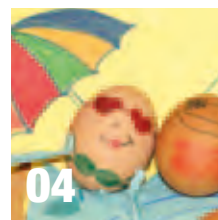




## FLYING THE FLAG



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Out of the Past



Back in Abingdon temperatures might not have been quite the same as those in Abisko but it looked like it.

Arctic snow and ice greeted the eight intrepid Abingdonians who went skiing and dog sledging in Abisko – 68° 21' N 18° 49' E – over the February half term where, a few days before the boys' arrival, temperatures of minus 22° C had been recorded. Meanwhile, more than 7,000 miles away along the same line of longitude, a group of fourth-form cricketers were dodging the sun in Cape Town, where they had gone to hone their cricket skills in advance of the new season. ■



## Drama

**Wednesday 23, Thursday 24, Friday 25 May**

*Bugsy Malone*

A musico-dramatic feast, set in prohibition-era Chicago and featuring a cast of 37 larger-than-life Lower School performers playing gangsters with splurge guns. What's not to like?

Amey Theatre

7 pm: Wednesday 23, Friday 25 May

2 pm: Thursday 24 May

**Saturday 16 June**

*The Loose Limbed Collective*

*Comedy Night Fundraiser*

An evening of comedy provided by and in support of OAs who are forging careers in professional comedy. Those currently confirmed include: **Jonny and the Baptists**, new comedy blues band featuring OAs Jonny Donahoe, formerly Margree, OA 2001, and Paddy Gervers OA 2008; **The Beta Males**, sketch comedy troupe featuring Richard Soames OA 2005; **Fin Taylor**, stand up comedian, OA 2008; **The Dawson Brothers**, Andrew and Steve Dawson, OAs 1995 and 1997, who write extensively for TV, and including material for David Mitchell OA 1992; **Frimstone and Rowett**, sketch comedy, featuring Ed Rowett OA 2005.

7.30 pm: Amey Theatre Foyer

Tickets and further details:

[arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk)

**Monday 25, Tuesday 26 June**

*The Hound of the Baskervilles*

The Peepolykus version of the Sherlock Holmes story, described as "a barking spoof".

Middle School Drama Production

7 pm: Amey Theatre or Drama Studio

Tickets: price to be confirmed

## Abingdon Film Unit

**Saturday 12 May**

*AFU 9th Annual Screening*

The 24 members of the Film Unit, drawn from 3rd to U6th, present an evening of original documentaries and animations. This year's docs were shot in Bristol, Burma, Germany, a front room in Kidlington and various tattoo parlours in Oxford / London. Subjects include mental handicap, immigration, body art, struggling to play the piano and the Buddhist idea of freedom. The animations are, as ever, a law unto themselves, but fabulously colourful, inventive and fun. Some of them are even shot in HD!

7.30 pm: Amey Theatre

Admission free (with free interval refreshments)

## Dance

**Sunday 29 April**

*Abingdon Dance Project Show*

Boys and SHSK girls in 5th, 6th and U6th perform dance and physical theatre work created last term with a team of professional dancers and actors led by Matthew Hawksworth (OA 2000).

Theme: Icons.

4 pm: Amey Theatre

Admission free

## Art

**Thursday 24 May**

*A level and GCSE Art and Design Exhibition*

6 pm: Amey Theatre Foyer and Art Department

**Thursday 28 June**

*AS level Art Exhibition*

6 pm: Art Department

## Music

**Friday 27 April**

*School Bands' Concert*

7.30 pm: Amey Theatre

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

**Friday 4 May**

*Summer Orchestral Concert*

7 pm: Amey Theatre

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

**Wednesday 9 May**

*Thames Vale Youth Orchestra Concert*

7 pm: Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Tickets available at the door

**Wednesday 30 May**

*Junior Scholars' Concert*

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Admission free

**Saturday 23 June**

*Sheldonian Concert*

An end-of-year gala concert

7 pm: Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Tickets: £8, £5 (concessions), £20 family

**Wednesday 27 June**

*Lower School Gala Concert*

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Admission free

## Events

**Wednesday 9 May**

*CCF Biennial Inspection*

All day

**Saturday 12 May**

*Sponsored Ironman Triathlon for Moldova*

Sports Centre

## ASPA

[www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa)

**Thursday 26 April**

*Coffee Afternoon*

3 – 5 pm: Amey Theatre Foyer

**Friday 18 May**

*ASPA at the Cherwell Boathouse*

7.30 for 8 pm

*NB This event is sold out*



Paddy Gervers and Fin Taylor (back right and 2nd from right), who will be appearing on 16 June, seen here as part of FxP<sup>2</sup> in 2008.

Check details of all these events at [calendar.abingdon.org.uk](http://calendar.abingdon.org.uk)

## Spotlight Oxbridge Entrance



Ben Whitworth

The increased competition for graduate jobs has put the spotlight on getting onto a good degree course at a good university, where selection is becoming increasingly rigorous. Abingdon takes pride in supporting all its sixth-formers through the process

Ben Whitworth, who read Natural Sciences at Magdalene College, Cambridge, is responsible for advising those boys who want to try for a place at Oxford or Cambridge because, unlike other universities, there is more to the admissions procedure than simply submitting a UCAS form. Oxbridge has specific aptitude tests, it likes to see examples of candidates' written work and, most significantly, it likes to interview every candidate.

