



SCIENCE APPEAL the MOMENTUM GROWS



Abingdon's bid to raise £1 million for a new Science Centre has been gathering pace. £850,000 has so far been raised thanks to £500,000 in donations from members of the School community and a planned £350,000 grant from the Mercers' Company upon the commencement of the project. We have just £150,000 left to raise – let's make it a million by March! ■

To read more about the Appeal and how you can make your own contribution see pages 8 and 9.

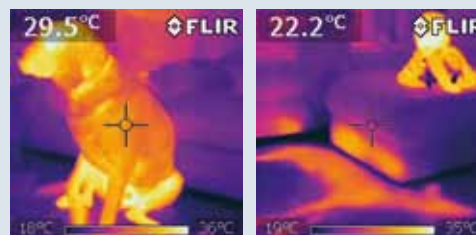
The Attraction of Science

Open Day 2013



The Magic of Science

Dog and no dog: infrared images of Marley and Marley's 'ghost'!



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Staff Profile: Grant Baldwin

Grant Baldwin is the School's Senior Science Technician. He has worked at Abingdon for the last five years where he is part of a team of six technicians who provide support for teaching across all the science subjects.

Grant worked for many years at Harwell Laboratory in the field of environmental research and consultancy. He was involved in a range of projects dealing with hazardous materials in the UK and overseas, including the investigation and clean up of land and buildings contaminated with anthrax, mustard gas and mercury. In the early 1990s he was engaged as an expert witness in a court case where his opinion and technical evidence helped secure a conviction.

During the late 1990s he was a Chemistry Technician at Henry Box School in Witney, before returning to Harwell to supervise a team surveying the site for the environmental legacies left by both the nuclear research programme and the original use of the site by the RAF.

He is married with two daughters, and enjoys cycling, gardening and music. ■

The Skills for Tomorrow

In a world driven by technology, schools needs to give pupils the skills that reflect the world they live in today and which they will work in tomorrow. To this end, Abingdon encourages its pupils in all forms of ICT. Last term all second-years were given iPads as a trial of tablet technology, which judging from the feedback appears to be going very well. In December, the School participated in Computer Science Education Week with its emphasis on computer coding, a skill increasingly in demand by employers and of growing interest among the boys themselves. This is in addition to the Other Half activities that encourage familiarity with software programs, like the ones the boys use to produce The Blazer and The Abingdonian. There is a Robotics Club, where the boys work with Lego Mindstorms robots combining programming with engineering techniques, and a Blogging Club where they learn about the wonderful world of blogging. ■



Using Pages
to produce
The Blazer



Computer
Coding Club



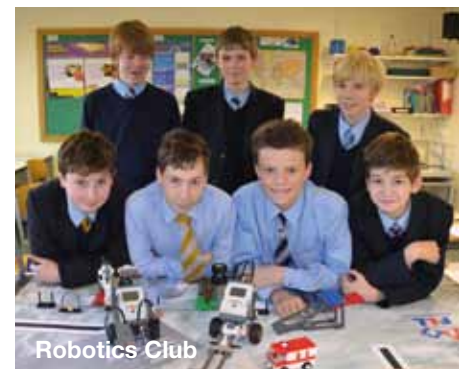
Robotics Club



iPads in RS



iPads in Latin



Robotics Club

Helping to Make a Difference

Abingdonians raise money, and give both time and money to try and help make a difference to people and societies all over the world. The Charity Committee, made up of boys from all year groups, organise a range of fundraising activities. This includes the biennial sponsored walk, which raised just under £32,000 in 2012. The Committee also run the School tuck shop, the profits from which go to charity. Of the money raised, 70% goes to charities selected by the Committee and 30% towards sponsoring fundraising efforts made by Abingdon boys. Last year the money raised was distributed both at home and abroad, for example to Children with Cancer, Age UK, Water Aid, Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, and Aasha, which helps with education and health care in India. ■

Summer Camp in Moldova

Abingdon has been raising money to support Agape, a charity that works with young people in Moldova, since 2000. Every year a group of sixth-formers visit the country to help run a summer camp for disadvantaged Moldovan children. ■



Visiting the DRC School Project which works with the disadvantaged community in Swakopmund, South Africa

Community Service

Volunteers help every week in Abingdon charity shops, care and residential homes, primary schools and the community hospital.

