



Earthquakes shakes Abingdon



No, there's not a misprint in the headline, *Earthquakes in London* by Mike Bartlett, OA 1999, fresh from its premiere at the National Theatre last August, sent seismic shockwaves through the Amey Theatre with its radical message, revolutionary set design and punchy performances. Charles Spencer, writing in *The Daily Telegraph*, described the play as "a brilliantly inventive account of life, love and profound unease in present day London", and last summer's London production as "the theatrical equivalent of a thrilling roller coaster ride". *Earthquakes* lost nothing of the energy and ambition of the original London production on its transfer to the Abingdon stage. See page 9 ■

Inter-House sports

The inter-House sports competition – a new addition to the calendar – brought last term to an energetic conclusion as the Houses competed in a series of badminton, squash, table tennis, 5-a-side football and swimming matches. Davies' (Waste Court) won the U18 competition, O'Doherty's won both the U16 and the U15 competitions, but Davies' emerged as the overall winners having come either first or second in all the U18 competitions. ■



News



Arts



Sport



Development



OA News



Talks

Friday 14 January

Tim Jenkinson, Professor of Finance Said Business School and Director of Oxford Finance Research Centre.
'The Credit Crunch – where are we now?'
Economics Society
4 pm, Ingham Room, Amey Theatre

Tuesday 1 February

Roger Davies, Phillip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Oxford and President of the Royal Astronomical Society
'Galaxy Collisions'
4 pm, Room S22

Friday 4 February

Gary Sheffield, Professor of War Studies at the University of Birmingham
'1940 – Myths and Realities'
History Society
5.30 pm, Charles Maude Room

Tuesday 8 February

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, formerly Bishop of Rochester and currently director of the Oxford Centre for Training and Research, Advocacy and Dialogue
Christianity, Faith and World Order
Edmund Society
4 pm, Charles Maude Room

Professor Mike Stevens, Professor of Paediatric Oncology, University of Bristol
Biology Society
4 pm, Amey Theatre

Tuesday 15 February

John Drew, Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Buckingham and an expert on Charles Dickens
'Great Expectations'
Sixth-form Humanities Society
4 pm, Charles Maude Room

Tuesday 8 March

Roger Trigg, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Warwick,
'Free to Believe? Conscience in a Secular Society'
Edmund Society
4 pm, Charles Maude Room

Tuesday 29 March

Lord Harries, Bishop of Oxford 1987-2008
'Life and Death – Christian Faith and Medical Intervention'
Edmund Society
4 pm, Charles Maude Room

Music

Wednesday 19 January

Music Scholars' Concert No. 2
7 pm, Charles Maude Room
Admission Free

Thursday 27 January

New Year's Charity Concert
7 pm, Amey Theatre
Tickets: £6, £4 concessions, £16 family

Tuesday 1 February

Joint Organ Recital by the Schools' organists
5 pm, School Chapel
Admission Free

Wednesday 2 February

Cello Masterclass with Robert Max, Musical Director of the Oxford Symphony Orchestra
7 pm, Charles Maude Room
Admission Free

Wednesday 9 February

Chamber Music Workshop
1 pm, Charles Maude Room

Chamber Music Concert

5.30 pm, Charles Maude Room
Admission Free

Wednesday 16 February

Chamber Music Evening
7 pm, Charles Maude Room
Admission Free

Wednesday 9 March

Choral Concert in aid of the charity Build the Nations
7 pm, Amey Theatre
Tickets – see www.abingdon.org.uk

Thursday 10 March

Music Scholars' Concert No. 3
7 pm, Charles Maude Room
Admission Free

Wednesday 16 March

Piano Masterclass with David Owen Norris pianist, broadcaster and teacher
7 pm Charles Maude Room
Admission Free

Friday 25 March

Singers Platform
7 pm Charles Maude Room
Admission Free

Drama

Tuesday 11 & Wednesday 12 January

Metamorphosis
Senior Production
7 pm, Studio Theatre, St Helen's
Tickets: contact the School of St Helen and St Katharine
01235 520173
reception@shsk.org.uk

Wednesday 19, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 January

Adventures in Wonderland – when a boy called Alex falls down a rabbit hole he finds himself in a strange world. A joint Abingdon and St Helen's Third Year Drama Production
7 pm, Amey Theatre
Tickets: www.abingdon-booking.info
email: arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk
telephone: 01235 849063

Thursday 17, Friday 18 March

Peter Pan
Abingdon Preparatory School
7 pm Amey Theatre
www.abingdon.org.uk/prep

ASPA

Abingdon School Parents' Association

For further details on all ASPA events
www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

Friday 4 February

ASPA Fourth-Year Parents' Social Evening
7.30 pm, Sports Centre Hospitality Suite
Tickets: £10

Friday 4 March

ASPA Quiz Night with prizes for the winning teams and food for everyone.
7.30 pm, Sports Centre Hospitality Suite

