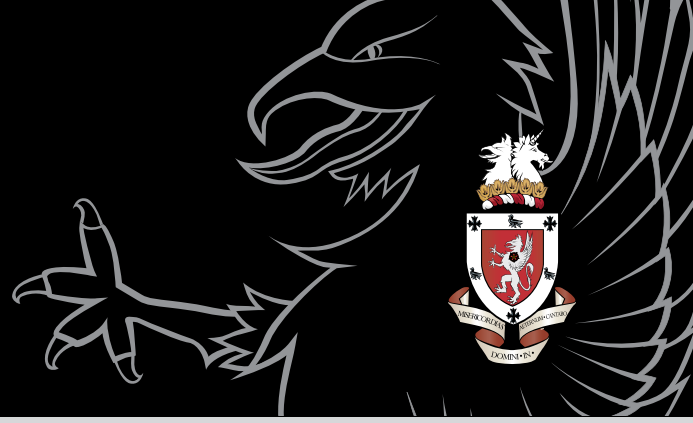


# AbingdonNews

The Newsletter of the Abingdon Foundation Schools



# TOP MARKS!

Abingdon's 2007 A level and GCSE candidates can congratulate themselves on achieving the School's best ever results: 73% of A level passes were at Grade A and 75.7% of those at GCSE were at A\* or A. These are wonderful results especially as many of these same boys have been competing, performing and taking part at the highest level in a wealth of non-academic activities whilst working for their exams.

## Ruling the Waves

Ollie Cook and his brother, Jamie, arrive in Cap Griz Nez four and a half hours after leaving Dover having rowed across one of the busiest shipping channels in the world. Strong winds and high waves had twice postponed the expedition but on 10 June, despite an early mist, the brothers got underway. Their sponsored row raised nearly £6,000 for research into Motor Neurone disease from which their grandfather died ten years ago.



The A level results place the School 29th in *The Times* independent schools' exam league table, the highest performing boys' school in Oxfordshire. Among the School's star performers were nine boys who achieved five A levels at Grade A whilst Anthony Chan achieved seven. Last year only fourteen candidates in the whole country achieved this. At GCSE, two boys were awarded ten A\*s whilst one, Timothy Deeks, was awarded eleven.



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## Good-bye!



An era came to an end in the Chemistry Department last term when two members of staff, who between them have spent 71 years at the School, retired. Richard Coleman owed his appointment to James Cobban, headmaster 1947-1970, whereas three years later it was Eric Anderson, headmaster 1970-1975, who appointed Tom Ayling as head of the department; he was appointed Second Master of the School in 1991.

## Moldovan Visit

It is usually Abingdon that goes to Moldova over the summer holidays but this year a small party of fourteen Moldovan children came to Abingdon. They stayed in Waste Court, took lessons in the classrooms and made a number of visits to places of interest. Abingdon has had links with Moldova, through the charity AGAPE, since 2000 and has raised more than £25,000 in an effort to help young Moldovans raise their country from its position as one of the poorest in Europe.



## Olympiad Champions

Recent successes at the British Physics and Mathematical Olympiads have seen a gold medal awarded for physics at GCSE level to Ian Houlsby and one at A level to Clive So, the latter award confirms Clive as one of the top fifty physicists of his age group. Geoff Pennington, third in his age group at the Mathematical Olympiad, has been invited to attend a summer school for especially gifted mathematicians.



Clive So

## Experiencing the Past

### Civil War Weapons

Pikes were awkward and unwieldy weapons as these First and Second Year boys in the History Club discovered when they attempted to reconstruct a Civil War encounter between pikemen. Even though their pikes, at 8 feet, were only half the usual length and about a third the thickness, the boys could appreciate how effective these weapons could be against horsemen.



### First World War Battlefields

Another war, two centuries later, was brought to life for these Third and Fourth Year boys when they visited the battlefields of Ypres and the Somme over the Easter holidays. Through a series of briefings, held at a number of significant locations, the boys were able to appreciate the reality of this terrible warfare.

## Shadowing the Carnegie

Pupils from Abingdon's six secondary schools judged for themselves which of the shortlisted books should win the prestigious Carnegie Medal for children's fiction. At their joint convention, held at John Mason School, they chose *A Swift Pure Cry* by Siobhan Dowd. In the event, the London judges chose *Just in Case* by Meg Rosoff.