And what are these two universities looking for? Obviously a highly intelligent person – AS results play an important part here – someone who can demonstrate good time management, but above everything else, and it's something that cannot be manufactured or coached or spoon-fed, someone with evidence of a real long-term passion for their subject.

Here the whole Abingdon system comes into play because the boys are taught by staff who love their subject and are keen to provoke discussion, spark debate and challenge the brightest. Admissions tutors will expect Abingdon boys to have had these opportunities – and to have taken them – but there's no evidence that they discriminate against them as a result.

Twenty-two boys won places at Oxford and Cambridge this year, roughly 40% of those who applied. But increasingly, says Ben, applicants are being placed in different Colleges from the one they chose – because the universities want the best candidates, regardless of which College the candidate originally chose. ■



**The Moon Arch following its recent restoration** See page 14



### Staff profile: Anne Whitehead

Anne Whitehead is the Senior Nurse in the School Health Centre. Very much a local person, Anne grew up in Harwell and remembers coming to Abingdon market as a small child with her father who was a farmer.

Working in the School Health Centre is never boring and Anne enjoys the opportunity it gives her to get to know the pupils and staff and to follow them through their school careers. Each day is different, and the school year itself brings variety to the role. The Michaelmas term is particularly busy with many new boys to register, flu vaccines to administer, rugby with its first aid cover and attendant injuries as well as all the coughs, colds and other illnesses that winter brings.

Health education and promotion is a particular interest of Anne's and she contributes to both the School's General Studies and Personal, Social and Health Education programmes. Before coming to Abingdon she worked for many years as a School Nurse in Oxford, and was most recently the National Healthy Schools Programme Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire. She continues to work as a sexual health nurse part-time, and has a particular interest in sex and relationships education.

Anne enjoys cookery and is passionate about locally sourced foods and the best of British produce – probably because of her farming roots. She is enjoying teaching a course in Domestic Survival for the Sixth Form, including how to cook real food. ■

# Abingdon in Europe



## Paris – Home from Home

Abingdon boys must be beginning to feel at home in Paris with three school groups visiting the city within the past four months. A third-year group went in December, straight after the end of the Christmas term; their main destination was *Disneyland* but there was more than enough time during their three day visit for Christmas shopping and sight-seeing. In early February a group of Economists attended the *Your Future in Europe* conference, where they heard a range of talks on the European Union and on the crisis in the Eurozone, and engaged in some energetic sight-seeing too. Later in February a group of French linguists spent five days in the city, taking in a mass of cultural and historical experiences and thoroughly enjoying themselves along the way. ■



## Abingdon to Aix

Fourth-form linguists travelled to Aix-en-Provence by way of *Eurostar* to Lille and then onwards to Aix at the end of last term. Their destination was the Lycée la Nativité for Abingdon's seventh annual exchange visit to this school. Whilst practising their French, pupils were also able to visit some of the spectacular sites in this part of the world – the Pont du Gard, the arena at Nîmes and the town of Les Baux the spectacular ruined cliff-top town where many of the houses are carved out of the rock. ■



## Bielefeld

It's over 40 years since the first exchange visit was arranged between Abingdon and the Ratsgymnasium in Bielefeld, a school with a history as long as Abingdon's own. For the fourth-formers who visited the town in February, trips to cultural and commercial sites were mixed with ice skating and football – Abingdon winning the annual England / Germany match for the second year in succession – all of it in sub-zero temperatures. ■

## ... and nearer home



## Bath Water

Washing, worshipping, living, dying, second-form Latinists got a glimpse of life in Roman times when they visited Bath on the Ides of March. Some of the boys were even brave enough to sample the water – and lived to tell the tale. ■



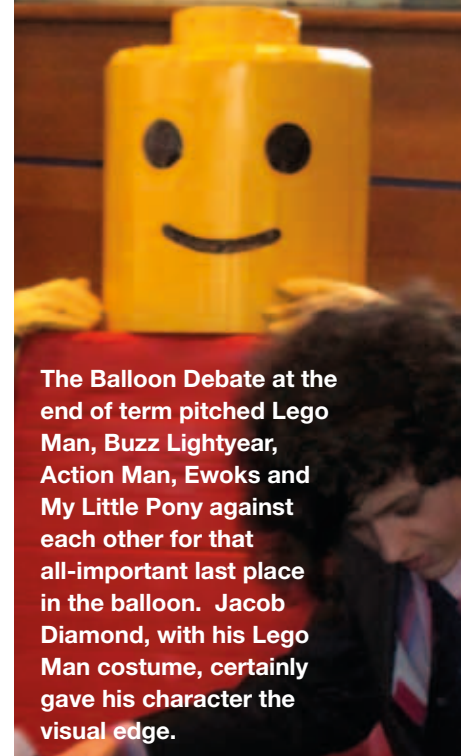
## The Easter Egg Challenge



The prize was a chocolate *Malteser* Easter egg so it wasn't surprising that the competition was intense when a group of boarders, together with some girls from Downe House, took on a set of raw-egg challenges. Building a tower to support an egg might not sound very challenging, but when the materials provided are raw spaghetti, marshmallows and a sheet of paper you can see the problem. For the art challenge, teams were given were six eggs, coloured paper, straws, felt tips and glue – it's amazing how inventive some people can be. ■



## Balloon Debate



The Balloon Debate at the end of term pitched *Lego Man*, *Buzz Lightyear*, *Action Man*, *Ewoks* and *My Little Pony* against each other for that all-important last place in the balloon. *Jacob Diamond*, with his *Lego Man* costume, certainly gave his character the visual edge.