Friday 11 March

ASPA Fifth-Year Parents' Social Evening
7.30 pm, Sports Centre Hospitality Suite

For details on all events
see www.abingdon.org.uk



News from the Head

Abingdon's new Head, Felicity Lusk, has spent her first term getting out and about, meeting staff, pupils and parents, and getting to know the School. If you would like to know what she's been thinking about it all take a look at her blog where she discusses her reactions to lessons she's attended, productions she's watched, matches she's supported and her thoughts on the School's past and its future. Not only does the blog make an interesting read but it also provides a fascinating insight into many aspects of School life. www.abingdon.org.uk/heads_blog ■



Clare Butcher

Clare Butcher is the School's Accounts and Commercial Manager. This gives her overall responsibility for the compilation of fee bills, payments to suppliers, the payroll, staff expenses and the preparation of the final accounts for the auditors. She is also responsible for the School's commercial lettings. Clare grew up in Abingdon and attended Fitzharrys School and Abingdon College where she did Business Studies before going on to further training with the accountancy firm *Grant Thornton*. She spent fourteen years working for *Akzo Nobel* in Milton Park where she was their Systems Management Accountant with responsibility for their IT system. A creative person, Clare is an excellent cook and interested in all kinds of craft activities. However, she says that at the moment she spends most of her time supporting her two daughters' keen interest in synchronised swimming – oh, and training for the *Playtex Moonwalk* next May when 15,000 women will take part in a night-time power-walking marathon through the streets of London ... in their bras. ■

Spot the Difference



The Dining Hall, originally opened in October 1974, was refurbished over the summer holiday

Professional Mentoring

Two more professional-mentoring dinners took place last term: OAs, sixth-formers, Governors, members of staff and parents – both past and present – met together at the School for an Engineering Dinner hosted by Terence Libby, OA 1961. Those already in the profession were keen to emphasise to the boys the opportunities an engineering qualification could open up.

For the Finance Dinner, hosted by Simon Hills, OA 1975, guests met at Glaziers Hall in London where Angela Knight, Chief Executive of the British Bankers Association, spoke about the current state of the banking industry and the relationship between politics and the banking sector. ■



Angela Knight with two of the guests at the Finance Dinner



The weather was on the side of the School for the Sponsored Walk on 30 September. Sandwiched between two exceptionally rainy days, the sun shone on the walkers – and runners and rowers – as they made their way from Dorchester back to Abingdon, a ten-mile journey that raised more than £30,000 for the charities *Helen and Douglas House*, *Merlin*, *Agape* and the Pegasus Theatre's *Added Extra* project. ■

Philip Pullman



In the atmospheric setting of the Lacies Court fireside, Philip Pullman discussed his book *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* at a special seminar run by the Roysse and Edmund Societies on St Edmund's Day, 16 November.

During the evening, Mr Pullman outlined his views on the four gospels and spoke of his admiration for the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and for the 1611 Authorized Version of the Bible. ■

Remembrance Day



The annual Remembrance Day parade took place on 11 November. Following the playing of Last Post by a trio of School trumpeters, the two minutes silence was observed by the whole School who were gathered outside the entrance to Big School. The fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq has given the ceremony greater significance in recent years, as does the knowledge that several OAs have been or are on active service in these regions. ■

See page 16

Chess

Success on all fronts for Abingdon's chess players last term: in September four Abingdonians represented Oxfordshire in the team that beat Buckinghamshire in the U125 section of the Chilterns' League; at the beginning of November Jeffrey Yu was runner-up in the U18 section of the Oxfordshire Junior Chess Tournament and, at the end of the month, the Abingdon A team defeated Dame Alice Owen's School 4-2 in the first round of the National Schools' Championship. Abingdon's team in the Oxford and District Chess League, City 4, were promoted to Division III last season, and have won two of their first three matches. ■



Oxfordshire Book Awards

The School played host to 350 schoolchildren from 30 Oxfordshire schools on 7 October for the final of the Oxfordshire Books Awards, which are all chosen by the children themselves from the original long list to the final prizewinners. Authors Rachel Ward, Marie-Louise Jensen, Gill Arbuthnott, Michael Morpurgo and Nick Sharratt were all in attendance at the ceremony. ■



China

Broadening the Mind

It's said that travel broadens the mind, which is why expeditions and trips feature so prominently at Abingdon. The group of sixth-formers who visited Iceland last August swam in the sulphurous waters of the Blue Lagoon, marvelled at the Gullfoss waterfall and the hot springs at Geysir and saw the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the geological rift between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates, which can only be seen above sea level at a few places in the world.

The group who went to China in July were amazed by the size, antiquity and differentness of everything they saw: Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, Chinese contemporary architecture. In Chongqing, where they attended lessons in Chinese culture and language, they tried their hand at calligraphy, painting, Kungfu and Tai Chi; it was truly a mind-expanding visit.

The party of boys who went to Italy in October experienced the wonders of another ancient world. They visited Pompeii, Herculaneum and Paestum in the Bay of Naples before moving on to Rome where among the classical sites they visited were the Forum, the Colosseum and the Pantheon.

Modern Language students learning Spanish visited Santiago de Compostela over half term, where the tomb of St James is one of the key shrines of Christendom and has been the destination of pilgrims for more than 1,000 years. At La Coruna they visited the oldest lighthouse in the world, the Tower of Hercules, as well as the headquarters of the Spanish retail clothing giant Zara. ■



Spain



Italy



Iceland

Congratulations to all these winners



For the third time in three years an Abingdon team has won the regional final of the UK Mathematic's Trust's Senior Challenge which means that the team, consisting of Omri Faraggi, Thomas Salt, Jeffrey Yu and Peter Zeng will now go on to the national final in February.

