

## Shrewsbury showjumpers are national champions

Monday 2 November 2015

*Huge congratulations to Jack Ashworth (S LVI), Lily Freeman-Attwood (EDH III), Scott Walker (M V) and Thomas Tulloch (Rt LVI) for their fantastic performances at the National Schools' Equestrian Championships at Addington during half term, where they won national team and individual titles.*



*Scott Walker, Jack Ashworth, Lily Freeman-Attwood and Thomas Tulloch*

Shrewsbury beat 17 other school teams in the 1m 10 Team Showjumping Championship – the biggest class of the first day of the competition – to claim the national title. Scott Walker also jumped in the Individual 1m 10 Championship and only narrowly failed to make it into the Final.

Although the team were not so successful in the 1m Jumping with Style Championship class the next day, Thomas Tulloch finished 2nd individually on Kildun Marathon from 32 individual competitors. He then went on to claim the national title in the 1m 10 Jumping with Style 'Special' class on Spirit VI, which showcased the top 20 who had qualified in the previous classes.

Two weeks earlier, Lily Freeman-Attwood came fourth in the 138cm event at the Horse of the Year Show (see [report](#) on the website) and in the summer Thomas Tulloch led the British eventing team to gold at the European Pony Championships in Sweden (see [report](#)).

# Argentina trip, October 2015 - by Max Blance (Ch LVI)

Tuesday 3 November 2015

## The Journey

At the beginning of half term, 15 boys accompanied by Mr Wright and The Grove's Matron Maureen Donoghue embarked on a tedious 18 hours of travelling, via Madrid, to Argentina. After a long but uneventful journey we arrived in Buenos Aires the following morning, were reunited with our luggage and set off on another three-hour coach trip to Colegio San Bartolomé in Rosario.

## Day 1: Rosario

Before meeting our host families, we were taken to watch Rosario Central play against Argentinos Juniors, both teams in the Argentinian Primera A. The result, a 2-0 win for Central, was possibly a forgone conclusion as second in the league played 19th. Buoyed by the experience, we headed back to school to be paired with our host families and headed home for dinner with our host families.

## Day 2: Rosario

The next morning, we arrived at San Bartolomé for breakfast at 8:00 and headed out for a tour of Rosario shortly after 9:00. Having already seen the Estadio Gigante de Arroyito, Rosario Central's stadium, the afternoon before, we went to the National Flag memorial and Propylaeum and afterwards to the Cathedral (where Mr and Mrs Wright were married) before driving up towards the Rosario-Victoria Bridge, passing the Newell's Old Boys football stadium (Estadio Marcelo Bielsa) and the racecourse on our way.

After the tour we made our way back to the school for lunch with our hosts. In the afternoon we were split into small groups and went to English lessons with people from the school who were our age and did lots of activities in both English and Spanish to help improve our Spanish. In the evening we went to Donatella and Tiziano's house with our hosts for supper, a typical Argentinian Asado (a barbeque), before returning to our host families for the night.

## Day 3: Rosario

The following morning, after breakfast at school, everyone headed to the school's second campus, Fisherton, where all sport is played. We spent the morning in kindergarten reading stories in English to the children and then we had a lecture on how to make perfume in one of the laboratories.



We had lunch at the Old Resian Club (the rugby club) and then changed ready for our football match against the school's team. We headed over to the football pitch ready for our big game, and we certainly gave them a fight, losing in the end (6-0 or 7-0, I can't quite remember!) in a typically English manner. After the match we went over to Felipe's house, which was situated very near to Fisherton School, where we first witnessed Arsenal beating Bayern Munich 2-0 and then played rugby and football and had supper before going home to our host families.

### Day 3: Rosario

On Wednesday, after the usual school breakfast, we walked up to El Circulo Theatre, one of the oldest in Rosario. We had a tour of the theatre and saw the Rosario Symphony Orchestra rehearsing in the main concert hall. After a rendition from Hugo Richardson (SH) on the piano, we headed back towards the main street (Cordoba) and there we had some free time and lunch.





On our return to the school we immediately embarked on a trip to the Desafio Foundation, a youth centre for the children from the city, with four girls from the school who volunteer there. We had an introduction from one of the founders and then enjoyed participating in activities such as football and races with some of the children. After the trip we went to the park next to the river and then back to our host families in the midst of a city-wide powercut.

#### **Day 4: Rosario**



On Thursday, we headed from the school to an Estancia (a bit like a ranch) and arrived there at around 10:00. We spent the day relaxing in the beautiful sun and surrounding rural areas. We played table football, ping-pong and some people went out for bike rides in the morning. For lunch, we had another Asado and then after lunch we rode horses (in a very different way to in England) and then took an interesting tour of the land owned by those living on the Estancia in a trailer pulled by a tractor. Unfortunately, after all that we didn't have enough time to go fishing, but overall it was a very relaxing and enjoyable day.

#### **Day 5: Rosario**

The following day, we spent the morning in the kindergarten doing different activities with the children, before giving a presentation on Shrewsbury to our hosts and the year below who will be visiting Shrewsbury next year. As far as we could, we used our newly-honed Spanish skills.

After lunch, we took a walk beside the river and then some of us went to the art gallery to see an interesting modern art exhibition. When we returned to the school we learned how to make traditional Argentinian empanadas before having a tango lesson with the aunt of one of the hosts. After the very enjoyable tango lesson we tried our empanadas, which were very good.



#### **Day 6: Rosario**

We gathered at Camilla's house on Saturday for another barbeque lunch. We all played football and table tennis and then headed back to our host families to prepare for dinner at the Old Resian Club. After a delicious dinner we presented the people who had looked after us throughout the week with gifts and then had some group photos. A few of us were invited to celebrate one of the boy's 18th birthdays afterwards.

#### **Day 7: Last full day in Rosario**

We left for Duncan's house at 12:00 after sleeping in on Sunday morning. It was our last gathering away from school and we had another Asado and played card games and tennis. Afterwards a few of us went out together to get ice cream and then we all went home to our host families for our final dinner in Rosario.

#### **Day 8: Leaving Rosario and the start of Buenos Aires**

On Monday morning we left for school and said an emotional goodbye to all of those who looked after us throughout our week there – pupils, host parents and teachers, all of whom we had made a great bond with. We left Rosario just before 9:00 and arrived in Buenos Aires at around 12:00. We left our luggage at the hotel and went for lunch in the local shopping centre's food floor before being given an hour to look for gifts around the shopping centre.



After our hour of free time we took a walk around the nearby area of Buenos Aires and visited the Cathedral and the river before heading back to the hotel. That evening we went to supper at Café los Angelitos which was followed by a tango show which was very interesting, especially to see them perfecting some of the moves which we had learnt on Friday night.

### **Day 9: Buenos Aires**

On Tuesday, we headed off at 9:00 for a tour of Buenos Aires including going into the Cathedral and La Bombonera (The Boca Juniors Stadium), which is one of the most famous stadiums in the world. After the tour we visited the resting place of Eva Peron and then went to the art gallery. In the evening we went out for supper to celebrate our last day in Argentina.

### **The Return Journey**

Filled with regrets to be leaving and many happy memories, we boarded the plane for the long journey back to the UK.

I have to admit to feeling a certain degree of trepidation before embarking on this trip. However, we were made so welcome by all the people we met – host families, staff at the school and other pupils – that the nerves were unnecessary. I really hope that I will be able to return to this lovely country in the future.



## Tangos, asados and empanadas – Argentina trip 2015

Tuesday 3 November 2015

*During recent years, we have built up a strong exchange partnership with San Bartolomé School in Rosario, Argentina. During half term, 15 pupils spent a week there enjoying warm hospitality from their host families and exchange partners, and a hectic schedule of linguistic, cultural and social activities.*



As well as bilingual lessons and sports activities at the school, special highlights included an Argentinian football match at Rosario Central's stadium, 'cowboy' horse riding at a country estancia, tango dancing lessons and an Argentinian empanada cooking class.



A day spent at the Desafio Foundation project, which helps children from shanty towns integrate better into society, was a valued addition to the party's schedule during this fourth Argentina trip over the last six years.

The week in Rosario was followed by two days in Buenos Aires. In this fascinating capital the group enjoyed a historical tour of the city, a tango show, a visit to Eva Peron's resting place and the national museum of fine art.

The partnership with San Bartolomé has evolved into much more than an opportunity to perfect Spanish language skills. Lasting friendships have been formed and another generation of Spanish pupils has been inspired to consider Gap year work at San Bartolomé School and Latin American travel.



Particular thanks to Grove Matron Maureen Donahue for accompanying and a huge well done to all pupils who participated wholeheartedly.

Many thanks to Max Blance (Ch LVI) for his excellent account of the trip: [Argentina 2015](#)  
*Mr Wright*

The pupils on the trip were:

Jonathan Blackshear

Max Blance

Dylan Carter

Patrick Cope

Thomas Drury

Thomas Flowers

Thomas Hua

Jesse Mattinson

Philip Moulson

Hugo Perutz

Hugo Richardson

Bertie Speed

Charles Speed

William Wheeler

Ivan Zagrebelnyy



# The Head of the Charles Regatta

Wednesday 4 November 2015

*Over half term, the Boat Club took two eights to compete at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, USA, the largest two-day rowing event in the world.*

The crews flew out on the afternoon of Wednesday 14th October and arrived at their accommodation late on Wednesday evening. Thursday provided both crews with a chance to get their boats set up and have a paddle over the course to familiarise themselves with the corners and bridges they would need to navigate on the Sunday. The conditions were pleasantly sunny and warm, although deteriorated through the week. Most of the boys were exhausted by the evening and welcomed a good night's rest.



*Thursday training*

Friday morning was the last opportunity for the crews to paddle down the course as things started to gear up for racing. There were a significant amount of trailers arriving filled to the brim with boats from all over the US, as the site changed from a quiet park to a mass of boats and stalls preparing for half a million people expected to be present during the biggest two-day regatta in the world.

After lunch in Harvard Square, the boys were given a tour around the Harvard campus while the coxes were taken through the course rules and regulations in the coxes' briefing. A trip to the cinema provided the chance for the crews to get off their feet before a fantastic meal at the Cabots' house in Cambridge.

Saturday was a more relaxed start before heading to the Regatta to see racing taking place and to enjoy the atmosphere. The Head of the Charles is a fantastic festival of rowing, with the stalls and atmosphere unique to the event. After lunch the group went north to Beverley Farms to do some stretching and go through a race briefing on what to expect the following day. This was followed by an early crew dinner at the 'Leaning Tower of Pizza' where the boys loaded up on food before heading off to their accommodation.



*Stretching on the beach*

Sunday was race day and began with an early start to head into Boston and go through final equipment checks and preparations. After a good stretch and warm-up in the impressive Henderson Boathouse, the crews boated, along with the other 83 school 1st VIIIs racing in the junior eights. The crews paddled the three miles to the start and got into the circulation pattern and number order to be set off line-a-stern, based on the 2014 results.

The 1st VIII made a good start and quickly opened the distance between them and the 12th place starting crew from Sammamish Rowing Association from Seattle; they were placed inside the top ten through the first timing marker. Despite a gusty headwind, the crew maintained a solid mid-race pace and steadily drew up on the 9th and 10th starting crews from Central Catholic and Green Lake. The crew's time placed them in the top eight going into the final stages of the course. Unfortunately the crew got caught up behind the two crews battling in front of them and had to hold off their charge around the second to last bend to get a safe line through the last bridge, before they were pushed wide on the last corner overtaking the slower crews.



*1st VIII*



The crew looked extremely strong throughout the race and were on track for a top eight finish but frustratingly had to accept coming 15th. They were the seventh fastest school down the course and would potentially have come third of the schools had they not got caught in traffic. The boys can be proud of their performance and will be hoping to build on the results through the year.



