

Abingdon News

Lent 2004

The Newsletter of Abingdon School

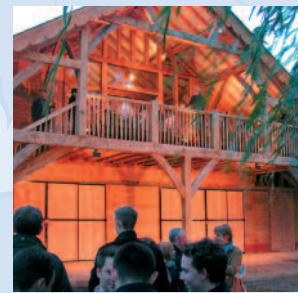


A New Boat House ...

Matthew Pinsent, the gold medal winning Olympic oarsman, opened Abingdon School's new boathouse on the 22nd October. It was nearly twelve months to the day since the Friends of the Boat Club decided to raise the money for a boathouse worthy of a school that in 2002 had won the Triple – the Schools' Head on the Tideway, the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham and the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley.



Matthew Pinsent at the opening of the boathouse



It was a chilly autumn evening but this didn't deter nearly four hundred people from crowding into the riverside site to hear Matthew Pinsent encourage the rowers and talk about the importance of good facilities for success.

... and a New Arts Centre

The Right Hon. Francis Maude (OA 1971), retiring Chairman of the Governors, opened the new Arts Centre on Open Day, the 11th October. A week later, with the paint scarcely dry and in some places not yet applied, the newly named Amey Theatre hosted its first event, a Gala Charity Concert in which musicians from the School joined those from the band of the Royal Logistic Corps.

During the first week in December the theatre saw three performances on three consecutive nights of the senior play, *The Nativity*, followed on the fourth day by a matinee and evening performance of the Grand Opening Concert. Actors and audience alike appreciated the benefits of the extended stage, the new technical gallery, the enlarged foyer and the refurbished cloakrooms.



Francis Maude and the Headmaster, Mark Turner



New Arts Centre

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Josca's News p.9
OA Club News p.11

Kids' Lit Quiz

What is the name of Tintin's dog?
Which country won the final of the World Quidditch Cup?
In which book do we read about the Muggle-Wump monkeys?

Be the team to get the most correct answers in ten rounds of ten questions like these and you too could win a place in the National Final of the Kids' Lit Quiz. This is what the team from Abingdon School did on 26 November when they beat nineteen other teams to win the South of England regional heat. It is estimated that approximately eight hundred twelve-to-thirteen-year-olds, from schools across the country, took part in the competition, which was devised by Wayne Mills, a lecturer in education from New Zealand. Abingdon were one of ten teams to make it to the final, which was won by a team from Dunblane High School.



School Photograph

It is over thirty years since such a massive project was undertaken - a photograph of the whole school - and thirty years ago the school was smaller and didn't include Josca's. This time over a thousand boys had to be organised according to size and the colour of their jackets before filing onto the stands and keeping still long enough for the photograph to be taken. The whole operation was carried out with military precision and the resulting photograph is both attractive and a record of Abingdon School on the 8th September 2003.



English Heritage Open Day

The School played its part in English Heritage Open Day on 13 September; the Grundy Library was open to the public, as an example of the work of the Victorian architect Edgar Dolby, and the old schoolroom in the Guildhall was also open. Here Mr Pope and a small group of brave volunteers were one of the star attractions as they acted out life in a Victorian classroom where lessons were learnt by rote and the cane was an ever present threat.

Legion XIII

A gathering of Lower School pupils, together with some from local primary schools, experienced something of everyday life in Roman times when Legion XIII came to the School in November. They learnt about fashions, food and hygiene from a freedwoman called Antonia and in the afternoon were taught about the military side of life: the strengths and weaknesses of chain mail and how to use an assortment of weapons including a sling and a javelin.



3rd Year Service Activities

The introduction of a service scheme for all 3rd Years has seen teams of boys tackling a variety of jobs. Many chose the conservation option and have been reclaiming flowerbeds at the Trinity Church in Conduit Road or collecting litter, planting trees and clearing pathways along the Ock Valley Nature Reserve. All boys will take a course in First Aid. Other options include Community Service, the CCF, working in the school archives or in the careers library.