A proposal to introduce a tax on nightclub entrance fees won the Chartered Institute of Taxation's *Challenge the Chancellor* competition in September. As a result of the win the Economics Department received a cheque for £1,000 and the four proposers, Forest Wong, Gary Ling, Benny Liang and John Yoo (OA 2010) cheques for £100 each.

Angus Wilson-Macdonald and Matthew Landells in the Lower Sixth have both won Arkwright Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to talented engineers in recognition of their achievements in engineering and design and to encourage them in their careers.

In the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking Competition Michael Biccaregui won the Best Speaker prize and Thomas Munro the prize for the Best Questioner.

In the Oxford Diocese heat of the Cranmer Reading Competition Bart Jennings and Henry Jenkinson won through to the national finals, which will be held in London in February. ■



Organised by the Campaign for Drawing, this annual festival of drawing concentrated on self-portraiture. The event allows students the luxury of spending five hours of concentrated study on their work. ■

Michaelmas Music

The two sparkling Christmas Concerts last December epitomised a term that crackled with musical excitement. Two inspirational masterclasses saw the clarinettist Paul Harris coach a group of woodwind players, and the tenor James Gilchrist some of the senior singers. Clarinettist David Mears' selection for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain for the third year in succession highlights the quality of Abingdon instrumentalists. All this bodes extremely well for the planned orchestra tour to the USA in April. ■

Art in New York

Sixth-form artists spent a stimulating few days in New York last October surrounded by art. Out of the multiplicity of galleries in the city they managed to visit MoMA, The Whitney Museum of American Art, the Metropolitan Museum and the Guggenheim as well as a number of the smaller commercial galleries. It was an eye-opening experience. ■





Earthquakes in London

Felicity Lusk's blog 3 December 2010

"*Earthquakes in London* shook Abingdon... this bold, contemporary, gutsy play was written by OA Mike Bartlett, who last performed in the Amey Theatre in 1999. Fresh from the National Theatre, St Helen's and Abingdon's thespians presented the first amateur performance of the play to an appreciative audience clearly gripped by its powerful messages. Remarkable performances from Leying Lee, Lucy Taylor, Nick Krol and Chris Young and a large, versatile and committed cast; choreographed by OA Matthew Hawksworth, his disco scenes, mothers with prams and swimmers in the pond on Hampstead Heath each delighted and fascinated. With audience perched on bar stools integral to the action and a complex, ambitious set (Rory Fraser-Mackenzie), this was school drama at its best. Directed by Jeremy Taylor, supported by Ben Phillips (also an OA and now on the staff), seeing such high quality drama reminds me why the performing arts must be at the heart of school life." ■

www.abingdon.org.uk/heads_blog/

Photographs: Rory Fraser Mackenzie and James Nairne



One Foot on the Ground



One Foot on the Ground, a recent film made by the Abingdon Film Unit, which follows a young Moldovan basketball-player as he struggles to keep alive his dream of playing professional basketball in Europe's poorest country, was shown at the Apollo, Piccadilly Circus on 10 October as part of this year's *Raindance Festival*. A month later the film was selected for showing on the Young Filmmakers for Development Day, at the BFI, Southbank, London, 27 November, part of the *We the Peoples* film festival. ■

Rugby Roundup



Bad weather brought the season to an abrupt end with either snow or hard ground forcing the cancellation of many fixtures. The 1st XV had a tough season but managed to hold Radley to a 12-12 draw and to beat MCS 29-19.

In the *Daily Mail* Cup the 1st XV won through to the last 32 but the match, against Stowe, had to be postponed until this term. The 2nd XV lost four and won four matches, the latter including a spectacular 52-0 win against Aylesbury Grammar School.

The 3rd XV too had some good wins, including a 52-3 defeat of MCS's 2nd XV, whilst the 4th XV, who won 3, lost 3 and had 3 matches cancelled, achieved a 59-7 victory over Warwick School. The U16As were the only School team to beat both Eton and Radley. The U15As and the U14As beat Eton, whilst the U15Bs, U14Bs and U14Cs beat Radley. None of the matches against St Edward's or Marlborough took place. ■



The U16As in action against Radley



The Lacrosse Match

This annual dual with our great rivals St Helen's saw the girls – the real ones – defeat some rather over-endowed boys 2-0. ■

Peter Barnshaw

Peter Barnshaw helped Oxfordshire to second place in the English Schools' Athletic Association's Combined Events National Final on 18/19 September. Peter himself came 11th overall and set a personal best of 14.29 seconds in the 100m hurdles. ■



Shooting Successes

Ben Bryant and Finn Ryley represented Great Britain at the Junior International last August where Ben took fifth place in the final of the Junior Men's Air Rifle Competition. Ben won a silver medal whilst representing the British Schools' team, along with Matthew Allison, in a match against Denmark. At the NRSA's National Championships at Bisley, Ben Bryant, Edward Bryant and Matthew Allison were in the Oxfordshire team. Ben came 4th overall in Class D and was promoted to national Class C. In the Oxfordshire Rifle Competition, Daniel Belcher won Class D and Ben Bryant Class C. Abingdon's coach, Alan Smith, was the overall winner of the competition. ■