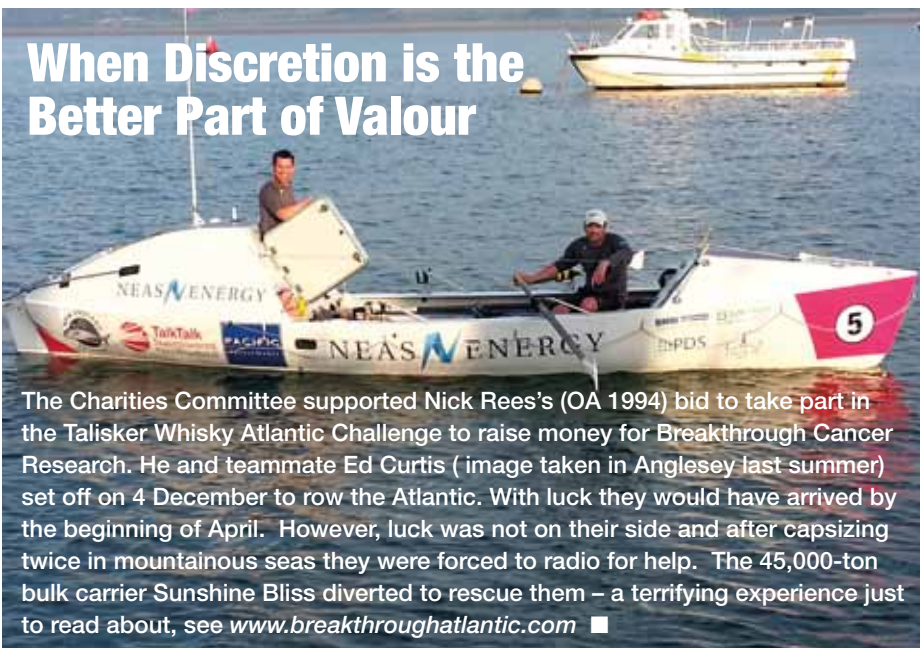


They provide refreshments at the weekly Older and Bolder Club exercise class.



Members of the Older and Bolder Club are among the guests invited to the Community Service Tea Party, which is held at the School every term. ■

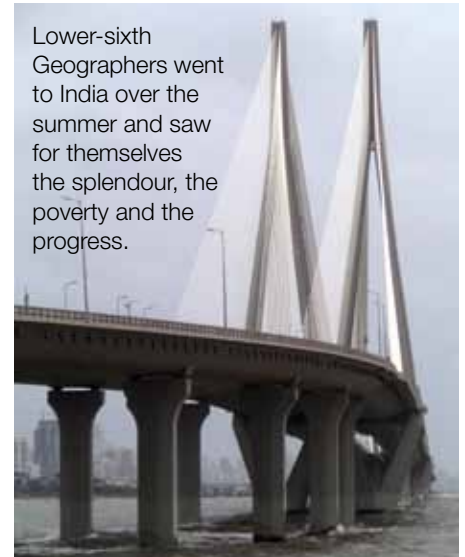
When Discretion is the Better Part of Valour



The Charities Committee supported Nick Rees's (OA 1994) bid to take part in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge to raise money for Breakthrough Cancer Research. He and teammate Ed Curtis (image taken in Anglesey last summer) set off on 4 December to row the Atlantic. With luck they would have arrived by the beginning of April. However, luck was not on their side and after capsizing twice in mountainous seas they were forced to radio for help. The 45,000-ton bulk carrier Sunshine Bliss diverted to rescue them – a terrifying experience just to read about, see www.breakthroughatlantic.com ■

Enriching the Curriculum

“This is a very full academic term with an enormous amount of work to cover. We do feel that it’s important not to be solely classroom based and we are always looking to enrich the curriculum.” *Felicity Lusk, Head’s Letter, October 2013*



Lower-sixth Geographers went to India over the summer and saw for themselves the splendour, the poverty and the progress.



Fifth and sixth-form Classics students visiting the British Museum in October to see the exhibition ‘Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum’, took the time to study the Parthenon sculptures too.

The following month, Classicists from Middle and Upper School went to Sicily to visit the numerous, beautiful classical sites there.



During the second week of half term, Spanish students from St Helen’s and Abingdon spent eight days with their exchange partners in Santiago de Compostela.



The sixth-formers acted as guides to the rest of the group, attracting audiences of other visitors who praised the boys’ presentations.



Fourth year art students visited Tate Modern in October to study and analyse the works of art there at first hand.



A Musical Crescendo

The Christmas concerts, which involve over a fifth of all the boys, brought the musical term to a triumphant conclusion. There were superb solos from Sam Gibb, Jamie Farrow and Sebastian Johns, who received a standing ovation for his performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Earlier in the term, Leon Wu and George Ruck won first and third places in the Celia Walker Memorial Trust Piano Competition, Anthony Brace won a special commendation in the St Catherine's College, Oxford Composition Competition, and Thomas Kelly (singing) and George Burrage (violin) gained their professional performance diplomas. ■



Equus

Ambitious in its aim and triumphant in its achievement was the verdict on *Equus*, last term's joint senior drama production with St Helen's. Staged in the Amey Theatre, with the audience seated both on the stage and in the auditorium, Henry Papworth, as Alan Strang, and Noah Rogers, as Dr Dysart, led the talented cast in a series of searing, visceral performances over the three-night run. Coached by movement director, OA Matt Hawksworth, the cast worked long hours all term to produce what director Alison Quick described as a truly ensemble piece of theatre. ■



'New Views' National Theatre Playwriting Competition

Senior drama students from Abingdon and St Helen's have taken up the challenge of the National Theatre's 'New Views' playwriting competition and are combining workshops from visiting playwrights with online tutorials to write their own scripts for plays, films, theatre, radio or films. The winning plays will be performed at the National Theatre next July. ■



**Bright sparks are just our type.
Write about what switches you on.**
Playwriting competition for ages 15 – 19yrs



Challenging the Elements



Although practicing their canoeing skills for the Bronze D of E award was the purpose of the weekend, the boys found that necessity honed their tent-pitching, fire-making and cooking skills too.