Gardening at Trinity Methodist Church



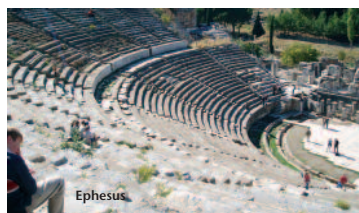
At work in the archives



Christmas Tea Party

There were carols, quizzes and crackers at the Community Service Christmas tea party on 3rd December. The guests were members of "The Older and Bolder Club", Nicholson House, Old Station House and Lady Eleanor Court and they were entertained with party games and songs by boys from all years.

Classics Trip To Turkey



Ephesus

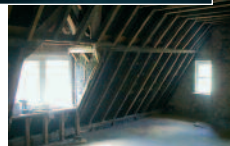


The theatre at Pergamum

During the autumn half term a party of thirty-three boys travelled to Turkey. The locations they visited ranged in time from Troy to the Gallipoli battlefields. They visited a number of spectacular Romano-Hellenistic sites in particular Ephesus, with its theatre where St Paul spoke, Pamukkale, with its sprawling necropolis and hot springs, and Pergamum, dominated by its temple to the Roman emperor Trajan. In Istanbul the group visited the Blue Mosque and the Topkapi Palace and shopped in the Grand Bazaar. They returned to School deeply impressed by what they had seen.

Crescent House

Whilst the rest of us were on our summer holidays the maintenance staff carried out a major refurbishment of the accommodation at Crescent House. The work included removing fifteen skips of old plaster and applying eight tonnes of new as well as rewiring and installing a new heating system. This meant that when the housemaster, Mr Garnier, held a lunch party on the 29th November to celebrate Crescent House's 50th anniversary, the house was wearing its best face.



Remembrance Day



On Remembrance Sunday the CCF attended the service at Trinity Church and joined the parade to the Abingdon War Memorial. On Remembrance Day itself a parade was held in front of Main School to observe the two minutes silence. Over forty cadets from both Army and RAF sections were present at the parade, which was commanded by Major Carson.



Kayaking In Vancouver



Seals, bald eagles, black bears and humpback whales were virtually everyday sights for the party of seven boys who spent three weeks in Vancouver during the summer holidays. Starting the trip at Port Hardy, the boys paddled north towards Cape Scott, the most northerly point on Vancouver Island. The journey of a hundred and twenty miles took eight days. After this the group went white-water kayaking on the Chilliwack and Thompson Rivers. The wide-open vistas, gigantic trees and abundant wildlife made a huge impression on the group and some of them are already planning their return.

The Nativity

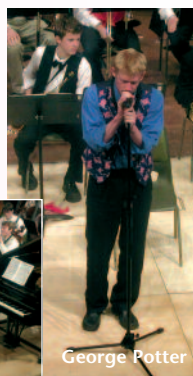
The senior production this term was Tony Harrison's 'The Nativity', a modern re-working of the popular medieval plays originally performed by the trades' guilds. In a lively combination of poetry, comedy, music and dancing 'The Nativity' covered the period from the creation of the world to the birth of Jesus Christ and was by turns intensely moving and hilariously funny.



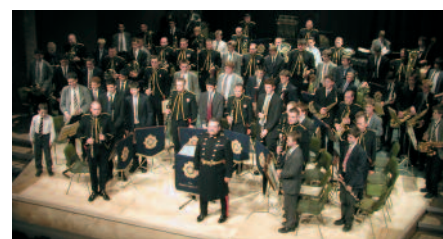
1. In the beginning ...God created the world
2. Noah and his wife ride out the rains
3. Abraham prepares to sacrifice Isaac
4. The adoration of the shepherds

Gala Concert 6th December

The First Orchestra, Brass Band, Chapel Choir, Chamber Orchestra and Big Band all played their part in the Gala Concert, which opened with a brass fanfare, in Gordon Jacob's arrangement of the National Anthem, and concluded with Elgar's Land of Hope and Glory. Other highlights included four movements from Vivaldi's Gloria, Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition', with vocals by George Potter, and the first movement of George Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F, Paul O'Donovan as soloist.



Inaugural Charity Concert



On 17 October 2003, in a barely completed Amey Theatre, the band of the Royal Logistic Corps, together with musicians from the School, played a selection of musical favourites in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and the Abingdon Arts Centre Appeal.