Longworth 10K

The Longworth 10K Charity Run last term showed Abingdon's Cross-Country runners to be in good form, boding well for the beginning of this Cross-Country season. Out of a field of 80 runners, there were 6 Abingdon boys in the top 10 with Luke Terry, Alistair Duff and Josh Ridley coming first, second and third. ■

Abingdon's International Rowers



L to R Felix Newman, Alexander Hatzis, Neil McKenzie (front), James Tracey, Andy Halls



Jamie Copus (R) Junior World Championships gold medalist

Abingdon rowers showed their form at a series of international competitions last summer. Jamie Copus rowed in the GB coxless IV, and John Carter and Vassilis Ragoussis for both the GB VIII and the GB coxed IV at the *Coupe de la Jeunesse* last summer. The GB VIII and coxless IV beat Italy into the gold medal position on the first day of competition, whilst the coxed IV had to settle for silver. On the second day it was Italy who took the gold medal in the VIII leaving the GB VIII with silver, and the coxed IV with silver again too. The coxless IV maintained their gold-medal position. Twelve European countries participate in this event.

Jamie Cook and George Rossiter rowed in the GB VIII at the Junior World Championships where they finished fifth. James Tracey, Andrew Halls, Felix Newman, Alexander Hatzis and Neil MacKenzie rowed for the GB VIII that beat France in the annual GB v France race.

At the Under 23 Junior World Championships, OA Matthew Rossiter took a silver medal in the coxless IV event, whilst Max Gander coxed his coxed IV to bronze. Meanwhile, OA Nicolai Jurgens, representing Germany, came 4th in the coxless pairs. ■



John Carter (4 from L), Vassilis Ragoussis (2 from R) gold medalists GB VIII Junior World Championships



Rowing Update

The Abingdon VIII acquitted itself well to take 6th place at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, the World's largest regatta. Jamie Copus had a very good term adding 3rd place in the J18 category at the Scullers' Head of the River on the Tideway to a string of his other successes. At the Wallingford IVs and VIIIs' Head the crews showed that they were well placed to challenge all their old rivals in the coming season. ■



Fencing

At the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Epée and Sabre Fencing Competition in November William Johnson won the U14 epée title. Later in the month, Abingdon Team 1 – Thomas Chan, Herman Chan, Omri Faraggi – beat Abingdon Team 2 – Henry Crowe, Bernie Ng, Oliver Stanier – to win the title in the Southern Fencing Junior Epée Competition. ■

Pastures New



Chris receives a portrait commissioned by 2010 leavers and their parents.

Headmaster Chris Davies and his wife Jane left Abingdon Prep at the end of term to take up the Headship of Edgeborough, a co-educational prep school in Surrey. Jon Gabitass, chairman of the Abingdon Prep Committee of Governors, reflects on Chris's time at Abingdon Prep.

'Chris Davies was appointed Headmaster of Josca's Preparatory School in 1999 and was immediately busied with arrangements for the School to join with Abingdon in one Foundation, and the success of this arrangement is in no small measure owing to his pioneering efforts.

So much has happened to the Prep School under Chris's watch: the new pavilion; the connecting bridge; the sports hall, refurbished swimming pool, new classrooms and art studio; the purchase of Beverley House which will unleash further development; the change of name to Abingdon Prep ... and so on. In his eleven years Chris has seen substantial change and set a brisk pace. But the School has grown in other, less material ways. It has greatly increased in population because places are much in demand and in his final year all records for scholarship and Common Entrance success were



Chris presents prizes at Sports Day.

shattered. Yet the spirit and ethos of the School have remained unchanged; it is still a school in which every boy matters equally, and in which every boy has his own strengths.

Chris will be remembered as the man who set the School on a course that was to take it to the highest level. He is a thoroughly professional, caring and decent man – the genuine article – and the entire school community wishes him, and Jane, all happiness in their future career together.'

Mike Rees will be Acting Headmaster until April 2011 when Crispin Hyde-Dunn takes up the post of Headmaster. ■



Year Six and Science

On 11 November Year 6 were treated to a 'science day' themed on their term-topic, forces. Science Oxford began the day with an interactive show and the presenter was so impressed by the boys' interest and understanding that he extended his talk, introducing momentum and explaining why The Northern Lights "Aurora Borealis" occur. The boys were captivated. They were then challenged to design a device to protect an egg from breaking when dropped from a height. The boys worked in teams and there was great excitement at the testing stage. Some of the eggs did not survive!

The afternoon task was to make a Knex car powered by either a motor or an elastic band. The car then had to perform a number of challenges. The boys were very focused on this and competed to test and improve their designs. It was an extremely worthwhile day and the boys were completely engrossed! ■

A Successful Rugby Term

This season has seen the School's two priorities: involving as many boys as possible in matches, and showing success on the pitch, particularly at 'A' team level - pleasingly met. 16 squads played nearly 120 fixtures plus the traditionally hard-fought inter-house rugby competition.