*2nd VIII*

The 2nd VIII were one of only two 2nd VIIIs racing in the field of 85 crews (the rest 1st VIIIs). The crew put in an impressive performance down the track and managed to overtake one crew while being overtaken by two others. Encouragingly their form held together well despite little preparation time together as a crew, and they came 59th, beating 26 1st VIIIs in the process.



*Director's Challenge Quad event*



Three of the boys from the 1st VIII had little time to rest, as they joined Rory McKirdy in a quad to race in the Director's Challenge quad event. The crew performed well to come 14th out of 40 crews in their event.

Following the racing, the boys got the chance to watch some of the top University crews from around the US racing in the Championship Eights event before heading out to the Hodgsons' lovely home in Ipswich for a fantastic team dinner and wind-down after a tough day of racing.

On Monday the boys piled into the three minibuses and headed northwest to Dartmouth College in Hanover. Dartmouth is one of the eight Ivy League Universities and provided a great opportunity for the boys to get an insight to College life in the US. We were very grateful to be given a fantastic tour of the campus with a chance to see some of the academic facilities and accommodation. The two areas that provided the most excitement to the boys were the opportunity to eat in the very impressive dining hall and to look inside the extremely well-equipped gym facilities.



*Dartmouth matched boats race - 'McKirdy'*

After a very filling buffet lunch, we headed back to the boathouse for an outing on the Connecticut River in two 'pupil-selected' matched eights. The crews did technical work upstream for 5km to where the Dartmouth 2000m course is, before lining up to race back. The race was quite tight over the first half of the course as the crews traded blows at high rate into the head wind. The 'McKirdy' crew managed to edge out a solid lead around half-way, which they extended in the closing stages to secure an impressive win.



*Dartmouth matched boats race - 'Hedges'*

We then piled back in to the minibus and drove for half an hour to former 1st VIII coach, Todd Jesdale's, house in the stunning setting of the hills in Vermont. It was great to be met with the sight of the RSSBC Maltese Cross flag flying imperiously from the flag post at his hilltop home, surrounded by the autumn colours of the surrounding trees and snow-covered hills. Todd and Natalie treated the group to some hot dogs and ice cream as we enjoyed the scenery before making our way back towards Boston.



*With Todd Jesdale*

The final day of the trip saw the boys enjoy a training session on the beach before getting some last minute shopping done before our departure to the airport and the way home.

A huge thank you goes to all those who made the trip possible and not least the host families of the Kerrs, Cabots and Hodgsons for inviting us into their homes; to Northeastern University and St Joe's Prep for the generous use of their boats; to our guides at Harvard and Dartmouth; and to Todd and Natalie Jesdale. Finally thank you to Mr Fox and Mr Reynolds for giving up time over their half term to help manage the logistics of the trip.

*ATH*

1st VIII crew: Tomas Shiels, Matthew Rowe, Freddie Bonthrone, Barney Fox, Joe Davies, Gavin O'Dwyer, George Rowley, Paddy George, Henry Thomas.

2nd VIII crew: Edward Jones, Nick Watkins, Alex King, Rob Hartwell, Donald Hickey, Henry Bambridge, Harry Marshall, Guglielmo Riva and Mathew Hedges.



## The Tucks 2015

Thursday 5 November 2015

*The annual Tucks race once again proved a high-octane affair with the top athletes in the School competing for the laurels.*

Uniquely, of course, the whole school take part in the race, with both pupils and staff toeing the line and tackling the mud, stiles and tarmac of the three-mile course. Dr Gee was first out of the blocks an hour or so before the official line, but given this was his 55th time he had run in 'The Tucks', we allowed him this concession!

As the hooter sounded for the start of the official race, the anticipated frenetic sprint start was once again seen, with all 130 of the 1st Wave runners bidding to get out quickly and squeeze through the small gap at the end of the field first. There were a few fallers at this stage in scenes reminiscent of the Grand National, but thankfully no injuries.



The big hitters amongst 'The Hunt' were out in force in a bid to bring home the Hector Rose Bowl for the winner of the boys' race and the newly-gifted Mobley Cup for the girls. The first winner of the latter was - appropriately enough - this year's Captain of Girls' Running Olivia Papaioannou. Despite a niggling Achilles injury the week before, she put in a commanding performance and ensured that her name will be etched on to this new trophy, which has kindly been donated by the Mobley family in recognition of the achievements of their daughter Tory, last year's Captain of Girls' Running. Behind Olivia was the ever-improving Passy Goddard of The Grove and, impressively, Third Former Lilian Wilcox in the bronze medal position. This is an outstanding effort from someone so young and bodes well for the future.

In the boys' race, the Rigg's duo of Oscar Dickins and Freddie Huxley-Fielding worked well as a pair together to break up the field and ensure that a Rigg's runner would bring home the Hector Rose Bowl for the first time since 1998. In the end, it was Huntsman Oscar Dickins who broke

the tape first for the 'kill' in a very quick time of 17.41 (the fastest time in the modern era was George Mallett's 17.20 in 2011), with Huxley-Fielding just behind him. After a year of injury, it was wonderful to see this talented runner back in form, and this bodes well for the Hunt's season ahead.





Behind Dickins and Huxley-Fielding was perhaps the surprise of the day, with Ridgemount runner Harry Adair completing the podium and narrowly edging out last year's winner Charlie Tait-Harris. Like the leading Riggites, Severn Hill seemed to opt for 'coupling up', with Scott Hatton coming home alongside Tait-Harris in 5th place.

The team event was therefore in the balance and with three runners in the top ten, Rigg's were hopeful of bringing home the Mallett Team Trophy as well as the Hector Rose Bowl. However, it wasn't to be, for in a very close affair it was Severn Hill who emerged top by just 6 points, with all of their eight 'counters' coming home in the top 40. Churchill's completed the team podium in the boys' race, whilst in the girls' event The Grove were crowned team champions for the second year in a row.



Congratulations to all runners in what was a well-run race, conducted in a suitably energetic and competitive manner!

*PJM*

*Photos: JB*

### **Tucks 2015 Results**

#### **Senior Boys (for the Hector Rose Bowl)**

- 1st Oscar Dickins (R UVI), 17.41
- 2nd Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R LVI) 17.42
- 3rd Harry Adair (Rt UVI) 18.28
- 4th Charlie Tait-Harris (S LVI) 18.35
- 5th Scott Hatton (S LVI) 18.35
- 6th Charlie Rogers (Rb UVI) 18.40
- 7th Henry Newbould (Ch UVI) 18.44



8th Monty Hardcastle (I V) 18.50  
9th Ben Remnant (Ch UVI) 18.54  
10th Will Hayward (R LVI) 18.57

**Senior Girls (for the Mobley Cup)**

1st Olivia Papaioannou (EDH UVI) 21.50  
2nd Passy Goddard (G UVI) 22.16  
3rd Lilian Wilcox (EDH III) 22.39  
4th Sally Joyce (G UVI) 23.14  
5th Laura Elliot (G III) 23.25  
6th Immie Evans (G V) 24.01  
7th Martha Pownall (MSH UVI) 24.11  
8th Angelina Pototskaya (G UVI) 24.13  
9th Susy Watts (MSH UVI) 24.40  
10th Amy Mobley (EDH UVI) 24.41

**Junior Boys**

1st Harry Remnant (Ch IV) 19.00  
2nd Sam Western (S III) 19.25  
3rd Toby Pegge (PH IV) 19.34

**Junior Girls**

1st Lilian Wilcox (EDH III) 22.39  
2nd Laura Elliot (G III) 23.25  
3rd Libby Hedges (G IV) 24.53

**Boys' Team Results (for the Mallett Trophy)**

1st Severn Hill 150 points  
2nd Rigg's Hall 156 points  
3rd Churchill's 254 points

**Girls' Team Results**

1st The Grove 1588 points  
2nd Emma Darwin Hall 1772 points  
3rd Mary Sidney Hall 2265 points

## SSPA House Singing Drinks Reception - plus details of their next event...

Thursday 5 November 2015

*The Shrewsbury School Parents Association (SSPA) held another successful drinks event at the House Singing Competition. The evening was a great opportunity for parents to meet and mingle throughout the evening, as our children supplied some wonderful entertainment.*

The Committee was delighted to host at this very popular event, and we thank parents for attending.

The SSPA looks forward to seeing parents at our Christmas Wines Event on 9th December. Tickets are available to buy online at [www.buytickets.at/sspa](http://www.buytickets.at/sspa) and as we are limited to 120, please book early to avoid missing a superb evening.

For full details, please see: [SSPA Christmas Wines Event](#)

*David Schofield  
Co-Chair SSPA*



# Life behind the scenes of 'Great Expectations'

Thursday 5 November 2015

*An entertaining insight from 'Great Expectations' cast member Fintan Simmons (Ch LVI), as they prepare to stage "the most complicated musical that Shrewsbury has ever put on".*



The musical - a challenging commitment? Yes. An adaptation of a well-known and well-loved depressing novel? You bet. A production involving the best of Shrewsbury's artistic and musical talent? Sure. What am I doing here?

I'm in the midst of contemplating such questions when the shout of "No jazz hands!" floats over the music and curtails someone's over-zealous attempt at Las Vegas showmanship. We have been rehearsing hard for weeks and have just reached the first tap number. If you are reading this and can tap dance, then congratulations; for you have reached a level of coordination that some of us can only aspire to. Yet, in the face of adversity, the cast are enthusiastic and determined, slowly getting the hang of it while Mr Moore, unperturbed by the apparent chaos on stage, jizzes his way through the ragtime rhythm. After practising for a while

our perseverance pays off and to our own surprise we realise that we look like people who actually know how to tap dance and I suppose now we do.

One of the greatest things about the musical is that it involves almost every artistic discipline; from the creation of the set to the singing of a ballad. It is something which not only many different people get involved in but also furnishes them with a toolkit of new skills.



Once again, my contemplation of the benefits of the musical increasing our knowledge of useful things such as tap dancing and consequential wondering about when and where I could ever use this skill again, is interrupted by the proclamation: “We are going to learn a new number!”

Learning a new song or ‘number’ is always a fun experience, as people have to make a choice. Whether to read the music or the words. There are some talented people among us that can do both and hats off to them, but for most of us the decision runs along the lines of ‘I could mumble the tune’ or ‘I could sing a tune to the words’. This leads to some interesting results. Luckily this situation doesn’t last for long as the tunes are memorable and soon we are belting out the new song.





Miss Brown, Mr Moore and Miss Archer have more than matched the cast's enthusiasm and this has helped navigate us through the busy preparations. It is not easy coordinating a cast of 30 people through a complex theatrical production, but we can have no complaints in the way that they have done it. Miss Brown sets the scenes and helps us deepen our character's individual personalities. Mr Moore spends his waking hours working on one song or another and giving time with those who need to grapple with a new 'number'. Miss Archer walks through her coordinated choreography while people look on with expressions of bemused anticipation.



I snapped out of my daydream thinking about the merits of having experienced members of staff leading rehearsals, when it occurred that I really should be concentrating on this one. Mr Moore, addressing the cast, is describing how we are attempting to achieve the most complicated musical that Shrewsbury has ever put on in the shortest amount of time that we have ever had. It is odd that even as he says this that he sounds upbeat. Yet, as I look around I realise that the cast, far from looking despondent, are just as upbeat as Mr Moore. I think to myself 'what a bunch of loonies', but I am one of them and what can I say? Tap dancing is fun.

## Putting pen to paper

Friday 6 November 2015

*There's still much to be said for the good old-fashioned handwritten note, says Toby Percival, Head of Middle School, in an article published in Independent Education Today.*

Generally considered to be a 'technology enthusiast', Mr Percival nevertheless argues strongly that there is a personal nature in writing by hand that cannot be matched by electronic forms of communication.

To read the full article, please click [here](#).