Difficult conditions added to the challenge for those boys who went to the Peak District on a practice Silver D of E expedition in October. However, despite the thick cloud and driving rain everyone managed to make it to the top of Kinder Scout (626m).



At the beginning the weather was kind but by the end the heavy rain made life difficult for the boys practising for their Gold and Silver D of E canoeing awards on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

At the end of a nine-month training programme, fourteen boys successfully completed their qualifying Gold D of E sailing expeditions last November.

They conquered both the physical and mental challenges despite the thick fog, gale force winds and driving rain.



Meanwhile calm seas, steady winds and cloudless skies was the fate of those intrepid Abingdonians who went sailing with in the Aegean over the summer holidays.

Fencing Successes

Abingdon School Fencing Club achieved some excellent results last term epitomized by the selection of two members, Jack Dawson and Ben Schneider, to represent GB in the U17 category in the European Cadet Circuit in Bonn. James Fotherby captained the Southern Region U17 Sabre team at the Cadet Winton Cup, and at the Southern Region Team Championships Abingdon's U16 Epee team won both gold and bronze whilst the U13 Epee won silver. All this in addition to victory in all their inter-school matches.

The U13 Epee team



Rugby

The 1st XV played some tough matches last term, none more so than against Grey High School one of the top three rugby-playing schools in South Africa who were on a UK tour. Although the scoreline indicated the power of the South African side, the 1st XV played with their usual grit and determination and enjoyed the experience of being part of such top-level schoolboy rugby.



Meanwhile a powerful U16A (left) stormed to an unbeaten season, their closest winning margin 8-7 against Eton, their largest 50-12 against St Edward's. ■

Last term's rugby results for all the teams can be found at: www.abingdon.org.uk/rugby_michaelmas_2013

Joshua Valentine

Competing at the first International Karate Union's World Games for U20s, held in Venice in October, Joshua Valentine won bronze in both the Kata (Forms) and Kumite (Sparring) events. ■



Magnus Gregory

At the Olympic Hopes International Kayak-Canoe Regatta, Magnus Gregory won silver in the U15 K1 1000m, and silver again with his teammate Luke Harding in the U16 K2 500m. In a highly competitive field, Magnus and Luke's medals were the highlight of team GB's results. ■



Hal Watts

Fourteen-year-old Hal Watts won a bronze medal in the Men's U16 Plus Platform event at the Luton Challenge, a key event in the UK diving calendar. He beat two of GB's top international divers despite the fact that he was by the far the youngest competitor in the event. ■



Theo Brophy-Clews

Theo Brophy-Clews played for the England U18 squad that beat the Australian U18s 23-3 in their match at Harrow School on 4 December.

Theo, who is a member of London Irish, is one of several Abingdon boys associated with premiership academies: Jamie Pearson – Wasps & Welsh Exiles U18, Michael Dewar – Wasps and Scottish Exiles U18, Kieran Routledge – Gloucester U18, Sam Telling – London Irish U16, Jamie Cox – Wasps U16, Jack Holford – Wasps U16. ■



Abingdon School Science Centre

£850,000 raised – £150,000 to go

Dear Abingdon School Community,

This term, we launch the final phase of Abingdon School's Science Centre Appeal. Our goal is to raise £1 million for a fabulous new Science Centre, and already we have raised £850,000. We have made a great start, and there are many individuals and organisations to thank.

More than 130 Old Abingdonians, current and former parents, governors and staff have collectively donated £500,000, including sponsorship of laboratories, project rooms, study areas, prep rooms, and window seats. Continuing many decades of generous support, The Mercers' Company plan to make a donation of £350,000 on the successful commencement of this crucial project.

However, we still have £150,000 to raise by March, and need community-wide support. If you are an OA, a current or former parent, or a friend of the School (and have not yet made a donation to the Appeal), you now have your chance. Please use the donation form (right), look out for a mailing soon or visit www.abingdon.org.uk/appeal.

Help us secure the future of science for Abingdon School by donating to our Science Centre Appeal. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Adrian Burn,
Chairman of Governors

Felicity Lusk,
Head

Jon Gabitass,
Appeal Chairman

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The Challenge

Abingdon is an outstanding school, widely regarded for developing well-rounded boys. For many years, local and international families have sought an Abingdon education for just this reason. As such, Abingdon's roll has grown gradually, which has required periodic investment in new facilities. Mercers' Court opened twenty years ago, the Arts Centre ten years ago, and the Sports Centre five years ago. We now need new science facilities.

