

The news 100 years ago: 29th January - 5th February 1915

Monday 2 February 2015



Shaded area shows the 'war zone' announced by Germany on 4th February 1915

No OS lives were lost this week 100 years ago.

From the start of the war, Britain had maintained a fairly effective naval blockade of the German coast, a strategy that in the long run of the war would prove effective in starving Germany of fundamental supplies. Early in 1915, Germany sought to retaliate with a U-Boat blockade of the British Isles.

On 4th February 1915, the commander of the German High Seas Fleet issued a warning that the waters around Great Britain and Ireland would henceforth be considered a war zone and that any shipping – including those of neutral countries like the USA – would be considered a legitimate target for German submarines.

Unrestricted submarine warfare would, at its height in the spring and summer of 1915, lead to the sinking of an average of almost two ships a day. Attacks on American shipping would eventually be a contributing factor in bringing the USA into the war.



RSSH squads dominate the Midlands League

Tuesday 3 February 2015

Following the 3rd Round of the Midlands League at Worksop, our Hunt runners are now leading both sections of the table. A report by Dr Law.



Alex Shaw had only been off the bus for five minutes before he had managed to put his foot down a snow-covered rabbit hole and was plonked on the ground with a face creased in pain. This was not an auspicious start to our Midlands league fixture in Worksop on a raw January afternoon.

The conditions were clearly far from ideal and the course had only narrowly been passed as suitable for running. Not that this proved to be a problem for the Shrewsbury Hunt boys, whom Mr Middleton is fond of dubbing "hard as nails" (a comment overheard from an awe-struck opposition parent!).

The Colts were up first and were facing two laps of mixed terrain on a 5 km course. Will Hayward had overcome his niggling shoulder injury to run with his customary spry grit and came in 2nd to a clearly exceptional Worksop athlete. Charlie Tait-Harris – sans Billy Whizz quiff – came in shortly behind Will and a Shrewsbury victory was then sealed by the plucky running of Scott Hatton and Monty Hardcastle in fifth and seventh positions respectively.

Besides these seasoned stars of the Shrewsbury Colts, it was very pleasing to see some gritty performances from relative newcomers to the Hunt: Barton, Henderson, Pegge and Occleston all deserve honourable mentions for their impressive work on the day. Worksop, Uppingham, Rugby, Bromsgrove and others had been dispatched.





Oscar Dickins came home first for Shrewsbury in the senior boys race and finished in third position overall after a performance which displayed the imperturbable tenacity and work ethic which has characterised his season thus far. Victory was then sealed by some superb team running on the part of Charlie Rogers, Theo Clarke and Charlie Godman (who finished 5th, 6th and 7th). During the penultimate lap, it had looked as though Charlie Godman in particular was under threat from being overtaken by athletes from Welbeck Nottingham High School, Wellingborough and Oundle, but it was to Charlie's great credit that he held off this threat and came home to clinch the vital fourth position for the team.

Henry Newbould, Jake Samuel – who has clearly been standing in compost recently and seems to have grown a foot since I last saw him – and Alex Shaw (miraculously up off his pallet and running) all came home in the top 20 and helped to secure that customary feeling of Shrewsbury dominance.

Ollie Lansdell is to be credited with a strong run, and after being so relaxed that he could grin for the camera on his first lap, Alex Perutz put in a fierce final lap to finish some distance ahead of Garikapati, Marsden, Robinson and Tivodar.

Mr Haworth and I took around 30 athletes on this five-hour round trip and they are all to be congratulated on making a potentially cheerless assignment a very pleasing and proud-making one.

DAL



Rugby news update - 2nd February

Tuesday 3 February 2015

The 1st XV beat Hartpury College's 4th XV on Wednesday (50-7).

Saturday's home matches for the 1st XV and U16 XV were cancelled. However, our Junior teams travelled to Coventry to play King Henry VIII's School; the U15 XV drew (29-29) and the Third Form continue to excel, with the U14A XV winning 62-0 and the U14B XV winning 51-5.



Sabrina 8 Place 2nd at the 'Head of the Severn'

Thursday 5 February 2015

The Sabrina 8 competed at the 'Head of the Severn' at Worcester in January 2015. They came in 2nd place in IM3 8's, beaten by 10 seconds. It was a positive result for the group and certainly a reminder of the need for good distance training over the winter period.

The crew was:- W Dodson-Wells, J Russell, R Shropshire, J Kynaston, I Dick, R Homden, P Wood, C Randall

We hope to be training at Vyrnwy next weekend, with the School, and then to Chester Head.



Wind Prizes

Thursday 5 February 2015

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Wind Prizes and thank you to all who took part for a very enjoyable afternoon of music-making.

This year's adjudicator was Lara James, who teaches saxophone at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. She has performed as a concerto soloist and recitalist throughout the UK and her freelance recording work includes sessions for radio, BBC TV and CD recordings and appearances with numerous major orchestras in the UK. As a soloist, Lara has been broadcast around the world including the UK (BBC Radio 3, Classic FM), Ireland (RTE Lyric FM), the USA (NPR) and on ABC Classic FM Australia.

Prizes were awarded to the following:

Junior Class

First: Bryan Lo (M IV - flute)

Highly Commended: William Hope (Ch 3 -

clarinet)

Commended: Harry Russell (O V - saxophone)

Intermediate Class

First: Antonia Wordie (EDH LVI - clarinet) Highly Commended: Henry Mayhew (Ch IV clarinet)

Commended: Henry Newbould (Ch LVI - bassoon) Special Mention: Joe Thevasthasan (PH V) & Henri Cramsie (SH 3)

Senior Class

First: Henry Newbould (Ch LVI - saxophone) Highly Commended: Ursule Taujanskaite (MSH LVI - flute)

Commended: Ben Sansom (PH LVI - saxophone) Special mention: Cecily Price (EDH UVI saxophone)





The Arnold Hagger Mathematics Prize

Thursday 5 February 2015

Congratulations to Aki Tamai (MSH LVI) who has won this year's Arnold Hagger Mathematics Prize, and to Chloe Chen (MSH LVI), proxime accessit.

The Arnold Hagger Prize takes the form of a 90-minute paper with unusual and challenging questions, and is designed to pick out the most able, rather than the most knowledgeable, mathematician in the School.

This year's hardest question:

A run is a block of cards which are all the same colour. For example,	runs,	and
■□■□■□ has 6 runs. Dr Octopus has 8 black cards and 8 white cards. He shuffles al	I the ca	ards
together, and deals them in a row. What is the probability that there are exactly 8 runs?		



Medal-winning performances at the West Midlands Fencing Championships

Friday 6 February 2015

The West Midlands Senior and British Youth Championships in Kenilworth last weekend attracted fencers from schools, colleges, clubs and universities throughout the region.

In the Senior Men's Foil, Marco Lee (I LVI) won Gold.

Arthur Cheng (SH UVI) won Bronze in the Senior Epee and Tom Creamer (S UVI) finished in 6th place.

In the Ladies' Sabre, Krem Todorova (G UVI) won Bronze.

There were also excellent performances in the West Midlands Youth Championships. Scott Reynolds (Rb LVI) won Bronze in the Under-18 Boys' Foil and Marco Lo (SH IV) won Bronze in the Under-16 Foil competition. They both qualified for the National Finals which will be held in Sheffield in May.

Alec Barnes (PH V) and Lisa Stolyarova (G IV) came 6th in their respective Under-16 Foil competitions.

Ken Holding, Wrekin Sword



McEachran Prize 2015

Friday 6 February 2015

"Tomorrow's spells for the young exploding like bombs." Seventeen competitors vied for this most eclectic of academic competitions on Tuesday 3rd February.

The McEachran Prize is awarded in memory of Frank McEachran ('Kek'), an inspirational teacher at Shrewsbury from 1935 until his death in service (at the age of 75) in 1975. The prize is awarded for a talk on a 'spell' - a Salopian term for a short passage of poetry or prose, chosen for its suitability for recitation aloud.



'Kek' - 1938

Over the years the rules have been become increasingly anarchic: a 4-minute talk – guillotined mercilessly if a 30-second grace period is abused – on any piece of 'text', which these days has been extended to include film and song lyrics, the winners being those who talks have had coherent, original intellectual content and held the audience (what else?) spell-bound. The difficulty in recent years has been to keep the number of competitors within manageable proportions, and last minute withdrawals have generally been greeted by the organiser with relief.

This competition shamelessly appeals to those of the intellectual elite with a taste for performance and a willingness to risk making a fool of themselves, which none of them of course do. This year's adjudicator was the inimitable Robin Case, sometime Housemaster of Ingram's, Headmaster of Adcote School and, for the last five years of this career, Registrar, who retired from the School in 2012.

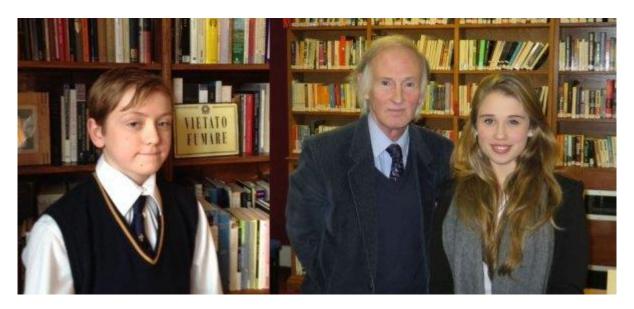
The crowded Severn Room in the Moser Library witnessed an international array of 'spells' embracing lines from Wordsworth, Blake, Voltaire, Stalin, Stephen Hawking, Alan Turing, Kafka, Beckett, Baudelaire, Conrad, Sartre, Maya Angelou, Lou Reed, F Scott Fitzgerald and others.