## Chess Success

After a good season, Abingdon's team, City 4, has secured its place in Division III of the Oxford and District Chess League for next year. In February, ten Abingdon boys did themselves credit in the Wiltshire Junior Open Chess Tournament, with Daniel Lawson and Thomas Shaw winning medals in the Beginners' Section for the best U11 and U12 competitors respectively. Lower School players Ray Ren and Joseph Truran have both represented Oxfordshire this season with Ray Ren winning the Oxfordshire Player of the Season medal. Just before the end of term, fourteen Abingdon players qualified for the county stage of the UK Chess Challenge – the 'Megafinal'. ■

## Easter Tea Party

A quiz compiled by Alec Curtis, William Adams, Rafi'i al-Akiti, Louis Hampden and Josh Davey challenged our guests from Cygnet Court, Mill Stream Court, Fountain Court and the Older and Bolder Club at the Easter tea party in the Dining Hall at the end of term ... and it challenged some of the boys too. ■

# Abingdon's Got Talent

Some people have got it and some people haven't but luckily at Abingdon there seems to be a lot of it about as seen in the Amey Theatre on the evening of 15 March at the Abingdon's Got Talent competition.



A capacity audience were entertained by a succession of talented acts but in the end – as measured by the noise-o-meter – victory went to the break dancing variety act *Global*. And, as a by-product, £2,500 from the ticket sales went to a number of charitable causes. ■



## Music from the Masters

The world-famous Chillingirian Quartet came to Abingdon on 6 February and captivated a packed Amey Theatre with their performance of pieces by Haydn, Shostakovich and Ravel. The concert followed an afternoon in which the quartet individually coached twelve Abingdon chamber-music ensembles, cajoling and encouraging them to noticeable improvements in only 45 minutes of contact time. ■

## Music for All

Sebastian Johns, Leon Wu, Hugh Cutting and Daniel Tong play Smetna's Sonata for Eight Hands at the Music Scholars' Concert No 2

If you want to enjoy good music do treat yourself by attending one of the many concerts that Abingdon boys put on each term; the sheer range of talent and skill from all age groups is really inspiring. Last term's concerts offered Purcell's counter-tenor duet *Sound the Trumpet* sung by Chris Mears and Lewis Spring, Lloyd Webber's *Music of the Night* from *The Phantom of the Opera*, sung by Toby Marlow, Mozart's *Piano Concerto in A K488* played by third-former Leon Wu and an arrangement of Journey's *Don't Stop Believin'* by fourth-former Guy Cutting. To see what's coming up this term look at the What's On section on page 2 and come along – you won't be disappointed. ■



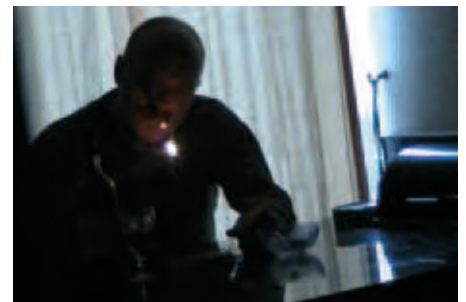
## Extraordinary Objects

A visit to the Ashmolean Museum provided a wealth of inspiration for this year's GCSE art students who were in search of extraordinary objects to study for their exam theme 'Ordinary and / or Extraordinary Objects'. ■



## Konstantinou Masterclass

The Greek pianist Giorgis Konstantinou gave a series of energetic and demanding masterclasses to six Abingdon musicians. Konstantinou was full of admiration for the boys he met, who impressed him both with the quality of their playing and also their willingness to engage positively with his passionate and stimulating teaching. ■



## AFU Successes

The animated film, *The Art of Crime*, made by Michael Bicarregui, Chris Mears, Oliver Sayeed and Chris Young was shortlisted for the Best Young Filmmaker Award at the *Animex Awards* in February. Later in the month, *Inside*, made by James Yan, OA 2011, won first prize in the Best Fiction Film Awards at the BFI's Future Film Festival.

Both films can be watched on the AFU's website [www.abingdonfilmunit.com](http://www.abingdonfilmunit.com). This year's crop of AFU films will be screened in the Amey Theatre on Saturday 12 May – it would be great to see you there. ■

## Running Men

Inspired by the Olympics, first-year boys cut out life size shapes of running men using themselves as models. The paper shapes were then arranged round the walls of Boarders' Hall as a mural, creating a lively and attractive display. ■





Not 'if only' but, "if you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same" as the 1st XV had to when, despite coming from 14-0 down to equalise at 17-17, Abingdon lost to Dulwich College in the quarter final of the Daily Mail Cup because they were the home side and these are the rules. Dulwich College went on to beat St Joseph's School, Ipswich in the semi finals and to win the trophy by defeating Old Swinford Hospital School in the finals on 4 April. ■