## Ten Tors

The event itself is quite enough of a challenge – a two-day totally self-sufficient 35, 45 or 55 mile hike, depending on age, across Dartmoor between ten nominated tors – without the weather joining in. This year it was the weather that won and after weeks and months of training the appalling conditions forced the abandonment of the event after 24 hours.

## Adventure Trips

### Osmington Bay

A group of fifty-three First-year boys enjoyed five days of teambuilding and problem-solving activities at Osmington Bay in Dorset over the Easter holidays. Among the activities were abseiling, quad-biking, the high ropes and the zip-wire.

### Plas Pencelli

Forty Second-year boys enjoyed an adventurous week at the outdoor education centre near Brecon in April, canoeing, caving, gorge scrambling and walking in the Black Mountains.



## London Olympics

When Upper VI Geographers visited the London Borough of Newnham last term they saw for themselves the massive urban regeneration project that is transforming the area in readiness for the 2012 London Olympics. Whilst it is certain that the region will be changed beyond recognition, what the Geographers have tried to assess is whether or not this regeneration will be sustainable.



## Community Tea Party

The community service tea party at the end of every term sees Abingdon boys offer hospitality to many of the people they visit during the term. On Tuesday 26 June, the boys hosted eighty guests to a strawberry tea and entertained them with a quiz and a raffle.



## Covered in Love at the Edinburgh Fringe



Drama students from Abingdon and St Helen's took one of their own devised pieces, *Covered in Love*, to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. Since 2000, this is the fifth time that the schools' students have taken a show to Edinburgh but it's the first time that it has been an original production.



*Gravel and Stones*, Ed Hoffman and Ben Hollins

## Summer Concerts

The photographs show:

Arjun Kingdon playing Saint-Saens Violin Concerto at the Summer Orchestral Concert last term, one of a series of concerts which for some, including Arjun, marked the end of their musical careers at the School. Arjun is a member of the Griffen Ensemble, a highly professional group of musicians, who all left last term.



The Brass Band and Big Band, playing on a riverboat, took part in Open River Day on 7 May, the opening event in the summer-long Oxford Inspires Festival, which has been celebrating 1,000 years of Oxfordshire.



On a beautiful summer evening, a party of musicians and parents took a musical cruise down the River Thames from Abingdon to Radley. The event provided an opportunity to say farewell not only to Richard Elliott but also to a distinguished group of sixth-form music scholars.



## Film Unit's Annual Screenings

Film and television professionals were among a large and appreciative audience who, on 16 May, watched the screening of last year's crop of films made by members of the Film Unit. Among the films were five documentaries, one fiction, one sitcom and eight animations, together with an extract from the documentary on Cambodia '*Gravel and Stones*' which will be premiered at the National Film Theatre on 16 November.



*Sunflower*, Edmund Perou

## Art – at the Summer Exhibitions

Examination students' art was on display at a series of exhibitions in the Arts Centre last term. Shown here from left to right: Joshua Ogle in the sculpture garden with his cut-out wooden sculpture; Kemble Woodley with his landscape paintings and Richard Worth with his hanging sculpture.





## Cricket

In a successful cricket season, the 2nds, 3rds, U14Bs and U14Cs were all undefeated. The U15s beat both Radley and MCS to become county champions whilst the U14s won the Lord's Taverners' Colts County Championship for the third year in succession.

### 1st XI Results

W Abingdon 215-8  
Eton 213 all out

W Abingdon 32-0  
Pangbourne 31 all out

L The Oratory 229 all out  
Abingdon 133 all out

Bloxham  
rain stopped play

W Abingdon 178 all out  
St Edward's 158 all out

L MCS 100-6  
Abingdon 99 all out



Josh Smith

## Rowing



The J16 VIII, who beat King's School, Chester in the final at the Junior Inter-Regional Championship at Nottingham on 21 April.



Ryan Bucke, Alex Freeland, Max Wood and Matthew Rossiter with cox Max Gander, who won the Hedsor Cup for Coxed IVs at the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham.

### Henley Royal Regatta

The 1st VIII, who were seeded in the Princess Elizabeth Cup, beat Kingston Grammar School in the first round and King's School, Chester in the second before being knocked out by the eventual winners, Shrewsbury. The 2nd VIII qualified for the Temple Challenge Cup but were defeated by Leeds University in the first round.