Biology, Chemistry and Physics are among our most popular A-level subjects. Yet, current science facilities, which date from the 1950s and 60s, are increasingly aging and inadequate. Already, we have outgrown our permanent laboratories, necessitating the use of additional temporary laboratories in a rented modular building. By September 2015, we will require even more laboratories. And, at about the same time, several other subjects will need more space, too.

The Solution

Facing this dilemma, the Board of Governors took the decision to invest in a new, modern, purpose-built Science Centre, and to then redevelop the existing science block for use by other subjects, such as Classics, Geography, History and Religious Studies.

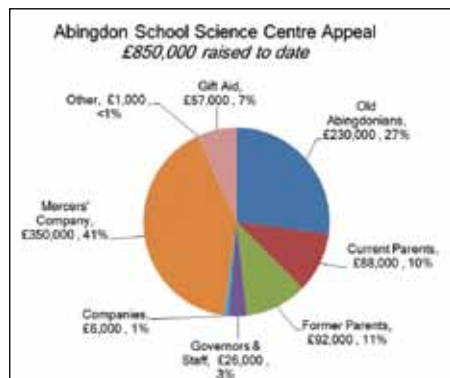
Hopkins Architects has designed what will be a beautiful, functional and inspiring Science Centre that will meet our needs now and well into the future. The Science Centre will be located on the northwest corner of campus, and will have three floors, one per subject, each featuring:

- Seven laboratories
- Project room
- Sixth form study area
- Technician's preparation room
- Open-plan study spaces
- Large subject display areas
- Staff offices

There will also be a **greenhouse** and long **ecology pond**.

The Appeal

We have so far raised £850,000 towards our £1 million Science Centre Appeal goal.



Help us make it a million by March! We are counting on your donation to raise a further £150,000. Donations are welcome in any amount, and every donation is valued, whatever its size.

There are a variety of ways to donate, and to be recognised for your donation, if you so choose. You can also honour or memorialise an Abingdon School science teacher with your donation. For those interested in making a major gift to the Appeal, there are sponsorship opportunities for donations of £5,000 or more. Full details online at:

www.abingdon.org.uk/appeal

Supporting an important fundraising appeal like this one can be very rewarding. A new Science Centre will enable Abingdon's teachers to deliver an even better science education for Abingdon boys. Other subjects will benefit too, when the current science block is redeveloped for alternative uses.

Of course, if you are a parent of a boy in Year 1 to Year 5, your son will benefit from the Science Centre the day it opens. And, if you are a parent of an older boy, or even a parent of a recent leaver, this is your chance to fund a facility for future generations of Abingdon boys in the same way that your son enjoyed facilities that were funded by previous generations of parents. Such is the nature of giving within a School community.



How to Give

Donate online with a debit or credit card at

www.abingdon.org.uk/donation

or complete and return the form below.

Please Gift Aid your donation (if you are eligible), making your donation worth 25% more, at no cost to you.

You will find a range of further information online, including:

- Video showing 3D animated fly-over of the Science Centre
- Ways donors can be recognised for supporting the Appeal
- Sponsorship opportunities for donations of £5,000 or more
- Tax relief information for donors who are UK tax payers
- Guidance on giving gifts of shares – the most tax-effective way to give
- List of donors to the Science Centre Appeal

For more information, contact Michael Triff, Director of Philanthropy

philanthropy@abingdon.org.uk / 01235 849129



Donation Form

Full name: _____

Home address (inc. postcode): _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Please tick one:

- One-time donation (please pay by cheque or bank transfer)
- Recurring donation every: week month quarter year until _____ (dd/mm/yy)
(please pay by Standing Order)

Please tick one:

- Please recognise me for my donation as: _____ (e.g. Mr John W. Smith)
- I wish for my donation to be anonymous

Payment Method

- Cheque (payable to the 'Abingdon School Foundation')
- Bank Transfer or Standing Order
Bank: Natwest, 11 Market Place, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3HH
Account Name: Abingdon School Foundation
Account Number: 96571330 Sort Code: 60-01-01
- Add to my next School Bill (for Current Parents only)

Gift Aid

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I further understand that if I pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief, I must include all my Gift Aid donations on my Self-Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust my tax code. Until I notify you otherwise, I want to be treated as Gift Aid:

- this donation only
- this donation and other donations I've made during the current and last four financial years
- this donation, other donations I've made during the current and last four financial years, and all future donations

Print name of tax payer: _____

Signature of tax payer: _____

Gift Aid repayments from HMRC will be used for the same purpose as the donation on which the Gift Aid is collected. Please notify the Philanthropy Office if you wish to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax to Gift Aid donations.

