved with people, he was a regular at the golf club and at The Cross Keys.

He often gave quite lavish drinks and dinner parties to his wide circle of friends. In recent years he bore his increasing deafness with great fortitude.

Revd Canon David Main (Master 1952-73)

David Main was brought up in Edinburgh but subsequently became a boarder at Wrekin College, Shropshire, leaving as Head of School. He did his National Service in the Royal Engineers, in which he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He went on to University College, Oxford, where he read Natural Sciences in Mods and Physics in Finals, and he joined the staff at Shrewsbury in September 1952, just in time to witness the visit, a month later, of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness to mark the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Foundation of the School.

David joined a Physics Department which was led by two brilliant and distinguished teachers, Bill Matthews and Ken Chew, and it was expected that he would support his contribution in the classroom by full participation in the extra-curricular aspects of school life – an expectation which he richly fulfilled, as a House Tutor (and later as a Housemaster), as a rowing coach, as a member of the Concert Choir and as Commanding Officer of the CCF. Like many new and inexperienced masters (then known as ‘brushers’) at a time when examinations and syllabuses did not impose the pressure and restrictions of later years, and the boys had both a greater opportunity and a greater disposition to test the disciplinary mettle of newcomers, David certainly experienced initial problems. On one occasion, when he was teaching in the middle of the three rooms which then formed Top School, a colleague in an adjacent room heard an almighty hubbub, above which he heard David exclaim, ‘Put it down, boy’: the hubbub intensified and when David shouted again, his still louder protest had been significantly modified, ‘Put me down, boy’, he cried!

Having first lodged at White House, Ridgebourne Road, and subsequently in Flat C in Kingsland House, David became a member of the New House, the bachelor colony (now the Sanatorium), where he remained for eight years (1957-1965) and for seven of those years Peter Gladstone was a fellow ‘inmate’. Peter and David formed the nucleus of that community, which was itself, in turn, a second nucleus, which both reflected and formed the ethos of the wider community of the School at the time. David remembered that no-one in the New House was allowed to take himself too seriously; life was lived to the full, both enjoyably and conscientiously. Daily conversation was punctuated by the recitation of Spells by Frank McEachran, (who came in for meals), by Juggins’ lamentations about the inadequacy of the Fourth Form’s Latin construe and by heated discussions about the relative speed and prospects of crews on the river (four of the five inmates were rowing coaches). Peter Gladstone’s tame badger roamed the upstairs corridor and many a pocket-hatched duckling cheeped and stretched its wings (and did other things) on the dining room table. The annual New House summer party was both the social highlight and the supreme alcoholic challenge of the year.

Peter and David’s careers at Shrewsbury were so similar in length and character that it is difficult to think of one of them without the other. They had joined the School in the same term and after their long apprenticeship in the New House and their experience as House Tutors, they had a similar expectation of being offered a Housemastership. Such offers, at the time, were almost invariably based upon seniority of appointment to the staff. But at the final Masters’ Meeting of the Lent Term in 1961, when, unusually, Easter weekend itself was to be spent at school, the Headmaster astonished everyone by announcing five such appointments at once, including a colleague who was their junior. Peter and David, bearing the season in mind, duly considered themselves ‘passed over’ and the ‘Passover Party’ which followed in the New House that evening was uniquely memorable, even in that institution’s colourful annals. However, four years later, David became Housemaster of Ingram’s and Peter of Ridgemount: for the next six years, while they were both in office, there was a kind of Ingram’s - Ridgemount alliance. Both remained bachelors while they were at Shrewsbury and David never married. Peter left Shrewsbury in 1971 and David left in 1973. Although David could exhibit considerable ebullience as a young man and he enjoyed the formality and the trappings of a great occasion, the ebullience temporarily masked what was an essentially a quiet and thoughtful nature.

Ingram’s Housemasters established a strong military tradition. Captain the Reverend F. Sergeant was appointed in 1900 to inaugurate the House, provided that he also revived the Cadet Corps, which was considered to be a necessary element in School life at the time of the South African War. Unusually, the House bears the name of its second Housemaster, Major F.M. Ingram (who, indeed, was always known as ‘The Major’). ‘Dickie’ Sale, the third Housemaster, had served in the First World War, Colonel West, the fourth Housemaster, had served both in the First World War and in the Second; he had also commanded the School’s Guard of Honour during the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1932. Mike Powell, the fifth Housemaster, also served in the Second World War and he, too, commanded the Guard of Honour, this time during the visit of Her Majesty the Queen in 1952. It was highly appropriate, then, that David Main, the sixth Housemaster, should have been a serving soldier and should command the School CCF in his turn. Major the Revd Canon David Main was a fitting successor to Captain the Revd F. Sergeant!
Ingramites in David’s earlier years found him stricter than their successors were to do, but there is no doubt that David’s style was pastoral, in contrast to the more remote and authoritarian stance of the earlier generation. David wanted to know each member of the House as an individual and to respond to his concerns. He regularly took a carload of boys out to walk on the hills on Sunday afternoons; they returned for tea in his dining room, making toast on long forks in front of the fire. In the times before a House TV was installed, he would invite the boys into the Private Side to watch his own TV at weekends. He arranged for some of the boys to go pigeon shooting with Peter Gladstone at Hawarden, storing their guns securely for them. He allowed a keen photographer to convert a redundant larder into a photographic darkroom for the use of the House. David often sang when he wandered round the House (a tactic not uncommonly used by Housemasters and a very useful one for minimising disciplinary confrontations). David’s dog, ‘Douggie’ was a prominent feature of the Ingram’s scene and David’s pupils remember Douggie providing a domestic element in the classroom, as he lay by the demonstration desk, in front of the boys seated on the tiered benches. ‘Douggie’ and ‘Moses’ (Peter Gladstone’s dog) were the joint doyens of the Salopian canine community.