Andrew Bell

## Tennis

### 1st XI Results

L Radley 6.5 Abingdon 2.5

D Shrewsbury 4.5 Abingdon 4.5

W Abingdon 6.5 St Edward's 0.5

W Abingdon 7 Eton 5

W Abingdon 6 MCS 3

L Stowe 6 Abingdon 3

W Abingdon 4 Wellington 1

L Marlborough 6 Abingdon 3

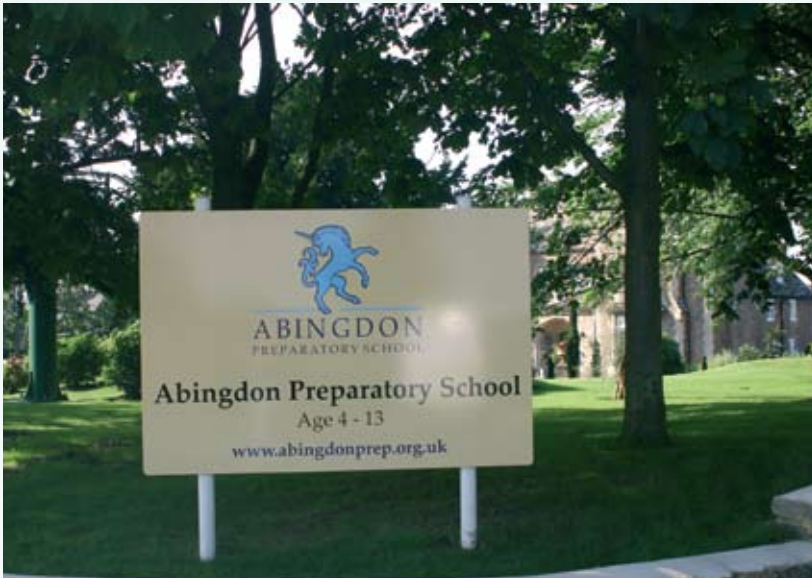
L Bradfield 7 Abingdon 2

## Athletics

The revived Athletics Club ended the season with two county champions in its midst – Tom Foxon and Michael Summers. The Club managed to enter three teams in competitions at Radley, where Tom Foxon set a School Junior Javelin record, and Harrow, where Alex Muir set a School 800m record. Following an exceptionally rainy competition at Marlborough, Alex Muir now holds the Inter-School record for the 400m, 800m and 1,500m.



## A New Name for a New Era



September 2007 heralds a new era for the School as the building development is completed and it takes on the title, Abingdon Preparatory School. The name Josca's remains an important part of the Prep School and will be retained by the Josca's Old Boys Association and the main school building, which will be known as Josca's House.

The Preparatory School's new facilities include a sports hall, changing rooms, classrooms and an art room. The development cost around £3 million and will enable the School to expand to take 250 pupils. The new buildings will be formally opened on Saturday 29th September.



Cricket nets in the new sports hall

## The Excitement of Science

The University of Oxford saw four boys from Year 8 come second in the University Challenge section of the Salters' Festival of Chemistry Competition on 12 June. Such success reflects the huge enthusiasm for Science that there is at the School, as can be seen by the enjoyment the Pre-Prep Department got from a visit by The Oxford Trust on Discovering Materials who showed them how to make, amongst other things, balloon rockets, marble mazes and slime.



## A Musical Summer

Among the seven hundred musicians taking part in the Festival Concert, South Parks, Oxford on 13 May, were a Year 7 group who formed part of a 250-strong choir of children from schools across Oxfordshire. They performed John Mole's *Circus Songs*, set to music for the occasion by John Madden.

Music by composers from around the world, including some by Abingdon Prep's own talented staff, was performed at the School's Summer Concert in which over 170 pupils played an active part.





## Summer Away-Days

A visit to the American Museum in Bath was just one of a number of day and residential trips made by the School last term. Other visits took place to the Roald Dahl Museum; Warwick Castle; the Botanical Gardens, Oxford; Cotswold Wildlife Park; Christ Church Cathedral; The Living Rainforest; Chedworth Roman Villa; Sulgrave Manor; Roves Farm and Hooke Court.



Year 6 spent two nights at Hooke Court in Dorset

## Common Entrance Success

Abingdon Prep's Year 8 pupils achieved the highest grades ever attained by the School in Common Entrance examinations this year. All boys who applied to Abingdon were awarded either a place or a scholarship including the Young and Summers Scholarship. All twenty-nine pupils who sat Common Entrance gained places at their target schools and scholarships to four other leading independent schools were also won.