## Charity Christmas cards and gifts on sale

Friday 6 November 2015

*Christmas cards in aid of Medic Malawi and the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic are now on sale. And the School's charitable enterprise Salopian Ventures, which is fast approaching its 30th anniversary and has raised more than £130,000 for many different charities during that time, has an extensive range of Shrewsbury School merchandise available.*

Next summer, 14 Shrewsbury School students, five Shewsy Youth Club members and five members of staff will be travelling to Malawi to see for themselves the work of the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic, run by Medic Malawi. As part of the School's fundraising for the Eye Clinic, they are selling Christmas cards - click [here](#) for details.

A full list of Shrewsbury School merchandise available to order from Salopian Ventures can be found [here](#). All profits will be donated to charity.

## The Rovers Club is relaunched by Everest mountaineer Adam Booth (PH 1995-2000)

Friday 6 November 2015

*In May 2013, when we proudly reported the news that Adam Booth had reached the top of Mount Everest, he responded by thanking the members of staff who led the Rovers, the School's mountaineering and adventuring club, for 'lighting the flame'. On Monday, we were delighted to welcome Adam back to Shrewsbury to kindle that flame in a new generation of Salopians, as the historic Rovers Club - first formed in 1934 - was officially relaunched to the whole School.*



*Martin Hansen and Adam Booth*

Adam recalled his own sense of excitement when, at the age of 15, he attended a similar relaunch of the Rovers. Inspired by Master-in-Charge Mr Hansen's vivid descriptions of climbing Ben Nevis, he signed up immediately for the Rovers and spent the next few months learning the basics of climbing and mountain safety, leading up to his first Rovers Expedition – the climbing of the Three Peaks, Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Mount Snowdon. A new and life-changing passion had been born.

Further trips followed during what became one of the golden period for the Rovers, travelling to remote locations to take on challenging mountains, typically camping at a high altitude on the way to a summit. They scaled the highest mountain in the Picos De Europa, Spain and the following year climbed Galdhøpping, the highest mountain in Norway.

In 2013, Adam climbed Mount Everest, reaching the summit on 13th May, 60 years almost to the day after the first successful ascent by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. On hearing

the news, Mr Hansen expressed the utter delight and pride of the staff who had been part of the Rovers. “The news that he's summited Everest has quite stunned us. The pupil has certainly exceeded the Master.” At the Rovers relaunch on Monday, Adam paid special tribute to Mr Hansen, who still teaches at the School, for the role he and the Rovers Club had played in first inspiring him with a love of mountains and mountaineering.



Some of Adam's inspiration has also come from two Old Salopians: Sandy Irvine (S 1916-21), who famously took part in the 1924 Everest Expedition with George Mallory; and Sir Charles Evans (DB 1932-37), Deputy Leader of the 1953 Expedition, who formed the first summit pair with Tom Bourdillon. They got to within 300 feet of the summit of Everest before faulty oxygen equipment forced them to withdraw. A few days later, second pair Hillary and Tenzing made history.



*Andrew (Sandy) Irvine and Sir Charles Evans*



Adam spoke of his sense of connection with those other Old Salopians and their experiences on Everest, and in a few brief sentences and images he was able to convey something of the scale of their achievements. He spoke about his own experiences entirely modestly, however. So it was perhaps not until the end of his talk, when he showed a four-minute film of his final gruelling hours of climbing Everest and euphoric arrival on the roof of the world, that his audience caught a proper sense of the sheer enormity of his own achievement.

Current Salopians keen to follow in Adam's footsteps and join the relaunched Rovers Club have some exciting expeditions to choose from later this year, including an introduction to winter mountaineering in the Cairngorm Mountains during February half term for Fifth and Sixth Formers; a Junior Rovers Adventure in North Wales for Third and Fourth Formers in March; and an 11-day expedition in July called 'Land, Sea and Skye' - sailing, hillwalking, mountain biking and climbing in the Cuillin Mountains on Skye.

For more details, please see a letter to parents from Mr Reynolds, Master in Charge: [Rovers Expeditions 2016](#)



*Adam with new Master-in-Charge of the Rovers, William Reynolds (l) and Director of Activities Nick David (r)*

## ROVERS EXPEDITION

**FEBRUARY 2016**



**INTERESTED?**  
Email Mr Reynolds to secure a place.  
([wrr@shrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:wrr@shrewsbury.org.uk))



**WINTER SKILLS**

## Riggites in Africa

Saturday 7 November 2015

Over the October half-term, 13 members of The Hunt travelled to East Africa for a once in a lifetime opportunity to train amongst Kenyans and Ethiopians amidst quite stunning scenery. The experience was a memorable one and despite the considerable challenges set before them, they stepped up to the plate and coped admirably.



*The Hunt squad at Kamariny*

Alongside Rigg's Housemaster Peter Middleton (Master i/c of The Hunt), two Rigg's runners joined the tour: Lower Sixth Former Harris Huntsman and Fifth Former Owen Mock. Harris reflects on the tour in the passage that follows:

"It really was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I feel very privileged to have had the chance to go. Experiencing training at an altitude of 10,000ft in Ethiopia was a huge challenge and completely different to anything I have ever done before. Running in such beautiful surroundings with such spectacular views will stay with me for the rest of my life. In particular, the 'safari run' at Aidan and Claire Hartley's farm was a particular highlight, running alongside zebra with giraffe grazing around the finish.



*Owen Mock (far right) running in north Laikipia alongside Monty Hardcastle (I) and Eve Hartley (G)*

In Iten, ‘The Home of Champions’, it was fascinating to see the athletes train in the town, particularly having read the book ‘Running with the Kenyans’ which is about the town of Iten.

Outside of the running there were experiences which had just as much of an impact, from the wildlife to the amazing flight on the small plane over the Great Rift Valley.



*Harris getting ready to board the 15-seater light aircraft from Laikipia to Eldoret via Kenya’s Great Rift Valley*

Most of all, however, it was moving to spend time at the Restart Centre in Gilgil, home to Kenyan street children and orphans. It was humbling to see these young boys and girls and their thirst for life.

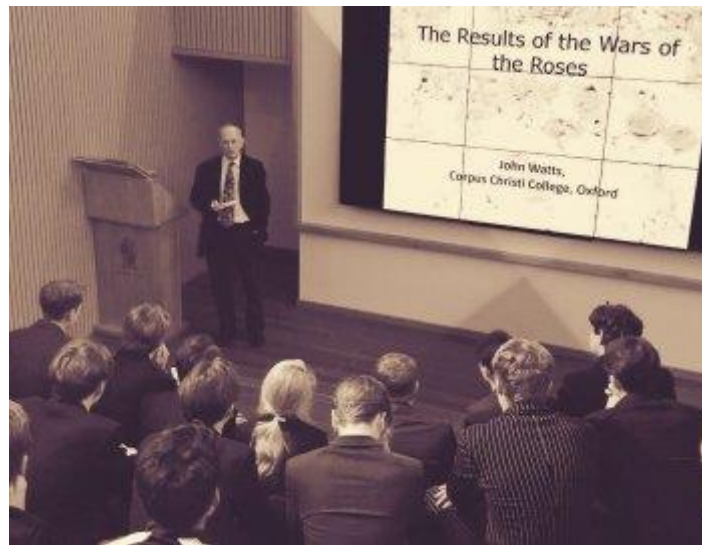
‘The whole trip was an amazing experience and I hope other Salopians are fortunate enough to have the same opportunities in the future.’



# Bastille Society lecture by Professor John Watts

Monday 9 November 2015

*Last Friday evening the Bastille Society was treated to another engaging instalment in this term's lecture series.*



Lecturer at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Professor John Watts spoke on the following title: 'What was really going on in the War of the Roses?'

Approaching the topic from a fresh perspective, Professor Watts' exploration of the long-term practical and ideological impacts of English Civil War on the Tudor dynasty enlightened the audience as to the motivations behind monastic policies of the early 16th century. Indeed, the manifestations the conflict had on subsequent political deliberations highlights its under-appreciation: the emblem of the regime, one must not forget, was the famous Tudor Rose.

Insightful and informative, Professor Watts' innovative understanding was invaluable to students and parents alike; and for this, we extend our thanks.

Ben Jones (S UVI)

## RSSBC: Fours Head of the River Race

Monday 9 November 2015

*All four Shrewsbury crews acquitted themselves well last Saturday in challenging conditions over a four and a quarter-mile stretch on the River Thames.*

Four Shrewsbury crews travelled to London for Saturday's Fours Head of the River Race from Chiswick Bridge to Putney Bridge. The weather forecast did not look favourable, but fortunately the event went ahead safely for those who braved it.

All four crews acquitted themselves well in the challenging conditions, with the crew of Matthew Rowe, George Rowley, Paddy George, Henry Thomas and Tomas Shiels coming in 4th out of 20 crews in the Junior coxed four category.

Their time was followed in closely by the crew of Barnaby Fox, Freddie Bonthrone, Gavin O'Dwyer, Joe Davies and George Whitehead, who were the second fastest school crew in the IM2 coxed fours event.

The third coxed four of Nick Watkins, Donald Hickey, Henry Bambridge, Mr Graham and Ed Jones came in 6th.

The crew of Alex King, Matthew Farrow, Harry Marshall and Harry Lane Fox raced in the unfamiliar junior quads event and put in a solid performance, given the time in the boat and challenging conditions, to come 28th out of 40 crews.

ATH

# BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition

Tuesday 10 November 2015

*Congratulations to Henry Thomas (Ch UVI), who has reached the second round of the prestigious BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition.*



Getting through to this stage represents a major achievement, as the preliminary regional rounds took place all over the UK and Henry has now reached the final 150.

He is also a member of the City of Birmingham Symphony Youth Orchestra, which has a world-class reputation. They recently gave a stunning performance of Richard Strauss' gargantuan Alpine Symphony, in which Henry played a significant role in a fabulous trumpet section.

The performance was at Symphony Hall, and also in the orchestra was Henry Kennedy (I 2009-14), who is currently studying clarinet and conducting at the Royal Academy of Music. Henry also took over the baton in rehearsal from the guest conductor Michael Seal, and is, along with OS Fergus Macleod, a name to look out for on the podium in the future.



## Fives: Richard Black Ladies' Teams Cup at Eton College

Wednesday 11 November 2015

*Eight U15 girls travelled to Eton on Sunday to compete in the Richard Black Cup – a Ladies Fives team competition. This is the first year the School has taken part in this competition and Shrewsbury was one of only two schools represented; the girls played against university and club teams throughout the day.*

After the loss of two of our most prominent players from last year, it was promising to see our team compete so well. Although they won only a few victories, all the individuals showed huge improvement in their match play and prospects look very bright for the U15 and Open events in the Lent term.

In total, 15 girls have represented the School at Fives this term.

### Sunday 8th Nov Team

Sophia Breese, Lizzie Ware, Katie Oswald , Emma Graham , Abi Watkinson , Libby Hedges , Sophie Cormack , Ella Windle (injured - Phoebe Wasdell)

### Sunday 11th October Team

Sarah Jackman, Erin Leatherbarrow, Artemis Cooper, Isabelle Wong, Claire Richards and Tara Swords

# Ancient and Modern: The Classical Reading Competition

Wednesday 11 November 2015

*This week saw 14 pupils from all years gather in Shrewsbury's newest building - the ultra modern Hodgson Hall - to perform selections of ancient literature for the Classical Reading Competition.*

Organised and hosted by Mr Sheppe, and judged by Mr Adrian Arnold, a former Head of Classics at Lancing College, the competition attracted both experienced 6th formers and complete beginners. Passages from authors as diverse as Homer, Archilochos, Catullus, Horace, Aeschylus and Vergil were delivered with panache, poise and pitch.