Inevitably the decision to award prizes was a hard one and the judge took immense pains to reach a fair decision, while about it spellbinding the audience with some choice nuggets on 'Kek' himself.

Caspian Cowan Taylor (Ch V) (Stalin), Ed Carroll (Ch UVI) (Alan Turing), Olivia Bradley (EDH UVI) (Beckett), and Theo Simmons (Ch UVI) (Sartre) were singled out for special mention.



Otto Rothwell Hurley (Ch 3) won the junior prize, with an utterly engaging and personal appreciation of lines from Wordsworth's *The Rainbow*, with joint Head of School Esmé O'Keeffe (MSH) winning the senior prize, treating the audience to a gritty meditation on *La Beauté du Mal* (the beauty of evil) drawn from a Baudelaire poem.



Prizewinners

RTH



Netball: Seniors and Juniors make a strong start to the new season

Friday 6 February 2015

After a handful of fixtures in the Michaelmas term for the senior girls to get some preseason training in, including weekly Shrewsbury and District league matches and a County Tournament, the netball season began in earnest after Christmas for both the senior and the junior girls. Head of Girls' Games Nicola Bradburne reports.



U14B team

We have a large squad participating in the evening league and working on a rotational basis. So far this term they have played 14, won 7, lost 4 and drawn 2 with a goal difference of +35, which puts us mid-table with 6 fixtures to play.

In the county tournament this year, we were keen to repeat last year's performance of reaching the final, but unfortunately we were just pipped at the post. The team played extremely well throughout the early stages, winning the group to go through to the semi-finals and a match against Thomas Telford. It was a great game, with outstanding netball being played by both



teams resulting in extra time. Unfortunately Shrewsbury just lost out 15-16, but should be very proud of their efforts.

The U14 team entered the County Tournament for the first time this year and it was a very similar result. The team played well throughout the early stages, winning 4 of their matches and only losing 2. This was the same result as Shrewsbury High School, who went through to the final on count back and a difference of 1 goal! Still, a very pleasing result in our first year in the competition.

On top of this, there is a full programme of fixtures for the seniors in the Lent term and we are establishing fixtures for the juniors. The season started with 4 teams out against Repton; not an easy introduction to netball, but a good level on which to base the rest of the term. Our 14As lost by just 4 goals and 14Bs won by 6.

At senior level, it was again close, with the 1st team losing by 6.

We moved on from here with positive performances, resulting in the juniors beating Moreton Hall at A and B level and the 14As losing to Wrekin 15As by 2; the 14Bs beating Wrekin 14As by 8. Our 1st team played Wrekin 2nds and our 2nds played their 3rds in 2 very close end-to-end netball matches, resulting in a 20-18 win and a 14-16 loss.

Since then our senior girls have been on good form, with the 1st team recording wins over King's Chester, Adams Grammar and Shrewsbury Sixth Form College ahead of this week's fixture against Oswestry School. The Juniors are also travelling to Oswestry, so we're looking forward to a full afternoon of netball just before the half term break.



The Hunt "get out strong and commit" at the Coventry National Relays

Friday 6 February 2015

The Hunt entered a record number of runners — two boys' teams and three girls' teams — in this year's Coventry National Relays, which took place on Wednesday 4th February. Wearing the mantra 'Get out strong: commit' emblazoned on their wrists, that is exactly what every Hunt runner did.



This is the biggest race of the year for the RSSH and with over 500 runners competing from the length and breadth of the country (and with the likes of Seb Coe and the Brownlee brothers having competed in the race in the past), it is always a tremendously exciting competition and keenly fought.

We have only taken part in the girls' competition since 2011 (24th that first year) and have only ever taken an 'A' team. Three teams out represented growing strength in depth with the girls' team. Our girls 'C' team came 30th/39 beating 'A' teams from Ampleforth, Bablake and Worksop; our 'B' team were 20th; and the 'A' team secured another top 10 spot, beating such prominent schools as Sedbergh, Haileybury and Rugby and coming home 7th, just a minute behind Sevenoaks (in 4th), who took the championship trophy at the Knole Run at the start of January.



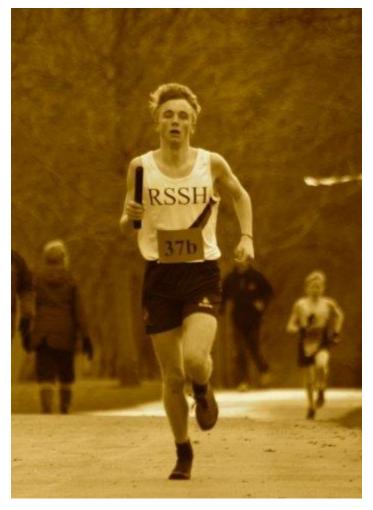


In the boys' event we have placed on the podium for the last three years in a row (including runners-up spot in 2012) though we knew this year would be tough without two of our fastest runners (Ben Remnant and Freddie Huxley-Fielding).

Having come 5th at the Knole Run in January, we knew that even getting into the top 5 at Coventry would be difficult. But our mantra in the build up and for race day was 'get out strong and commit' (the words that Lynsey Sharp wrote on her wrists before the Commonwealth Games where she claimed an astonishing silver medal – more on that in the full Race Report). We knew that if we were going to beat our competitors we had to run bravely and







Charlie Tait-Harris (minus a shoe)

We did just that, with some seriously quick times from Huntsman Theo Clarke (12.13), Oscar Dickins (12.03 - the 6th fastest out of 350 runners) and Charlie Tait-Harris (12.21). Most astonishing of all was Tait-Harris's run, where he not only knocked off 24 seconds from last week's time trial over the course, but he also did so running the second half of the course with just one shoe!

Fourth place for our 'A' team was a superb result and they did the job we set out to do, holding off Sedbergh (in fact a full minute ahead of them in the end), and blowing away Sevenoaks (2 minutes behind) who had placed 3rd in the Knole Run two places ahead of us. We couldn't quite hold off Loughborough who placed Djikstra (World Triathlon Champion, no less) on the final leg and our lead over them going into that leg was not enough at just over a minute.

The 'B' team recorded their joint best ever result in placing 12th, a seriously impressive achievement.

Finally, one of the real highlights was seeing the way in which the boys and girls whilst in separate races were nevertheless one squad and were cheering each other on and genuine in their encouragement. They were proud of each other and that was great to see!



Coventry National Relays, Wednesday 4th February 2015

Friday 6 February 2015

"Get out strong; commit." These were the words Scottish 800m athlete Lynsey Sharp wrote on her wrist before taking to the startline of the Commonwealth Games final in Glasgow last summer. Just a matter of hours before, Sharp had been on a drip, spending a sleepless night in the athlete's medical centre and enduring further heartache following a traumatic year of injury. Sharp only just scraped into the final as a fastest loser and went into the final with an open wound on her calf. It was incredible that she even made that startline, but something more astonishing was to come. For despite injury, and despite the debilitating illness of the night before, Sharp went onto that track determined to give it her all. Her performance that day must surely go down as one of the bravest runs of all time. Sharp herself described the race as a 'miracle', and indeed she defied the odds by not only being able to go out and race, but in fact powering through the field



in the final bend of the race to run a blistering last 100m and take the Commonwealth silver medal in a time of 2.01.34. It was an astonishing and inspiring performance.

In our preparations for the most important race in the schools' running circuit – the Coventry National Relays – the Hunt would use the inspiration of Lynsey Sharp to prepare for a race that requires considerable mental strength as well as physical prowess. Two weeks before the race we watched the BBC documentary 'Get Out Strong and Commit' and began to focus on this mantra. On our wrists these words would also be written, and in the minds of each of the Hunt runners these words would be imprinted, not only as an individual mantra but as a collective commitment to the team as a whole.

In the first of the relay races on the day, the boys' 'A' team would indeed 'get out strong' with Huntsman Theo Clarke (S UVI) pushing the team into a prominent position with his swift run of 12.13 for the 2.3-mile course. It was a time that would by the end of the day be named as the 13th fastest lap out of over 350 runners. Crucially, Clarke's lap saw the Hunt immediately establishing a gap over rival schools Sedbergh and Sevenoaks who we knew would be a distinct threat this year, with both schools having beaten us this season already.





Charlie Tait-Harris (minus a shoe)

Whilst we knew that without two key members of the squad we would struggle to challenge for the top spots, we felt that if we got out hard we could establish a gap early on that would be difficult for our rivals to chase. Indeed, after the first leg we had established a seven-second lead over Sevenoaks and had a full minute over Sedbergh. Things were looking good and with fellow Severn Hill runner Charlie Tait-Harris taking over the baton with the Hunt in 5th position, the Huntsman had done his job. Tait-Harris would be required to push on and establish a further gap, and despite only being in the Fifth Form, he had competed in our 'A' team the year before so had some experience behind him.