## National Prep Schools' Art Exhibition

A seascape by Michael Bicarregui, Year 6, is the first piece of art to have been submitted by Abingdon Preparatory School to the annual SATIPS Art Exhibition, which was held this year at Bute House Preparatory School, Hammersmith. The exhibition was opened by the wild life artist, David Shepherd.



## Cricketing Triumphs

Despite losing an unusually high number of games to the weather, this cricket season goes down as one of the most successful. Captain Will Bibby led the 1st XI by example, scoring heavily in a season in which the team only lost two of their nine games. The majority of games resulted in wins with the 1st XI, 3rd XI and Colts B XI being the most successful teams overall.



# TASS – The Abingdon School Society

The Abingdon School Society (TASS) is the parent body that supports the School's aim of educating boys in the fullest possible sense of the word. TASS is made up of various sub-divisions. In the last couple of newsletters we looked at the Music Society and the Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club, this time it's the turn of Touchliners.

## ABINGDON TOUCHLINERS

### All Aboard for the Season Ahead!

Abingdon Touchliners is the parental support group for rugby at Abingdon School.



#### Fund-Raising

Established in 2003 to complement the School's determination to raise the profile and depth of Abingdon rugby, Touchliners has since helped raise in excess of £4,500, which has allowed it to part-fund the School physiotherapist and to help with the cost of additional training equipment and skills-training for players.

#### Team Spirit

It is not just about raising money though – anybody who has played the game, belonged to a rugby club or supported their child through school or club rugby will appreciate the unique spirit and sense of belonging that rugby inspires amongst both parents and players. Touchliners is about creating that spirit and providing parents with sons of all ages with a social focus both on and off the touchline.

#### Social Events

Last year Touchliners arranged a number of social events with the highlight of the year being the Annual Dinner at which Mike Rafter, a former Bath & England international, gave an excellent speech delivered in true 'Rugby Club' fashion!

Another treat for members was fifty-two tickets to the Bath v Harlequins match very kindly provided by Mark Jackson, who is CEO of Hephire PLC, one of Bath's main sponsors. Having organized a coach from Abingdon it was with some trepidation that we commenced our journey, but the day went without a single hitch and from the comments we received afterwards everyone very much enjoyed their free day out.

We hope to develop the social side of Touchliners in the forthcoming season and with more support I am sure we can do bigger and better things. Membership increased this year to 32 families but we would still like to see more members in the coming years. If you would like to find out more please contact Neil Redman at [n.redman@virgin.net](mailto:n.redman@virgin.net) [www.abingdon.org.uk/go/touchliners](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/touchliners)

### Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club

From the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston in October to the Henley Royal Regatta in July, the Boat Club



has been competing with a great deal of success at the highest possible level and the Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club have been there to support them.

For up-to-date news of FOASBC go to [www.abingdon.org.uk/go/fasbc](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/fasbc)

### Dates for the Diary

#### Monday 17 September

7 45 pm  
TASS Executive Committee Meeting in the Christ's Hospital Room, Mercer's Court.

For more information contact Leila Beggins [overshot@gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:overshot@gotadsl.co.uk)

#### Saturday 29 September

7 30 pm  
Wine and Cheese Social Evening

Mr Anthony Sykes will introduce a range of wines from around the world. All the wines will be available for purchase and delivery before Christmas. The cost is £7.50, which includes a glass of wine on arrival, wine for tasting and cheese to accompany the wines. Please send a cheque made payable to TASS for £7.50 per person to Dr Tim Gunn at Abingdon School.

To download a form go to [www.abingdonschool.org.uk/go/tass](http://www.abingdonschool.org.uk/go/tass)

#### Saturday October 6th

Open Day

TASS is looking for volunteers who can spare a couple of hours to help serve lunch and refreshments to current and prospective parents. If you would like to help contact [isabelle.barber@linc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:isabelle.barber@linc.ox.ac.uk)

#### Saturday 10 November

Quiz Evening

A quiz evening with supper for parents and boys of Abingdon School. There will be teams of 4-6 people but if you don't already have a team, we can put you in one. For more information contact [carol.thorn@ntlworld.com](mailto:carol.thorn@ntlworld.com)

#### Saturday January 26th 2008

Burns Night Supper

The ninth TASS Burns supper will be held in Abingdon's Guild Hall. Spaces are limited to 120 so book your tickets early (tickets £45 a head). Contact [isabelle.barber@linc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:isabelle.barber@linc.ox.ac.uk)



# The Abingdon Foundation Development Fund

From its origins as a school for the sons of officials at Abingdon Abbey, Abingdon School has survived, grown and flourished due largely to the generosity of benefactors.