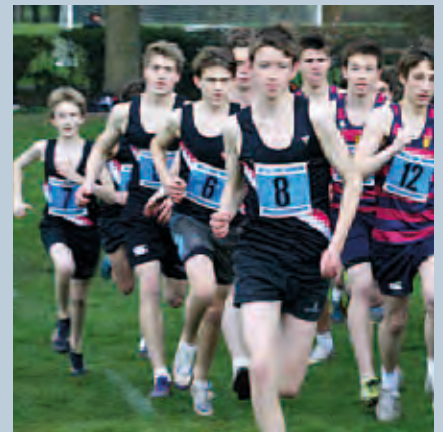
## Football Report

After an absence of 90 years, football has returned this term as a major sport. The season saw more losses than wins for all the teams, but there were some good matches and some close scores. ■



## Cross-Country Champions

Five days training at OA Philip Hatzis's *Tri Training Harder* camp in Portugal in the New Year gave the cross-country squad a competitive edge this season. Fourth at the Knole Run, they swept the board at the County Championships, winning the U19s – Alistair Duff and Stuart Jones taking first and second places, the U17s – Thomas Kelly taking first place, and the U15s – Nat Jones and Michael Fabes crossing the line in first and second place respectively. At the Wellington Relays, the senior team beat the rest of the competition – 11 other schools – by nearly 3 minutes, and at the Tortoise Relays in Christ Church Meadow, Thomas Kelly and Alistair Duff took first and second place in the senior relay, recording the fastest and second fastest lap times; Michael Fabes and Nat Jones took first and second in the intermediates. ■



## Karate

A total of ten boys graded to higher kyus as a result of the karate termly grading at the end of term. Two boys, Austin Andrews and Jeremy Lyons, graded to 5 kyus and are now entitled to wear purple belts. ■



## RYA Day Skippers

Richard Matthews, Tom Pugh, James Tracey and Sam Hughes have recently qualified as RYA Day Skippers following a five-day continuous assessment exam in the waters off the coast of Cornwall. This means that they are now able to charter yachts in the UK and the Mediterranean. ■





## Fencing

Five Abingdon fencers qualified for the British Youth Championships at the Southern Regional Fencing Championships in January – Ben Schneider, who came 2nd in the U14 Épeeé, Herman Chan, who came 2nd in the U16, and Thomas Chan, Bernard NG and Kit Bowen who came 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the U18 event. At the British Schools’ Team Championships, the U16 Épeeé team – Jack Dawson, William Johnson and Ben Schneider – won gold, with Jack Dawson later coming 3rd in the Boys’ Junior Épeeé at the Public Schools’ Fencing Championships in which both Bernard NG and Herman Chan reached the quarter finals. ■

## Hockey – the future looks bright

There were very strong performances last term from the U14A and U15A teams in the recently established Independent Schools’ Hockey League – the U14As winning twelve of their seventeen matches and the U15As eight of their ten. The U14As played excellent hockey at the county championships, which they won without losing a match or conceding a goal. The U16As also won, achieving the title in a much tighter contest, which they won on goal difference. ■



The victorious crews at the Schools’ Head

## A Great Start to the Rowing Season

Having been the fastest school crew at the Reading Head, and the fastest school over the course at the Hammersmith Head, the 1st VIII gave a mature and ruthless performance at the Schools’ Head of the River to win the event on 20 March – Abingdon achieving a spectacular double when the 2nd VIII won their event too. The 1st VIII then went on to win the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships in the seriously impressive time of 18:10 minutes. ■



U14A



## Road Relay

Over 500 boys and 130 teams took part in the 44th Annual Road Relay on 29 March. The fastest overall team was made up of OAs Tom Watkins and Alex Muir; the fastest school runners were the U6 team from Davies’ – Stuart Jones, Guy Giles, Sam Hughes and Christian Reedman. The fastest time came from Alex Muir – 7 mins 51 secs, with Alistair Duff in the upper sixth recording 7 mins 59 secs. ■

## Dinosaur Day Out



The Pre-prep enjoyed meeting the dinosaurs and other exotic creatures at Oxford's Natural History Museum in February. It took some convincing to assure some of the boys, aged between 4 and 7, that there are really no more dinosaurs on earth, let alone Oxford - especially as they discovered 'real' footprints in the grass on the way into the museum! ■

## Sporting Round-up



### Senior Choir Sing Out

The senior choir, which is open to everyone at Abingdon Prep and is very popular, was in fine voice this term with two big events. On 5 March the 26 members of the choir, aged between 10 and 13, took part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 which involved 8000 children performing to a packed audience of 30000. The boys then went on tour at the beginning of April to the Rhine and Moselle valleys where they sang Mass at Cologne Cathedral and performed at a concert at Christuskirche in Koblenz. ■



25 football squads, ranging from the 1st XI to the U8 D VI played over 120 fixtures this term. Added to this were the cross-country competitions, National Schools' Rugby 7s, hockey matches and tournaments and the traditionally hard-fought inter-house football, basketball and badminton competitions.

Although success on the pitch for the senior football teams has been limited, their progress has been marked under the coaching staff of Stefan Gerrard, Ben Tew and Ben Sadler (Oxford United – Youth Coach). The U8s and U9s had the most success this season winning the majority

of their matches which bodes well for the future at Abingdon Prep.