Honour or Memorialise a Science Teacher with your Donation

My donation is made: in honour of / in memory of _____

Corporate Matched Giving

- My company operates a matched giving scheme. I will notify them of my donation, so it may be matched.

Please post this form to Philanthropy Office, Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon OX14 1DE



Bushcraft

Years 6 and 8 both enjoyed bushcraft camps with Year 6 learning to build shelters and fires and putting their new skills to a successful overnight test. Year 8 returned to Studland where they could also visit sites relevant to their history and geography studies including Corfe Castle and Studland Bay. Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the record haul of mackerel (261 and counting) which was hooked off Swanage. Friday evening's supper of battered mackerel and chips, followed by additional grilled mackerel, was a memorable feast! ■



Persuasive debating

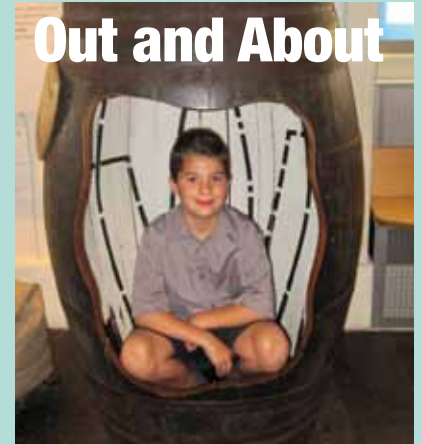
In December the Middle and Senior sections of the School held their inaugural public speaking competition. The Middle Section (Years 5 and 6) discussed what they would do if they were Prime Minister. Among the recommendations were a total ban on smoking and more funding for libraries but the winner was Freddie Stacey from Year 6, who advocated a significant increase in cycle ways. The Senior Section's debate was on vegetarianism and the competition winner was Rory Baker for his persuasive delivery on the merits of pursuing a vegetarian diet. ■



Pre-prep enrichment

Wednesday afternoon is one of the boys' favourite times of the week in Years 1 and 2 as they explore topics not normally covered in the curriculum. Running alongside the recently introduced Forest School program, on alternate weeks, the boys can try Touch Typing, Construction and Movers and Groovers. Touch Typing develops keyboard confidence, Construction uses a range of material, from Lego and wooden blocks to train sets, to encourage problem solving and Movers and Groovers explores rhythm and pace as well as experimenting with musical instruments. ■

Out and About



Year 5 have been learning about Nelson's navy and thoroughly enjoyed seeing it come to life through HMS Victory complete with a recreation of the Battle of Trafalgar, gruesome details of surgical procedures on the Orlop and exploring the lives of midshipmen and ships' boys.

Year 6, sketchbooks in hand, headed off to the Pitt Rivers Museum to study the wonderful eclectic array of objects from around the world. The boys explored the different floors of the museum sketching objects, the most popular of which were the weapons!

Year 6 also stepped back in time, almost 2000 years, to experience what life was like in Roman Britain by visiting Chedworth Roman Villa. After handling and sorting artefacts, ranging from bones and shells to building materials, the boys took a tour of the remains. These included the bath house, the impressive floor decorations in the dining room and perhaps the most memorable, a tour of the latrines. Ben Reed and Tom Anderson were rewarded for bringing the most 'Romanised' packed lunch, choosing two books on a Roman theme for the school library. ■





Abingdon Prep Pups

The inter-house 2p challenge, which raised money for this year's charity Abingdon Prep Pups, pitted the houses against each other to see who could lay the longest trail of 2p pieces. Griffin took an early lead in the first lesson but the other houses clawed their way back. At the final count, the difference between first and second place was only 1.5 metres! Congratulations to Dragon house who were victorious with a line of coins 107.5 metres long. ■

Wind, Brass & Percussion Workshop

Eleven boys from Years 5-8 enjoyed the annual wind, brass and percussion workshop at Radley College. 70 pupils from six prep schools joined together for a full day of rehearsals, culminating in a concert for parents. Being a rare and somewhat endangered species, it was wonderful to see amongst the musicians a group of five bassoonists all playing together and all on full-sized instruments! ■



Printing with the Invitation Art Group

The invitation art group enjoyed an interesting printing workshop looking at insects. The boys chose their specimen, drew it and shaded it in before scratching the picture onto a perspex template for inking and printing. ■



Sporting Success



It has been a very successful rugby term with excellent results across all age groups. The 1st XV were unbeaten (outside of tournaments) and thoroughly enjoyed their tour to Jersey. Matthew Wiblin was selected for the Oxfordshire Alliance Squad and Gus Miller has again been invited to play for the South East Independent School Barbarian U12s.