In 1965 liberalism was in the air: it gained in force until it became a veritable wind of change: indeed the pace of these changes, over which Donald Wright presided with such dynamism, was such that there never seemed to be sufficient time for an ‘all-up’ in which to regain one’s breath.

Most members of the House which David had inherited had experienced the pains of the doubling system, but they were to be denied its doubtful privileges. Dress regulations were considerably relaxed; relaxation, indeed, was the order of the day both in and out of the House. David remembered that when he began Housemastering it was virtually an offence to be seen with a girl in the town; by the time he left it was almost an offence not to be seen with one! The inauguration of Kingsland Hall occurred exactly half-way through David’s time in Ingram’s. Before that David and his Matron/Housekeeper were directly responsible for providing all meals in the house. In one term when there was no cook, David had to cook the breakfast himself once a week, and he reported that he had learned how not to scramble eggs for seventy! On the positive side, when Ingram’s boys had joined members of Ridgemount to act as beaters for a shoot on the Gladstone estate, David was able to provide pheasant at Sunday lunch for the whole House! More generally, matters became easier after 1969. Bed-sitters were provided for the older boys and the structure of Ingram’s became considerably relaxed; relaxation, indeed, was the order of the day both in and out of the House. David remembered that when he began Housemastering it was virtually an offence to be seen with a girl in the town; by the time he left it was almost an offence not to be seen with one! The inauguration of Kingsland Hall occurred exactly half-way through David’s time in Ingram’s. Before that David and his Matron/Housekeeper were directly responsible for providing all meals in the house. In one term when there was no cook, David had to cook the breakfast himself once a week, and he reported that he had learned how not to scramble eggs for seventy! On the positive side, when Ingram’s boys had joined members of Ridgemount to act as beaters for a shoot on the Gladstone estate, David was able to provide pheasant at Sunday lunch for the whole House! More generally, matters became easier after 1969. Bed-sitters were provided for the older boys and the structure of Ingram’s was very substantially altered, both physically and socially. David remarked that Ingramites were tough; tougher, he thought, than their Housemaster: at least one of his charges at the time concurred, “it was a House that was naturally undemonstrative, uncooperative, bolshie even, and didn’t really like joining in with what was expected by the rest of the School”.

David succeeded Bertie Fowler as Officer Commanding the CCF in 1960. This appointment allowed Brookie to make an addition to his idiosyncratic collection of jokes. Question: ‘Who commands the Spanish Army?’; Answer: ‘The Spanish Main’. David steered the CCF through a very difficult period. He introduced a more interesting type of ‘Cert A’, an innovation made possible because he got on so well with senior regular officers of the Mid-West District, including the General, Peter Gillett, who was very sympathetic towards the CCF: but when Donald Wright became Headmaster, it was already well known that he was very critical of the organisation. At a crucial meeting Donald made it clear that although he disapproved of boys being compelled to carry weapons, he was prepared to tolerate the wearing of uniforms. Supported by Arnold Ellis and Peter Hughes, David negotiated and inaugurated a successful transition from a compulsory CCF, first to Civil Defence, then to Basic Year and still more recently to the Duke of Edinburgh Schemes and other varieties of Adventure Training. David himself also gave particular support to the shooting team.

David was a dedicated rowing coach. He had rowed in his College crews at Oxford, and the cox of one of those crews, Wally Marsh, later became one of David’s House Tutors in Ingram’s. Rowing achievements by Ingramites gave David the very greatest pleasure. One of their oarsmen in David’s time records that ‘While I was at Shrewsbury we had the winning boats in JCO and SCO and were Head of the River in Bumpers… He (David) was particularly happy with our 1971 Bumpers result… Moser’s, (whom we bumped and then held off for the remaining nights) had a full crew of 1st Eightsmen, while our highest crew member was in the 2nd VIII and the rest of us were mere amateurs! You can imagine his delight at the underdog pulling off such an emphatic win. There was an evening of great celebration in the old dining hall in Ingram’s.’ The last time the House had been Head of the River had been in 1923!