Abingdon School Film Unit



Mr Taylor and Mr Grigsby interview a potential filmmaker

Many years ago, during the 1950s and 60s, Abingdon School had a film unit. One of the schoolboy directors, Michael Grigsby, went on to become a highly respected maker of documentaries. He has now returned to his old school to teach a group of pupils the theory and practice of film making. It is hoped that some of the films the boys make this year may be included in the retrospective of Grigsby's work that is being held at the National Film Theatre in June.

Date For The Diary ...

Bach's B Minor Mass will be performed by the combined choirs of Abingdon and St Helen's - parents, staff and pupils - on Saturday 6 March 2004 in the Amey Theatre.

House Shout

After an interval of five years the 'House Shout' was restored to the musical calendar. Andrew Morris, Director of Music at Bedford School, judged this singing competition, which is designed to involve the whole school in music making. The results, in reverse order, were: equal fourth, Crescent and Townsend's singing 'YMCA' and 'A Hard Day's Night'; second was Elliott's with 'This Little Light of Mine' and the winners were Aitken's who sang 'Can you feel the Love Tonight?'.



Aitken's, winners of the House Shout

The Abingdon School Sailing Club



Last summer holidays, Abingdon School sent a team to the 2003 Laser Radial Youth and European World Championships at Lake Garda in Italy. At half term a party from the School sailed the ex-French pilot cutter, the Jolie Brise, in the North Sea. The Club sail up to five times a week on the Farmoor reservoir

Badminton



Abingdon School versus -

Bloxham	.....won	.....	8-1, 9-0
Oratory	.....lost	.....	2-6
Radley	.....won	.....	8-1, 9-0
Stowe	.....lost	.....	4-5, 4-5,
Malvern	.....won	.....	8-0
Cheltenham	.....won	.....	5-3
Radley	.....won	.....	7-0, 9-0
Bloxham	.....won	.....	9-1, 9-1
St Anne's College	.....won	.....	12-4
Stowe	.....won	.....	6-3, 6-3
Wellington	.....won	.....	13-2
Rugby	.....won	.....	8-1, 7-2
Cheltenham	.....won	.....	10-6

Abingdon School has a remarkable badminton record: since 1966 it has won far more matches than it has lost. During these thirty-seven years the teams have been coached by Mr Taylor and Mr Macdonald. They attribute the teams' success to: coaching in the early days by the Ladies World Champion, Judy Hashman, and the British Olympic player, Julie Bradbury; Eric Anderson's decision in the early 1970s that there would be no such thing as a minor sport at Abingdon; the continuing influence of players such as Adrian Luto [OA 1975] who helped build the reputation of the school team; a stream of good players from Malaysia and the habit of success itself.

Touchliners

Touchliners is the name of a new group formed by parents to support rugby. It hopes to raise money to help with the purchase of equipment for the sport. The group was launched at a tea party in September when over a hundred families signed up for membership. Many of these members attended the Touchliners' Inaugural Dinner on 6 December, which came at the end of a remarkably successful season. Many Upper 6th players also attended, marking the end of their school rugby careers. The speaker at the dinner was Lyn Evans, former Oxford University Director of Rugby and now part-time coach for the RFU. He was able to describe being behind the posts when Jonny Wilkinson dropped THAT goal.



Lyn Evans speaking at the Touchliners' dinner

The 1st XV



This season was memorable for the fact that the 1st XV beat both Radley and St Edward's. In fact they only lost two of their matches. Team coach, Stuart Hamilton, feels that much of their success can be attributed to their fitness and to the tremendous team spirit, both of which were fostered during their pre-season Italian tour at the end of the summer holidays.

Abingdon School versus -

Radley	.....won	..	16 - 15
Stowe	.....won	..	20 - 5
St Pauls	.....lost	..	10 - 25
Bedford Modern	.....won	..	30 - 11
Pangbourne	.....won	..	32 - 10
Warwick	.....lost	..	8 - 12
MCS	.....won	..	17 - 7
St Edward's	.....won	..	13 - 8
Bloxham	.....won	..	17 - 0

Cricket Tour of Granada and Barbados 12-27 July 2003

A squad of nineteen boys together with Mr Spratling, and Mr Hibberd from Josca's, played a total of seven matches against local school and district teams. In Granada they lost the first three games but managed to snatch victory in the fourth. In Barbados they won all three matches with particularly impressive performances under extreme pressure in the final two games of the tour.