Following the Oxfordshire Cricket Board District Assessments, four boys were selected for the Oxfordshire County Squad and 14 boys were selected for District Squads and the Winter Coaching Programme 2014. ■



Cross-country is gaining popularity within the school and several pupils combine running with swimming to compete as biathletes with four boys qualifying for the British Biathlon Championships in Birmingham. We look forward to seeing if they qualify for the British Schools Biathlon Championships in April. ■

Helping ASPA

ASPA is run by parents for parents and provides useful networking as well as social opportunities. It is responsible for the running of the second hand uniform shop and the car share scheme. We are always on the look out for more helpers so if you could spare an occasional couple of hours to help please contact the ASPA Secretary at

aspa@abingdon.org.uk

The next ASPA meeting is on Monday 13 January 2014. Anyone is welcome to attend. ■



Italian Sparkle

In October, over 160 third-year parents gathered in the Charles Maude Room for a bit of Italian sparkle, followed by an Italian buffet in a dining room awash in red, white and green. With such high numbers in attendance, parents sat at large tables, organised by Houses. After dinner, Anne-Marie and Rosalinda led the traditional Italian game of Testa y Croce (commonly known in the UK as Heads & Tails) – excellent entertainment with a nail biting finish. Five finalists had to battle it out to the end, the winning parent being awarded a bottle of Prosecco.

The mood on the night was fantastic and the event was a real success. ASPA would like to thank all the parents who attended for their participation with special thanks to Jess Green, a third-year parent, for her kind donation of the flowers and a very big thanks to Peter, John, Becky and the rest of the catering team. ■

Book Now for ASPA's Quiz and Curry Evening

This perennial favourite of the ASPA calendar will be held in the Sports Centre Hospitality Suite on Friday 7 February but you'll need to book by 24 January.

Tickets cost £15 a person (cash bar available) and include a curry supper to be served half way through the evening. You can make up a team (table) for 8 people or ask to be allocated to a team. ■

Booking form – www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

Tony Barnard

In September, Tony Barnard, the Shop Manager, left the School when the School Shop closed. He was presented with a token of thanks from Margot Scholey (Chair) and Su Wilmot (Secretary) on behalf of ASPA. Virtually every parent and boy will have come into contact with Tony over the years for uniform and other essentials, and he will be sorely missed. We wish Tony all the very best for the future. ■

Lower School Parents' Supper

Whilst your sons are at the Joint Lower School Disco with the girls from St Helen's, come and have supper with other Lower School parents in Abingdon's Charles Maude Room. Tickets are £15 (cash bar available). The event is timed to start at 7 pm, after you've dropped your son, and to finish at 10 pm in time to pick him up. ■

Booking form – www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

2014 Events include:

14 February

Lower School Parents' Dinner

Charles Maude Room
7 – 10 pm Tickets £15

7 February

Quiz and Curry Evening

Hospitality Suite, Sports Hall
7 for 7.30 pm

16 May

ASPA All-School Dinner at Eynsham Hall

This event is already sold out, but you are welcome to request your name be placed on the reserve list.

New site for Second-Hand Uniform Shop

The shop has moved to a portacabin between Big School and The Crescent.

The Second-hand Uniform Shop (SUS) provides a means for parents to buy good condition, second-hand Abingdon School uniform. The shop is open most Saturdays and Wednesdays during term time. If you have a few spare hours we'd love some help – please contact:

aspa@abingdon.org.uk

Opening times - Lent term 2014:

Wednesdays 12.15-13.15

Saturdays 11.00-12.00

January

Weds 15 / 22 / 29 Sat 11 / 18 / 25

February

Weds 5 / 12 Sat 1 / 8

March

Weds 5 / 12 / 19 / 22 Sat 1 / 15

www.abingdon.org.uk/sus

www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

What's On

Music

Thursday 16 January

Piano Masterclass with Ben Schoeman, one of South Africa's leading pianists

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Admission free

Thursday 23 January

Music Scholars' Concert No. 3

7 pm: Charles Maude Room

Admission free

Tuesday 28 January

School Organists' Recital

5 pm: School Chapel

Thursday 30 January

New Year Charity Concert

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions) £16 family ticket

Wednesday 5 February

Chilingirian String Quartet Concert

The world famous quartet will give a concert following their afternoon workshop at the School – Schubert *Quartettsatz in C Minor*, Beethoven *Rasumovsky Quartet Op 59 No 2 in E Minor*, Schubert – *Quartet No 14 in D Minor Death and the Maiden*

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Tickets: £13 (adults), £7 (students) £30 (family)

Tuesday 25 February

The Chapel Choir will sing *Evensong* in New College

6.15 pm: New College Chapel

Wednesday 26 February

Chamber Music Evening

7 pm: Charles Maude Room

Admission free

Wednesday 5 March

Ash Wednesday

The Chapel Choir will sing Eucharist at St Helen's Church

7 pm: St Helen's Church, Abingdon

Thursday 6 March

Music Scholars' Concert No. 4

7 pm: Charles Maude Room

Admission free

Friday 14 March

Singers' Platform

7 pm: Charles Maude Room

Admission free

Thursday 20 March

Choral Concert

Chapel Choir, Abingdon Academicals, Abingdon Voices, Joint Chamber Choir

6 pm: Abingdon School Chapel

Tuesday 18 March

Senior Recital Evening

7 pm: Charles Maude Room

Admission free

Drama

Thursday 16, Friday 17 January

The Joint Senior Drama Production

Bull by Mike Bartlett, OA, a short, slick and emotionally unflinching look at the water-cooler politics of the modern office