"Wonderfully exotic accents", "very good narrative flow", "rhythm spot on" and "wonderfully scary and unforgiving" (*sic!*) were just a few of the phrases used in adjudication; Mr. Arnold continued: "I congratulate all the competitors on their performances; their pronunciation was good and there was good narrative flow. They were lovely to listen to, and very enjoyable."  
PGF



*The competitors, with adjudicator Mr Adrian Arnold. The winners, seen here in the front row, are (l - r): David Schofield (O – Latin Intermediate); Guy Cabral (Cb – Latin Senior); Cristina Pryol-Fuertes (EDH – Latin Junior); Fintan Simmons (Cb – Greek Senior); Lucien Whitworth (R – Greek Intermediate); Alex Sparkes (I – Greek Junior)*

## Dinner with Friends

Thursday 12 November 2015

A new production of the Pulitzer Prize winning play - 'Dinner with Friends'- is currently running at the Park Theatre in Finsbury Park, London. It is produced by OS Theatre Producer Tim Johanson (O 00-05) and directed by Tom Attenborough. The play is a witty portrayal of relationships, which explores our dependency on friends as well as on our loved ones.

A group of OS theatre lovers went along to watch the performance on Wednesday 11 November and they then gathered in the theatre bar afterwards to meet with both Tim and Tom for a discussion about the play.



Pictured left to right: Kit Oates (PH 00-05) , Guy Faith (O 00-05), Tim Johanson(O 00-05), Jessica Walker (G 13-15), Rhys Bevan (SH 03-08) and Peter Fanning.



## RSSH: East Africa Tour

Thursday 12 November 2015



“That has to be one of the best days of my life,” says Henry as we sit around a campfire under an African starlit sky. That morning we had been up at first light for a 10km run in a remote corner of Kenya, a herd of zebra and antelopes cantering alongside us as we’d moved as a pack across the Laikipia plains, giraffe and elephants looking on inquisitively as we crossed the finish line. It was breathtaking – not least because we were running at 8,000ft altitude – and for each of us a truly memorable experience.

Later that afternoon we had hopped on the back of pick-up vehicles and travelled to a nearby conservancy where cameras had clicked enthusiastically as a vast array of impressive African beasts passed before us, culminating in the rare sighting of a cheetah kill right in front of the group. A quick dip in the swimming pool of Shrewsbury parents Aidan and Claire Hartley at their home, Palagalan Farm, and then down to the campfire for T-bone steaks and boerewors. What a day indeed.



The Hunt had initially travelled to East Africa in October 2013 following an invitation from the Club's first Coach in Residence, Ethiopian legend Sentayehu Eshetu, who had spent a week at Shrewsbury the previous year. He had suggested that we follow up his visit with the 'return leg' and stay with him in the famous 'Town of Runners', Bekoji in Ethiopia. The inaugural trip had proved such a success that we felt compelled to offer the experience once again, this time to a new group of Salopian runners eager to embrace new challenges and reach new heights in their running.





If it was heights they were looking for, it was heights they got, with much of our time spent running at an altitude ranging from 8,000ft in Kenya's Great Rift Valley to the lung-bursting 10,000ft in Ethiopia. The impact of training at this height is quite significant, and it is not easy running in those conditions. We were asking a lot of our young up-and-coming runners, but it is to their great credit that they rose to the challenge.

The majority of our time in Kenya was spent in Iten to the west of the country, staying at the internationally-acclaimed Lorhan Kiplagat Centre. This has been the training base for the likes of Mo Farah and Paula Radcliffe in the past, and in fact, the week after we left, over a dozen of the UK athletics team moved in for their three-month training block in Kenya. It is an inspiring place and has been the breeding ground for countless Olympic gold medallists and world record holders, not least 800m world record holder David Rudisha, who went to the local St Patrick's School. The school has more Olympic medallists than most western nations!

The self-proclaimed 'Town of Champions' is home to literally thousands of full-time athletes, and there is a unique thrill in training in the same small town as so many of the world's best athletes. One morning during our stay we were able to meet one such athlete following his morning gym session at the Lornah Kiplagat Centre – Emmanuel Mutai. With a time of 2.03.13, Mutai is the second fastest man ever over the marathon distance, yet took the time to speak to our young runners and was remarkably humble in describing his career.

Amongst the highlights of our time in Kenya would be training on the famous Kamariny track that quite literally has as its backdrop a good few thousand-feet drop down into the Great Rift Valley, with views across the escarpment for miles upon miles.

We were challenged in our running, taking on some long distance runs through the forests of Iten and in speedwork sessions, and indeed some quite tortuous core sessions led by top Kenyan 800m runner Timo Limo.



*With Coach Sentayehu Eshetu (front centre)*



Similarly, when we travelled north to Ethiopia, we were put through our paces in the town of Bekoji, where we were reunited with Coach Sentayehu Eshetu. A track session just about killed me as I was cruelly placed in the elite men's marathon group by Coach (was it something I had said?) and, without even time to question the sanity of the decision, was forced into embarking upon the session of 5 sets of 5 laps run at 3min/km pace. I managed one set before genuinely believing my lungs were about to explode. I quietly drifted down into a more realistic group and hoped that nobody had spotted me.



Our runners were hugely impressive in the way in which they coped with the demands placed upon them. They earned the respect of the Bekoji athletes (approximately 100-150 turn up for every session) when they completed Coach's gruelling endurance run in the eucalyptus forest, and in turn, we were hugely grateful for the warm welcome we received from the Ethiopian athletes and the town itself. Greeted with cheers of 'Farangi!' wherever we went ('foreigner'), there was sheer delight in the faces of the town's residents (especially the children) whenever we ran past them.



This is a rarely-visited part of Africa where foreigners are very rarely seen. Yet there was no hostility, only hospitality of the very best sort. It was an eye-opener for our students to see a town where horse and cart is the main form of transport, and where electricity cannot be relied upon. (One of my favourite memories of the tour was eating a version of what we might call 'pizza' in candlelight following a whole-town blackout, listening to the mellifluous jazz of Charlie Parker from one of the boys' iPods.) We saw – both in Ethiopia and Kenya – a level of ambition and determination that is rarely seen in the western world. They have so little, yet dream big. There is an incredible belief that anything is possible. That hunger to succeed is contagious, and the young Salopians on our tour were moved and inspired by the people who they met.

Perhaps most memorable and inspiring of all was our visit to the Restart Centre in Gilgil, home to just over 100 orphans and street children from the surrounding area. Set up by Mary Coulson in 2008 in the aftermath of horrific post-election violence, this is a quite remarkable place. It was the third time I had personally visited the Centre and each time I have left feeling humbled and inspired in equal measure by both Mary and the Restart children. Many have been subjected to the most appalling violence and abuse, many have had that most basic need – a mother and father who love them – taken from them. Yet these are some of the happiest, vibrant, and resilient young boys and girls you are ever likely to meet.



Now housed in an impressive new facility in Langalanga, somebody has made sure that the Centre's motto has been repainted on the walls of the new building: "Think Not What You Are, But What You Can Become." It was a message that our Hunt runners took to heart, and I have no doubt that their experiences in East Africa over half-term will not only stay with them for a lifetime, but impact upon who they will become. The 11 boys and two girls who travelled with us were a great credit to the School and were terrific company throughout the trip. It was an absolute privilege to take them there.

The Hunt raised £1,500 for The Restart Centre and were able to present a cheque to Mary Coulson for this amount whilst we were there. Over £700 of this amount was raised on the evening of House Singing with donations from parents, for which we are extremely grateful. Further money has been raised for the charity [Running Across Borders](#), which works with the

community in Bekoji, and we will endeavour to send a cheque for a similar amount to the charity.

We are indebted to a number of people who played a key role in facilitating our trip and we are keen to express our thanks to them: Malcolm Anderson from Running Across Borders; Mary Coulson at The Restart Centre; MJ Nuijten at Pembroke House School; Aidan and Claire Hartley.

*PJM*



# The news 100 years ago: 12th - 18th November 1915

Thursday 12 November 2015

*This week we remember:*

**Second Lieutenant Charles Ledward Smith, Royal Field Artillery.**

Hall's (now Rigg's), Football XI, left in 1898.

*Died of illness in the United Kingdom 15th November 1915, aged 35.*

*It is not known where he is buried, neither does the Commonwealth War Graves Commission reveal anything.*

# Open Mic Night

Friday 13 November 2015

*Open Mic nights have become a regular feature of the Salopian musical scene, ably and energetically organised by Rob Shone (Ch UVI).*

The most recent night was held in front of a full and appreciative audience in the Maidment Building on Sunday 8th November and featured both solo singers and bands.

Photographs by courtesy of Erin Leatherbarrow (MSH UVI).

The last Open Mic night was filmed by Shrewsbury School TV. To view, please click [here](#).



*The Shone Roses*



*Finn McCormack (left); Tom Bibb and his Band (right)*



*Louisa Jarvis and George Holder*

# First female CCF cadets on parade on Remembrance Sunday

Friday 13 November 2015

*Ruchika Scott (G UVI), Susie Watts (MSH UVI) and Pascale Goddard (G UVI) became the first female Shrewsbury School CCF cadets to participate in the Colour Party on Remembrance Sunday.*

Both Ruchika and Pascale represent the Royal Marines Section and Susie Watts is the overall Senior Cadet in the Army Section.



*L-R: Ruchika Scott, Susie Watts and Pascale Goddard*



# School House completes the set with another historic victory in the House Singing Competition

Friday 13 November 2015

On the Friday evening before half-term, School House were thrilled to be awarded the House Singing Part Song trophy. Having won both the Unison and Overall competitions two years ago, the School House boys have now won all three major titles in the last three years, which is an unprecedented achievement.

The Part Song is arguably the most sought-after of all the prizes because it reflects the talent and dedication of a group of self-motivated students; the high quality of the entries, along with the time and effort that has been invested in them, makes this strand of the competition more fiercely contested than any other. Having come so close for the last couple of years, it was Alfred Mitchell's (UVI) last chance to win. He set up auditions and selected six of our finest singers to join him in the a cappella group. The other members of the group, who all sang solo parts at various points were Henri Cramsie (IV), Reuben Denison (IV), Nifemi Okusanya (LVI), Ladi Okusanya (UVI), Aaron Zhao (UVI) and Ned Pring (UVI).

Alfred arranged an incredible piece entitled "Around the World in Six Songs"; he skilfully weaved together songs from very different genres, eras and geographical locations, having tailored the parts carefully to suit the individual boys in the group. It was a highly ambitious arrangement with beautiful close harmony which departed from the 'safe' harmonic structures more commonly used. It was a high-risk strategy, but after many hours of rehearsal, it certainly paid off; the judges recognised the achievement by declaring them the winners "by some distance". We look forward to hearing them perform again in the School House Soiree in February.



*L-R: Ladi Okusanya (UVI), Reuben Denison (IV), Aaron Zhao (UVI), Alfred Mitchell (UVI), Nifemi Okusanya (LVI), Ned Pring (UVI) and Henri Cramsie (IV)*

Meanwhile, all the other boys had also done School House proud in our Unison entry, with a great performance of 'The Kinks' "Lola". Chosen by Hugo Richardson (UVI) and arranged by Mrs Besterman, the boys filed on stage to the accompaniment of a trumpet intro played by Frank Coughlan (III) and Louis Street (III).

Following several hours of rehearsal and a motivational speech from their Housemaster just before they walked on stage, the boys were finally ready for their big moment! It was a slick and entertaining performance, which combined some fine musicianship with the famous School House spirit. The judges were impressed and awarded us third position, which combined with the Part Song victory to leave us as Runner-up in the Overall competition. In recognition of their achievement, the boys were all allowed to keep their magenta bow ties as a memento of the occasion! True all-rounders, the Okusanya brothers were awarded their house scarves for their outstanding contributions to both sport and music in School House.