He set about his task quickly and by half-way had pushed the Hunt into 2nd position. By the end of his lap (12.21- 20th fastest lap of the day) Tait-Harris had catapulted the Hunt into the lead, with nearly 30 seconds over the 'big hitters' St Alban's and Judd. Remarkably, Tait-Harris had not only been ill in the San over the 24 hours previously, but he also lost a shoe halfway and ran the second section of the course with one foot shoeless. This was, without doubt, an act of astonishing bravery and commitment.

Into the third leg, rising star Charlie Rogers (Rb LVI) knew he would be hunted down by St Alban's and Judd, but his task was to keep the lead over Sedbergh and Sevenoaks in order that our aim of a top 5 spot could be realised. With a lap time of 12.46 he did just that, maintaining the minute lead over Sedbergh, who by this point in the race were neck and neck with Sevenoaks who had slipped down through the field despite their strong performance at the Knole Run in January (where they placed 3rd with the Hunt coming 5th).





Oscar Dickins

Leg 4 would see Oscar Dickins (R LVI) in blistering form, and this is traditionally a leg in which the top teams will unleash their main 'bullet' from the chamber. Rogers had held off St Alban's, so going into the leg, Dickins had a ten-second lead over internationalist Robbie Lightowler, and with a time of 12.03 Dickins was not far off Lightowler's time of 11.55 and as such a gap still remained. This time would be the joint 8th fastest time of the day, and amongst the fastest times run by a Hunt athlete in the last ten years.

By now the race had become extremely interesting, for we had expected Loughborough to place their star athlete (Ben Djikstra – World Youth Triathlon Champion no less!) in the fourth leg. However, they were clearly saving him for a final effort at the end – more of a missile than a bullet we knew! So in the 5th leg, Scott Hatton (the third Severn Hill member of the team) in his first ever taste of the National Relays, would be under significant pressure from the chasing pack. With a time of 13.03 Hatton ran remarkably well and ensured that the Hunt were still in a strong position going into the final leg, where he would pass over the baton to fellow Fifth Former Will Hayward (R).

The Hunt were still in podium position at this stage and we knew that Hayward would have the resilience to maintain our lead over Sedbergh and Harrow, who had by this point moved into contention for a top 5 spot. (Sevenoaks had further drifted down into 8th position.) The question remained whether our gap of a minute over Loughborough would be enough. Hayward's lap was run in a swift 12.39, but it was not quite enough to hold off the Djikstra express train and with just 600m to go the Loughborough athlete drew alongside Hayward. In a moment that will surely stay with him for many years, Hayward attempted to stay with the multiple national champion and now world triathlon champion. There was certainly no shame in being hunted down by an athlete of that caliber, and it perhaps puts things in



perspective when one considers that Djikstra's time of 11.16 is in fact four seconds quicker than Seb Coe managed as a schoolboy, albeit in somewhat trickier conditions!

The Hunt's lead team of six crossed the line in a time of 75.02 in a very credible 4th place (out of 55 teams). Crucially, they were not far off last year's champions St Alban's (74.40) and this year's winners Judd (73.51).

Aside from this superb run from the 'A' team, we were also delighted to see our 'B' team come home in 12th position, just 5 seconds behind the leading 'B' team from Judd. With some seriously swift times from the Upper Sixth trio of Alex Shaw of Churchill's (13.16), Jake Samuel of Oldham's (13.17) and Charlie Godman of Moser's (12.42), there were also strong performances from athletes who will be returning next year. Indeed, it is exciting to think ahead to what Ingramite Monty Hardcastle might do in future years, having run 13.31 as a Fourth Former! Similarly, Henry Newbould of Churchill's will be back next year and having run 13.37, he'll be more than capable of dipping under 13 minutes next year, as will newcomer Charles Wade of Port Hill, who ran 13.24 despite having only properly joined the training squad in January. Exciting times lie ahead.



In the girls' event, the Hunt brought three teams to Coventry for the first time. (In fact we have only ever brought one team before.) Having burst onto the scene last year with an outstanding 4th place at the relays beating our previous best of 15th, there was considerable excitement in the squad, particularly as this year we achieved our best ever result at the national Knole Run in January, coming home in 5th place.

Whilst the girls were without captain Tory Mobley this year (who had last year run the 4th fastest time of the day which is in fact the 26th fastest lap ever!) we had some very talented athletes this year, including a speedy lead quartet exclusively composed of Lower Sixth runners. Passi Goddard from The Grove was given the task of leading the girls out, and with the same words written on her wrist, she too was determined to 'get out strong'. Following the first leg in which she ran 15.36, the Hunt were positioned just outside of the top 10, though with many schools



placing their star athlete in the first leg, we were not overly concerned by this, particularly knowing that we had a speedster at leg 2 in Tati Watt (also from The Grove).

Watt made quick work of chasing down a number of teams and completed her lap in 14.47, which was just outside the top 20 times of the day. By the time Sally Joyce (also from The Grove!) took over for the penultimate leg, the Hunt had nudged into the top 10 schools, and with a time of 15.03, Joyce ensured that we were still primed for a high position with just one leg to go.

We had reserved our quickest athlete Olivia Papaioannou (from Emma Darwin Hall this time!) for the anchor leg and as such knew that we could finish strongly. Papaiaonnou – who has been in astounding form all season – ran the 12th fastest time of the day in 14.23, which with one year still to go suggests that she can be amongst the very quickest athletes next year. Indeed, all members of the lead trio will return next year (as will all but one of the 'B' and 'C' squads), so the Hunt will have a real shot at targeting a podium spot.



This year the competition was particularly fierce, though the girls can be very proud of 7th position and a top 10 spot for the second year in a row. A team time just under 60 minutes is very swift indeed.

The 'B' team placed 20th/38, beating 'A' teams from the likes of Rugby School and Haileybury, thanks in no small part to Third Former Sophia Dixon (MSH) running under 16 minutes (15.55), backed up by her housemates Martha Pownall (16.03) and Ursule Taujanskaite (16.24) from the Lower Sixth, and Abi Attenborough (16.06) from the Upper Sixth.

Just as impressive was the fact that the 'C' team placed 30th coming ahead of a number of 'A' teams, such as Ampleforth and Bablake. The standout performance came from Immie Evans of The Grove (16.04).

As ever, the Relays provided some exceptional racing and this year was as exciting an installment as we have seen. As coaches we were incredibly proud of our athletes and the way in which they



tackled the race. Without doubt, each and every one of them got out strong and committed! PJM





Henrike Legner wins place at Trinity Laban Conservatoire

Friday 6 February 2015

To anyone who has been present during any of Henrike Legner's numerous and glorious solo performances at school concerts and chapel services, it will come as no surprise to learn that she has been offered a place to study at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, which has an international repuation as one of the premier institutions in the UK for the study of music.

In addition to her many school musical commitments, she was also selected last year to sing with

the Rodolphus Choir, one of the finest young chamber choirs in existence, made up of selected young singers from across the country, many of whom will go on to have professional singing careers. During the Christmas holiday, Henrike gave three performances with the Rodolphus Choir directed by Ralph Allwood, which included her taking a solo in Britten's Ceremony of Carols at St Martin-in-the-Fields, and also being part of a live Radio 3 Choral Evensong broadcast.

Henrike also sang the soprano solos in the annual Christmas performance in Shrewsbury Abbey of Handel's *Messiah* alongside a line up of top professional soloists, accompanied by Shrewsbury School's Community Choir and a wonderful orchestra which included several Old Salopians. On 26th February she will join a number of other



Shrewsbury musicians in a <u>concert at the Wigmore Hall in London</u>, where she will perform J S Bach's Cantata for solo soprano, trumpet and strings 'Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen' with Henry Thomas (trumpet) and members of the String Orchestra.

And this weekend, on Sunday 8th February, she will be singing the soprano solo in 'Ahoy!' by Alex L'Estrange, with the massed voices of the Community Choir, Chapel Choir, a children's choir and The 'Call Me Al' Jazz Quintet, directed by Alex Mason.



Talented Young OS Chef is a Rising Star in Paris

Friday 6 February 2015

News of young OS Ollie Clarke creating a stir on the restaurant scene.

We are always delighted to hear of Shrewsbury students' success and it is particularly pleasing to note the wide variety of fields in which Old Salopians have forged a name for themselves.

When Ollie Clarke (PH 2002-07) left Shrewsbury School, he made the somewhat brave decision not to go on to university. It may have raised a few eyebrows at the time, but choosing to follow his passion has seen Ollie acclaimed as a rising star on the Parisian restaurant scene at a young age.

Ollie began his career with an apprenticeship at Rick Stein's Seafood Restaurant in Padstow, where he spent three years working his way up to chef de partie, before deciding to move to Paris in order to further his career. And it's in Paris that Ollie's career has indeed taken off. He is now head chef at the highly respected Fish La Boissonnerie and is rapidly gaining a portfolio of top reviews, including a recent one by a Financial Times Reviewer, who said that his meal there was one of 'the best 25 of the year'.

Ollie believes that his time at Shrewsbury School gave him the confidence to 'just go out there and do



it' and he also says that his excellent education and strong work ethic gave him 'more than a head start' in the business. He now plans to open up his own restaurant in Paris, hopefully later this year..

You can link to the <u>restaurant's facebook page here</u> to read more. Take a look at the great article, by Jocelyne Fildes, in this month's Shropshire Magazine or read the article on Ollie on <u>Chefshout here</u>; but don't be surprised if you end up feeling very hungry!