7 pm: St Helen's

Tuesday 28, Wednesday 29 January

Third-year Dram Production

Biggles Flies a Fokker Home

A spot-on spoof of WJ John's Biggles' novels by Dougie Blaxland

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Wednesday 5 and Friday 7 February

Joint Senior Drama Production

Guys and Dolls

Frank Loesser's ever-popular 1950 musical

7 pm: Yolande Patterson Hall, St Helen's

To book music and drama events:

Online: www.abingdon-booking.info

Telephone: 01235 849063

Email: arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk

Talks

Thursday 16 January

History Society Lecture

Professor Gary Sheffield, *2014 and the Commemoration of World War 1*

4 pm: Charles Maude Room

Friday 24 January

Joint Sixth-form Economics Society Lecture

Brian Hodgkinson, author of *A New Model of the Economy*

4 pm: Duffield Library, St Helen's

Tuesday 4 February

Royse Society Lecture

Stephen Clarke

5.30 pm: Charles Maude Room

Friday 7 March

History Society Lecture

Nicholas Kinloch, *The Treaty of Versailles and World War Two*

5.30 pm: Charles Maude Room

Monday 10 March

Classics Society

Dr Ed Bispham, Brasenose College, *Augustus*

6.30 pm: Charles Maude Room

Events

Friday 7 February

ASPAs Quiz & Curry Night

7 for 7.30 pm: Sports Centre Hospitality Suite

Tickets: £15 a person

Booking form: www.abingdon.org.uk/aspas

Friday 14 February

ASPAs Lower School Parents' Supper

£15 a person

Booking form: www.abingdon.org.uk/aspas

Friday 21 March

ATOM! Oxfordshire Science Festival 2014

Professor Jim Al-Khalili

What is the link between birds finding their way from Africa to Abingdon, our sense of smell, and mutations in DNA that may lead to cancer? The exciting new field of Quantum Biology may provide the answers. Jim Al-Khalili is one of a growing number of scientists investigating how what Einstein called spooky action at a distance - the mysteries of quantum mechanics - may control the workings of the wet warm biological world. Is life itself a quantum effect?

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Tickets: www.oxscifest.com

Check details of all these events on the calendar at:
www.abingdon.org.uk

Memories of Science at Abingdon School

Asked for memories of their science lessons at Abingdon, OAs responded in their hundreds. Here is a small selection of their replies. If you would like to read more go to www.abingdon.org.uk/science_snippets



Joe Talbot

Joe Talbot's weekly 50-question test on a Friday morning in the 4th form. It was quick fire stuff, and the one-word answers were written on strips of quarto paper. Completed papers were exchanged, answers given, and positions in the lab changed to correspond with the results, and to be carried through to the next week. Fearful stuff on the day, but firm foundations laid throughout!

Nick Bell OA 1966



Mervyn Gray

During WW2, we were going to study the preparation and properties of Chlorine gas. Mr Gray told us to bring in our gas masks and during the experiment we put our heads in the fume cupboard. As a result, my ginger hair was bleached several shades lighter, but only temporarily, unlike my father in WW1, whose chest was affected for the rest of his life.

Rodney Deval OA 1945

Chemistry with Mr Coleman: "Bowman, five minutes in the fume cupboard..."

(A threat never carried out)

Phil Bowman OA 1990



John Horrex

Double Physics. John Horrex lugged his huge Ferrograph tape recorder onto the demonstration bench. "Something special on the BBC 3rd Programme last night." It was the first broadcast of Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas. I still quote phrases that I vividly remember from that amazing experience of real education.

Peter Willis OA 1961



Bill Potter

I remember Biology with Joe Talbot and Bill Potter vividly. Beautiful chalk drawings on the board and three essays per week for A level. And who could forget Mr Gray's unique Chemistry classes. I am still enjoying my career in microbiology 45 years on, now as a Professor at Aberdeen University.

Harry James Flint OA 1968



Freddie Sewry

I wasn't much of a scientist, but I enjoyed Chemistry with Mr Sewry, one of the kindest men I have ever met and a fine gentleman. When paper was handed out for a test, one boy requested a second sheet. Mr Sewry responded irritably: "Seventeen sheets of paper for seventeen boys! Who's taken two?"

John Howard Walker OA 1969



Brian Woolnough

Wooly Woolnough's Wonder Weapons! Fantastic demonstrations of electromotive force, with bits of wire flying across the room. Great for capturing our attention. And looking at Saturn through the reflector telescope on the (then flat) Science Block roof.

I now have a reflector of my own!