David was a stalwart member of Concert Choir, and also a member of the Pseuds’ Club, a body composed of masters and boys who professed an aversion to being seen to be too keen and who sported a black tie embroidered with a Beta double minus. Much more significantly, David was a devoted member of the Chapel Congregation; he was invariably present at the 8.00 a.m. Sunday Communion as well as the compulsory Chapel Services. This, together with the pastoral style of his Housemastering, may well have led him to contemplate a wider sphere for his ministry and to seek ordination. Perhaps the example of Hugh Brooke helped to confirm that intention. The phrase was widely current at the time that David was ‘going to do a Brookie’!

Encouraged by the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, Rt Revd Francis Moncreiff, himself an Old Salopian, David left Shrewsbury in 1973 to study at St Deiniol’s Hawarden, before being ordained in the Scottish Episcopal Church to serve initially as a curate in the city of Glasgow itself. Subsequently he became Rector of Challock, an idyllic country parish, and then moved to the important incumbency of Kilmarnock, where his mother, who had acted as his gracious hostess in Ingram’s, still survived, in her late nineties, to keep him company. He was also installed as a Canon in the Cathedral in Glasgow.

In retirement, David moved to Castle Douglas, where he continued to assist the Rector. Obliged eventually to enter a care home, David experienced a rapid decline in health in the autumn of 2016 and died on 19th November, aged 88. Four Bishops attended David’s Requiem Eucharist, which was conducted before a congregation of over two hundred of his parishioners, from Challock, Kilmarnock and Castle Douglas, an eloquent testimony to the high regard and affection in which he was held. A small group also represented Shrewsbury. The subsequent interment took place, at David’s request, at Challock, where he had spent the happiest days of his ministry.

All historical periods exhibit an element of transition. In David’s case transition was the predominant theme. His years at Shrewsbury spanned the dramatic transition from traditional to liberal public school; his years as a Housemaster witnessed the transformation of boarding houses from
Spartan bastions of independence to more civilized and humane, accessible and outward-looking communities; and his years in command of the CCF inaugurated the transition towards a wider – and less specifically military – concept of service and training. Though David’s ministry as a priest lasted for over forty years, the legacy of his twenty-one years at Shrewsbury which preceded it, was as varied as it was substantial. In all these contexts, David served with complete devotion and is remembered with gratitude as an affable colleague, an approachable housemaster, a generous host, and a sterling character, faithful both as a pastor and as a friend.

David Gee

Bill Mitchell (Rt 1946-51)

Bill Mitchell was born in Chicago, Illinois, USA, in 1932. He spent his early life with his two brothers and his sister in India, where his father worked in the Indian Political Service. In 1944 his mother took the four children to England for educational reasons. They set sail from Bombay in the SS Strathmore on D-Day, June 1944. They joined a large convoy at Port Said and were the first civilian ships to cross the Mediterranean since 1940. The escort included eight corvettes, four destroyers, two heavy cruisers and two light aircraft carriers!

In 1945, his mother returned to India with the youngest boy. The three older children remained in England to continue their education. The family was reunited in 1947 when Bill’s mother, father and youngest brother returned from India. They all settled on a farm in the Scottish Borders, a delightful life for children. Bill’s interest in sports had started during his last two years in India. By the time they left, he had built a library of eight or ten box files full of press clippings and was very upset when he had to leave them behind.

He attended Packwood Haugh Prep School near Shrewsbury and later Shrewsbury School, following his father Alfred Norval Mitchell (SH 1920-25) and followed by his brothers David (Rt 1947-52) and Malcolm (Rt 1952-57), nephews Andrew (DB 1976-80) and Ian (PH 1983-87) and great-nephew Alec Barnes (PH 2012-17). His fascination with sport carried over from his time in India and was still much more in support and organisation than in participation. The one exception was in 1946 when he won the New Boys’ race at Shrewsbury from nearly 100 competitors.

Following National Service at GCHQ, he refused an offer of a permanent job there and went to West Africa to join a general trading company, later taken over by a drug company. He travelled extensively during that time, visiting East Africa, Iran, Afghanistan and many other Middle Eastern countries in the course of his work, and when life in West Africa became more difficult for foreigners he lived in Las Palmas and travelled to Ghana, Nigeria and other West African countries from there.

A notable event for him was when he was able to accompany and help Stanley Matthews, the star right-wing for Blackpool and England, on a tour of Nigeria in the mid-1960s.

After he finished working in foreign parts, he returned to England and was able to work in the area which had interested him all his life, sports journalism. He was particularly keen on rugby and was a reporter on Rugby World magazine and also reported for the Daily Telegraph. Later he worked with his friend Tony Williams, compiling sports books on football. During these years he was frequently seen on the touch-line at The Schools and at other venues to support the boys’ endeavours, particularly in cricket, football and rugby.