*Stage left of the Unison (front row L-R): Sam Holdcroft (III), Thomas Tarlton (III), Raphael Lanvin (III), Ramzî Masri (IV) and Piers Merison (IV)*



*The complete Unison performance*

## 'Should Britain Intervene against Islamic State?' – Major General Richard Nugee visits the School

Friday 13 November 2015

*This term as part of the Academic Extension programme, many Salopians have been investigating a range of issues relating to the Middle East. Areas studied include the reasons for invading Afghanistan and Iraq, the consequences of having done so, the rise of the so-called Islamic State, the Arab Spring, the Syrian Civil War and the refugee crisis. Much of this was in preparation for a lecture given last week by Major General Nugee who kindly took time out of his very busy schedule to give us his own personal thoughts on these and related matters.*

*Below is an account of the evening by Ed Plant (S LVI), which gives a real sense of the broad perspective and detailed knowledge offered in what was a most thought-provoking lecture.*

*We are very grateful to Major General Nugee for being willing to come back to Shrewsbury to give us such an insight into his first-hand experiences and reflections.*

*S.H. Couper*



*Photo courtesy of [www.nationofchange.org](http://www.nationofchange.org)*

Last Thursday the School was fortunate enough to welcome Major General Richard Nugee, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff for Personnel and Defence Services Secretary, who has had a most distinguished career in the military, spanning over 30 years and conflicts in Kosovo, Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Iraq, Cyprus and Afghanistan to give a lecture upon whether Britain should intervene against Islamic State.

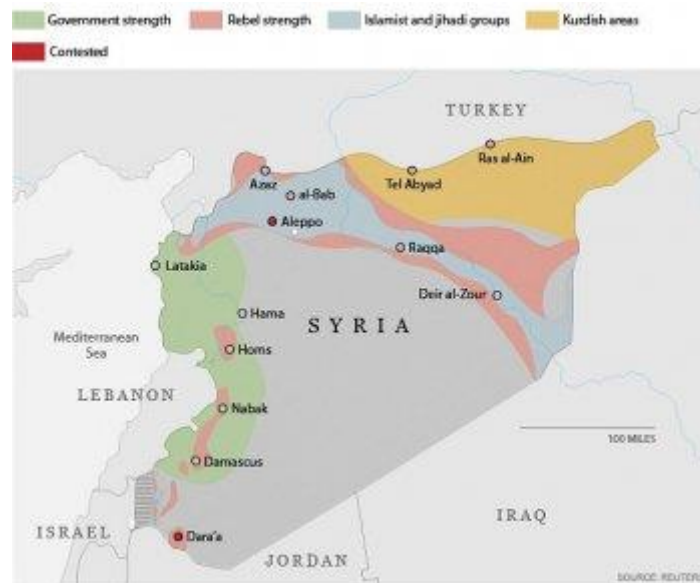
One of the very top generals in the armed forces hierarchy, Major General Nugee was responsible for the drawdown of forces in Afghanistan and earlier, of all British troops south of Basra immediately after the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which means he is uniquely experienced and placed to talk about the volatile Middle East and in particular, the effect of Western intervention in the area.



Major General Nugee began his talk not in 2015 with Islamic State, nor 2003 with the Iraq war, but in 1648 with the Peace of Westphalia, which established the convention that all states have absolute sovereignty over their own affairs, and that states are not to intervene in domestic matters of other states without permission. He pressed the idea that this had been the order by which the world, especially the West, had worked with up until the late 20th century.

The change in this idea into a 'post-Westphalian' order of things, especially in the West, can be seen in the 1990s said Major General Nugee, who used the example of the First Gulf War in 1991 as an example of the Westphalian principles that were still in use. The landmark moment in the sea change from Westphalian to post-Westphalian principles was in 1994, with the Rwandan genocide, which no nation intervened in at all, as in accordance with the international norms. The barrage of criticism directed at the West and the UN afterwards forced this change into post-Westphalian ideas, under which nations had a 'responsibility to protect' the peoples of other nations, as well as their own, from harm, and that this would be an acceptable pretext to launch a war upon.

Major General Nugee pointed out the impact of Rwanda in that in the Bosnian War of 1992-95, the West only intervened in the war after the Rwandan affair of 1994. He then showed how this doctrine of responsibility to protect was prevalent in the reasoning behind intervention in Kosovo in 1999 and Libya in 2011. He then extended this doctrine of responsibility to protect to argue that we have a duty to protect the people of Iraq and Syria against the evil Islamist ideas of Islamic State, but that we should learn from Iraq in that we need to know how it will end before we enter the conflict.



Major General Nugee said that his experiences, especially in Afghanistan, meant that he was confident that, given the way that Al Qaeda had been dealt with in the region, the West could deal with Islamic State, whose state-like infrastructure perhaps make them more vulnerable to traditional military tactics than, say, the Taliban.

A barrage of intelligent questions from the large audience then followed, which broached both the situation of the Middle East as well as the wider ideas of interventionism, sovereignty versus responsibility and his own experiences of the British military. In response to a question about the benefits of keeping dictators in power, Major General Nugee acknowledged that in his personal

view British intervention in Iraq and Libya was a mistake, and that it might be that the lesser of two evils was to keep dictators in power like Hussein and Gaddafi in order to prevent civil war or extreme Islamist factions gaining power in a region, such as is being seen in Iraq and Libya respectively.

When prompted by a question about the rise of China, Major General Nugee contended that China is rather like 'a sleeping dragon' who is in the process of awaking, and that the reality of 'real politik' means that occasionally principles have to be compromised in international relations, for the long-term greater good.

Overall, the talk was greatly enjoyed by all, who felt that the lecture had been a unique occasion to listen and respond to someone with both the authority and the experience to back up his views, and the School is extremely grateful that Major General Nugee took time out of his undoubtedly busy schedule to give such an engaging lecture.

*Ed Plant*

## Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 13 November 2015

*This week, Lacrosse.*

I have always considered myself as something of a sportsman. (Self-belief is important, especially in the absence of wide-ranging support for such a view.) I enjoy sporting contests of almost any type. On my recent tour of the Far East in my 'ten minutes' off, I found myself idly flicking through the channels on my hotel TV and ended up watching a husband and wife team in some sort of lumberjack competitive tree-trunk double-handed sawing event. After a few seconds of this (it was not that riveting), I switched over to find some Sumo wrestling (by chance, I hasten to add). The Sumo did make me feel better about my weight issues but I can't say it is a sport I am particularly attracted to it as a spectator. Some people still think that I am closed to the idea of embracing sports in which I have not yet had a chance to hone my skills. This week I am out to prove such detractors wrong.

When it was announced many years ago at Shrewsbury that we were going co-ed, I rejoiced at the thought of being able to watch Lacrosse – although a frisson of fear did make me shiver, as I remembered a contemporary at Durham University who had been a keen exponent of the game. He was the only member of my all-male college who played Lacrosse and when asked by some interested and inquisitive souls what attracted him to the game, he told us it was the violence and aggression involved. We laughed at this rather dramatic statement at the time, but I note he is still residing in Durham – in the jail.





For those of you who are unfamiliar with the game, I thought you might like a brief history lesson. Lacrosse is not, as I thought, a French game played by angry people that was popular around the time of the French Revolution. The word 'crosse' is, however, a word used in French to denote any curved stick. According to some of my sources, it is considered a rough sport, although I have been assured that injuries are less frequent than in American football!

Shrewsbury's Senior Team Captain Antonia Wordie told me that after a recent injury to one of the players, the team all have to wear goggles now. I asked her if this affected her play in any way. She told me it makes her more aggressive because they are a bit uncomfortable. "It makes me more aggressive because they are a bit uncomfortable and that really annoys me," she said.



*An opposition player wants those goggles!*

Sophia Dixon told me that she quite liked the goggles because if she fell in a river near a Lacrosse pitch she would be able to open her eyes under water.

Maddy Wheeler has recently been playing for the 1st team in goal. She doesn't mind the goggles because she is already dressed like a 15th century knight to stave off injury. She informed me that she likes to scream at opposition players to put them off. This is apparently well within the laws of the game. "It is very therapeutic if you are having a bad day," she said.

Antonia told me that the teams are challenging the 1st XV rugby squad to a game next term and then the girls will take them on at rugby. There was a look in Antonia's eye that reminded me of Durham jail. Good luck to the rugby team – they may need it!



Lacrosse at Shrewsbury is coached by ex-Hampshire County midfield maestro Fenella Nicholas and Welsh international Sophie Coombes-Roberts. Fenella is one of the game's biggest fans. She told me for her it is almost like a spiritual experience when she steps on to the field of play. She went on to tell me that this should not come as a surprise as "Lacrosse played a significant role in the community and religious life of tribes across the American continent for many years." She went on to say that "Early lacrosse was characterised by deep spiritual involvement. Those who took part did so in the role of warriors, with the goal of bringing glory and honour to themselves and their tribes. The game was said to be played 'for the Creator'." At this point a dove came down and settled on Fenella's shoulder and I found myself basking in a warm celestial light.

After this mystical experience, Fenella went on to tell me how impressed she was with the achievement of the current crop of Shrewsbury players. The under-14s recently thrashed Queen's Chester 12 -5. What was particularly exciting about this was that the Shrewsbury team is



full of beginners and has played together for a matter of weeks. The team they played had been training together for three years.



*The 1st XII celebrating their victory in the North Schools' Lacrosse Tournament at Queen Margaret's, York in October*

The 1st XII have had a lot of success this term and have already lifted one trophy. Captain Antonia is confident of future success and praised the dedication and commitment of rising stars such as Olivia Papaioannou, who is currently progressing well through the England trials.



*Olivia Papaioannou in full flight*



I tried to grab a word with Olivia but she was too fast for me to catch up with. When she eventually slowed down she told me that she could not talk about lacrosse because she immediately becomes very aggressive and she did not want to injure me. This encounter put me off interviewing too many squad members, but Sophia Breese told me it did not make her too aggressive. “I find it very calming,” she told me. She did say it was a very competitive sport however and she really enjoys it.



Mrs Nicholas did say that a lot of the senior squad have not played before and so a number of junior players have played for the 1st team. She has her eyes set on a couple of years' time when she feels the Lacrosse team will be quite a force to be reckoned with. If they are not, she will be very angry!

# Wales and West of England Dinner

Friday 13 November 2015



attracted a wide cross section through the OS age range - from some very recent leavers to some of our more experienced members.

Sir Eldryd gave the welcome and Nick Jenkins, Director of the Salopian Club, made a very entertaining speech before thanking the President for all his support.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.



## The Salopian Club Wales and West of England Dinner

On Friday 6th November, at the Cardiff and County Club, the current President of the Salopian Club, Sir Eldryd Parry, hosted his last OS dinner before handing over the reins to his successor.

It turned out to be a wonderful occasion and a fitting tribute. Positive comments have been made about the excellent food, the entertainment (by two talented young opera singers) and also about the fact that the event



# Classics Trip to Greece 2015

Sunday 15 November 2015

Despite the rigours of the Tucks and House Singing on the last day of the first half of term, 12 Classicists and two members of staff managed nevertheless to reach Athens by mid-morning the next day. There they enjoyed lunch by the Acropolis and a visit the Acropolis Museum in the afternoon.



*The Parthenon in all its glory*

The group then travelled to Delphi and the mysterious power of the place was felt by all. Its position nestled on the side of Mount Parnassus emphasised the effort undertaken by all, ancient and modern, who travelled to consult the Oracle, participate in the Games or merely visit the sites.



*The Temple of Apollo, Delphi*



From Delphi we travelled on to the Peloponnese and the advantage of visiting Olympia on a rather damp morning was that we had the running track to ourselves. It was also fascinating to find out about the use of the site over time and see where the Olympic Flame is lit in modern times.



*Warming up at Olympia*

As we travelled deeper in the Peloponnese, we travelled further back in time from the Classical to the Homeric period. This included visiting Mycenae, the home of Agamemnon, and Tiryns, where Diomedes lived. For a 'modern' slice of history we explored the Palamidi Fort (a Venetian fort built between 1711 and 1714). The final classical site we visited was Epidauros and we were treated to Angus Kincaid (Ch LVI) reciting 'The Jabberwocky' to test the acoustics of the theatre.