Hereward Tresidder OA 1972

Tom Ayling ... teaching the A Level chemistry set, had to take to his bed with a bad back. But the show went on, and I remember the class going to his home and sitting around his bedside where he led a revision session.

Rob Jones OA 1987



The legendary Dr Gunn and his Land Rover of destruction ferrying in fresh fauna for dissection, a very real and grounded education.

Tom Sykes OA 2002

Forthcoming Events 2014 – www.oaclub.org.uk

Lent term

Monday 17 March

Abingdon School Road Relay 2.45 pm

OA teams welcome
(four OAs per team)

oa.club@abingdon.org.uk

Wednesday 26 March

London Dinner, National Liberal Club

For OAs living / working in or visiting London.



Friday 28 March

Hockey: 1st XI v OAs

4.00 pm, Tilsley Park, Abingdon

steve.brenchley@abingdon.org.uk

Michaelmas term

Monday 29 September TBC

Hong Kong Reception

A reception for OAs, current and former parents and friends of the School.

Saturday 27 September

Abingdon School Open Day

Summer term

Monday 21 April

Gerald Smithson Memorial Cricket Event

1.00 pm, Abingdon School

Two OA sides to play a 20/20 match

plus a 40 over match between the

current 1st XI and recent leavers XI.

Food and drink provided for players.

If you are interested in playing, email

oa.club@abingdon.org.uk



Friday 9 May

OA 50s/60s Event - London Weekend

Richard Leathem (1964) invites 50s/60s OAs to a guided tour of the Temple (including Da Vinci code crusader tombs), Lincoln's Inn, the Royal Courts of Justice and a fine old ale house followed by a memorable dinner and optional hotel and theatre extension. Please email your interest to Richard. leathem@btinternet.com

Tuesday 13 May

OA Golf Day, Frilford Heath Golf Club

OA golfers of all ages and levels are welcome.

Coordinated by David Blomley (1976)

d.blomley@btinternet.com

Saturday 7 June

Year Group Reunions

Abingdon School

Reunions for 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959,

1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989,

1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009 leavers.

Tours of the School and a drinks

reception will be followed by a buffet

dinner. There is no charge for this event.

Friday 27 June

Tennis

Tennis club in London, Venue TBC

5.00 – 8.00 pm followed by refreshments.

For OAs who played tennis at Abingdon

and current pupils.

Friday 4 July

Henley Royal Regatta

If Abingdon are still in the draw, OAs and parents are invited for strawberries and Pimm's during the afternoon tea break at the FASBC tent in Henley Cricket Club Car Park.



The Reverend Edmund Newey

The Reverend Canon Edmund Newey, OA 1990, was installed as Sub-Dean of Christ Church, Oxford on 3 August last year.

Edmund read Modern Languages at Lincoln College, Oxford and taught German and French before training for the priesthood. He read Theology at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and became a parish priest. He studied for a doctorate which was published in 2012 as *Children of God: The Child as a Source of Theological Anthropology*. At Christ Church he oversees the life of the cathedral on behalf of the Dean. ■



OAs in University Challenge

It was OA against OAs on 7 October when John Morgan, OA 2008, of Downing College Cambridge, met Tom Finch, OA 2010, and Tom Salt, OA 2012, of St John's College, Oxford in the penultimate first round of this season's University Challenge. Downing College beat St John's 260 to 115. ■



Jamie Cook



The inaugural Parmegiani Spirit Award, which recognises those who use their rowing skills to put something back into the community, has been won by Jamie Cook, OA 2010, captain of the University of London Boat Club. Jamie has been raising money from rowing ever since he rowed across the Channel with his brother when they were both still at school. This summer he plans to raise money for Village Water by rowing the 250km length of Lake Kariba along the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe. His brother Oli, 2008, is a member of the GB rowing squad. ■

Sir Paul Clarke KCVO

Sir Paul Clarke, OA 1971, has recently been knighted for his services to the Crown. CEO of the Duchy of Lancaster for the past 13 years, he led the executive team responsible for managing the Queen's portfolio of land, property and assets. ■



The Ambassadors



David Mitchell, OA 1992, stars as Keith Davis, the British Ambassador to the Central Asian country of Tazbekistan, in BBC2's *Ambassadors*. In episode 2, *The Prince's Trousers*, he was joined by Tom Hollander, OA 1984, as Prince Mark of Bath, a British trade envoy. Co-starring Robert Webb, the *Peep Show* pair's depiction of life inside a British embassy is, according to insiders, remarkably accurate in both its humorous and political observations. ■

Jasmine's Revolution

Sam Johnson's, OA 2006, first film, *Jasmine's Revolution*, was shown at the 57th BFI London Film Festival on 15 October, the UK's largest and most prestigious film festival. Sam, a former member of the AFU, is also a member of the Loose Limbed Collective, a trio of OA filmmakers currently working on a project exploring and repurposing Abingdon's considerable film archive. ■