He spent the last part of his life in Somerset and died on 7th December 2016 in Vicarage House Nursing Home, Hambridge, where he was most kindly and well treated; it was a real home for him in his final years.

Dick Pearce (I 1947-51)

Dick Pearce was born in Walkden, near Manchester in November 1933, the second son of Jock and Marjorie. One of eight children, he is survived by brothers David, Chris, Bob, Peter and sister Lis. When he was just six years old, Dick was sent to boarding prep school, Packwood Haugh. WWII had broken out and his parents thought he would be safer there than in Manchester. Indeed Manchester was bombed and Dick and his older brother David were at home for the school holidays when it occurred. They took refuge in the bomb shelter in their garden. Dick remembered feeling very excited hearing the planes roaring overhead and the bombs dropping all around them. He, his family and home were unscathed, but others around them were not so lucky.

After his years at Packwood, he moved for his secondary education to Shrewsbury. He was not a top scholar but he did enjoy the opportunity to play lots of cricket and became Captain of the 1st XI. Cricket was his life-long passion. When Dick left school at the age of 17, he spent six months as a trainee mill manager in a cotton mill while waiting to do his compulsory National Service in the RAF. When his two years were up, he enlisted for a further two years. He spent these years as a Senior Aircraftsman at the Mt Davis Radar Station in Hong Kong. His passion for sport carried on here: he joined the athletics club, excelling in high jump, and also became a registered RAF soccer referee. While Dick was in Hong Kong, his family followed his eldest brother David and emigrated to New Zealand. When his time in Hong Kong was over, he managed to get discharged there instead of England. The RAF flew him to Darwin, Australia and from there he had to find his own way to New Zealand. His intention was to visit his family and then fly back to the UK. His younger siblings were almost strangers to him. His sister Lis was only ten years old. He enjoyed being a part of his large family and decided to stay with them in New Zealand.

Dick got a job with an electrical components company, Waldo Hunter Limited. He remained with them and survived several changes of ownership for over 40 years, the last owners being Alcatel.

In 1960 he married Marie and in 1963 David was born, followed by Mark in 1967.

Soon after Dick’s arrival in New Zealand, he joined the
Owairaka Athletics Club, the New Lynn Cricket Club, and became a registered Auckland Soccer Referee. He stopped playing cricket at the age of 40 but did make a come-back to play in the Golden Oldies Cricket Festival in 1984.

For 18 years he worked on the scoreboard at Eden Park, Auckland for major cricket events. When Dick finished playing cricket, he joined the Blockhouse Bay Tennis Club, served on the committee, played inter-club tennis, helped organise junior tennis and worked for some time in the office taking bookings and doing other organisational jobs. After his retirement from Alcatel, he joined the Titirangi Golf Club and played three times a week.

After a cardiac arrest in 2010, his health slowly deteriorated. Even though he had to stop playing sport, he never lost interest. He watched it on TV, read about it and had long discussions with his sports journalist brother, Bob.

Dick was always optimistic. For six years he surprised his doctors with his mental determination to survive. He lost his final battle on 24th December 2016.

One final story, related by a cricket mate at his funeral. Dick was fielding at extra cover and the batsman straight drove a ball. It’s a long way to the straight boundary from extra cover. Dick steamed after it but was just unable to cut it off. The very next ball was just as bad, and the batsman played exactly the same shot. Again Dick set off after it,straining every muscle in a terrific effort but again was not quite able to prevent the boundary. The bowler, Denis Pain, an Auckland lawyer with a great sense of humour, called out to him, “Try and stop those ones would you Dick”. That story typifies Dick. He gave all he had and never gave in.

Timothy Richards (M 1955-59)

Timothy Richards was born in Birkdale on 11th July 1941. He first went to Sunnymead School before his family moved to Gawsworth, Cheshire in 1948. He entered Moser’s Hall in 1955 and was placed in the Third Form. His academic progress was slow but he excelled at rowing and was a member of the very successful third VIII that won the Pangbourne Regatta, before he left early without fulfilling his true potential.

Private education followed and Tim blossomed, being offered a place at Trinity College Dublin and then remarkably was invited by John Kelly, the Principal of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, to show his mettle.

Tim rose superbly to the Oxford challenge, rowing in the Torpid Head of the River Crew, receiving his trial VIII medal and finally narrowly losing in the final of the Ladies Challenge Plate at Henley with fellow Salopian M.F. Rooker rowing at 3 in the same crew.

He was Captain of Boats at St Edmund Hall, which was the University’s pre-eminent rowing college. Finally he graduated with a Pass Degree having had wonderful days at Oxford where he was widely recognised driving his silver Lagonda drop head, always with a pink Leander scarf.

After Oxford he worked for his uncle in the cosmetic world and was the centre of fun and jollity. These were happy days and his flat in Eunismore Gardens was the centre of fun and jollity.

Finally he succumbed to cancer, which he fought with immense bravery and fortitude. He died peacefully at Gawsworth Hall on 28th November 2016, the home he had cherished.