Chinese New Year

Saturday 7 February 2015





'Argentina's Dirty War' - author Alicia Kozameh joins Sixth Form lecture via Skype

Monday 9 February 2015

On Wednesday 4th February we were delighted to welcome Dr Par Kumaraswami, Associate Doctor in Latin American Cultural Studies from the University of Reading, to deliver a lecture on Argentina's 'Guerra Sucia' (Dirty War). This topic is a central part of our Upper Sixth course.



In the first part of her lecture, Dr Kumaraswami showed how events from 1976-83 were still having repercussions in today's Argentina. She suggested that the response to the recent death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman follows a familiar pattern of polarisation of opinion between government supporters and the opposition. This thread was then traced back through various governments in the 90s and the 80s showing how such polarisation has contributed to decisions to incarcerate or alternatively to grant amnesty to military figures indicted for war crimes during the Dirty War. We gained a real sense of the seemingly endless search for truth and justice dating back to the days of the military Junta.

In the second part of the lecture, we were asked to consider the possible cultural responses to the events of the Dirty War. Dr Kumaraswami suggested that writers in Argentina (as in many other Latin American countries) felt a strong compulsion to be engaged in society, not least in the political sphere. This meant that they became targets for the military, who sought to quash opposition in all its forms. As a consequence the exile of writers was common, though others stood their ground and were either imprisoned or killed or 'disappeared'.

We were then invited to look at a brief clip of Manuel Puig's 'El beso de la mujer araña' (Kiss of the Spider Woman) and to talk about an extract from Alicia Kozameh's 'Pasos bajo el agua' (Steps Under Water), a fictionalised account of the author's experiences as a political prisoner in the 1970s and subsequent exile from Argentina. We felt a real sense of the horror of being caught up in the brutality of the Dirty War.





The final part of the lecture involved a Skype link with Alicia Kozameh herself from the United States. This provided the opportunity for a Q & A session about her life, her literature and the Dirty War more generally. Her answers were frank, thoughtful and powerful. Her memories were vivid, her thoughts about the present and the future for Argentina somewhat alarming at times. It was truly a privilege to be put in contact with her.

I should like to thank Dr Kumaraswami for her time and for putting together such a relevant and thought-provoking lecture. As well as covering our A-level topic, the evening provided much food for additional thought and enquiry into the future. *SHC*



Saracens Committee Meeting, AGM and Supper 11th February.

Monday 9 February 2015

Saracens Committee Meeting – 5.30pm

Wednesday – 11 February 2015

Followed by AGM – 6.30pm

Followed by Supper – 7.00pm

To be held at the Offices of

PWC, 1 Embankment Place, London

For a full agenda click here

If you are planning to attend, please let someone know as soon as possible, so that a suitable room can be booked.



Prep School Chemistry Visit goes with a bang

Monday 9 February 2015

Shrewsbury's Chemistry Department opened its doors to Prestfelde School students last Thursday for an afternoon of science enrichment and fun - including some spectacular 'flash bang' demonstrations.



Following an introductory meeting with Prestfelde's Head of Science, James Peakman, the event was designed with their current curriculum topics in mind by one of our Senior Chemistry Technicians, Rachel Schofield and our Head of Chemistry, Dr Andy Briggs.

Thirty-four Year 7 pupils and three staff members were given a tour of the Chemistry Department and Prep Room – and the extent of our facilities was a real eye-opener and an insight into the science opportunities at Shrewsbury School.

Dr Briggs then took over in the Science Lecture Theatre with spectacular 'flash bang' demonstrations that resulted in satisfying excitable comments of 'wow!' and 'awesome'!



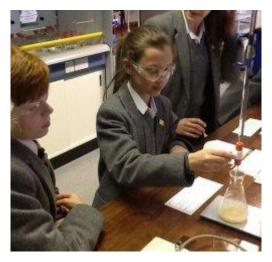
L-R: Hydrogen balloon; fireworks



We moved into one of the chemistry laboratories as special treat for the pupils, as they were allowed to carry out practical experiments themselves. In groups of three or four the pupils had access to equipment they do not often use in prep schools, chemical solutions to create reactions and most enjoyable flame tests. Even with a large number of excitable children and a real buzz of enthusiasm, the Prestfelde pupils did themselves credit with well disciplined lab behaviour.



The finale was a demonstration outside of exploding elephant's toothpaste foam, the mess of which delighted the pupils.



With a few gifts to take away and use to practise what they had learned, the staff and students agreed it was a very successful and enjoyable afternoon, and one that will hopefully be repeated annually and for other prep schools.

James Peakman, Prestfelde, commented, "Thank you for a fantastic trip. The students absolutely loved it and did not stop talking about all the activities you put on for them. It was great for them to be able to have so many hands-on activities as well as the flash bang show. Thanks also for linking it into what I am doing at Prestfelde. It will give me a lot to refer to in lessons." Dr Andy Briggs & Rachel Schofield



RSSBC: Wycliffe Head, 7th February

Monday 9 February 2015

After a long coach journey and a frantically fast rigging of the boats, nine Shrewsbury crews hit the water at the Wycliffe Head on Saturday 7th February. The results bode well for the RSSBC as the Schools' Head of the River approaches on 16th March. Thanks to George Patterson (R UVI) for his report.

Two J15 VIIIs raced in the morning division, coming away with a 2nd and 4th place – encouraging results for the squad as a whole, with crew selection yet to take place.



[15] crews coming 2nd (above left) and 4th from 12

The J16s also entered two eights and finished in 1st and 3rd places in an event featuring Shiplake College and Monmouth School.



Winning J16 VIII

Shrewsbury's senior boys raced in two eights and two fours. The eights were matched and made up primarily of boys who will make up the 1st and 2nd VIIIs.





Senior VIII

The crews came away with 2nd and 3rd place in open VIIIs, losing narrowly to Shiplake's 1st VIII. Both eights' times also compared well to times posted by Abingdon and King's Chester in the morning decision.

The two senior coxed fours also raced well, coming away with a victory and 4th place.



Winning J18 Four

The senior girls' quad was confident before boating and delivered, winning their division by over 15 seconds.





Winning Senior Girls' Quad

In all, the results from Wycliffe were extremely encouraging with solid results at all levels. Selection for the Boat Club's main crews will take place over the next few weeks in anticipation of the Schools' Head of the River on 16th March.



Anniversary of the Foundation of Shrewsbury School, 10th February 1552

Monday 9 February 2015

This week is the anniversary of the Foundation of Shrewsbury School by Royal Charter of King Edward VI, 10th February 1552.

On 10th February 1552, Edward VI sealed the charter for a 'Free School' at Shrewsbury. It was endowed out of the revenues of the newly dissolved ecclesiastical colleges of St Mary's and St Chad's, on the petition of Richard Whittaker, a rich Shrewsbury clothworker and bailiff, and Hugh Edwardes, a London mercer born near Ellesmere of an ancient Welsh family.



King Edward VI's Charter

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



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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



Severn Hill and EDH 'On the Razzle' in the Ashton Theatre

Tuesday 10 February 2015

The House Play Season 2015 opened with Tom Stoppard's well-loved comedy 'On the Razzle', presented by Severn Hill and Emma Darwin Hall.



The play tells the story of two ambitious shop assistants (played by Teddy Briggs and Ed Plaut) who run away from their master's grocery shop for an adventure among the bright lights of Vienna. All the ingredients of farce are here: mistaken identities, Italian waiters, a sexy French maid and even a pantomime horse.

The company conveyed the humour of the piece with verve and evident enjoyment; huge congratulations are due to Dan Edwards and his team for managing such an ambitious project. *HRB*



Third Form ice hockey outing

Tuesday 10 February 2015

Mr and Mrs Fitton kindly took Oldham's Third Form to their first game of ice hockey on Sunday 8th February in Telford.



After some lively exchanges resulting in spontaneous brawling (between players not boys), "Telford Tigers" beat "MK Lightning" 6 goals to 3.



Fives News Roundup

Tuesday 10 February 2015

OS news of late has been great. We once again lost narrowly in the final of the Barber Cup against the Olavians. They represent very stiff opposition, yet in both of the past 2 years we have pushed them very close, losing 2-1 on both occasions. In their team of 6 they have 4 former Kinnaird champions, but we Salopians always show our grit and depth in talent. We lost 2-1 overall but there is real fire in the belly and it won't be long before we enjoy our own period of domination.

We also recently began our defence of the EFA trophy and on a more individual note Chris Hughes and Tom Welti reached the semi-finals in the recent Northern Tournament. This is a stellar achievement in a top level competition with all the very best players in attendance.

In September 2014 we had the first Salopian Fives Weekend, where 15-20 Salopians met at Eton for an afternoon of fives and then a dinner to follow. It was great fun and a fantastic way to start the season. It was largely funded by a grant from the Salopian Club and we look forward to organising similar events this year.

There is a london league in which we play most weeks. We don't do a Salopian friendly fives evening currently but there is currently enough fives to keep everyone satisfied.



The news 100 years ago: 6th - 12th February 1915

Tuesday 10 February 2015

No OS lives were lost this week 100 years ago.

With the war on the Western Front having reached stalemate, and with a growing awareness of the weaknesses in Austria-Hungary's war machine, Germany focused efforts on the Eastern Front, where they hoped a determined campaign might push the Russians out of the war altogether.

On 7th February, the German Eighth Army began their attack, advancing 70 miles in less than a week and inflicting severe casualties against the Russians. One entire Russian army corps was surrounded by German forces in the Augustow Forest in Poland and was forced to surrender.