Headmasters of Abingdon School



There is a new board over the fireplace in the lobby of Big School containing the names of all the known headmasters of Abingdon School. What do we know about these men? The answer for approximately half of them is – very little.

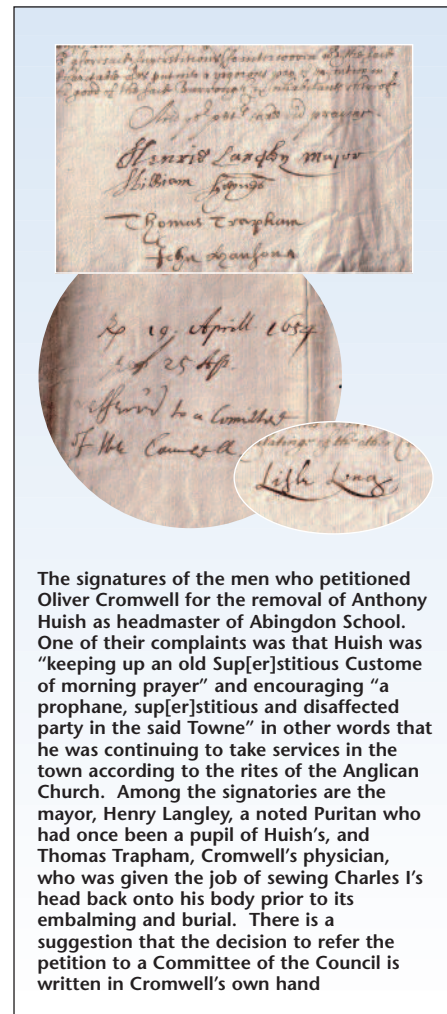
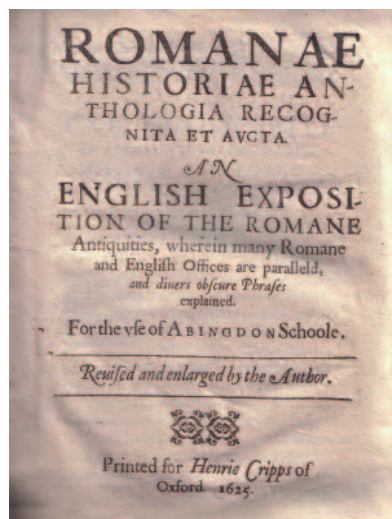
All that can be said about Richard the Pedagogue, c.1100, the first name on the board, is that he is unlikely to have been the first headmaster. The original School would have been founded to educate the sons of officials at Abingdon Abbey, and the Abbey was first founded in the late 7th Century, so the School could possibly date from then. AE Preston, an early 20th-century historian of the town, believed the School dated from the re-founding of the Abbey in the mid-10th Century. However, it is possible that Richard the Pedagogue was the first headmaster and that the School was founded in the 12th Century. This still makes Abingdon one of the oldest schools in England.

The frontispiece of Thomas Godwyn's 'Romanae Historiae Anthologia ... For the use of Abingdon Schoole'

The names of the medieval headmasters have been gleaned from an assortment of legal records and accounts and nothing is known about them except their names, other than John Clyffe who, on 2 February 1538, was present at the Abbey on the day Henry VIII's commissioners came to accept its surrender as part of the Dissolution of the Monasteries – Clyffe signed his name next to the Abbot's on the surrender document.

It is only in the 17th Century that we come to know more than just the headmaster's name. **Degorie Weare**, who resigned as headmaster in 1606, later became Oxford's first Professor of Modern History and in 1626 Principal of Gloucester Hall, later Worcester College.

Thomas Godwyn (1608-1625), author of a Roman History specially written for use at Abingdon School, became the first Fellow of Pembroke College, which was founded for the education of six scholars and seven Fellows, preference being given to those who had been educated at Abingdon School. He retired from school-mastering to become vicar of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.