Charles Rodier (I 1957-61)

Charles Rodier was born on 20th January 1944. He was the son of Harold Paillet (I 1925-29), nephew of Mark Fleming (I 1930-35, killed in action at St Nazaire in 1942) and older brother of Patrick (SH 1964-68).

Having studied languages at Shrewsbury School, he joined the French Navy as a short-term posting through school connections, to teach English to the officers in the naval base on Porquerolles, and also studied German in the Goethe Institute in Rothenburg.

Charles subsequently joined EMI in 1964 as a member of the Secretariat of the International Classical Repertoire Committee. After leaving to acquire legal qualifications, he rejoined the company in 1974 as Head of Legal and Business Affairs, overseeing the contractual arrangements of EMI’s prestigious roster of classical artists. He safely negotiated the changing contractual arrangements brought about by the arrival of CD in 1983 and the acquisition of Virgin Classics in 1992.

Since, in his private life, Charles Rodier was a model of courtesy and discretion, a born listener who was also a man of discrimination and unfailing good taste, there can be no surprise that he enjoyed the trust and, on occasion, the deep affection of the artists with whom he dealt. Carlos Kleiber, the conductor, wrote, “You are the nicest, kindest person in the Music Business. No. That’s wrong. You are the nicest, kindest person full-stop.”

After leaving EMI, he became an advisor to Testament Records, where he helped facilitate the publication of many great past performances.

Charles died on 3rd June 2016 and leaves a widow, Helen, whom he married in 2015.

John Ross (SH 1934-39)

John Ross was a consultant physician in Hereford. He grew up in Hampstead, London, the son of Robert Ross and Gladys Ross (née Hirschland), who were non-practising Jews of German origin and who had their children baptised as Anglicans. His father, who had established an import business, had changed the family name from Rosenheim when he enlisted in the British Army in 1915. John was educated at Shrewsbury School and had intended to read medicine, but switched to zoology after winning an exhibition in that subject to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge in 1939.

After enlisting in the Army in 1940, he served as an artillery officer and then as a staff captain in the Middle East. Finding the latter post tedious, he volunteered for the Special Operations Executive in 1944. His activities as an agent with the Italian resistance in the Dolomites have been
John did not let the grass grow under his feet. Within two years he had taken first class honours in Natural Sciences at Cambridge and won a scholarship to the London Hospital. After qualifying, he worked for 11 years at the London and its associated hospitals. Some of his students there kept in touch throughout his long life. During this time, he obtained his doctorate and pioneered the use of percutaneous kidney biopsy in Britain, having learned the technique from R C Muehrcke of Chicago when the latter visited London in 1956. John developed his own modification of the Vim-Silverman needle, which improved the likelihood of obtaining a successful biopsy, and he visited hospitals around the country to teach the technique. During this time, he also taught a weekly physiology tutorial in Cambridge and helped with renal work at Addenbrooke’s Hospital.

John found himself applying for consultant posts at a time when there was a dearth of such opportunities and the medical brain drain was at its peak. Younger men with careers unimpeached by the war were joining the job market and, despite an excellent CV, John was also hampered by a severe attack of viral meningoencephalitis. Nearing the age of 40 and with a young family to support, he considered emigrating to Australia but, after nine unsuccessful interviews, was finally appointed as a general physician in Hereford. Here he soon developed a reputation as a wise and outstanding clinician, covering all aspects of general internal medicine.

His clinical abilities were matched by his qualities as a leader. Everyone, be they patients, doctors, nurses, students or porters, was made to feel that their opinions mattered. The esprit de corps which he engendered among both hospital doctors and general practitioners enhanced Herefordshire’s reputation as a happy and stimulating place in which to practise medicine, and thereby encouraged many trainees to return to permanent posts. With his formidable intellect and clarity of mind he could sift through muddles which others found impenetrable; and with his energy and sense of purpose he could make things happen more quickly than anyone else. As area postgraduate director and regional adviser for the Royal College of Physicians, he was immensely respected throughout the West Midlands and beyond. His recognition of the importance of postgraduate education made him the initiator and driving force behind the fundraising and planning for the Hereford Postgraduate Medical Centre, which bears his name and which was one of the earliest and best designed in the West Midlands. With others he was also instrumental in obtaining new staff accommodation and the hospital’s first critical care unit/intensive treatment unit. John was still pursuing academic research and publishing scientific papers in the five years preceding his retirement in 1985.

In retirement he published on medical education and training, and he spent two months helping in a medical college in a remote part of China. Retirement also provided more time for portrait painting, for music and for his interests in medical biography and history, on which he published several papers, the last only two months before his death. He had founded the Hereford Hospital Orchestra, but was later deprived of the joy of music by increasingly profound deafness. Above all, retirement allowed him to pursue his lifelong interest in all forms of wildlife, but especially in planaria and freshwater crustaceans. John was a founding member and vice president of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, editing and contributing papers to its journal over many years. With others he successfully opposed the
building of a Hereford bypass across the Lugg Meadows, home to several extremely rare plants and the most important surviving Lammas meadows in the country (an ancient system for managing land).