On 22nd February, a heroic counter-attack by the Russian Twelfth Army finally checked the German advance. Germany had failed in its aim of knocking Russia out of the war.



Chocolate Old Salopian

Wednesday 11 February 2015



We thought that you might like this wonderful picture of John Gilbert (Riggs 54-58) on his way to the City Drinks just before Christmas. He spotted that this Fortnum and Mason chocolate snowman is clearly a fellow OS and is proudly displaying his Riggs hat.

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Gilbert for being good sports and letting us put this on the website. It made us smile.



Shrewsbury School Variety Show raises over £550 for Rosie's Rainbow Fund

Friday 13 February 2015

On Sunday 1st February, roughly 40 pupils took to the stage in the Ashton Theatre to perform in the Shrewsbury School V ariety Show 2015. Continuing the tradition begun last year, a number of the students organised, rehearsed and performed the show - in which people from all cultures and backgrounds could show off their talents in front of an audience of their families, friends and members of staff.

The performances had a huge range to them, from Chloe Chen (MSH) representing China in her dance "The Lotus" through to comedy and drama, multiple musical theatre chorus numbers and even to an a capella group. The show was directed and organised by Alfred Mitchell (SH), Jessica Walker (G) and Charis Virgo (G) with many other people supporting them. The main aim of the evening was of course to raise money for Rosie's Rainbow Fund, which provides music therapy to terminally ill children in hospitals, as well as bereavement therapy to parents that have lost a child (rosiesrainbowfund.co.uk).



Rehearsals for the show began very early in the academic year, starting with the larger Chorus numbers such as the rendition of *Murder*, *Murder* from the musical *Jekyll & Hyde*, which required



coordination of 11 pupils to pull off. As well as this, we performed *One Short Day* from the musical *Wicked* that called for ten students to try their hand at original choreography (with fantastic results!). Finding time for the entire cast to come together and sing through the pieces was tricky, but when everyone was together rehearsals had a good atmosphere and everyone was excited to be involved in the show.



Although practices for the comedy and drama started later in Michaelmas term, it was difficult to tell, with a very slick Duologue from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed by Jessica Walker (G) and Emily Skelton (EDH) as well as a hilarious Monty Python sketch. One act in particular, the duet performed by Dan and Jasmine Lo (SH & EDH) called *Dan Yuan Ren Chan Jui* took many months to perfect, yet the effort most definitely paid off.







Finally many solos from various musicals also featured in the show, with Loren Kell (EDH) performing a breath-taking *Think of Me*, Will Harvey (I) appearing as the infamous Shrek to perform *Who I'd Be* and Alfred Mitchell (SH) with his powerful rendition of *Till I Hear You Sing*.

The show itself went very smoothly, thanks in part to the dedication of the pupils involved and also the behind the scenes help from the sound and lighting technicians. Special thanks of course to Miss Helen Brown for her continued support and for Kieran Harding on giving us his full and undivided attention and help.

The number of different acts are too numerous to mention here (a testament perhaps to the incredible variety of them all). However, each one was extremely well received by the audience. It was incredibly fun to be a part of and everybody loved showing off their own extraordinary talent. - My only disappointment is that this is my last year and thus I won't be able to perform next year!

Ed Carroll (Ch UVI)



Lacrosse Junior Team are runners-up in the U14 North Tournament

Friday 13 February 2015

Our junior lacrosse players had a very enjoyable and successful weekend. On Saturday 7th February they came second in the U14 North Tournament at Moreton Hall, and on Sunday Sophia Dixon, Phoebe Wasdell and Mimi Ashworth helped their U15 County team to victory against Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire

The U14 North Tournament took place at Moreton Hall and the ten teams were split up into two groups, with Shrewsbury playing Moreton Hall A, Bolton School, Withington Girls School and Harrogate Ladies College.

The girls won three out of the four games in their group. This result allowed them to make it to the Semi Finals against Packwood. After a close match they won 5 to 2, moving them into the finals against Moreton Hall's A team. After a back and forth battle Shrewsbury lost 2 to 9. But placing second out of ten teams was a great result for our first year in the competition.



On Sunday, three of the Third Form girls, Sophia Dixon, Phoebe Wasdell and Mimi Ashworth, were selected and played with the U15 Shropshire County B Team. The tournament was held at Oxton Athletic Club and was an all-day tournament. They played three other counties including Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire.



Their first game was played against Lancashire and the girls played extremely well, winning 8-4. Their next game was against Cheshire, which they won 14-1. The final game against Yorkshire was also a win, with a result of 10-4.

The success within these three games meant that Shropshire were placed 1st in the County Tournament. Sophia, Phoebe and Mimi all played crucial parts in the team's success and played very well.





RSSH win Shropshire County Championship Trophies

Friday 13 February 2015

Last Saturday the RSSH took the County Championship Team Trophies in Senior Boys (for the fifth year in a row!) and reclaimed Senior Girls and Junior Boys.



Junior boys







The Inter Boys just missed out on making it a quarter of titles to a very strong Thomas Telford team.

Individual medals were won by Olivia Papaioannou (EDH) - 2nd in the Senior Girls' race, Theo Clarke (S) - 3rd in the Senior Boys and Harry Remnant (Ch) - 2nd in the Junior Boys.



RSSH: Shropshire Schools' County Championships

Friday 13 February 2015

Due to inclement weather, the 2014 Shropshire County Championships were cancelled, but it was back to business as usual this year and a chance for the Hunt to challenge for some silverware. Going in to the event as reigning Senior Boys and Inter Boys Champions (in both cases, champions since 2010), our aim was to retain these titles and challenge for the Senior Girls and Junior Boys trophies (both last won in 2012).

In the first race involving Hunt runners – the Inter Boys – our team met their match with a very strong Thomas Telford squad who pulled through all four counters into the top 10. The national relays in Coventry just three days previously took its toll on our quartet, who ran hard but found there was little left in tired legs going into the final stages of the races. Nevertheless, some strong running from Charlie Tait-Harris (S V) and Will Hayward (R V) saw them place 4th and 6th respectively and as such they will gain selection to represent Shropshire at the forthcoming English Schools' Cross-Country Championships.

Also in the top 10 was Scott Hatton (S V) closely followed by Fourth Former Monty Hardcastle (I) who has really cemented his place amongst the Hunt's elite runners this year. Fellow Fourth Former Owen Mock (R) is beginning to come back into form and his 14th position suggests he can finish the season strongly and claim his spot in the Hunt's 2nd VIII. Also fast improving is Fifth Former George O'Brien (M) who pushed into the top 20 at the counties, though we suspect that in the coming years he has the potential to be amongst our very top runners. Fourth Former Charlie Naylor (S) completed the line up, dipping under 20 minutes and coming home 41st. The team total of 31 points was beaten by Thomas Telford's 22 points and as such the Inters trophy was ceded for the first time since 2009.



Olivia Papaiaonnou, 2nd in the Senior Girls



Not to be disheartened, our girls took to the startline determined to challenge a strong Wrekin team for the title last won by the Hunt in 2012. Wrekin have been performing well in the Midlands Independent Schools' league, though we had a strong team out in Oswestry and knew that our counters could muscle in and put in a low score. Indeed, over the course of the first lap, both Olivia Papaiaonnou (EDH) and Tati Watt (G) were in amongst the leading girls and fighting for position.

Watt looked to be fading going into the second lap and had dropped down into 5th, though found a second wind and was able to hold on to this position for the remainder of the course, coming home in 13.43. Ahead, Papaiaonnou fought bravely and despite having been beaten by Wrekin's top girl Dani Rowlinson earlier in the season, she established a good gap over her rival and indeed started looking to cement a podium spot. Incredibly, she pushed past one of Shropshire's top female athletes Isobel Bradley from Newport Girls High and set about hunting down Thomas Telford's Fian Sweeney. In the end, Sweeney was just too far ahead, but a silver medal for Olivia in a time of 13 minutes flat was a superb effort, and as a Lower Sixth Former, she will look to challenge for the title of County Champion next year.

Backing up our top pair, there was some superb running from our other Lower Sixth Formers, with all packing in well and pushing Wrekin down the pecking order. Sally Joyce (G) once again showed her mettle with 6th place behind Watt (so three girls gaining county selection in the Seniors) and our final counter Passi Goddard (G) in 8th. MSH duo Martha Pownall and Ursule Taujanskaite placed 9th and 10th so there was very little to separate all of our girls! A team total of 16 points was a comfortable victory in the end over Wrekin College's 47 points, with Shrewsbury High completing the podium with 75 points. It was wonderful to see the girls lift the county trophy for the first time since 2012 and there was much celebration in the squad to have secured our first trophy of the day!

It is also worth pausing to mention the sterling run from Fourth Former Immie Evans (G) who was our sole representative in the Inter Girls category. Running the same course as the senior girls, her time of 15.11 would have placed her within the top 10 of the older age group category! In her own age-group, Immie gained county selection for the English Schools' Championships with an excellent 4th place.





Having got back to our winning ways, the Senior Boys were determined to match the achievements of the girls, who now took to the red and white tape to cheer them on. Eleven boys took to the startline with the RSSH vest prominent amongst the other schools. The longer course would be a test for the runners following Coventry on Wednesday and, like the Inters, our lead runners found that when the pace quickened going into the final lap there was little left in their legs to kick on.