The highlight of the hockey season was the U9s winning the Magdalen College School Tournament and the selection of both John Corran (U14s) and Harry Venables (U13s) for the Oxfordshire County squads.

Our cross-country performance has been outstanding this term. The U11s and U13's won the team competition at Oratory Prep and Henry Insley (1st) and Joseph Richardson (3rd) ran exceptionally well at the Chandlings event and at the IAPS National Championships where the U8 team also came an impressive second. ■



## Lord of the Flies

This year's Upper School play was an ambitious staging of *Lord of the Flies*. The emphasis was very much on the quality of the acting; there was quite literally nowhere to hide as all the cast were on stage for the whole play. The lead roles of Jack, Ralph and Piggy were taken by Jamie Sudlow, Darius Oraee and Ethan Sarphie. Their performances were memorable, combining vulnerability and empathy with menace and anger. The supporting cast were equally impressive: George Simonson displayed great sensitivity in his role as Simon; Tom Hardy became frighteningly feral as Roger, while Oliver Beaumont and Jasper Perry developed a telepathic relationship as the twins Sam 'n' Eric! Felix Barber, Paddy Langdale and Edward Charter completed Jack's gang and James Moore was the wide eyed 'little'un' Percival. The lighting and sound added a haunting quality to a powerful and poignant production, of which all the boys should be immensely proud – they were, quite simply, brilliant. ■



## Pre-prep super heroes

One February Friday Pre-prep was transformed from normal Abingdon school boys into superheroes from every walk of life. All boys (and teachers) came to school wearing their chosen superhero costume and prepared to take part in a fun Pre-prep event where everyone was given the opportunity to display their special powers. ■



## The Pepys Show

Year 5 performed an entertaining show of musical theatre

## Abingdon Prep on Top Form

Abingdon Prep School is celebrating its best-ever scholarship results. 14 awards were won by boys to leading senior schools including six academic scholarships and drama, art, music and sport awards to Abingdon School. The six academic scholarships to Abingdon were achieved in one of the most competitive years for scholarships with 54 boys competing for the coveted awards.

Talking about the boys' success, Crispin Hyde-Dunn, Abingdon Prep's Headmaster, said:

"The boys have worked extremely hard for these awards and these achievements are a wonderful accolade for the pupils and their teachers. They are the culmination of many years of hard work and commitment from everyone at the Prep School as well as our parents' support from home." ■



### Scholarships and awards:

#### Academic scholarships -

Jonah Walker, Oliver Beaumont, Rhys Humphries, Toby Collins, Jake Pennington, Ethan Sarphie

#### Art scholarships -

Jonah Walker, Andrew Marples

#### Drama scholarship -

Ethan Sarphie

#### Sport scholarships -

John Corran, Max Smith, Jack Tomes

#### Music exhibition -

Tom Buckle

#### All Rounder scholarship -

Zac Yellowlees-Bound



Alexander Jeffrey's entry

## ASP A Photograph Competition

Please do not forget the annual ASPA photo competition, open to all Abingdon boys. Last year saw a large number of varied photos, many of high quality. This year does not look to be different, but there is still lots of time to enter as the closing date is not until the first Friday of the Michaelmas term. There is a £50 first prize and £25 for the runners-up. Entries should be sent to [aspa@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:aspa@abingdon.org.uk) ■

## Fierce Competition at ASPA Quiz

Over seventy people challenged their grey cells at the ASPA Quiz on 2 March. Competition was fierce with just two points separating the top three teams. In the end the Rolls Royces defeated the Adams to win by a single point, with the Glam Rockers coming third. The questions ranged from music to sport, TV, current events, films and general knowledge. A huge thank you must go to Pippa Bassett who was MC for the evening and set most of the questions. ■



## Getting to Know Each Other ASP A Parents' Social Events

There has been an international theme to ASPA's social events recently: fourth-form parents enjoyed an Italian evening in the Sports Centre Hospitality Suite on 20 January, whilst on 3 February third-form parents went Chinese at the *Parasol* restaurant in Abingdon where the excellent food and convivial atmosphere is fast making this a favoured venue for Abingdon parents. Indian food was consumed at the Lower School Curry Evening, held in School on 24 February. The evening was timed to coincide with the Lower School Disco so that parents could enjoy themselves and get to know each other before taxiing their offspring home. Then it was back to Italy on 16 March when sixth-form parents went to *La Fortuna* in East Hanney where good food and good company were enjoyed in equal measure. ■

## New ASPA Committee Members

This school year has seen many new members including Kathy Hampden and Sanja Thompson, both third-form reps, and Karin Classen and Kerensa Shaw who are Lower School Committee reps. ASPA is always keen to welcome new members and ideas. If you are interested in joining, feel free to attend one of our committee meetings (held twice a term) so that you could meet everyone before committing yourself. Please contact Wendy Lambe, Vice-Chair: [aspa@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:aspa@abingdon.org.uk) ■

## Second-hand Uniform Shop

The second-hand uniform shop provides a good opportunity to pass on, and pick up, items of good condition uniform and kit.

**NB donated articles need to be cleaned before arriving at the shop!**

Staffed by 12 volunteers, the shop is open on Wednesdays (12:15 – 1:15) and Saturdays (11:30 – 12:30) during term. Pricing is structured so that 60% of the sale price goes back to the parent donor, and 40% to a Common Room wish list in support of School activities. This term we are offering items of cricket kit (jumpers, white trousers etc) at a fixed price of £5 per item, so good bargains are to be had.