*Angus trying out the acoustics at Epidauros*



Exhausted, we returned home the following day having increased our knowledge of Greece and had our appetites whetted for more!



*The group at Delphi - Back Row: Mr Clark, Lucas Paul (Rb V), Victor Scheibler (I V), Guy Cabral (Ch UVI), Sam Russell (Ch LVI), Lexi Bothamley Dakin (G IV), Livi Bothamley Dakin (G IV), Eric Myint-Maung (Ch IV) - Front Row: Will Sturrock (M LVI), Fintan Simmons (Ch LVI), Jetty Russell (G IV), Rosie Smith-Langridge (EDH LVI), Angus Kincaid (Ch LVI)*



## RSSH East Africa Tour

Monday 16 November 2015

*Thirteen members of the Hunt, the School's cross-country running club, together with three members of staff, spent half term training at high altitude in East Africa - the 'home of long distance running' - with some of the most committed young runners in the world. They also visited the inspirational Restart Centre in Gilgil, home to over 100 orphans and street children from the surrounding area, where they presented a cheque for £1,500 that they had raised prior to the trip. Master in Charge of the Hunt Peter Middleton reports on an unforgettable experience for all concerned.*



The Hunt first travelled to East Africa in October 2013 following an invitation from the Club's first Coach in Residence, Ethiopian legend Sentayehu Eshetu, who had spent a week at Shrewsbury the previous year. He had suggested that we follow up his visit with the 'return leg' and stay with him in the famous 'Town of Runners', Bekoji in Ethiopia. The inaugural trip had proved such a success that we felt compelled to offer the experience once again, this time to a new group of Salopian runners eager to embrace new challenges and reach new heights in their running.

If it was heights they were looking for, it was heights they got, with much of our time spent running at an altitude ranging from 8,000ft in Kenya's Great Rift Valley to the lung-bursting 10,000ft in Ethiopia. The impact of training at this height is quite significant, and it is not easy running in those conditions. We were asking a lot of our young up-and-coming runners, but it is to their great credit that they rose to the challenge.





The majority of our time in Kenya was spent in Iten to the west of the country, staying at the internationally-acclaimed Lorhan Kiplagat Centre. This has been the training base for the likes of Mo Farah and Paula Radcliffe in the past, and in fact, the week after we left, over a dozen of the UK athletics team moved in for their three-month training block in Kenya. It is an inspiring place and has been the breeding ground for countless Olympic gold medallists and world record holders, not least 800m world record holder David Rudisha, who went to the local St Patrick's School. The school has more Olympic medallists than most western nations!

The self-proclaimed 'Town of Champions' is home to literally thousands of full-time athletes, and there is a unique thrill in training in the same small town as so many of the world's best athletes.



Amongst the highlights of our time in Kenya would be training on the famous Kamariny track that quite literally has as its backdrop a good few thousand-feet drop down into the Great Rift Valley, with views across the escarpment for miles upon miles.

We were challenged in our running, taking on some long distance runs through the forests of Iten and in speedwork sessions, and indeed some quite tortuous core sessions led by top Kenyan 800m runner Timo Limo.

Similarly, when we travelled north to Ethiopia, we were put through our paces in the town of Bekoji, where we were reunited with Coach Sentayehu Eshetu.



*With Coach Sentayehu Eshetu (front centre)*

Our runners were hugely impressive in the way in which they coped with the demands placed upon them. They earned the respect of the Bekoji athletes (approximately 100-150 turn up for every session) when they completed Coach's gruelling endurance run in the eucalyptus forest, and in turn, we were hugely grateful for the warm welcome we received from the Ethiopian athletes and the town itself. Greeted with cheers of 'Farangil' wherever we went ('foreigner'), there was sheer delight in the faces of the town's residents (especially the children) whenever we ran past them.





This is a rarely-visited part of Africa where foreigners are very rarely seen. Yet there was no hostility, only hospitality of the very best sort. It was an eye-opener for our students to see a town where horse and cart is the main form of transport, and where electricity cannot be relied upon. We saw – both in Ethiopia and Kenya – a level of ambition and determination that is rarely seen in the western world. They have so little, yet dream big. There is an incredible belief that anything is possible. That hunger to succeed is contagious, and the young Salopians on our tour were moved and inspired by the people who they met.

Perhaps most memorable and inspiring of all was our visit to the Restart Centre in Gilgil, home to just over 100 orphans and street children from the surrounding area. Set up by Mary Coulson in 2008 in the aftermath of horrific post-election violence, this is a quite remarkable place. It was the third time I had personally visited the Centre and each time I have left feeling humbled and inspired in equal measure by both Mary and the Restart children. Many have been subjected to the most appalling violence and abuse, many have had that most basic need – a mother and father who love them – taken from them. Yet these are some of the happiest, vibrant, and resilient young boys and girls you are ever likely to meet.





Now housed in an impressive new facility in Langalanga, somebody has made sure that the Centre's motto has been repainted on the walls of the new building: "Think Not What You Are, But What You Can Become." It was a message that our Hunt runners took to heart, and I have no doubt that their experiences in East Africa over half-term will not only stay with them for a lifetime, but impact upon who they will become. The 11 boys and two girls who travelled with us were a great credit to the School and were terrific company throughout the trip. It was an absolute privilege to take them there.

The Hunt raised £1,500 for the Restart Centre and were able to present a cheque to Mary Coulson for this amount whilst we were there. Over £700 of this amount was raised on the evening of House Singing with donations from parents, for which we are extremely grateful. Further money has been raised for the charity Running Across Borders, which works with the community in Bekoji, and we will endeavour to send a cheque for a similar amount to the charity.

We are indebted to a number of people who played a key role in facilitating our trip and we are keen to express our thanks to them: Malcolm Anderson from Running Across Borders; Mary Coulson at The Restart Centre; MJ Nuijten at Pembroke House School; Aidan and Claire Hartley.

*PJM*

# Success for England and James Taylor

Wednesday 18 November 2015

We don't really need to add anything more to [this great BBC article](#), which thoroughly sums up an outstanding tour of the United Arab Emirates for James Taylor (R 03-08). Left out of the first two tests, he was brought into the side for the third to great acclaim, before excelling in the one day international series. Three of the four matches have now been played and England lead the series 2:1. Taylor was instrumental in England's latest win over Pakistan and many well known names from the field of cricket have come out in force to pay him compliments. A great example is the following quote from Captain Eoin Morgan:

**"Every role we've given James Taylor, he's excelled in. He epitomises the culture we're trying to create in this changing-room - he works so hard at this game. Hopefully we can produce another performance and win the series."**

We just needed a picture and thought you might like this one of James and the Giant Bowler!



James Taylor (5'6" 1.68m) and Muhammad Irfan (7'1" 2.16m)





## RSSBC: Northwich Head

Wednesday 18 November 2015

*In high winds and difficult conditions, the RSSBC J14 squads performed very well at Northwich on Sunday in their first ever race. There were also excellent performances from the J15 crews - in particular the J15 coxed four, who not only won their category but beat all the J16 fours and finished as second coxed four of the day.*

On Sunday 15th November the RSSBC J14 squad took to the River Weaver for their first ever race alongside the J15 squad. Filled with nerves, anticipation and excitement, the boys and girls were ready to show what they were made of after their first few months of training. There was certainly a lot of character building at the event which took place at Northwich Boat Club. Due to extremely high winds, the Shrewsbury boys and girls had an even tougher task on their hands.



The girls took to the water first in Division 2, coming up against strong opposition from local clubs as well as King's School, Chester. Given the conditions, the J14 girls came storming through the finish line looking very clean. The two Fourth Form girls' quads raced well in their first competitive outing of the season in matched boats, with the crew of Charlotte Roberts,



Alice Turner, Chloe Edwards and Lexi Bothamley-Dakin coxed by Molly Kaye narrowly beating their club mates of Charlie Tonks, Jasmine Lo, Olive Collingwood-Cameron and Liv Bothamley-Dakin coxed by Tara Swords. The two crews came sixth and seventh out of eight in their category.





Division 3 followed and it was the boys' turn to battle the River Weaver. Not only did they have to battle the conditions but also newly acquainted rivals King's School, Chester. The first Shrewsbury crew down the track, coxed by Oldham's Archie Duckworth, had to take drastic manoeuvres due to some interesting coxing from King's, which led them into a bush. The boys are looking forward to another match on 5th December, when our fixture against King's School, Chester takes place. The other J14 crews placed a very respectable 3rd and 4th in their division, which is a very promising start to the season.



*The winning J15 four*

For the J15 boys, this was their second race of the season after Bedford Small Boats Head before half term. Following on from their impressive win at Bedford, the four of Adam Pattenden, Jack Lockett, Ali Davies and Ed Hart coxed by Boss Lertthundorn continued their winning ways by winning the J15 coxed four category by 53 seconds and beating all the J16 fours at the same time! They finished second coxed four of the day behind a Northwich Rowing Club senior four.



A second crew of Elliot Crossley, Petr Rostokin, Henry Ludlam and Chad Usher coxed by Rory Leslie competed in the J15 coxed quads event. Putting up a valiant effort they finished seventh in their event, though were in line for a top 5 finish before some technical issues!

The season is definitely shaping up well for a talented and committed group of rowers this year.  
*PDG & RTF*

# Pre-U Biology trip to Liverpool University's Institute of Integrative Biology

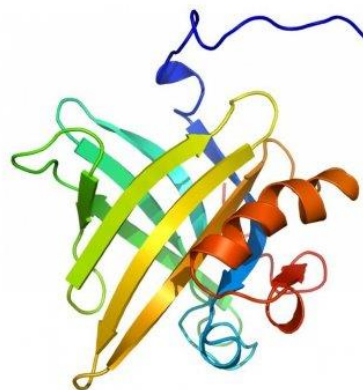
Wednesday 18 November 2015

*On Friday 6th November all Lower Sixth Biologists took a day out to visit Liverpool University's Institute of Integrative Biology, where they were hosted by Professor Alan McCarthy, one of the UK's leading microbiologists and the Head of Admissions and Recruitment for the School of Life Sciences (and also a Governor of Shrewsbury School).*

Biosciences in the 21st Century are increasingly focused on understanding the information contained inside living cells in the form of DNA (the 'genome') and proteins (the 'proteome'). Pre-U Biology places great emphasis on practical applications and so this visit was a tremendously valuable opportunity for us to see the cutting-edge technology being deployed by this world-leading research department.

In the words of some of our pupils:

“The trip to Liverpool University was an interesting and memorable experience. We had a full morning of lectures before attending tours. The lectures were pretty fascinating, even though the topics the speakers touched on were slightly above our understanding. The final lecture by Prof Rob Beynon (Head of Biochemistry at the University) really caught my attention, as I never knew proteins play such a major role in sustaining our lives. After a brief break, we were taken on tours. We saw some high-end technologies being used by both researchers and students. Quite a few of us were astonished by how expensive the equipment was (£800,000 for a next-generation DNA sequencer!). In the final tour, we met Mike - a student who was about to get his PhD in biology. Apart from explaining how he managed to crystallise proteins to study their structure, he told us what being a student at a university is like and gave us some useful advice on how to make the most out of it.”



*Visualisation of a protein discovered by Biologists at Liverpool using the techniques shown to the Shrewsbury Pre-U group. It has been named 'Darcin' after Mr Darcy, as it is a pheromone released by mice to attract members of the opposite sex(!).*



“The lectures were on a variety of topics. Most were about the advanced techniques used to understand the processes going on inside cells; there was also one by Dr Raphael Levy on the way evidence is misused by the media (especially the Daily Mail!) to report and distort news of scientific discoveries. He reminded us to always ask for evidence!