Whilst winning clearly isn't the primary aim in all our matches, we are happy to report that our 1st XV played some very good rugby at times and finished the season with an equal win/loss record. In the Colts and U10s, after a slowish start, the results, enthusiasm and skill-level quickly picked up, with the players recording some outstanding scores against local opposition. Every boy in Years 3 and 4 played some part in the U9s and U8s rugby: their seasons were such that, whilst emphasis was placed on game enjoyment and skill development, some good wins were achieved in their matches.

It's also nice to report that we have enjoyed record turn-outs on the touchline as well!

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Ashley David-Ward to be Director of Sport at Abingdon Prep School from January 2011. Ashley, who has played professional Rugby for Harlequins, will be developing sport in all its forms at the Prep School. ■



Jimba Gede School, Kenya

At half term, three members of staff set off on the fourth visit to Jimba Gede - our link school in Kenya. Although well-informed, nothing could quite have prepared us for the unbelievable experience we were about to have.

As we arrived in the school grounds, there was a buzz of delight as over 1200 pupils gathered. We were welcomed by a sea of smiling faces and a chant of the school motto: "Education is the key of life".

We were so impressed by the innovative teaching, particularly how teachers held the attention of up to ninety pupils in a class. The use of natural resources was fascinating; sticks and pebbles for counting and corncobs for building blocks like Jenga or Lego. The children were so keen and enthusiastic to participate in their lessons and it was evident that they value the privilege of attending school.

An activity worth special mention was the follow-up of the pen pal letters written by Abingdon Prep Year 5 boys. It was wonderful to see the Jimba Gede children's faces when they read their letters, many of which had photographs attached. The Jimba Gede pupils then set about writing back to their Abingdon friends. This really had a strong feeling of the 'link', which clearly serves to enrich the learning of pupils at both Schools - long may it continue. ■



A musical triumph



Michaelmas was another busy and memorable term for the music department. It began with the visiting music teachers giving a superb concert to parents and boys, inspiring many of our young musicians.

Our more able woodwind and brass players took part in the annual Radley workshop and enjoyed composing their own piece to perform to parents.

The Pre-prep department performed another nativity premiere, The Hopeful Donkey, written by Antony and Julia Copus. The highlight of the term was, of course, our farewell Carol Concert for Chris and Jane Davies, which was held at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford.



This was a very exciting event and the boys certainly rose to the occasion. The programme included our varied instrumental and vocal ensembles, soloists and readings, as well as congregational carols and a grand finale with all the teachers and pupils singing Sleigh Ride. The term was rounded off with the annual carol singing trip to Oxford, raising money for this year's charity, Great Ormond Street Hospital. ■

Farewell to Old and Welcome to New



It is with sincere thanks and gratitude that we say goodbye to members of our committee who have served ASPA so well over the past few years:

Susan Williams, Chair
Alison Elliott, Secretary
Caroline Nuttall, Treasurer

and with a warm welcome that we say hallo to new appointments who will take ASPA forward in the years to come.

Margot Scholey, Chair
Wendy Lamb, Vice Chair
Nicki Peirce, Secretary
Mel Seares, Treasurer

If anyone would like to help or contribute to ASPA, there is much fun to be had in joining the committee to help organise our social events.

Please contact: aspa@abingdon.org.uk

or just contact us if you have any good ideas for fundraising or social events as we are always pleased to hear from parents. ■



ASP Travel and Paul Tappin Memorial Awards

These are monetary awards provided by ASPA, together with Tappins Coaches, to any member of the sixth form at Abingdon School who plans to undertake some form of travel and activity either during the summer holiday between the lower and upper sixth or in their gap year. The awards range from £50 to £500 depending on the activity and its benefit.

Applications should be made to the Upper Master and submitted by the 27 April 2011 and should contain

- Pupil's name, address, email address, telephone number, school house and tutor group
- Travel itinerary to include details of proposed duration of the activity/project to be undertaken
- Details of the activity itself eg. building orphanage, taking part in ecological survey, of what benefit it may be to the local community
- Details of who is running the activity ie established company or organisation
- Details of costing, flights, board and lodging, insurance and medical requirements
- Funding, what funds have already been raised and how, and the amount of the request

Applicants may be asked to attend an interview panel. The results of the applications are announced with the presentation of a cheque at Prize Giving.

Further details of the conditions of the awards can be obtained from www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa ■

Third and Sixth-Year Parents' Social Evenings

In November, ASPA held both the Third-year and the Sixth-year parents' social in the Hospitality Suite. For Third-year parents this is a very important time, whether they are joining the social group as new parents or they are existing parents adapting to the new House system and to new tutors and tutor groups, as these are all things that will affect their sons' lives at Abingdon.

ASPAs hope that the parents' socials not only provide an opportunity for parents to socialise but also to form networking circles that will be of benefit to them and their sons throughout their time at Abingdon and beyond.

Both the evenings were a great success and included a meal, a glass or two of wine, or something non-alcoholic, and good company. It was very pleasing to receive comments from parents informing us of how much they enjoyed themselves.