As a keen fisherman, John loved nothing better than to study the interplay between trout and mayfly but, while doing so, his observant eye also noted the progressive diminution in other forms of wildlife in and around the rivers Lugg and Arrow. This led him, at the age of 83, to found the Lugg and Arrow Fisheries Association, which raised £30,000 locally, thereby enabling access to conservation funds of £300,000 from the European Union. Increasingly isolated from committee work by deafness, John remained active and influential behind the scenes, living long enough to see the decline in wildlife stabilised and in some instances reversed. In life John enriched and enhanced the lives of so many of those who met him, but his enduring legacy will be his conservation work, which will benefit and give pleasure to many who will never know of his existence.

Above all, John was a family man. He was survived by Jean (née Roseveare), his wife who supported him every step of the way through 67 years of marriage and who was a tower of strength in his increasingly frail final years. Their son, Richard, is an endocrinologist and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Of their three daughters, Elizabeth is a nurse, Diana a physiotherapist and Sarah a mathematician; two married doctors whom John had helped to train.

Henry Connor

Richard Rycroft (S 1961-66)

Richard was a terrific all-round sportsman, and Shrewsbury in the 1960s was the ideal environment for him in that respect. When he reached the position of Praepostor, Severn Hill had won every cup available. His military record was impressive too: he played trombone in the corps band and shot for the School at Bisley. He was greatly inspired by ‘Kek’, as we all were (how fortunate we were to have had him as a teacher!) and I suppose the pre-Python, pre-Private Eye atmosphere of that unique Salopian humour infected him as well. His German teacher, F. Duffield, once suggested to him that perhaps Shrewsbury had nothing more to teach him, so he went off to the Sorbonne for a séjour.

As well as being a great polyglot, he was also a skilled financier. He worked for a time as a stockbroker on the Liverpool Exchange, but when that closed and he transferred to Manchester, he began to lose interest. As a man who always subscribed to the highest values of personal integrity, he was not impressed by the more seedy aspects of the life, and he decided to change direction. He gradually moved into the marine/nautical world, learned boat-building, began trans-oceanic sailing and found his true vocation. However, he never lost contact with his home, he played golf at the Royal Liverpool and was always a staunch supporter of Shrewsbury House in Everton. He was a passionate follower of Test cricket, and was not at all amused when the broadcasting rights fell into private hands! He also began to deal in nautical prints and historical maps from the area.

His main passion in life was sailing, and he devoted a great deal of his time to the Royal Mersey Yacht Club, where he held several offices over the years. He was a great believer in the Sail Training Association, with which he was also heavily involved.

Robin Rycroft (S 1958-63)

Brian Smallwood (DB 1946-51)

Brian Smallwood was born on 12th July 1932. After attending Prestfelde and Shrewsbury School, he studied for an apprenticeship at the GEC in Birmingham as an Electrical Engineer. He then joined the family firm, GH Smallwood & Co, where he served as a Director until the company’s demise in the early 1980s.

Brian was immensely strong physically, and a gifted sportsman. Despite the tough economic times and some personal health issues, he managed in subsequent years to qualify as a specialist welder and launched his own (hand-made) trailer business. He also started to experiment with building and running barbecues and hog roast machines, focusing his efforts on high end catering for large-scale events in the Shropshire area. Although not the pioneer of hog roasting, he certainly took this business to a new level, and to this day his hog roast machines are still used for events and markets around the county. He also hand-built his own designed sports car – a feat that was reported in the Shropshire Star – and he succeeded in building a 25-foot yacht over the course of around 17 years, almost single-handedly.

Brian’s sporting achievements reach far and wide and he was widely respected as an accomplished cricketer by his many friends. Some of his notable sporting achievements include winning the school high jump event, beating in the process fellow pupil Michael Heseltine, and helping the Shropshire Saracens win the Cricketers Cup by one run on the last ball of the game. He was an excellent Fives player and continued to play well into his eighties.

Brian was a great father, uncle and friend, a very unselfish man who loved entertaining. He will be greatly missed.
David Thornhill (Ch 1965-69)

David Thornhill was born in 1952. His father was a farmer in Great Longstone, Derbyshire, who built up a substantial poultry business.

David arrived at Shrewsbury in September 1965 and left in December 1969. (From ‘Rubber Soul’ to ‘Abbey Road’ as he often said.) His Housemaster in Churchill’s for the first two years was Adrian Sturvé and then Roger Blomfield took over. His brother, Richard, joined him in Churchill’s in 1967. More recently, James and Thomas Thornhill, David’s nephews, were in Ingram’s; and soon, Richard’s son, Rufus, will arrive in Churchill’s.