The shop will also be open on both induction days, 28 June and 3 July, between 2 and 3 pm to allow new parents to stock up on uniform items for the following term. ■

## ASP A Forthcoming Events

- 26 April** Coffee Afternoon  
Amey Theatre Foyer 3-5 pm
- 18 May** ASPA at the Cherwell  
Boathouse (sold out)

Check website for details  
[www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa)

## The Loose Limbed Collective Events

The Loose Limbed Collective is a new initiative to support OAs in the challenging worlds of professional theatre, music, comedy and film.

- **Networking and Drinks:** Old Vic Theatre, London Friday 8 June. OAs interested in attending contact Jeremy Taylor, Abingdon's Director of Drama and the Film Unit, for further details – [jeremy.taylor@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:jeremy.taylor@abingdon.org.uk)
- **Loose Limbed Film Project:** current and recent Abingdonians are working on a film with the renowned documentarist Michael Grigsby, OA 1955, looks at the relationship between memory and nostalgia and asks whether school days really were the best days of our lives. If any OAs have stories, anecdotes, diary entries, photographs or even video footage of their school days that they would be willing to share with the film makers please contact Jeremy Taylor directly (and as soon as possible) at [jeremy.taylor@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:jeremy.taylor@abingdon.org.uk) or read more in his open letter on the OA Club's website at [www.oaclub.org.uk](http://www.oaclub.org.uk)
- **Loose Limbed Collective Comedy Evening:** Saturday June 16, Amey Theatre, 7.30pm. A fund-raising evening led by new comedy blues band *Jonny and the Baptists*, Jonny Donohoe (Margree) OA 2001 and Paddy Gervers, OA 2008, and featuring a host of OA entertainers. Details page 2. Tickets: [arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk)

Lacies Court 1961



## Rainforests and Croquet

purchases made possible by the Annual Fund

Money from the Annual Fund has been put towards the purchase of a stress / strain apparatus for the **Physics Department**, allowing boys to construct stress / strain graphs on a wide variety of materials. The **Art Department** has bought a printing press. It is keen to promote printmaking because the activity requires students not only to be organised but also to engage in both spacial and visual complexities. The Fund has also bought two video cameras for school-wide use. Designed for extreme conditions, the cameras will be used this summer when a group of biologists go to Honduras to study rainforest and marine ecosystems. Another Fund purchase, a croquet set, will be used in slightly less extreme conditions – the lawns surrounding Lacies Court and Whitefield, when croquet is introduced as an Other Half activity this term. And **Waste Court / Davies's** have been given money to buy new pictures for the House designed to reflect the wide geographic areas and diverse cultural backgrounds of all its members. ■

## New Chapel Windows

The four sandblasted windows were installed last term and the fused-glass windows will be fitted at the beginning of this term.

The Services' window (R) commemorates all members of the Abingdon community who have served, and who continue to serve, in the British Armed Forces.

A soldier dressed for service in Afghanistan looks up at a vapour-trail cross. A single red poppy – symbol of Remembrance – has been fused into the plain sandblasted window. ■



## Networking Dinner: Medicine

The second professional dinner for medicine, hosted by Mike Stevens (1968, OA Club President), took place at Abingdon School on Friday 23 March. Former parent, Nigel Crisp (Lord Crisp KCB) opened the evening with a lively and insightful talk entitled: *Turning the World Upside Down – what the NHS can learn from low and middle income countries*. This was followed by a reception and dinner, enabling current pupils, parents and OAs with a professional interest in medicine to do some informal networking. The event brought together OAs from 1957–2011, parents (both past and present), and over 20 current sixth formers. ■

## 1563 and All That

News that the School will be marking its 450th anniversary next year might puzzle some people who remember it celebrating its 750th anniversary only six years ago. However, those who were paying attention will remember that in 2006 we celebrated the anniversary of the first documented reference to the School – in the will of the Abbot of Abingdon, John de Blosneville, who left an endowment for the support of thirteen poor scholars. Just over 300 years later, and following the dissolution of Abingdon Abbey, John Roysse gave the Mayor and Corporation of Abingdon £50 towards the refurbishment of part of the old abbey as a schoolroom, and the freehold of two properties in the City of London. The income from these properties helped support the School for the next 300 years, and when they were sold in 1866 the money was used to build the current school premises so that even today we are the beneficiaries of Roysse's four hundred and fifty year old endowment. ■