The signatures of the men who petitioned Oliver Cromwell for the removal of Anthony Huish as headmaster of Abingdon School. One of their complaints was that Huish was "keeping up an old Sup[er]stitious Custome of morning prayer" and encouraging "a prophane, sup[er]stitious and disaffected party in the said Towne" in other words that he was continuing to take services in the town according to the rites of the Anglican Church. Among the signatories are the mayor, Henry Langley, a noted Puritan who had once been a pupil of Huish's, and Thomas Trapham, Cromwell's physician, who was given the job of sewing Charles I's head back onto his body prior to its embalming and burial. There is a suggestion that the decision to refer the petition to a Committee of the Council is written in Cromwell's own hand

Anthony Huish (1625-1654) was headmaster during the Civil War. A Royalist and an Anglican, in a predominantly Puritan and Parliamentary town, he was removed from office following a petition to Oliver Cromwell drawn up by the mayor and corporation. The mayor was one of Huish's old pupils, Henry Langley.

Thomas Woods (1716-1753) ran a fashionable and successful school during the first half of the 18th Century, attracting pupils not only from the town but also from a number of noble families in neighbouring counties. Woods gave the School a clock, which still keeps perfect time in the school library.



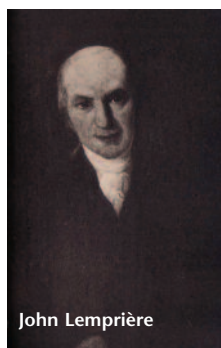
Thomas Woods's Clock

From the Archives



The painted Coat of Arms presented by Henry Bright

Henry Bright (1758-1774) oversaw the School's bi-centenary celebrations in 1763 and presented it with a painted Coat of Arms combining John Roysse's arms with those of Bright's wife. This too remains in the School's possession and records the first appearance of the School's motto 'Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo' – I will eternally sing the praises of the Lord. Bright corresponded with Samuel Johnson, who recommended at least one pupil to Abingdon School.



John Lemprière

John Lemprière (1792-1809) was a fine classical scholar. His Classical Dictionary was first published in 1788 and went on to become an indispensable volume in every 19th-century gentleman's

library. Lemprière himself was removed from office for neglecting his duties as schoolmaster.

William Alder Strange (1840-1868), headmaster during the middle years of the 19th Century, carried the name of his great-uncle, John Alder, the 'Fortunate Cooper', who won £20,000 in a lottery in 1767. Strange, a Sanskrit scholar, was the last headmaster in the old school buildings in the centre of Abingdon.



William Alder Strange

Edgar Summers (1870-1883), the first headmaster in the new building, had the foresight to see the potential of the Lacies Court site, which, since the Governors were unable to do so, he bought himself. More than a decade later he sold it on to the School at a discounted price. Part of the science block, the geography and RS departments, Hamilton's house room and the new Arts Centre and Amey Theatre have all been built in what were once the gardens of Lacies Court.

Thomas Layng's (1893-1913) headmastership coincided with the increased intervention of the State in school affairs. In 1913 Layng resigned over the financial problems arising from the Board of Education's insistence that 25% of places at the School should be free whilst at the same time refusing to cover the true cost of these places.



Thomas Layng

William Grundy (1913-1947), headmaster through the two World Wars, managed to get the number of Free Places reduced to 12.5%. The 1944 Education Act, which set up Direct Grant Schools, partly solved the problem of funding but now 50% of places had to be free.



William Grundy

James Cobban (1947-1970), Grundy's successor, determinedly developed the reputation of the School, but his later years were spent battling with the Labour Government over its plans to abolish Direct Grant Schools in its drive to make all schools Comprehensives.



James Cobban with Princess Margaret in 1963



Eric Anderson with Margaret Thatcher in 1973

Whilst there was a Conservative government, during four out of the five years that **Eric Anderson (1970-1975)** was headmaster, these plans were put on hold. However, in 1976 the new Labour government's Education Act forced the Governors to choose whether to allow the School to be taken over by the State or to become independent. They chose independence.



Michael St John Parker with Mrs Thatcher in 1996

Michael St John Parker (1975-2001) was therefore faced with the challenge of how to make the School attractive in the highly competitive independent schools' market. Under his headmastership the School embarked on a twenty-five year building programme resulting in the Jubilee Wing, the Amey Hall, the Sports Hall, the Greening Wing, Mercers' Court and the plans for the new Arts Centre.