## The Past, Present and Future

### Abbot John de Blosneville

The earliest recorded benefactor was Abbot **John de Blosneville** and last year the School celebrated the 750th anniversary of the establishment in 1256 of his endowment for the support of thirteen poor scholars.

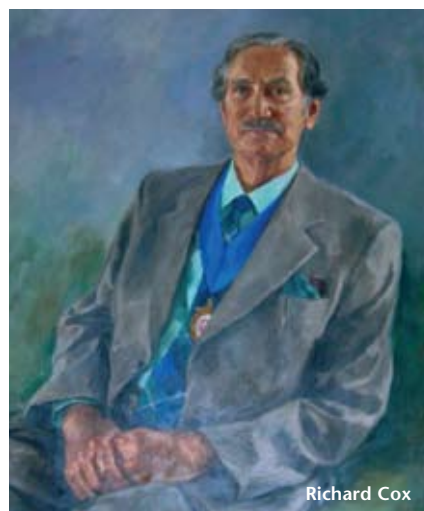
### John Roysse

The Dissolution of Abingdon Abbey in 1538 created great financial uncertainty. Fortunately, in 1563 a wealthy Old Abingdonian, **John Roysse**, gave money for the building of a new schoolroom and endowed the School with property in Birch Lane in the City of London.



### Thomas Tesdale

Another wealthy Old Abingdonian, **Thomas Tesdale**, left £5,000 on his death in 1610, which in 1624 led to the foundation of Pembroke College, Oxford to provide university places for boys educated at Abingdon.



Richard Cox

In recent times the School has benefited considerably from its link with the **Mercers' Company** and the name Mercers' Court is an acknowledgment of their generosity. Individuals have continued to play their part: **Ron Amey**, after whom the Amey Theatre is named, (see page 10); **John Greening**, OA 1934, whose generous donation allowed the extension to the Science Block, the Greening Wing, and **Richard Cox**, OA 1934, after whom Cox's Field at Frilford is named. Further appeals led to the Jubilee Wing (1977), Sports Hall (1983), Arts Centre (2003) and the new boathouse (2004).



Jan Glover



Members of Common Room, 1927. William Rudd fourth from left.

In the 19th Century, **Herbert Young**, OA 1868, keen to foster the teaching of science and mathematics, funded the Young and Summers Scholarship. His co-benefactor, former headmaster **Edgar Summers**, bought Lacies Court to augment the scholarship. The First World War Memorial Appeal led to the purchase of Waste Court and its accompanying fields whilst that of the Second enabled the purchase of War Memorial Field. In the 1950s, Old Abingdonians, with the help of the mathematics master, **William Rudd**, bought the grounds of Lacies Court. In the 1960s, an appeal to commemorate the Quatercentenary of John Roysse's re-endowment raised £63,000 for a number of building projects.

The Governors have now established the Abingdon Foundation Development Fund to support both School and Preparatory School and allow the Foundation to offer opportunities to able boys, irrespective of their parent's financial means.

The newly appointed Director of Development is Jan Glover who was previously Bursar, and prior to that Vice-Chairman of the Governors, of the Manor Preparatory School.

# What's in a Name?

How some of the familiar names at the School came about.



Common Room, 1957: George Duxbury, front row second from left; Hugh Sawbridge, back row fourth from right; John Ingham, front row fourth from right.

## The Amey Theatre

Ron Amey, Chairman of Amey Roadstone Construction, was an active Governor of the School from 1973 to 1985, acting as project manager for the Amey Hall, Sports Hall and Warehouse projects and a vocal supporter of the creation of both a Business Studies and a CDT department. Financially he was immensely generous: in 1976, Cobban House was refurbished with money from the sale of land he had given the School, and in 1978 further donations financed a quarter of the building costs of the Amey Hall, now known as the Amey Theatre following the construction of the Arts Centre in 2003.



## Sawbridge Music Scholarship

Hugh Sawbridge, Director of Music, 1954-1960, is credited with laying the foundations of the School's highly successful music department. He came to the School following distinguished service with the Durham Light Infantry in the Korean War. He died in 1997, leaving a bequest to the School for the furtherance of musical education, which became the basis of the Sawbridge Scholarship.