(<http://askforevidence.org/index>)”

“I found the tour of the x-ray crystallography laboratory especially interesting. Researchers can now generate a three-dimensional image of a molecule by using x-ray crystallography. The molecule causes x-ray beams to diffract in different directions and this data can then be used to construct and image of the molecule.”

“One aspect of the day that I found particularly interesting was cell imaging. Following a colourful and inspiring lecture delivered by Dr David Mason, we acquired a new understanding of how we can view cells and observe their features. The lecture certainly lived up to its name, 'Seeing the world in five-dimensions': after covering the obvious first three dimensions, XYZ, a splash of colour and the element of time brought the images to life.”

“The most incredible technique I saw was laser capture microdissection, in which an individual cell was shown being cut from a sample using a laser before being propelled (again by the laser) into a waiting test tube. This tiny, targeted tissue fragment could then be subjected to DNA sequencing!”

Whatever their level of interest in Biology, the pupils will find themselves thinking back to the trip over the coming days and months, and, as it keeps resonating with theory in their Pre-U course, their appreciation for what they saw will grow.

*TSM*

# James Taylor selected for England's Test squad for South Africa tour

Thursday 19 November 2015

*Following his outstanding performances in England's recent Test and One Day International series against Pakistan, James Taylor (R 2003-08) has been selected as part of the 16-man England squad for next month's Test series against South Africa.*



Having been left out of the first two Test matches against Pakistan, Taylor was brought into the England side for the third to great acclaim, demonstrating emphatically his great strength as a batsman against spin-bowling.

Taylor was Man of the Match in the third ODI against Pakistan on Tuesday, scoring 67 n.o. and running out Pakistan's Captain Azhar Ali with a ninja-like throw from backward point, to help England secure a six-wicket win and a lead in the ODI series.

England Captain Eoin Morgan was one of many highly respected players and cricket commentators to pay tribute to Taylor's talent and contribution to the England team: "Every role we've given James Taylor, he's excelled in. He epitomises the culture we're trying to create in this changing-room - he works so hard at this game. Hopefully we can produce another performance and win the series."

An interview with James Taylor is included on the BBC website report of the third ODI, where he is described as "a key component of Eoin Morgan's maturing one-day side": <http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/cricket/34847443>

## The news 100 years ago: 19th November - 10th December 1915

Thursday 19 November 2015

*For three weeks at the end of November and the beginning of December 1915 there were no OS deaths; a welcome relief to the tragic news flow.*

Action in France and the countries close to Britain fell away considerably during the autumn and winter of 1915. Both sides were digging in and establishing their lines of trenches. Events in Central Europe and further afield were mainly the political manoeuvring of allies, although action continued in Southern Europe.

In what might be seen as a criticism of the leadership during the first year of the war, Lord Kitchener arrived in the Dardanelles (10th November); his arrival presaged the evacuation of troops from Suvla Bay (ordered 8th December, effected 19th – 20th December).

In another theatre Sir Douglas Haig superseded Sir John French as CinC France, whereupon on 22nd December Lieut-General Sir W. Robertson resigned as Chief of the General Staff, British Expeditionary Force, France; he was succeeded by Lieut-General L. E. Kiggell. Furthermore, Lieut-General Sir A. J. Murray, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, also resigned, although he subsequently took over the Force in Egypt in March 1916.

With the absence of any really decisive action in 1915, one can imagine the winter being spent by the top brass in the conceiving of major actions that would be put in to effect during the coming summer. July 1st and the Somme is at the embryonic stage, and all the while the permanent reminders of the Peninsular War, Trafalgar and Waterloo present a challenge to the Government propagandists to keep the morale up.





## National music competition success

Friday 20 November 2015

*Congratulations to Ursule Tanjanskaite - Flute (UVI MSH), who has been selected to perform in the Royal Philharmonic Society Duet Prize for Young Instrumentalists.*

The RPS Duet Prize is awarded every two years by the Royal Philharmonic Society and Duet Group to an outstanding young instrumentalist.

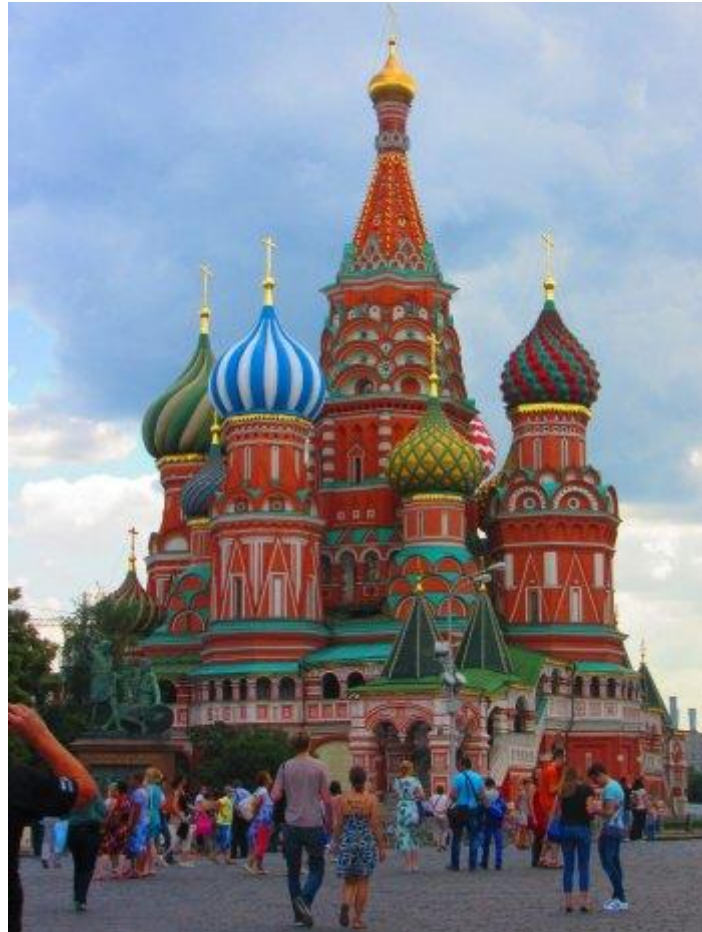
After submitting a CD recording for the first round, Ursule is one of 26 young musicians who have now been invited to perform to a panel of adjudicators at the City of London Boys' School on 28th January 2016.

The final will be held in London on 29th April. The recipient of the Prize will receive £1,500 cash and a professional recital at a UK music festival.



# From Hong Kong to the Arctic Circle by train

Friday 20 November 2015



Each year, a number of scholarships are awarded under the Miles Clark Travel Scholarship to Salopians who wish to attempt a challenging project in their Gap Year.

The fund was established in memory of Miles Clark (S 1974-78), who was a distinguished scientific explorer, writer, and photographer, and it aims to enable pupils leaving the Sixth Form of Shrewsbury School "to undertake an expedition abroad involving adventure, personal challenge and research".

Earlier this year, Archie Trower (I 2012-14) embarked on an incredible overland journey from Hong Kong to Moscow, visiting many historical sites along the way - precisely the sort of adventure that was envisaged when the Miles Clark Scholarship scheme was first created.

He has written a fascinating and entertaining account of his travels: [Hong Kong to the Arctic Circle by Train](#)

More details about the Miles Clark Travel Scholarship can be found on the School website: [Travel Scholarships](#)

# Shrewsbury win through to Senior Team Maths Challenge National Final

Friday 20 November 2015

*Chloe Chen (MSH UVI), Tom Dodd (Rb UVI), David Gao (I LVI) and Evelyn Xiong (G LVI) triumphed in the Regional Final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge at Keele University on 18th November. They now progress to the National Final, which will be held in London on 2nd February 2016.*

Earlier this month, Chloe Chen also achieved the School's top mark (115 out of a possible 125) in this year's Senior Mathematical Challenge paper. The paper was sat by 126 Shrewsbury pupils across all five year groups. 115 of them performed well enough to place themselves in the top 60% of the country and receive a certificate.

A special mention should go to Tianci Wang (SH III) who was amongst the 19 Gold certificate winners; an impressive achievement for a Third Former.



## Ben Oswald selected for 'Swifts' Golf Tour to the USA

Wednesday 25 November 2015

*Ben Oswald (S LVith) has been selected to represent the British Independent Schools on their Easter 2016 golf tour to the USA.*

'The Swifts' consist of eight of the best independent school boy golfers and will play 13-14 matches on some of the finest courses on the east coast - covering about 2,500 miles in the process. Recent tours have included matches at Pine Valley, Merion, Baltusrol, Congressional, The Dormy Club, Trump National, Cassique, Robert Trent Jones Club at Lake Manassas, National Golf Links of America, Maidstone, Somerset Hills, Columbia and Baltimore CC. It is a tour requiring exceptional stamina.

This is not purely a representative team. It is true that the competition and good golf are very important, and if a player is not good enough to cope on some very difficult courses, it is an extremely tough and frustrating tour. Some recent successful Swifts have indeed been exceptional players. Among the best of these have been Ross McGowan from the UK (Epsom College) in 1999 (English Amateur Champion, England International, +3 handicap, completed a full scholarship at Tennessee, now a European Tour winner and in the World top 50), and Chris Nallen from the US in 1998 (PAC 10 Golfer of the year 2003, Walker Cup 2003, Palmer Cup twice, US Amateur Semi finalist).

However, it is not simply a case of selecting the best eight golfers. Crucially, they should be personable young men, capable of blending into a happy and disciplined tour party. Perhaps the most important questions to ask oneself when considering a possible candidate are: "Would I want to drive 2,500 miles in a tiny minibus with him?"; "Can he be absolutely trusted to be a charming guest, to make excellent decisions, and to put hosts and team-mates before himself?" The selected boys are expected to be outstanding ambassadors for their respective schools and country.

Ben plays off a handicap of 5 at Little Aston and Enville Golf Clubs and has been a stalwart of the School golf team since arriving in the Third Form. He is also very interested in attending an American university so this is a great opportunity that, I am sure, Ben will grasp with both hands - proudly representing Salopians in the process. Well done.

Mr Mark Schofield



## 'Great Expectations' charity collection

Wednesday 25 November 2015

*At this week's School Musical, 'Great Expectations', there will be a retiring collection for The Ankawa Foundation, one of Shrewsbury School's chosen charities.*

Dickens, a man who experienced both poverty and riches, just as Pip does in the play, raises questions in his story about what education really means.

The Ankawa Foundation is based north of Mosul, in the Kurdish area of Iraq. There are 8,000 refugee children living in camps, with no access to the education that could give them a future and a way out of their desperate situation. Before the war, their parents were doctors, lawyers, teachers: now they live in tents in 30 degree heat, are rationed to a shower a week, and don't have enough teachers, or equipment, to set up schools.

Enjoy the show, and please give as generously as you can.

## School House are crowned B Leagues Football Champions

Wednesday 25 November 2015



*(L-R). Back Row: Reuben Denison (IV), Frank Coughlan (III), Ramzi Masri (IV), Tommy Tong (IV), Henri Cramsie (Capt. IV), Lucas Jones-Polanco (IV), Will Holdcroft (Vice Capt. IV), Roman Khidrbekov (III), Louis Street (III) and Euan Cooper (III). Front Row: Raphael Lanvin (III), Sam Holdcroft (GK. III) and Ben Stewart (III)*

The inter-house B Leagues football competition involves the Third Form and some of the Fourth Form in a series of 9 v 9 matches throughout the Michaelmas Term. All the boys' houses play each other, which makes it a hotly contested trophy because it is the first chance for the new entrants to establish their authority and bragging rights in a school that is renowned for its football.

In a nail-biting end to the season, things were pretty tight at the top of the table. It all came down to the last game, in which Henri Cramsie's (IV) School House team had to win against Severn Hill to be certain of taking the title (Churchill's were only two points behind us).