After more than 900 years the story of Abingdon School continues under its 49th "known" headmaster, Mark Turner



The Abingdon School Society - TASS



Gravitass

The Abingdon School Society is the parent body that supports the School's aim of educating boys in as full a sense as possible. All parents are automatically members of TASS and the committee includes parents, staff and a governor.

Tass Quiz Night

"We all really enjoyed the quiz night, so would definitely come again." "The boys enjoyed it as much as we did. We're happy to return for more humiliation next year."

A large body of finely honed brains competed at the Tass Quiz Night for the illustrious title of "Scholars' Table", which was won by the borderless "Anglo-Scots" who walked off with sets of tomes as booty.

'Food for Thought' went to the "Simply Red" team, a cabal of parents and boys who had clearly been drinking too much Ribena. They were richly rewarded by bottles of vintage port, which may not have been entirely appropriate for the smaller members of the team. The "Country Bumpkins" sauntered away as 'Best Dressed Table' with copies of Vogue and GQ to refine their dress sense.

With more than a hundred and twenty parents, boys and girls competing across eighteen tables the school dining hall buzzed with energy. Above this throng, Anne Diamond quizzed with vitality in spite of us mislaying the loudspeaker PA system.

Most tables bravely dressed up both themselves and the tables; themes spanning the globe from "Ello Ello" to the "Desperados", and the colours in the spectrum from "Men in Black" to "Simply Red", together with the rather blue and posh "Glyndebourne" table.



The best dressed table
The Country Bumpkins



Quizmaster Anne Diamond

TASS Travel Awards

Jamie Brockbank received a TASS Travel Award in 2002. He spent part of his Gap Year in Africa and in a recent letter he tells of his enjoyment at teaching at Samarga Primary School in Mshiri, a village in Tanzania. The picture shows him with some of his pupils. The youngsters show a great determination to get the most out of their education as they aim to take a place in a secondary school.

Jamie not only saw a lot of Tanzania, including the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro and perfect beaches on Zanzibar; he also travelled to Uganda and South Africa.



Jamie Brockbank and pupils in Tanzania

Burns Night Supper

January's Burns Night Supper was sold out in early November. We expect to have some pictures in the next issue of Abingdon News.

New Home for SUS

The Second Hand Uniform shop opened the doors of its splendid new premises on Saturday 30th August. We now have a permanent home in the former Tuck Shop behind Hamilton's and have decided to experiment with opening more often: once a fortnight on Saturdays 12.30-1.30pm and once a half term on Wednesday lunchtime. The new premises have been re-fitted and look very much like the School Shop. There are bargains to be found in the old style uniform, which can now only be sold for two more terms. Unclaimed lost property finds its way to our rails, as well as outgrown sports kit and uniform.

Come and see us!

SUS Opening Times

SATURDAYS 12.30-1.30

10th, 31st January

7th February

6th, 20th March

WEDNESDAYS 1.00-2.00

14th January

17th March



The new Second hand Uniform Shop in Beech Court

Look us up under the Welcome tab on the Abingdon School web site www.abingdon.org.uk

Abingdon Junior School - Josca's

The Autumn Term at Josca's



Swimmers at the Swimathon

Josca's Charities

Josca's prides itself on being a caring, generous community; believing that supporting charitable causes instils an awareness of the greater community around us and helps stimulate ideas as to how we can influence it positively.

During the autumn term £4104 was raised for a number of charities by a variety of means. The Pre-Prep. Department's 'Toddle Waddle' raised £956 for the Meningitis Trust. In November the whole School contributed to a cake sale for Children in Need which, together with a raffle, brought the total raised to £252. A sale of poppies for Remembrance Day raised £54 for the British Legion. On 8 November Josca's raised £335 in a 'Swimathon' for the Children's Hospital being built in Oxford.

NSPCC: £1381
Barnados: £1192
Oxford Children's Hospital (swimathon): £335
Douglas House (to date): £185
Meningitis Trust: £956
British Legion Poppy Appeal: £54

Josca's Rugby

Josca's rugby continues to reach new heights with our 1st XV performing admirably, often against far larger schools. They ended the season with a run of five straight wins. Listed below are the results for the Autumn Term.