Any small profit that we make from the events will be transferred into the Annual Fund and the money will be allocated within the School to the benefit of all of our boys. ■

Future ASPA Social Events

Building on the wonderful feedback we have had for these social events these are the forthcoming events for next term:

4 February
Fourth-year parents' supper

4 March
ASP Quiz Night – open to all

11 March
Fifth-year parents' supper

6 May
Lower School bingo night and supper

All details are on the ASPA website www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

Why an Annual Fund?

As its name suggests, the Annual Fund seeks support each year from both existing and new donors within the School's wider community. Its main objective is to ensure that there are funds available to allow us to respond quickly and appropriately to requests for modest, and achievable, projects, which help maintain the very best academic, extra-curricular and pastoral environment for the boys.

Abingdon's Annual Fund currently supports two key projects:

- the Chapel windows
- Bursaries

The Fund also allows you to specify a particular area of School life that you would like to support. From careers to the Christian Union, debating to drama and archives to art, many areas of School life have attracted your generous gifts. Others have chosen to allow the School to use their donation where it is most needed and this has allowed us to support diverse projects including GPS equipment for the Geography department, benches for the Jekyll Garden and play equipment for Abingdon Preparatory School. Speaking about the Annual Fund, Felicity Lusk said: "The importance of this method of fundraising cannot be under estimated as your donations are used to purchase items which School fees do not, and cannot, be expected to cover. As new areas for support are identified, we will let you know how you can help.

All gifts, whatever their size, are much appreciated; it's all about joining in, not the size of your gift." ■



Can You Help?

The Annual Fund is just one way in which you can support the School. There are other avenues we are currently exploring including commercial sponsorship. A generous donation from an OA's company recently helped us to finalise the purchase of a new coxless pair and 'cleverbagger.com' will be on the river in the new year. Discussions are also under way in relation to potential sponsorship of the 1st XV rugby team and some of the School's alumni activities.

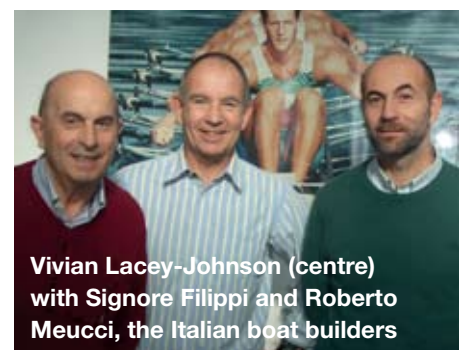
Whilst overt commercial support may not be appropriate in the context of the School there are clearly areas where the boys can benefit from additional funds in support of either educational or extra-curricular activities and where companies can achieve an appropriate return on their investment.

There are also advertising opportunities in the souvenir brochures that the School produces to support major tours or events such as the Griffen Ball.

The New Year will see a rugby tour of South Africa and a music tour to the USA. Whilst the boys involved are busy raising money to help offset the costs of the tours, there will be opportunities for both sponsorship and advertising in connection with these tours.

And, whether commercial or personal, there are always naming opportunities available within the School. The Amey theatre, the Greening Wing and the Harding Room provide just a few examples.

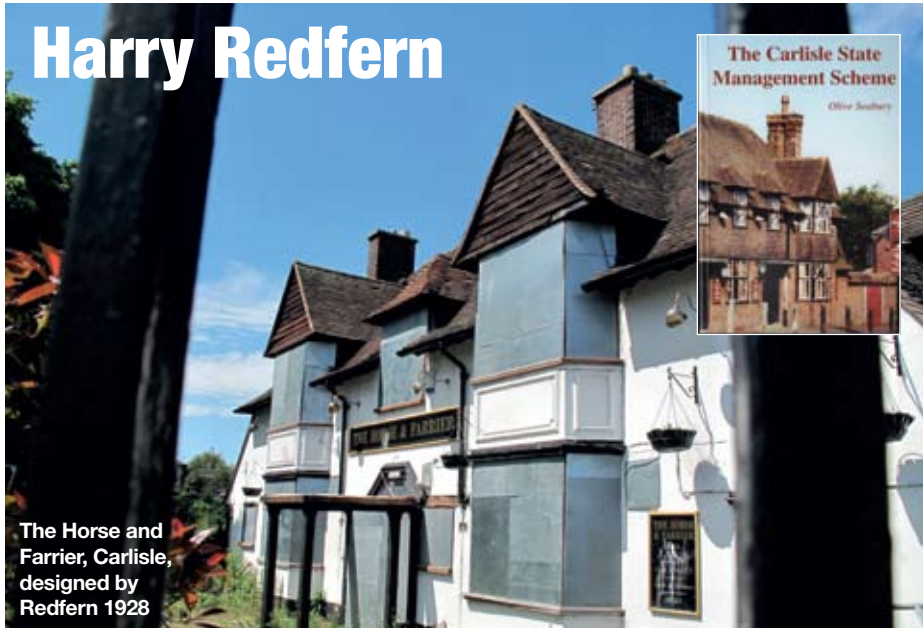
If you believe you, or your company, may be able to work effectively in partnership with the School in this way, Jan Glover in the Development Office would be delighted to hear from you. ■



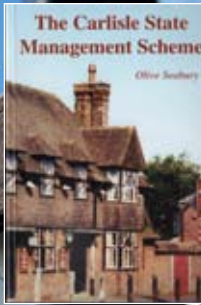
Vivian Lacey-Johnson (centre) with Signore Filippi and Roberto Meucci, the Italian boat builders

Shaping Abingdon

Our giving website <http://shaping.abingdon.org.uk> has details of all our fundraising projects and a section where you can make your gift online. Please do bookmark it and keep visiting to keep in touch with our funding priorities.