He never missed an opportunity to visit Talagerwyn or Shrewsbury House. The first planted in him a love of long-distance hill-walking which stayed with him all his life; and the second opened his eyes to some aspects of life which influenced his career.

Dave was sometimes known as ‘Phones’ on account of his technical/electronic abilities. These reached their zenith in our final term. The House had just converted the rooms in one wing to bedsits for the senior boys. Dave and I shared one of them. As this was also the first term that Kingsland Hall was used for dining, and we had to be on time, we asked Dave to set up a morning alarm call system for our wing. …As usual, he didn’t take the easy way out.

I still don’t quite know how he did it in those distant days (long before digital technology). Somehow, he managed to set up a Heath Robinson-style contraption which harnessed my old brass alarm clock to his record deck and hi-fi so that, at the appointed hour, the hammer mechanism on the alarm clock didn’t hit the bell but, alarmingly, closed an electrical junction. (He had the grace to advise me not to reach out and touch the alarm clock when I woke.) This completed circuit caused the record deck to start up, the needle to descend onto the record…. – and so all the residents of our wing were woken from their slumber by the sophisticated tones of ‘Je t’aime, moi non plus’ by Jane Birkin and Serge Gainsbourg.

At the age of 19, towards the end of his second year reading PPE at Manchester University, he decided he was on the wrong course. He lived in the Stretford area, reminding him of some of the parts of Everton he had witnessed earlier, and considered a career in social work.

An important figure in David’s life, who really acted as a mentor for him, was Dr Eric Wilkes. He had been the Thornhill family doctor from 1952 until 1970, when he was appointed Professor of Community Care and General Practice at Sheffield Medical School. David asked his advice – and the Professor persuaded him that Medicine was the route to take and that he should first complete his degree at Manchester and then apply to study Medicine at Sheffield University, which would require a pre-medical year of study for prospective medical students who had no science A-levels. But, unfortunately, there would be no grant to study another first degree.

Dave followed the Professor’s advice and he decided he would finance it himself, by getting a job. He qualified as a Heavy Goods Vehicle lorry driver and spent a year working as a driver; he returned to this job part-time throughout his medical studies.

From the beginning, Dave was intent on becoming a GP. He chose to spend his medical elective placement at a hospital in Bangalore in Southern India. His placement also involved making medical visits to outlying villages, where he was involved in setting up and training a group of ‘barefoot doctors’. At the end of his placement he travelled extensively throughout India.

In 1976, David met Karine Sennesal, who was visiting Derbyshire from Armentières, Hauts-de-France, and they were married in 1981. They lived in Sheffield while David completed his training. Charlotte was born in May 1982 and their son Alexi was born in August 1984, the month that David completed his medical training.

He joined a partnership in Arnold, near the northern edge of Nottingham, which contained all of the large Bestwood Council Estate in its catchment area as well as the outer suburbs and some rural areas.

In 1987 David, working with his mother, Molly, decided to plan and oversee the building of a nursing / residential home in their home village of Great Longstone so that local residents would not have to move away from the area if they needed to move into a home. The building was to commemorate David’s father, John Thornhill. Also on their committee were local girl, the Duchess of Devonshire, Professor Eric Wilkes and family friend, the great Brian Redhead of Radio 4 fame. The home was completed and opened in 1994 and was named ‘Thornhill House’. David remained a trustee for the home for the rest of his life.

In 1994 David became a trainer on the Nottingham Vocational Training Scheme for GPs. He was a natural teacher and this, combined with his patience and listening skills, made him very effective. It was a role he greatly enjoyed. He continued to educate registrars for the next 17 years. In 2005 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of GPs.

When I met up with them again, completely by chance, in 2001 after a long break, it was clear that David absolutely adored Karine in their twentieth year of marriage. The unbreakable bond between them made their house warm and welcoming – and their children Charlotte and Alexi have grown into strong people who do their parents great credit.

Anyone who knew David would tell you of his goodness, his kindness, his consideration for others, his energy and his great sense of fun.

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In April 2015, he was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia. That summer he underwent transplant of stem cells donated by his sister, Lucy. This led to a lengthy period of remission, which he absolutely made the most of, but David relapsed at the end of 2016 and died on 10th January 2017 at home, with all his family around him.

His treatment was conducted at the excellent Haematology Centre at The City Hospital in Nottingham, thankfully not far from his home, so Karine could visit several times a day. During his lengthy stays there, he started to write a blog about his experience. It is called “AML Too much reality” and is available to read at amlotoomuchreality.blogspot.co.uk.

He always had a great sense of humour – and was great company – but I was astonished that this was still the case throughout his illness. A few weeks before he died, I had a very enjoyable lunch with David and Karine at home in Nottingham. He did not often talk about times past, but I was amazed that he had total recall of something that I had almost completely forgotten. His animated account, given his condition, was extraordinary.