At half time, things were uncomfortably close: it was 1-1. However, a hat-trick from Frank Coughlan (III), goals from Reuben Denison (IV) and Ramzi Masri (IV), along with some outstanding goalkeeping from Sam Holdcroft (III), meant that School House ended up winning 5-1 and taking the title. Euan Cooper (III) won the Golden Boot for being the season's top scorer and helped to leave us with a healthy positive goal difference.

Finishing top of the table was largely due to the efforts of some very talented footballers in the Third Form; School House has plenty to look forward to on the football pitch in coming years. Of course, there were pizzas on the house as a celebration in the evening!



## England U19 Lacrosse Academy selection

Thursday 26 November 2015

*Many congratulations to Olivia Papaioannou (EDH UVI), who has been selected to join the England U19 Lacrosse Academy.*



Olivia has been a member of the England U17s training programme for the last two years, but selection for the U19s Academy programme marks a significant step up and the chance to represent England in Home International matches.

Miss Coombes-Roberts, the School's Lacrosse Coach, said, "Liv is a fantastic member of the Shrewsbury 1st lacrosse team. She is extremely driven and a leader both on and off the pitch. Her selection to the England Academy recognises her exceptional fitness, stick skills, game knowledge and commitment to bettering her game. She will be representing Shropshire in the County A team Tournament this weekend, where she is hoping to be scouted for the North team."

In addition to her Lacrosse commitments, Olivia is also a key member of the Hunt, the School's cross-country running squad, and is Captain of Girls' Running this year.

Earlier this term, she was placed as 1st Senior Woman in the 10km Seven Bridges Road Race in Shrewsbury, with a time of just 42 minutes 20 seconds.

## Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 27 November 2015

*This week, the 1st XI football team.*

Despite my affiliation to Brighton and Hove Albion, my first football kit was an Arsenal one. I cannot remember why. Maybe I liked the kit or more probably it was going cheap in a local sports shop (my father was never one to waste money on such things). On my recent travels to Kuala Lumpur I found a remarkably cheap Arsenal kit (like father like son), which is now being sported by young son Reggie! Indeed he has cast his Brighton top away and will not wear it ever again, so he tells me. Reggie is keen on his football and goes to play 5-a-side at Shrewsbury Town Power Leagues every Monday. As I was watching him the other day chasing the ball with great enthusiasm and the skills of his mother, I noticed that the other football 'cages' were full of Salopians honing their skills. The biggest 'cage' contained the 1st XI squad, who were building up to a Shropshire Cup Match against Shrewsbury Sixth Form College.

It has been a season of rebuilding for our Premier football team. New coach Steve Wilderspin, who made the big move across Shropshire from Thomas Telford to Shrewsbury, has picked up the baton from Shrewsbury Town Legend Steve Biggins and has been establishing his footballing philosophy this term. I caught up with him to find out how he was settling in. "I have been establishing my footballing philosophy this term," he told me.

Steve began his playing career at St George's Primary School round the corner from us here in Shrewsbury. He was then 'scouted' playing for the Cubs and played representative football. He began life on the right but then moved to the centre of the pitch, rather like his politics. Educated at The Priory, he was in the Shrewsbury Town Centre of Excellence and ended up being the Shropshire under-18 captain. He played for AFC Telford under-18 Team and then went to TNS (The New Saints not to be confused with the All Saints) in the Welsh League. Just before he gained the chance to sign for someone big, he had some nasty injuries and had to stop playing. Among other notable facts about Steve, he is the Sports Therapist for the England Schools' under-18 team.



I asked Steve how he felt his team had played this term. He felt that the team had played well but results has not gone their way at times. He said that he would be dipping into the transfer market during the summer, when sadly some of his players will be leaving. It is always difficult to hang on to your best players. Although it should be noted that Old Salopian Will Hughes is still here as Assistant Coach.



Captain Jake Morris (above) has been a ‘model’ professional and has played for the Independent Schools’ Northern side as well as the County.

Anton Nelson has played for the ISFA North side and Josh Malyon is on standby for the same team. Steve paid tribute to his defence who he felt had been outstanding. He was quick to add that he was pleased with performances all over the ‘park’.





Young George Pearce has made a great impact at the back, as has Gene Rat. In the midfield Tom Breese has blown sides away and he has been well supported by Toby Mason and new signing George Newton.



Up front Max Parsonage has been injured for a large part of the season but upon his return has shown everyone what might have been earlier in the season if he had been available. He has been ably supported by Anton Nelson, Jason Chung and Charlie Tate Harris.





I went to watch the team demolish the Sixth Form College 7-1, with Anton scoring four goals up front in the absence of Max 'sicknote' Parsonage. Sam Mitchell in goal was enjoying his birthday with a fairly relaxed view of proceedings as most of the action was up the other end.



*The Hunt - hurrying to get into a front-row position for the Shrewsbury v Thomas Telford kick-off*

It was certainly a good game to watch from a Shrewsbury perspective after the disappointment of going out of the ESFA cup to Thomas Telford last week. It should be noted that they have seven County players in their team, all of whom had been coached and encouraged by Steve Wilderspin over the past few years; could that be us in a few years time?!

Long-term season ticket holder Edmund Palmer was delighted with what he was seeing. "I am delighted with what I am seeing," he told me. He was cautiously optimistic about our chances of qualifying for Europe next season.

Diehard Shrewsbury School fans Checky Galbraith, Alona Beloussaova and Olivia Cherrington had braved the weather to watch their favourite team. Checky played quite a bit of football before she arrived at Shrewsbury and considers herself to be quite a connoisseur of the game. She told me that she appreciates the new brand of football being played this season.

It was good to see footballing faces from the past such as former 1st XI Coach Robin Trimby enjoying the quality of the football being played by Shrewsbury team.

I sense there will be many more days when the feel-good factor rubs off the pitch and onto the terraces. Shrewsbury School football is in rude health; thanks Steve - and welcome Steve!



## Arthur Yu treats the audience to a virtuoso piano performance in the St Cecilia's concerts

Friday 27 November 2015

*A highlight of the recent St Cecilia's concerts was soloist Arthur Yu, a School House LVI entrant, performing the first movement of Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor.*



From the famous opening sequence to the delicately and sensitively played cadenza, Arthur delighted the audience with his technical precision and engagement with the music. The recital, which was made all the more impressive in light of the fact that he had committed the music entirely to memory, was a marvellous achievement; it not only reflected Arthur's exceptional musicianship and talent, but many hours of dedicated practice.

Compliments are also due to the School Orchestra, which accompanied Arthur most reliably and according to their usual very high standards.

Arthur, who is a post-diploma standard pianist, performed with maturity and composure right up to the final flourishes of the movement. This was an outstanding debut from Arthur and we look forward to seeing him in more performances over the next two years.



## Mental Health Awareness Week

Friday 27 November 2015

*This week has seen the School's first Mental Health Awareness Week, organised by Head of PSHE Anna Peak, who describes what's been going on and the launch of an important new project: the Peer Listening Service.*



The aim of the week was to break the stigmas associated with mental health and to stress the importance of seeking help before things get too tough.

The week kicked off with a fabulous talk to the whole School from [Dick Moore](#), a former headmaster and a champion of teenage mental health. He also ran a parents' event, which was very well received. Many thanks for all the supportive emails from those who attended. The lecture was recorded and will be available for all parents to view via the Parent Portal within the next week.

Events continued throughout the week, including displays in the dining room, library and on the large screen in Hodgson Hall. There were also Tutor-led sessions on Self-esteem and body image for the Fourth Form, and the impact of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after military service for the Fifth Form.

The Lower Sixth received an assembly on Wednesday which gave them information about what to look for in friends who might be struggling with mental health issues and what to do to help them. The inter-House debating on Thursday was led by the motion "This house believes that funding for mental health services should always be protected from government spending cuts." And finally today, Friday, the pupils are relaxed in their home clothes, having given a donation to the charity [Young Minds](#) for the privilege. This will be added to £170 raised from our Cake Sale on Tuesday.

One of the most exciting projects launched this week has been the Peer Listeners Service. Each House has a professional trained Peer Listener amongst its pupil body, whom other pupils can go to for help and support.

These Listeners have trained intensively and completed a formal assessment to fulfil this role, and I am hopeful that the project will have a positive impact and add to the arsenal of Shrewsbury School's support network. More pupils will be trained next term.

ARP

## Basketball team's unbeaten run extends to six matches

Monday 30 November 2015

*Congratulations to the Basketball team (aka 'The Sharks') for extending their unbeaten run to six matches with a 91-46 win over New College, Telford on Wednesday.*

Their busy term has included excellent National Cup wins against St Joseph's College, Stoke-on-Trent and Concord College, as well as wins against Ellesmere College, Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology and Old Swinford Hospital.

Well done to the squad: Gladys Lam (MSH), Aaron Zhao (SH), Wentao He (SH), Adam Leung – captain (M), Harry Zhang (I), Ken Lai (S), Travis Ho (Rt), Felix Leung (Ch), Harry Zhang (SH), Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (SH), Sergey Vartanov (SH) and Eva Zhang (EDH).



## Lacrosse: U15 County selections

Monday 30 November 2015

*Following the U15 Country Trials on Wednesday 25th November, six Shrewsbury School players have been selected for the Shropshire U15A and B teams*

Congratulations to Mimi Ashworth (EDH), who was selected for the Shropshire U15A team; and to Sophia Dixon (MSH), Sophia Breese (EDH), Rosie Davis (EDH), Mary Lees (EDH) and Georgia Kannreuther (MSH), who were selected for the U15B team.



## Old Salopian Fergus Macleod conducts ENO's 'The Mikado'

Monday 30 November 2015

*Former Music Scholar Fergus Macleod (Rt 2001-06) makes his company debut with English National Opera this month, conducting a revival of Jonathan Miller's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera 'The Mikado'. It is being broadcast live from the London Coliseum to cinemas across the UK on 3rd December 2015 as part of ENO Screen. Fergus is also featured in this month's BBC Music Magazine as their 'Rising Star: Great artist of tomorrow'.*



*Photo courtesy of ENO*

Fergus was appointed last year as Mackerras Conducting Fellow at English National Opera. At 28 years old, he is the ENO's youngest conductor since Sir Charles Mackerras himself, who was Director of the ENO from 1970 to 1977.

In a feature article published in *The Scotsman* last year, Fergus described his excitement at being awarded the Fellowship - and the inspiration he had gained from the Music Department at Shrewsbury School.

"There was a really strong music department at Shrewsbury, run by John Moore, who saw no reason why the school orchestra couldn't play Shostakovich 5 or Dvorák 9," Fergus is quoted as recalling.

After leaving Shrewsbury, during which time he had regularly played with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, he went to Cambridge University as a Choral Scholar and found himself conducting within a week of arriving. "It was one of these odd quirks of fate. My director of music at Shrewsbury had been very keen to help me conduct, and I had put on concerts there conducting friends from NYO, so I came to Cambridge having done quite a lot. My college found out about this, and when, in my second week there, someone pulled out of an orchestral concert because they couldn't conduct Stravinsky's *Pulcinella*, I was asked to do it."

Besides taking up every opportunity to conduct during his time in Cambridge, including making his professional conducting debut in 2009 with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Fergus also set up his own contemporary music ensemble. He then went on to study in Zurich with

Johannes Schlaefli before moving to Glasgow to take up the position of Leverhulme Conducting Fellow at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS).

As Mackerras Fellow with ENO, Fergus has been Assistant Conductor for a number of operas over the last year. In an article published on the ENO website, he describes the experience of preparing to conduct his first production with ENO and the work involved in bringing *The Mikado* to the stage: <https://www.eno.org/learn/train/preparing-for-a-new-production-the-mikado>

Set in an English 1930s seaside hotel, Jonathan Miller's Marx Brother's-inspired *Mikado* opened to rave reviews on Saturday 21st November. It will be broadcast live from the London Coliseum to cinemas across the UK on 3rd December 2015 as part of ENO Screen.