Dickins leading Clarke, though by the end of the race the positions would be reversed

Nevertheless, Huntsman Theo Clarke (S) and Oscar Dickins (R) ran a sensible race in the lead pack, positioning themselves on the shoulders of four-time county champion Alex Burrows and his William Brookes School team-mate Matthew Griffiths. This pack separated from the chasers and went round and round the course seemingly stuck together with glue. However, a masterful tactical race from Burrows saw him put on the heat with a kilometre to go and establish a lead that neither Clarke nor Dickins could match. It was an incredible achievement for Burrows to take his fifth county title and he should be commended for yet another superb run. Clarke and Dickins fought between them to take the individual bronze, and despite Dickins looking the more likely prospect for the majority of the race, it was Huntsman Clarke who found the extra gear and in the last of his County Championship races he pushed ahead to claim the bronze medal in a time of 18.34, with Dickins just four seconds behind.

Some superb packing from the next raft of Hunt runners (Charlie Godman - 8th; Charles Wade - 10th; Charlie Rogers - 11th; Jake Samuel - 12th; Naveen Garikipati - 13th; Charlie Davis - 14th) secured a strong team total of 25 points, with nearest challenger Wrekin College coming home runners-up with 78 points. The Senior Boys trophy was therefore successfully defended, now making it five years in a row that the Hunt have been Senior champions.

The six-year run between 1999 and 2005 is a feat that we aim to match and hopefully surpass! With a number of Lower Sixth in the squad (Dickins, Wade, Rogers, Garikapati) and a talented Fifth Form group coming through, we will be hard to beat. Particular mention in this race must go to Port Hill runner Charles Wade who has been the revelation of the season so far. Having only really been in the set-up since January, he found himself making the 'B' squad for the national relays in Coventry and then ran an incredible race at the counties to come home



as fourth counter in 10th position, surprising even himself I think! He will be a name to watch out for.



Senior boys with their trophy

In the final race of the day – the Junior Boys – there was much speculation as to who would be the principle challengers amongst our rival schools. Indeed, with the Third Formers new to the cross-country scene, there is less information on 'form' to go into the races. However, with the instruction to 'pack in' the first four counters, our juniors got off to a strong start and were soon mixing in with the top runners.

At the front end of the field, Third Form race winner Harry Remnant (Churchill's) was fighting in amongst the leaders and looked a strong prospect for a medal. Not far behind he was being ably supported by Port Hill duo Toby Pegge and Will Barton and Charlie Ockleston of Oldham's. Indeed, these three all placed highly by the end of the race coming home in 8th, 10th and 12th respectively, with non-counters Fingal Dickins and Max Wolstenholme of Rigg's (17th and 25th), Alex Schoelles of Oldham's (18th), and Dan Polintsov (30th) all placing within the top half of the field.

Remnant's strong final lap saw him push past the Bridgnorth duo of Oliver Carvell and Kieran Clarke and with 500m to go he looked to be hunting down the leader from Mary Webb School, Callum Mitchelmore. As they crossed the line, just three seconds separated them and Mitchelmore collapsed in a heap by the finish funnel, clearly with nothing left in the tank. Perhaps if the course had been but a few yards longer Remnant would have had him! An individual silver medal will certainly be the first of many for this talented youngster, who will no doubt look to follow in the footsteps of his elder brother Ben. A team total of 32 points was



well clear of the Marches School's 86 points, with Wrekin completing the podium with 88 points.



Junior boys with their trophy

We arrived with two trophies and returned with three – not a bad day at the mud-spattered office!

PJM



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 13 February 2015

This week, the School's Fencing Club.



The recent return of *The Musketeers* ('Les trois mousquetaires') on a Friday night seems to have triggered my fencing 'antennae'. I should quickly point out that I am not usually in on a Friday night to watch this homage to the age of chivalry and musketry, being a highly sought-after dinner companion, (although there are a couple of Fridays I could do). I do try to find a window of opportunity to watch the Dumas-inspired frivolity once I have finished my marking and preparation, cooked and washed up supper and completed my laundry duties. I am therefore looking forward to catching up with the series over half term.

Ken and Andy Holding are very happy coaches of the Shrewsury School Fencing Club. Last year (28th Feb) I might have mentioned in my Team of the Week piece that Ken had been coaching fencing at Shrewsbury since 1552, which was of course a little disrespectful and I must apologise. Ken started coaching fencing to help the locals fight off the Romans. He has had greater success since then. Indeed Ken told me (holding back the years - I mean tears), that this was a very emotional time for him as he had just witnessed the first Salopian victory of the Shropshire Men's Open competition.





Marco Lee with his Shropshire Men's Open trophy

The victorious young swordsman was Marco Lee, who is only in the Lower Sixth! I caught up with Marco in front of a very fine fence, which I felt to be appropriate, and asked him the type of questions that you would expect to find in an article of this quality.

GB: When did you take up the sword?

ML: When I was about 10.

GB: As an RS teacher, I was put off by Jesus's quote that 'he who lives by the sword will die by it'. Were you?

ML: No.

GB: I guess Jesus was probably referring to professional fencers.

ML: Probably and any way I am an amateur.

GB: What is your favourite film?

ML 22 Jump Street.

GB: Is that about fencing?



ML: No.

GB: Who is your favourite fencer? D'Artagnan?

ML: No, it is Lei Sheng who was the World Champion and Gold Medallist in 2012.

GB: With Valentine's Day coming up, is there anyone special to duel with?

ML: Yes, but I'm not mentioning any names!

GB: Who is your favourite filmstar?

ML: Johnny Depp.

GB: Is that because of his marvellous swordsmanship in the Pirates of the Caribbean films?

ML: No not really!

I discovered that Marco is really looking forward to the Public Schools Championships. He came third in the 'foil' last year but hopes to go better this year. I wondered if he might do better dressed in something other than foil – it must get a bit hot.

One man does not make a club however (unless that man is a club maker). The Shrewsbury School Fencing Club has a membership of 42 and is one of the biggest and most successful school clubs in the country. Ken told me he has trouble finding other schools who will give our top fencers a proper work out. A good number of the squad have qualified for the National Finals later in the term. They include Scott Reynolds (under 18 Foil), Arthur Cheng (under-18 Epee), Ross Viljoen (under-18 Sabre), Marco Lo (under-16 Foil), Krem Todorova (under-18 Girls' Sabre) and James Hinwood (under-14 Epee).



Lee (1) v Scott in the final of the Senior Boys' Foil

It is clearly a very sociable club and already a lot of last years' leavers, including former captain Lucy Petch, have been back to say hi and lend their support to the current team. I caught up with a few of the fencers during a recent training session. I also stumbled on the final of the senior boys foil trophy between Scott Reynolds and Marco Lee. Although losing 15-9, Scott Reynolds was happy to talk to me about his love of fencing. I started by asking him if he like me was enthused by the Musketeers, expecting a positive response, as surely everyone loves the Musketeers? He told me that the programme really annoys him because of the poor quality of fencing. He would like to take on the role of D'Artagnan himself to increase the programme's popularity among fencers.

Shocked by this response I then showed Scott a video of Iron Maiden and asked him if he had been inspired by Bruce Dickinson. I got the feeling that Scott had not heard of this ancient



'Rock God' when I had to explain about his music and his fencing career. He was certainly not a fan of his music. Slightly unsettled by Scott's cultural appetite, I asked him what had attracted him to fencing. "I find fencing fabulously frenetic, fiercely ferocious and a fine pastime."

After that alliterative outburst I dried my face and spoke to Krem Todorova, who was keen to tell me how much she enjoyed fencing. She had started Fives last year but had quickly moved to fencing as it is warmer in the gym and she didn't have to listen to Mr Barnard's cricketing stories. Krem is looking forward to the Public Schools' competition and paid tribute to Mr Schützer-Weismann's dedicated organising of the trip.



Ilya Olkov

Ilya Olkov told me that he found that fencing made him feel like a sporting superhero. "Fencing makes me feel like a sporting superhero," he said.

Tom Creamer admitted he was missing RS but felt that fencing had helped to fill the void, if only partially. Guy Cabral has been fencing for years and felt that the ability to hold a sword in the right manner had helped his stage portrayal of a military figure in the Senior School Play *Cyrano de Bergerac* last term.

Rhys Trevor is enjoying his sabre and Archie Free told me he liked the happy atmosphere always to be found at fencing training. Otto Rothwell-Hurley admitted that he had been inspired by *Pirates of the Caribbean* and likes fencing with a spoon.





Lisa Stolyarova and Angel Chan



James Hinwood with his West Midlands Gold Epee certificate and medal

Then I spotted a fierce looking Angel Chan who promised to take her sword to Central in Hong Kong to keep her family from getting themselves into trouble. Lisa Stolyarova is also a keen fencer. "I am a keen fencer," she told me.

Sherry He likes fencing because "you don't have to run too much – just run people through!"

Another rising star is James 'Zorro' Hinwood. James has already had much success this season, including a Gold medal in the West Midlands Championship that has given him a chance to shine on the national stage. He is tipped to go a long way in the sport. Perhaps he will star in a remake of *The Flashing Blade* – a programme that I remember fondly from my childhood and one I would dearly love to see again!

I left the gym sensing that we may have good news to report from the Public Schools championships. *En garde* the Shrewsbury Fencers!



Headmaster's Commendations

Friday 13 February 2015

The aim of the Headmaster's Commendations is to recognise and reward outstanding academic achievement and intellectual curiosity.