In the summer term of 1969, Adrian Struvé and Roger Sainsbury organised an epic fund-raising sponsored walk from Shrewsbury House in Everton to Shrewsbury School. We left Everton on Friday evening, spent the night in Widnes Town Hall, walked to Whitchurch on Saturday (as we approached Whitchurch, it rained so hard that we paddled the last few miles) and spent the night drying off in Whitchurch Scout Hut. The party comprised such stoic luminaries as Nick Davies, Patrick Thomas, Ahmed Hussein, Donald Black and Charlie Kemp – all from Churchill’s – several members of Shrewsbury House, who were such great company, keeping up an endless barrage of badinage and scouse repartee.

On Sunday we were met at Wem by Donald Wright and others – and walked back to Shrewsbury for tea. And this was less than two weeks before our A-Levels; but we didn’t worry about that sort of thing in those Golden Days.

R.R. Jones (Ch 1965-69)

Martin Whitworth (SH 1939-43)

Martin Whitworth was an engineer, a waterman, a home bird and a family man.

He was born 25th October 1925 in Quetta, part of the Indian Raj. He kept up with other children of the Raj right up until his death. He first met his wife Betty there when they were three years old – a budding romance put on ice for 25 years after she trod on his trainset!

He went to boarding school in England from the age of three years old – a budding romance put on ice for 25 years after she trod on his trainset!

He went to boarding school in England from the age of eight, first at St Pirans and then Shrewsbury, while his parents were based in India. He saw them on their home leave most summers but not at all between 1939 and 1943, school holidays otherwise being spent with family in North Wales or Berwickshire. He excelled as a rower and an oarsman on the River Severn, while his choice to major in science subjects at school dominated by classicists!

In 1943 he went up to St John’s College, Cambridge to do a compressed two-year Engineering Tripos while rowing took up much of his time. He rowed in the wartime Boat Races in 1944 (at Ely) and 1945 (at Henley), stroking the 1945 Cambridge boat to victory. One of the specifications for any of the homes he lived in afterwards was a suitable place to hang his oar!

After Cambridge he joined the Royal Navy in August 1945 and was posted to the Pacific Fleet. He spent two years in the Far East before he completed his war service. While there he visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki – a sobering experience he described in a letter home.

He then joined the Henrietta, an ex-German MTB fitted out ostensibly as a millionaire’s yacht touring round the Mediterranean. The Henrietta was actually landing agents on the coast of Albania for MI6. His duties were not only to keep the engines running but also to row agents ashore. He even had to carry them ashore so they didn’t get their feet wet! Once he missed the initial rendez-vous with the Henrietta and set off to row across to Greece. Fortunately they found each other soon after!

In 1951 he came back to England to source some spare parts for the Henrietta’s engines and met Betty at a mutual friend’s wedding, a fellow child of the Raj. They met once for lunch in London and then went their separate ways, she ostensibly to the Foreign Office and he to the Admiralty. When they bumped into each other at the doors of MI6 they had blown each other’s cover!

They married in August 1953 and were together for 56 years until Betty died in 2009. Their son was born a year after they married and their daughter Christine a year after that. By this time Martin had started working at John I. Thorneycroft at Woolston, Southampton, building mainly warships for the Royal Navy. He worked at Woolston until 1969, apart from two years in the fifties working for Paxman’s in Colchester.

Martin was a real engineer. He could do the clever design and draughting very well, but he was never happier than in a boiler suit getting into the nuts and bolts of a machine or ship. It was both his profession and his hobby. He liked nothing better than working at home in his workshop designing and building some novel gizmo.

When in the late 1960s, Thorneycroft was bought out, he joined Reavell’s in Ipswich as Works Manager. When he saw Mill House in Woodbridge on the market he fell in love with it, and managed to buy it at a rain-soaked open air auction.

Betty said shortly afterwards “the only way he is leaving this house is in a box!” – how right she was!

The job at Reavell’s lasted a relatively short time before another takeover and Martin moved on to consulting engineers WH Gamble and partners based in central London. For the next ten years he joined a small but merry band of commuters on the early train from Woodbridge to Liverpool Street, then cycling across London to his office. He was perhaps at his happiest working at Gamble’s, as it got him back to the real engineering.

Mill House and Woodbridge were made for Martin. He could sail his dinghy on the River Deben, he had plenty of home and garden to sort out, not to mention the windmill (his involvement and encouragement aided its renovation in the 1980s), and there was always the Lagonda (which he rebuilt as a retirement hobby)! He and Betty loved having the local Scouts using the field, and hosting events in the mill yard, whether for vintage motorbikes or for their favourite charity St Elizabeth Hospice.

After Betty died in 2009, Martin became increasingly disabled which made it difficult to get about, and he relied more on his IT for communications, some of it ancient! But thanks to a series of live-in and day carers, medics, neighbours and friends, and his daughter Christine, he was able to stay at Mill House until he died. He enjoyed going to the Quay Church most Sundays and taking part in the actively retired group, as well as keeping up with Children of the Raj and his life Presidency of the Isle of Ely Rowing Club.