## Ingham Music Room

John Ingham taught science at Abingdon from 1915 to 1958. A staunch Methodist, he was the choirmaster at Trinity Methodist Church in Conduit Road. At his death, he left a bequest to the School that enabled the building of the original Ingham Music School, which was replaced when the Arts Centre was built. The Ingham Music Room perpetuates his memory.

## A Duxbury Tie

Duxbury ties are awarded to leavers – boys and staff – who are considered to have served the School in some understated yet significant manner, just as George Duxbury himself did. The tie was instituted in 1969 to mark the thirty-five years, 1931-1966, that he spent at the School as Classics master, Editor of *The Abingdonian*, Librarian, Archivist, OA Secretary, Secretary of the OA Trust Fund, Master-in-Charge of rowing and of the Junior Training Corps. In 1990, money collected in his memory and from a bequest he left to the School went towards the creation of the Duxbury Boarding Scholarship.



## A Prince Among Rose Growers

Alfred Prince, OA 1923, was a member of a Longworth rose-growing family who were responsible for the breeding of some exquisite roses which, like many famous roses, have now been lost. Robert Mattock, the heir to what was once a rival family business, is leading a search to see whether such beauties as the *Longworth Rambler*, a vigorous red climber, can be found blooming forgotten in some Oxfordshire garden.





## President's Dinner goes Italian

David Brice, OA 1961 hosted the annual President's Dinner at the School on Saturday 7 July. Over seventy guests enjoyed an Italian style menu, reflecting David's love of Italy and all things Italian. A group of this year's Upper Sixth leavers, together with girls from The School of St Helen and St Katharine, performed a cameo version of their own production *Covered in Love*, which they then took to the Edinburgh Fringe in August. The Griffen Quartet, leaving music scholars, impressed guests with the professionalism of their performance, as did Simon Evans, OA 2002, with his magic show. The bar in the Masters' Common Room proved to be a popular after-dinner venue.

### Among OAs present were:

1944 Keith Hume; 1957: Brian Smith, Robert Elliott, Nigel Hammond, Richard Powell; 1959: David Morris, Stewart Womar; 1961: David Brice, Paul Hedges; 1962: John Bunce, Richard Bampton, Michael Hedges, John Talbot; 1963: Tym Marsh; 1964 Michael Livingston, John Bowthorpe, Bruce Mackay; 1965: Anthony Johnson, Charles Cox, Richard Morris; 1972: Noel Crosse; 1975: Paul Evans, Simon Hills; 1976 David Blomley; 1982: Julius Green; 1984: Neville Trippett, Eric Bridges, David Newport, Jon Mayo, Andy Campbell; 1988: Jonathan Gold; 2002: Simon Evans

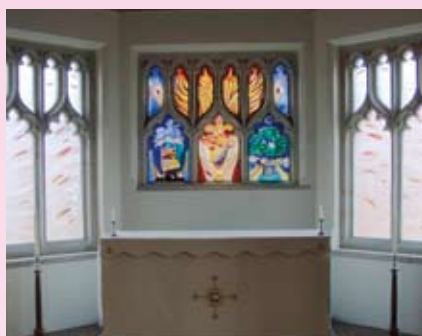
The following former members of Common Room were also present: Keith Hasnip, Bill Potter, Andrew Gasson

## Abingdon Alligators

The OA cricket team, the Abingdon Alligators, faced the Radley Rangers on Sunday 8 July but were disappointed to lose. Rangers declared at 245-5 and then bowled the Alligators out for 133. The general consensus, nevertheless, was that the match was most enjoyable.



Paddy Stern, OA 2005, and other Young Alligators enjoy the cricket lunch on 8 July



## Hugh Randolph

At Evensong on 14 June, the School Chaplain, the Revd Henry Kirk, dedicated two windows to the memory of Hugh Randolph, 1936 – 2006, Membership Secretary of the OA Club and Member of Common Room 1963 – 1993. The new windows, which complete the scheme of the Trinity Window at the east end of the Chapel, were made possible by Hugh's generous bequest to the School. Members of his family were among the congregation who heard the designer of the window, Nicholas Mynheer, describe how it symbolises the embracing love of the Holy Spirit.

### Hugh Randolph Prize for Local History

In Hugh's memory, the OA Club has instituted an annual prize for Local History. The first winner was twelve-year-old Guy Bud who impressed the judges with a well-researched essay on 'Abingdon Abbey during the Reformation'.