## The Happiest Days of Your Life?

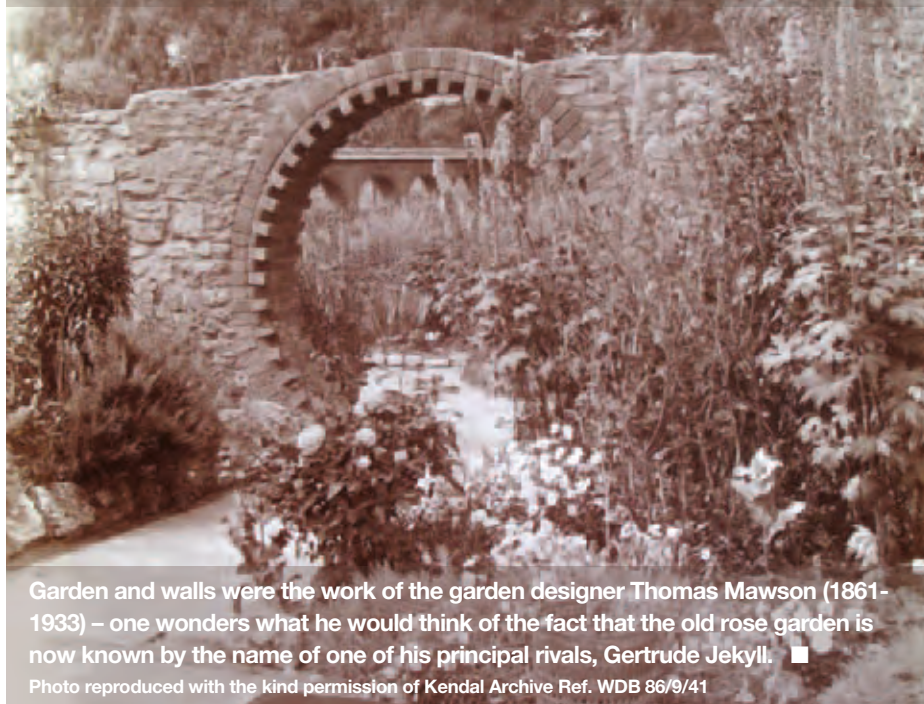
John Lambourn, OA 1940, has just sent the archives a copy of some cine film that he recently transferred to DVD. Taken in 1939, it shows him winning the Junior 220 Handicap Trophy. John, who remembers cutting his hand badly on the newly built air raid shelter in Waste Court Field, transferred to St Edward's in 1940 because his parents thought Abingdon was too close to RAF Abingdon for safety. ■

*If you have any film, photographs or memories that you would like to share with the Loose Limbed Collective film makers please get in touch with Jeremy Taylor – see page 13*



## Moon Arch Restored

During maintenance work last summer, one of the walls in Lacies Court garden fell down, bringing with it the moon arch that once led into a walled rose garden. The walled garden is no more, two of its walls having been removed in 1956, but the moon arch has now been restored. See page 3



Garden and walls were the work of the garden designer Thomas Mawson (1861-1933) – one wonders what he would think of the fact that the old rose garden is now known by the name of one of his principal rivals, Gertrude Jekyll. ■

Photo reproduced with the kind permission of Kendal Archive Ref. WDB 86/9/41



Moon Arch September 2011

## London Drinks Reception

It was a pleasure to welcome so many OAs and members of staff (past and present) to the reception at the National Liberal Club on Thursday 8 March. Our thanks go to Alan Williams (1965) for enabling the OA Club to host this event in the stunning surroundings of the David Lloyd George Room at the NLC, and for the animated personal tours of the historic building which he led throughout the evening.

OAs in attendance: 1943 Anthony Perry, 1952 Gerald Nicholls, 1955 Murray Jones, 1959 Tim Morgan, Andrew Rowles, 1961 Terence Libby, 1965 Alan Williams, 1968 Mike Stevens, 1971 Andrew McMillan, 1974 Pieter Cox, Richard Kenyon, Peter Watson, 1975 Simon Hills, Gareth Light, 1976 Gareth Morris, Tim Olliffe, 1978 Robin Joy, 1982 John Warchus, 1983 Duncan Rand, 1984 Barry Stanton, 1987 Graham Scott, Andrew Stacey, 1989 Max Henderson, 1991 Ben Clothier, Nick Hodgson, 1994 Mike Litchfield (also Common Room), 1995 Jeremy Cave, Rob Duncan, David Fowkes, Dominic Partridge, 1997 Felix Greaves, Harry Wearne, 2001 Jonathan Donahoe, 2002 William Burdall, Ben Chadwick, Nick Hopkins, Matt Stalker, Robert Turnbull, 2003 Lewis Fowler, Ian Sanderson, 2006 Thomas Raftery, Sam Wylie, 2007 Jasper Cooper (OA Office), Thomas Keogh, Rich Worth, 2008 Paddy Gervers, Timothy Middleton. Other guests included Honorary OAs Tom Ayling and Kris Spencer (both former Common Room) and Diana Cobban May; the Head, Felicity Lusk, and Common Room Dean Evans, Ian Fishpool, Andrew Hall and Jeremy Taylor. ■



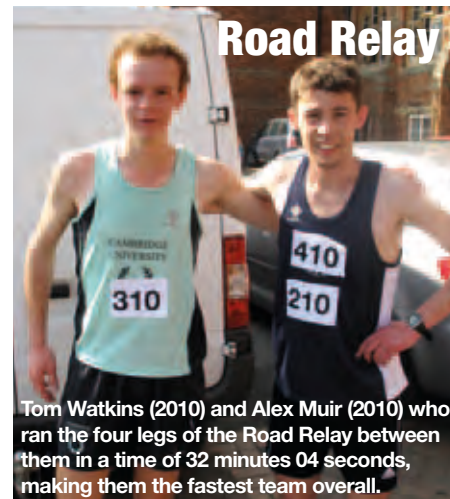
## Modern Languages Dinner

A number of OAs and former members of staff returned to Abingdon on Friday 16 March to attend a dinner for Abingdon Linguists hosted by the Modern Languages Department. The School was pleased to welcome Rt Hon David Lidington, MP for Aylesbury and Minister for Europe as the guest speaker for this event.