The Horse and Farrier, Carlisle, designed by Redfern 1928



Lacies Court restored and extended by Redfern in 1901



The Lodge, Abingdon School, designed by Redfern 1897

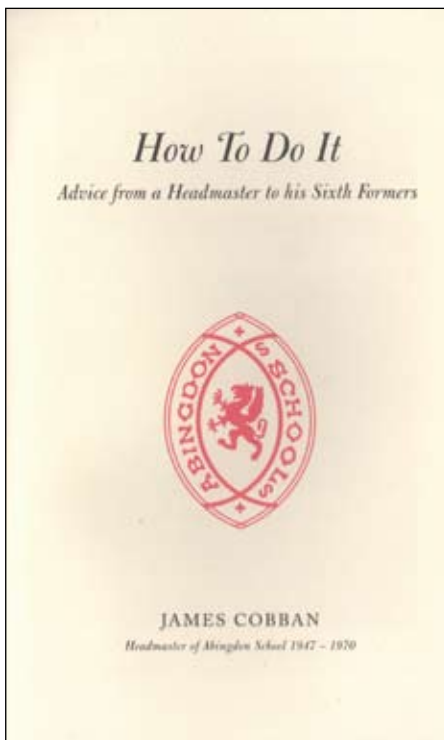
A battle has been raging between conservationists and the supermarket giant *Tesco* over the future of *The Horse and Farrier* public house in Carlisle. The pub is one of the last survivors of a number built by Harry Redfern, OA 1876, whilst he was the chief architect of the Carlisle State Management Scheme, designed originally to control excessive alcohol consumption among armament workers during the First World War. Redfern was commissioned to build improved public houses, ones with as much air, space and light as possible. The Scheme wanted to encourage sit-down drinking, promote the sale of food and provide facilities for games, music and other forms of recreation. These pubs were among the first of the new model inns and they set a trend for the whole country.

The Horse and Farrier has been closed for some years now and the site bought by *Tesco*. Conservationists hope that the old building can be preserved as part of the new development but fear that unless something is done soon the building will have decayed too far. ■

The Eagle Has Landed

After an almost ten year sojourn in the wilderness – the SE corner of the Chapel – the eagle lectern is now back in its old place in the centre of the aisle facing the altar.

One of the School's oldest artefacts the lectern, made in 1694, was given to Abingdon by Brasenose College in 1743. ■



How To Do It

OAs who attended the Cobban Centenary Dinner on 27 November took home with them a booklet containing the great man's notes on *How To Do It*; that is, how to write a letter, take notes and minutes, edit a magazine, make a speech and read a lesson, get what you want (a job), dine out, look after money and avoid social blunder. No OA of the Cobban generation has probably ever forgotten his warning about not wearing brown shoes with a blue suit, nor that the greatest and last social blunder is for anyone over the age of 21 to die without making a will. The School Archives had copies of all the above notes but we wonder whether there are any we have missed – if so, perhaps you would let the archivist know so that we can complete the collection.

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Engineering Dinner

On Friday 15 October 65 OAs, pupils and parents – both established professionals and prospective students – came together to share their experiences of the engineering profession.

OA guests included: – 1958: Ian Oliver; 1961: Terence Libby; 1962: Christopher Scott, Michael Westwood; 1976 Richard Clarke; 1978: Peter Johnston, Alistair Morfey; 1985: Martin Joinson; 1992: Charles Green; 1994: Mike Litchfield; 1995: Chris Smith; 1996: Dominic Bacon; 2003: Phil Wakefield. ■

OA 60s Club Reunion

At the annual OA 60s Club event on Friday 22 October, a party of 38 OAs and partners convened for a guided tour of the Gurkha Museum in Winchester, followed by a genuine Gurkha curry in the Officers' Mess.

OA guests included: – 1958: Ian Oliver; 1959: David Morris; 1960: Roger Havelock, Tony Howell, Randell Moll, Matt Womar; 1961: David Brice, David Gerring, David Goodwin, Terence Libby, David Riddick; 1962: John Bunce, Robin Meakins; 1963: Bruce Mackay; 1964: Richard Leathem, John Walton; 1965: Christopher Ford, Richard Morris; 1969: Andrew Hall. ■

Professional Networking Dinner: Finance

Thursday 18 November saw 30 OAs, parents and pupils meet for drinks and dinner in the glorious setting of Glaziers Hall, London, to share their experiences of the financial services industry.

OA guests included: – 1975: Simon Hills; 1976: Gareth Morris; 1978: Robin Joy; 1984: Ken Welby; 1985: Kingsmill Bond; 1986: Martin Sutton; 1992: Nick Myatt, Richard Stone; 1993: Simon Thomas; 2003: Nick Herbert, Darshan Puri; 2007: Chris Checkley; 2008: Sam Dent, Shanx Tandon; 2010: Tian Ji, Stephen Poland. ■



JMC Centenary Celebrations

At the OA Annual Dinner 2010 on Saturday 27 November over 180 guests gathered to celebrate the centenary of Sir James Cobban, Headmaster of Abingdon School 1947-70. OAs were invited to take afternoon tours of the School and attend a commemorative evensong, which featured a specially commissioned setting of the School's motto, the opening of Psalm 89: *Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo*. Three of Sir James' daughters – Mary, Diana and Hilary – were present to honour their father's memory.