Josca's School versus -

Cokethorpe	(home)	36-7	Won
Oratory School	(away)	14-21	Lost
Magdalen	(away)	15-0	Won
St.Hugh's	(away)	5-21	Lost
Abingdon	(home)	5-17	Lost
Caldicott	(away)	36-5	Won
Prior Park	(away)	34-0	Won
Christchurch	(home)	41-24	Won
Pinewood	(away)	19-15	Won
St. Andrews	(home)	12-0	Won

A Quartet of Productions

The School's vocal and musical talents are presented on a regular basis to parents and friends and last term saw the Pre-Prep Department perform 'The Gigantic Star'; Years 3 and 4 'The Mystic Nativity,' a combination of readings and songs whilst the Upper School production was 'Ebenezer Scrooge's Quiet Night In'. A group of boys participated in a combined schools' Advent Carol Service at Radley.



Josca's visit to Twickenham, by Tommy Siman

When we got to Twickenham we all needed the toilet because we had been on the bus for so long, and on the way to the toilets we all saw Will Greenwood. Then Simon took us through the ticket check and led us to where the other schools were waiting to go into the Stadium. Then the Supercamps man came out and led us to the changing rooms where we were sorted into teams. We were put into the dark blue teams and the other teams were light blue. When we had put our kit on we were led onto the pitch and the

atmosphere was amazing. The stands were enormous and we were all really nervous but as soon as the games started we felt a lot calmer. We could all hear the rest of the Josca's group shouting and cheering us. After we had played we had a team photo on the pitch and then we were led off through the tunnel. Then we were led to our seats to watch the Varsity Match and it was fantastic. Afterwards when it was five minutes from the end of the match we left. Overall it was a very good day!

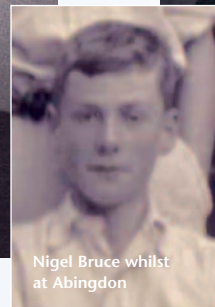
A School For Detectives?

Dr Watson and Lord Peter Wimsey went to Abingdon School... in a manner of speaking! Basil Rathbone's Sherlock Holmes was partnered by Nigel Bruce's Dr Watson and Nigel Bruce came to Abingdon in 1908. There is no record of him having done any acting whilst he was at school but he played cricket for the First XI and was described as, 'undoubtedly the best batsman' in the team.

As for Lord Peter Wimsey, Dorothy L. Sayers apparently modelled him on a man she met whilst at Oxford who was called Eric Whelpton, and Eric Whelpton came to Abingdon in 1906. His father was the minister of Trinity Methodist Church and they lived on the corner of Park Road and Conduit Road.



Eric Whelpton



Nigel Bruce whilst at Abingdon



Nigel Bruce as Dr Watson



18th-Century Headmaster's Bench

An escaped helium balloon has led to the discovery of the original 18th-century headmaster's bench, once part of the panelling in the old schoolroom. The balloon had floated onto a balcony, to which there has been no access for many years, where it kept activating the alarm. When one of the Guildhall staff got a ladder to retrieve the balloon she noticed the bench, but it wasn't until she was looking at some 19th-century pictures of the schoolroom that she realised what she had found. The bench must have been removed when, sometime in the early 20th Century, the Borough Council adapted the panelling to create a cupboard for the Municipal silver.

The 18th-century bench temporarily replaced in its original position.

Thames At War: Secrets, Spies and Spitfires.

The next exhibition at the Abingdon Museum, 10 April to 10 October 2004, tells the story of the riverside communities mobilised to assist in the defence of the nation and in war production. The man appointed by the Government to lead the Upper Thames Patrol, a special Home Guard force covering the area of the non-tidal Thames, was Sir Ralph Glyn, one of the governors of Abingdon School.

The School is tangentially connected with two Cold War spies; Klaus Fuchs lodged at Lacies Court before he was arrested for betraying Britain's atomic secrets to the Russians, and Gil Pontecorvo was briefly a pupil at the School before his father, Bruno, defected to Russia.