The following pupils have been awarded Headmaster's Commendations in the first half of this term:

Upper Sixth

Dan Edwards (S) Dan Lo (SH) Cecy Price (EDH) Merrick Wong (SH)

Lower Sixth

Nat Chumbala (SH) Hamish Partington (PH) Angelina Pototskaya (G) Ursule Taujanskaite (MSH)

Fifth Form

Andrew Kim (S) Edward Owen (Rt)

Fourth Form

Dominic Ainslie (S) Max Craik (PH)

Third Form

Mark Pangin (SH) Charlotte Tonks (MSH) Seb Archer (Ch)



School House cruise to victory in the Senior House Swimming Competition

Friday 13 February 2015

Friday the 13th might be considered an unlucky day by some... Indeed, for the other Houses in Shrewsbury School, it was. This is because they were unlucky enough to have to swim against one of the strongest House swimming teams in the School's history.

This generation of School House boys has dominated the competition throughout their junior years and into the senior category. Captained by Nat Chumbala (LVI), we had 12 boys in the squad, 9 of whom took part in the main competition and won at least one of their heats:

- Nat Chumbala (LVI) Individual Medley and Medley Relay
- Kwaku Antwi (V) Individual Medley, Butterfly and Canon Relay
- James Wong (V) Backstroke and Canon Relay
- Vardan Hambardzumyan (V) Breaststroke and Canon Relay
- Will Hargreaves (UVI) Butterfly and Medley Relay
- Eric Ma (LVI) Freestyle
- Josh Wong (LVI) Medley Relay
- Leo Sartain (LVI) Medley Relay
- Will Biggs-Lovell (V) Canon Relay

In fact, we won every heat except two, in which we were a close second. The result was never in question and left an ocean of water between School House and the others; with a final score of 140 we won by 30 clear points.

Despite their dominance, the boys did not take anything for granted; they cheered each other on and put their all into every stroke they took. It was a great team effort from an extremely talented group of swimmers!



(L-R): back row; Andrew Chan, Eric Ma, Will Hargreaves, Leo Sartain, Kwaku Antwi, Vardan Hambardzumyan, Jonah Harrison, front row; James Wong, Eccles Cheong, Nat Chumbala (Captain), Josh Wong, Will Biggs-Lovell



Massed choirs sing 'Ahoy! for the Mary Rose'

Friday 13 February 2015

More than 200 singers of all ages took to the stage in the Alington Hall on Sunday 8th February for a rousing and hugely enjoyable performance of 'Ahoy! Sing for the Mary Rose'.



Shrewsbury's Chapel Choir and Community Choir were joined by singers from Birchfield, Prestfelde, S. Anselm's, Shrewsbury High Prep and Oxon Primary Schools, who had all clearly worked extremely hard learning songs and actions and performed with huge enthusiasm and great accomplishment on the night.

'Ahoy!' was written by Alexander L'Estrange in 2013 for the opening of the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth and celebrates the salvage of King Henry VIII's warship from the seabed of the Solent, 450 years after she sank. It fuses together a wonderful medley of sea shanties with music from Tudor times and was performed with great gusto by the assembled choirs, directed by Alex Mason.

They were accompanied by Alexander L'Estrange himself on keyboard with his Call Me Al Quintet.





Taylor described as the 'one bright spot of the day for England' as they lose to Australia.

Saturday 14 February 2015

Shrewsbury Saracen James Taylor narrowly missed out on his maiden century for England - scoring 98, before suffering a mis-judged 'run out' call in their opening match of the world cup. In a disappointing day for England, in which they were soundly beaten by Austalia, Taylor's performance was described as the 'one bright spot of the day' by BBC cricket correspondent Jonathan Agnew. You can read the whole article here.

Despite playing at number six in the line up Taylor still managed to stand out, make column inches and ensure that his place in the team is secure. The main decision is surely whether he should be higher up the batting line up for the next match against New Zealand next Friday.



Friends of Shrewsbury House

Tuesday 17 February 2015

The 'Shewsy' have launched a new group "The Friends of Shrewsbury House" in support of the work of the Everton based Club. This is your opportunity to find out more and to get involved if you wish. There are more details here and also see events below.

Back at the Shrewsbury House AGM in September, a new group was launched - "The Friends of Shrewsbury House" in support of the work of the Club. Several OS attended that evening and were invited to sign up if they were in agreement with the Vision and Aims of the Friends and wanted to support its development. You can read the vision and aims by clicking this link. It was a busy evening and twenty six people signed up as Friends at the AGM. Others expressed support but were not able to get round to signing a form and obviously many supporters were not able to attend that evening.

It is not the intention that The Friends would be financial donors but rather that they would serve as an influential network to provide ideas and ways forward and to open doors to benefit the Shewsy community. The Club hope to build a body of Friends from various sectors and bodies, principally within Merseyside, including industry and business, the legal profession, education, the world of academia, the arts, sport and the media.

The Friends of Shrewsbury House will be holding their first event on 10th March (see events below) and would like to invite any OS who may want to become a Friend to attend or to contact them.

If you wish, please do fill in the form attached to the aims and vision document and send it back to the Club at 37, Langrove Street, Liverpool L5 3PE. Alternatively send an email with the relevant details to John Hutchison (Chair of Shrewsbury House Board of Management) at johnhutch2@yahoo.co.uk or Donald Ritchie (Chair of Friends of ShrewsburyHouse) at da.Ritchie@liverpool.ac.uk

Please feel free to extend this invitation to both membership of the Friends and the dinner event to any colleagues you think would like to support the organisation.



House Basketball Competition

Wednesday 18 February 2015



Captain Sam Kandi tips in another two-point basket in the House Basketball Competition



Shrewsbury students outperform stock market in investment competition

Tuesday 24 February 2015

A team of four students from Shrewsbury School has outperformed the FTSE 100 share index and secured a place in the semi-finals of a national investment competition.

In doing so, the Market Manipulation team beat not only the professionals, but also more than 30,000 other students across the UK in the ifs Student Investor Challenge.



Ed Plaut, James Parsonage and Max Yale (James Plaut not pictured)

Students Ed Plaut, James Parsonage, James Plaut and Max Yale made more than £25,000 dealing in virtual shares in just three short months of trading and will now represent Shrewsbury at the semi-final, to be held in March.

If successful at the semi-final stage, they will have the chance of making it through to the national final in April where an all expenses paid educational trip to New York and £2,000 for the school is up for grabs.

The free to enter competition, run by ifs University College and supported by Bloomberg, provides teams with £100,000 of virtual money to buy and sell shares in FTSE 100 companies. The competition gives teams of four students aged between 14 to 19 years old the opportunity to experience the dynamic world of share dealing and investing in the stock market. Now in its 20th year, the competition is the largest of its kind in the UK and is also open international students.

Alison Pask, Vice Principal at ifs University College said: "This competition gives students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of making investment decisions. It also introduces them to core concepts such as risk, reward and diversification. This is a real achievement and many congratulations go to the team from Shrewsbury."

ifs University College is the "university college for financial education". It has a remit to provide the financial services industry with a skilled, effective and competent workforce whilst also promoting a better understanding of finance amongst consumers and young people.



Olivia Bradley shortlisted for Young Writers Award

Wednesday 25 February 2015

Olivia Bradley has been shortlisted for the Cumbria Young Writers Award at the Words by the Water Literature Festival.

She has been invited to attend the Award Ceremony on Saturday 8th March, which will be introduced by Melvyn Bragg, and her poem will appear in an anthology - the third of her compositions to be published.

"This is fantastic news for Olivia and well deserved recognition of her talents," said Shrewsbury's Head of English, Kristina Leslie. "She has been a leading member of the Creative Writing Society at Shrewsbury since she joined us in September 2013; sharing the running of the club with Theo Simmons, a similarly talented and prolific poet.



"Olivia has been actively involved in judging the poetry of prep school pupils and has offered her services as mentor to younger pupils. She also won our internal National Poetry Day competition with her composition, To the Sleeper. I am thrilled that her work, through this award, will reach a wider audience and I'm sure that her success in making it onto this shortlist will be extremely inspirational to other aspiring writers at Shrewsbury."



Abby Attenborough selected for U19s Lacrosse Home Internationals

Wednesday 25 February 2015

Abby Attenborough (MSH UVI) has been selected to represent Wales against England, Scotland and Northern Ireland in the U19 Women's Lacrosse Home Internationals competition, which is being held in Edinburgh on 27th - 29th March 2015.

As part of her bid to get selected to represent Wales again this year, Abby has been also been training with the Hunt to improve her speed and endurance. She has turned out to be good at this too and has represented the RSSH at a number of meets this term.

Abby's aim is to represent Wales at the U19 World Lacrosse Championships (held once every four years) in July this year.





Shrewsbury students raise £380 for Beanstalk charity

Wednesday 25 February 2015

Through a variety of fundraising initiatives that they planned and organised themselves, Shrewsbury students raised a grand sum of £,380.75 for Beanstalk on Field Day, which will be spent on one-to-one support for primary school children in Shropshire who have reading difficulties.

The fundraising project began at the beginning of term, when more than 20 members of the School's Community Action Group took part in a workshop led by staff members of the local branch of Beanstalk (formerly known as Volunteer Reading Help) to learn more about their work and the needs of children who struggle with reading. The students then worked in groups to put together fundraising plans, which they put into action on Field Day (12th February).