## OA AGM and School Open Day

The OA Club AGM will take place at 11.00 on Saturday 6 October in the Christ's Hospital Room. The meeting provides OAs with the opportunity to learn about the Club's activities during the past year and to participate in a wider discussion about the type and range of services and activities that the Club supports. The Committee is keen to hear members' views on the future development of the Club and hopes many OAs will either attend or let the Club know their views by letter or e-mail. There will be ample opportunity to see the School in action on its annual Open Day and a buffet lunch will be provided.

## The Abingdonian

*The Abingdonian* is available to OAs on a subscription basis of £60 for 5 years. If you would like to subscribe please contact the OA Office.



## Diary Dates

Saturday 15 September 2007  
and 20 September 2008

John Roysse Lodge  
AGM and Dinner

Saturday 6 October 2007  
AGM

Abingdon School Open Day

Tuesday 13 May 2008  
Golf Day

## Year Reunions

A series of class reunions will take place over the next few years. These will take place in a variety of venues and will take the form of a drinks reception. The OA Office will be happy to organise dining groups afterwards. It is hoped to keep the cost to £15 per head. Tickets will be available from the OA Office.

We are currently conducting market research to establish the most effective format for these reunions. Our survey is on the OA Club website [www.oaclub.org.uk](http://www.oaclub.org.uk) so please do complete it. We really would value your opinion.

All planned events will be listed on the Club website and invitations will be issued in the usual way.

*For full details please see the OA Club website:*  
[www.oaclub.org.uk](http://www.oaclub.org.uk).

*Please do contact us if you have any news or would simply like to get in touch:*

*The OA Club,  
Abingdon School,  
Park Road, Abingdon  
Oxon OX14 1DE*

*Tel: +44 (0) 1235 849074*

*e-mail: [administrator@oaclub.org.uk](mailto:administrator@oaclub.org.uk)*

# Old Abingdonians

## Pirate-Scourge of the Caribbean

*Pirates of the Caribbean: At the World's End* is the second of the Pirates films to feature Tom Hollander, OA 1984, as the ruthless Lord Cutler Beckett, Chairman of the East India Company, whose avowed aim is to destroy not only all pirates but their ships too. Without wishing to give too much away, the film sees Lord Cutler Beckett coming to a bit of a dead end. Tom appears with Johnny Depp, Keira Knightly and Orlando Bloom in the film, which was released on 25 May.



Tom Hollander as Lord Cutler Beckett in *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*

## PC OA

The comedy duo David Mitchell, OA 1992, and Robert Webb won a BAFTA award on 20 May for their *That Mitchell and Webb Look*. This was just two days after the release of their film, *Magicians*, in preparation for which David impressed himself by learning how to make one billiard ball into four ... only to discover that the trick wouldn't be needed. Mitchell has been the PC character in this year's widely publicised Apple computer advertisements.



## 'abingdon boys school' at Live Earth, Tokyo



The Japanese rock band, *abingdon boys school*, who performed at the Tokyo Live Earth concert on 7 July, are definitely NOT former Abingdon School boys. Formed in 2005, they modelled themselves on the British rock band, *Radiohead*, whose five members all did attend the School. The existence of the Japanese band does explain the unusually large number of hits that the School website has been receiving from Japan.

## OA Name in Lights

Mike Bartlett, OA 1999, has won one of this year's prestigious Pearson Playwright-in-Residence awards for writers of

outstanding promise. He has become playwright-in-residence at The Royal Court Theatre where his play, *My Child*, was performed in May. Mike,



a former member of the Royal Court's Young Writers' Programme, won the Old Vic's New Voices Award in November 2006 for his play, *Artifacts*. BBC Radio 4, who have commissioned him to write an Afternoon Play, will serialise his radio drama, *Family Man*, on Woman's Hour later this year.

## Luke Berryman



Luke Berryman, OA 2003, has just been awarded a 1st Class degree in Music from the University of Oxford. This autumn he takes up a scholarship to study for a Master's in historical musicology at Boston University. In May 2008 he will play a Beethoven concerto with the Thames Vale Orchestra, and later in the year hopes to perform some of Johnny Herford's, OA 2003, chamber music.

## Tim Parker

Tim Parker, seen at last year's reception at the Palace of Westminster, recently brokered a £6 bn merger between Saga and the AA of which he was the chief executive.