A full guest list for this event is available at www.oaclub.org.uk ■



'Earthquakes in London': An opportunity to meet Mike Bartlett (1999)

Mike Bartlett (1999) returned to School on Friday 3 December to see a performance of his play *Earthquakes in London* and to give a talk to members of the cast, tech crew and the A Level theatre studies group, offering them the author's perspective on the play. Mike also attended a pre-show reception hosted by the OA Club.

OA guests included: – 1997: Ashif Verjee; 1999: James Eaton, Tom Richards, Chad Mason; 2000: John Persaud; 2003: Jack Cousin, Richard Webber; 2007: Huw Parmenter, Max Hutchinson; 2008: Finlay Taylor; 2010: Luke Abbott, Anthony Grieveson, Richard Oastler. ■

Abingdon Hong Kong Reunion

Over 90 friends of Abingdon School, including alumni and parents, both past and present, gathered for this annual reunion, which also serves as an opportunity for current parents based in Hong Kong to discuss their son's progress in person with a representative of the School.

OA guests included: – 1987: Tom Owen; 1989: James Owen; 2000: Mike Yeung; 2002: Sherwin Chan; 2005: Koel Ko; 2005: Tony Lau; 2006: Thomas Lam; 2007: Jeffrey Lee; 2008: Michael Chan, Kevin Cheung, Mephis Ko, Timothy Kong, Jimmy Lam, Michael Leung, Geoffrey Wai; 2010: Matthew Choi, Kenneth Chow, Simon Lam, Jonathan Wong. ■

Forthcoming dates - Lent Term 2011

Thursday 3 February
Friday 4 March
Friday 11 March
Friday 18 March
Friday 25 March
Friday 1 April

OA Regional Event: South West
Professional Dinner: IT
Professional Dinner: Media and Marketing
Classics Dinner
City Lunch/Dinner
Hockey: OAs v 1st XI

Bristol School
School
School
London
Tilsley Park

OAs on Active Service

Among a large number of OAs who have recently seen service in Afghanistan we have had news of the following:

Conspicuous Gallantry Cross for Robin Bourne-Taylor

Captain Robin Bourne-Taylor, OA 1999, has been awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, the newly instituted highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy after the Victoria Cross. On 27 February 2010, Robin – serving with the Life Guards in the Household Cavalry Regiment – led an assault team on a night attack against an insurgent cell and by his determined leadership and selfless action ensured that the attack was successful. Speaking of his award Robin said, “It is a great honour to be awarded the CGC on behalf of the 11 Brigade BRF and the Household Cavalry Regiment. It is always difficult to accept an individual award when your job is focussed on working in a close team. I had the privilege of working in Afghanistan with a group of exceptional soldiers, some of whom tragically did not make it, and I consider this award recognition for their outstanding effort.”

Robin rowed for Great Britain in both the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games. ■



Tom Perkins

Major Tom Perkins, OA 1989, saw service in Afghanistan between March and September 2010 as Second-in-Command of his regiment, The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. The Regiment’s role was primarily to develop the capability of the Afghan National Army and to this purpose they lived alongside Afghan soldiers in Helmand Province, eating, working and fighting with them in order to bring on their capacity for operating on their own within the next few years. ■



Anton Lin

Captain Anton Lin, OA 2003, serving with the Blues and Royals, Household Cavalry Regiment, deployed with his regiment to Afghanistan in September 2009, completing his tour of duty in March 2010. Following his recent promotion, Anton has now been assigned to the Household Cavalry ceremonial mounted (horse guards) unit based in Knightsbridge, London. Anton read Law at St John’s College, Oxford before joining the army. ■



Tom Swarbrick

Having cut his broadcasting teeth at *CUR1350* radio – Cambridge University Radio now known as *CamFM* – Tom Swarbrick, OA 2005, is now a presenter and producer at *BBC Radio Oxford*. If the *Early Breakfast Show* is too early for some of you, you might have heard him and co-presenter Tim Bearder last autumn in *Extraordinary Trumpings*, a comedy tour of Oxfordshire taking in the best new talent and interviewing established names with Oxfordshire connections like David Mitchell, OA 1992; John Lloyd, producer of *Blackadder* and *QI*, and Simon Mayhew-Archer who wrote *The Vicar of Dibley*. In November, Tom was part of the BBC Radio Oxford team that won gold for best interactivity in a local radio show at the Frank Gillard Awards. ■



Jeremy Mather

Jeremy Mather, OA 2001, played fly-half for the winning Oxford side in the 129th *Varsity* match against Cambridge at Twickenham on 9 December. Jeremy read Economics at Liverpool and then completed the *RBS Gold* programme before deciding to become a teacher. He is currently studying for a PGCE in Maths at Lady Margaret Hall and has been doing teaching practice at John Mason School, Abingdon. ■