Kevin Jim, Marco Lee and Travis Ho raised £121.23 by performing music for cello and saxophone at Hazeldine Court and Pengwern Court residential homes, where their efforts were greatly enjoyed by the residents.



Lyann Yeung, Catrin Harvey, Jasmine Lam, Sharon Tam, Farhanah Mohd Lias, Raudhatan Samsul and Catheline Wang got busy baking cakes and sweets to sell at Coleham Primary School. Their stall was mobbed by very excited and appreciative pupils and made a profit of £120.87.





Meanwhile, rowers Alex Seager, David Clark, Dylan Carter and Alex Brinkley set up an ergo machine in the town's Market Square and began the challenge of rowing the equivalent of the English Channel. They managed to their 25k 'rowathon' in around three hours and raised £102.44 in the process.



Also busy fundraising in the town centre were musicians Lucy Scott, Tom Edwards, Luke Lloyd-Jones and Alex Bennett. One Beanstalk member of staff who accompanied them commented that their performances were so good that she wouldn't have been surprised if someone had offered to sign them a deal! In the freezing cold, quiet Thursday afternoon, they raised a healthy total of £36.21.

Beanstalk were delighted and extremely grateful for all the hard work and commitment of the Shrewsbury Community Action teams. They are a small team operating on a very limited budget and relying almost exclusively on volunteers. Shrewsbury's wonderful fundraising efforts will therefore be put to excellent use in helping to support the many primary school children they work with across the county.



Netball success continues

Wednesday 25 February 2015

A good half term of netball ended with a block fixture against Oswestry School and excellent wins for our senior and junior teams.

Two senior and two junior teams travelled to Oswestry on a breezy afternoon. The first two games on were the 1st team and the U14As. The 1st team had a steady start and by quarter time were drawing with Oswestry. By half time, Shrewsbury had upped their game a little and had started to break away. The defence continued to work extremely well together, limiting Oswestry's scoring opportunities, which meant that the distance between the teams continued to increase. Oswestry were a strong unit, but thanks to a good all-round team performance from Shrewsbury, the final score was 23-11 – possibly not a true reflection of the game, but a great result which showed excellent team work.

The 14As were also on top form, dominating from the outset and managing to limit Oswestry to just 2 goals in the first half. The final score was 26-6 – another good full team performance.

Not to be outdone, the 2nd team and 14Bs were also successful. With such a strong cohort of Third Form girls, there is very little to separate the As and Bs and thus Oswestry came up against tough opposition. Our shooters were on excellent form and the final score was an impressive 36-5.

The 2nd team had the closest match of the afternoon. It was neck and neck throughout the whole game, with no more than one or two goals in it throughout. At half time, Shrewsbury were 1 goal down and had to work really hard to stay in the match. As they continued, they become more confident as a team and their passing was much sharper, with far fewer loose balls. This meant they were able to get in front and finally finished the game 18-16 winners. A great afternoon of netball and a good way to end the half term. *NJB*



Chetan Popat wins county bronze archery medal

Wednesday 25 February 2015

Chetan Popat (PH IV) achieved a Bronze medal at the Shropshire Archery Society's indoor competition held on Sunday 22nd February in Telford.



This was Chetan's first ever archery competition but he seemed completely unfazed by the formality and size of the event. Over 100 archers entered the competition. All archers shot a "Portsmouth" Round - a total of 60 arrows at 20 yards to a 60cm diameter target face. The maximum score possible is 600; Chetan achieved a very creditable 460 and was the third best junior male archer shooting a recurve bow.

In the Junior Men's competition, there were nine competitors shooting a recurve bow - the classic Olympic-type bow, which is shot using sights. The battle for bronze medal was very tight. The maximum score possible is 600 and Chetan and another archer tied on a very creditable 461 points. But Chetan was awarded the medal because he got more Golds (bulls eyes).

Chetan is part of Shrewsbury School's archery group that meet in the Gym every week. He is also a member of Bowbrook Archers, a Shrewsbury-based archery club.

Jonathan Walton Archery Coach, Shrewsbury School



George Panayi shines for England U17s in Dubai

Thursday 26 February 2015

George Panayi was described as "the pick of the bowlers for England Under-17s" in their recent One Day International against Pakistan U17s at the ICC Academy in Dubai.



After England made 210 in their 50 overs, Panayi took two of the first three wickets to restrict the home team to 45 for 3. He finished with figures of 2-31 off eight overs.

Despite George's impressive bowling, however, Pakistan sneaked home with a two-wicket victory.

See more at: http://www.edgbaston.com/2046/george-panayi-selected-for-england-u17-s.html#sthash.w3D7cYDE.dpuf

Last season, George was Best All Rounder for Shrewsbury School's 1st XI and he is also a leading player for Warwickshire Academy.



The news 100 years ago: 13th – 26th February 1915

Thursday 26 February 2015



With stalemate having set in on the Western Front, both sides looked to open up new fronts in the fighting. Britain and France saw an offensive campaign against Turkey as the best way of achieving this aim, and believed this might be possible without having to divert soldiers from their positions in France and Flanders.

Turkey had entered the war in November 1914 on the side of the Central Powers. This had the effect of isolating Russia from its western allies, and blocked the passage of Russian wheat and British arms back and forth. An attack on the Dardanelles (see map) was, therefore, recommended as a means of opening a channel of communication and trade between the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The British, and especially Winston Churchill, Lord of the Admiralty, were certain it would be possible to win control of the strait by a purely naval attack.

On 19th February a combined British and French fleet sailed into the strait and opened fire on Turkish fortresses. These, however, made little impact, not least because the Turks had anticipated the attack and had ensured their garrisons were well-fortified.

The largely unsuccessful Allied efforts to force their way into the Dardanelles continued over the next two months.



"Play up! Play up! And play the game!"

Friday 27 February 2015

The formidable U14A XV achieve a major milestone in Shrewsbury School Rugby.

Undefeated throughout the first half of term, the U14A XV travelled to Stowe on Wednesday for their toughest challenge of the season thus far. Stowe are a major player on the strong East Midlands circuit, and Shrewsbury has not won there for several years. So victory against them would be a tall order, even for such a strong team – particularly as Shrewsbury were without three key injured players.

On Stowe's 1st XV pitch, Shrewsbury started strongly, demonstrating the team play that marks them out. Under Ludo *iPlay* Litchfield's captaincy, each member of the team played up, played up and played the game, getting two early tries that shook a strong Stowe side. A counter-offensive saw the score remain static at 10-7 for the rest of the first half. Head Coach Cook offered some motivational words at half-time (the contents of which remain a secret) and the second half opened with some outstanding support play and determination that saw Shrewsbury dominate against a rejuvenated Stowe side. At the final whistle, coach and team were elated with the score 27-7.



U14 Rugby is in itself an unusual beast, with over 50 boys from 25 different prep schools coming together for the first time, all with different ideas of positions and experience. This year has seen a few significant changes to the setup: Head Coach Chris Cook was headhunted from the U15s and quickly appointed a crack coaching team of Stuart Cowper, Mark Cartwright and Toby Percival (who didn't get the memo that surnames had to end in C); the U14 pitch was placed on Top Common for the first time in living memory, obviously due to the prominence that the Head of Grounds wanted to give it.

The results speak for themselves. According to School Rugby's Performance League Table, the U14A XV currently sit fifth in the country, unbeaten so far this season.

The next major test will be on Saturday against local rivals Old Swinford Hospital. *TPP*



Queen's signature discovered in long-lost School House Fasti

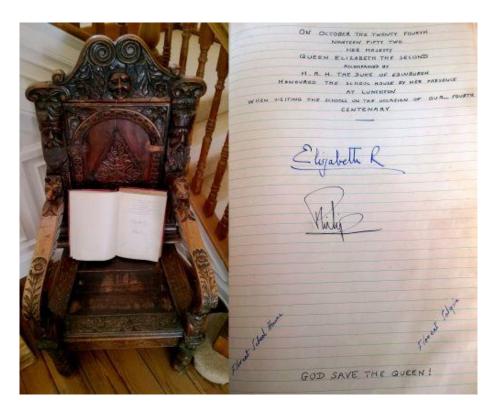
Saturday 28 February 2015

In the week before the Exeat, I received a phone call from the Headmaster's Secretary to tell me that two visitors had turned up unannounced with an important piece of School House history. They had driven an hour and a half from Worcestershire to deliver their precious cargo in person. The object of all this attention was a dusty old leather-bound School House Fasti from the early 1950s that they had discovered in the back of a cupboard in their house.

The old Fasti always make interesting reading because they provide an insight into life in School House over the generations; I was aware that there was a gap in our records from this era, so I was very pleased to see it returned. However, there was an extra-special twist in store: near the beginning of the Fasti is an entry recording the occasion that HRH Queen Elizabeth II came to School House for lunch in 1952, soon after she became Queen, to celebrate Shrewsbury School's 400th Anniversary. The entry is complete with Her Majesty's signature and that of Prince Philip.

I had heard about the royal visit and had seen photos of the Queen sitting in an old ornately carved chair that is still in School House, but the record in the Fasti had been lost and forgotten. We are extremely grateful to the visitors for making the effort to return this historical document to us.

HRDB



Above Left: The Fasti on the "Queen's Chair"; Right: The entry in the Fasti recording the occasion with royal signatures