OA guests included: 1970 Jonathan Frere, 1975 Chris Cambray, 1986 Chris Day, Matthew Lodge, 1996 John Oldham, 2000 Matthew Hawksworth, 2001 Michael Conway, 2005 Hal McKend, Richard Soames, 2006 Chris Lillycrop, 2008 Joseph Buckley, 2010 Alex Muir, 2011 Ben Haveron. Former Common Room: Tom Ayling, Irina Duddell, Vicky Evans, Margaret Hankey, Keith Hasnip, Sophie Payne, Adam Pettitt, Tess Silkstone, David Taylor and Meg Vaughan-Fowler. ■

## Hockey: OAs v 1st XI

Friday 31 March saw the annual OAs v 1st XI hockey fixture, played this year in Oxford at the Iffley Road Sports Complex. The OA team, largely consisting of current university hockey club players, secured a 5-2 victory against the current boys with goals scored by Royden Burt (former staff), Paz Rabindran (2009), Toby Roche and Rowan Wheeler (both 2006). The match was followed by a round of drinks in the pub. Our thanks to Steve Brenchley (Common Room) for organising the fixture and to Rhys Cadman (2007) who captained the OA side. ■



**Road Relay**  
Tom Watkins (2010) and Alex Muir (2010) who ran the four legs of the Road Relay between them in a time of 32 minutes 04 seconds, making them the fastest team overall.

### Forthcoming events

- Fri 11 May OA 60s Event:  
Castle Cornet – Guernsey
- Tues 15 May OA Golf Day – Frilford Heath
- Sat 16 June Former Staff Lunch  
– Abingdon School
- Sat 16 June Loose Limbed Collective  
Comedy Night Fundraiser
- Weds 4 July OA Tennis Tournament  
– School
- Sat 23 June Sheldonian Concert – Oxford
- Sun 24 June Gerald Smithson Memorial  
Cricket Tournament – School
- Thurs 12 - 1975 Reunion Weekend
- Mon 16 July – Eynsham Hall, Oxfordshire





## An OA at the Olympics

Rob Walker, OA 1993, will have a busy summer. He's *BBC Sport's* live sailing reporter in Weymouth for the Olympic Games, reprising the role he performed in China four years ago. A few weeks later he'll be at the Paralympics, working as one of *Channel 4's* two lead commentators on the athletics in the Olympic Stadium. Rob recently gave a careers talk to the sixth form, encouraging them to adopt a maxim which has stood him in good stead over the years: "Don't take no for an answer!" After his initial job interview back in 2002, Rob received a rejection letter from *BBC*; it was only when he rang to request feedback that they realised he had been sent the wrong letter! This will be the fourth Olympiad Rob has covered for the *BBC* as he is now also part of their Winter Olympic commentary team. ■



## Greenwood and Penderecki

A Barbican concert on 22 March featured music by Krzysztof Penderecki, the leading Polish composer of avant-garde classical music, and Jonny Greenwood, OA 1982, Radiohead guitarist and electronic music innovator. The concert celebrated the strong influence that Penderecki's music has had on Greenwood's compositional career which was reflected in the performance of Greenwood's *48 Responses to Polymorphia* – first performed in Warsaw on 9 September 2010 – alongside Penderecki's *Polymorphia*, which was first performed in 1961. A CD of the music was released on 13 March. ■



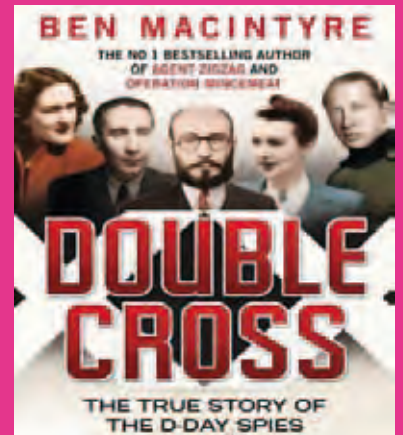
## Recognise the Face?

Is that John Major sitting on Mrs Thatcher's right? No, it's Robin Kermode, OA 1976, as John Major beside Meryl Streep's Mrs Thatcher in the film *The Iron Lady*. ■

## James Bowler CB



James Bowler, OA 1991, was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath in the Queen's New Year's Honours' List last January, receiving his award at a ceremony at Windsor Castle on 3 April. James joined the Civil Service from Cardiff University, where he read Economics, having been recommended by his professor for fast track entry into the Welsh Office. Having spent five years as Principal Private Secretary at No 10 Downing Street, working with both Gordon Brown and David Cameron, he now works at the Treasury. ■



Bronx, Brutus, Treasure, Tricycle and Garbo are the unlikely-sounding heroes of *Double Cross*, the new novel by Ben Macintyre, OA 1982, which was a BBC Book of the Week in April. They are the code names of five German agents, active in Britain at the beginning of the Second World War until turned by MI5, who then successfully used them to feed the Germans with false information as to the planned site for the invasion of Europe. ■