Sir Ralph Glyn

George VI inspecting the local Home Guard



Lacies Court during the 1940s, before the School took over the occupancy



Old Abingdonian Club News

Happy New Year from the OA Club Committee



left to right: Terence Libby, Noel Crosse, John Bunce, Paul Thompson, Hugh Randolph, John Rayson, Mark Turner, Richard Coleman, Rory Jackson, Will Allan, Tom Ayling, Tim King, Peter Rutland and Simon Hills



At the AGM held on OA Day (11 Oct) Paul Thompson (1974) succeeded Major General Walter Courage (1958) as President. The President Elect for 2004-5 is John Bunce (1962). Other

Abingdonian members of the Committee are Will Allan (2003), Sebastian Allen (2001) Noel Crosse (1972), Simon Evans (2002), Tom Hester (1999), Simon Hills (1975; Chair), Tim King (1964), Terence Libby (1961), Adrian Mutton (1992), John Rayson (1942), Peter Rutland (1996) & James Weeks (1998). Paul Thompson, also Treasurer, reported the Club's balance of £43,590 at the end of August.

President's Dinner 2004: The next Dinner takes place on **Saturday 29 May**. The President would like to build on last year's success and is encouraging OAs to get together and book tables (between 6 & 12). Partners are welcome. Tickets are £24.00 per person and include wine. Accommodation will be available in School House. The Club Office will help you contact your contemporaries. Booking forms can be obtained from the Website or contact the office and we will send you one.

Lost OAs: We should be grateful for help in tracing those whose mail has been returned to us: T M Bishop (1988); A D Clarke (1977); T D Darbyshire (1991); M P Elliott (1985); M A Pitt (1991); C C Shuttleworth (1983).

We are sad to announce the deaths of H Bosley (1932) and B L O Walker (1954).

OA Hockey: Sunday 21st March – 10.30 Brunch in School Dining Hall; 1.30 pm fixture at Tilsley Park. Interested OAs please contact andrew.hall@abingdon.org.uk or Club office.



OA DAY 2003: A most enjoyable match on Waste Court Field, admirably refereed by Cmdr Martyn Holloway (1966), saw the Old Abingdonian Rugby Football Club's 2nd XV defeat Abingdon Town's 2nd XV 74-21. K J W Sykes (1972!) was among those playing for the Town. (Both Clubs' 1st XV's had league matches that afternoon.) An excellent lunch in the Dining Hall followed.



in Lacies Court to mark the 50 years service of John Rayson (1942) (left) who was first elected to the Committee in June, 1953. Simon Hills (1975) (right), Chairman of the OA Club Committee, was among the guests who came to celebrate. John has also been a Governor of the School as well as President and Chairman of the Club.

During 2003, honorary life membership of the Club was conferred upon the following former members of Common Room: Dr KD Bingham; JDE Drummond-Hay; The Revd TP Lewis; The Revd CM Manship; PE Richardson; Dr GC Rolfe. Honorary Member RH Coleman (1946-1973) celebrated his 95th birthday on 25th October.

OAs attending the 6th City Lunch on 21st November at Balls Brothers were: Hans Allnutt (1998), Tom Burton (1997), Charles Cook (1966), Edward Cooper (1995), Tony Edwards (1989), Lt Col David Emmett (1956), Paul Harrison (1995), Martin Haycock (1991), Chris McGarry (1996), Andrew McMillan (1971), Michael Neilan (1960), Anthony Pavlovich (1995), Peter Rutland (1996) and Jack Wearne (1998). Let us know if you wish to be added to the distribution list to receive information about the next Lunch planned for May.



60's Dinner: David Goodwin (1961) organised the 60s Club Annual Dinner at the Manor House Hotel in Guildford on 7th November 2003. Next year's event will be organised by Roger Havelock (1961) towards the end of 2004 with details in the next issue. Contact the Club office for more details.

ASBC Dinner: To celebrate the recent successes of the ASBC, and the building of the new Boathouse, a reunion dinner is being planned for former members of the Club. A provisional date, **Saturday 22nd May 2004** has been set aside. During the afternoon, the Boathouse will be open for viewing and the School crews may be seen training for the National Schools Regatta which will take place at Nottingham the following weekend. It would be helpful if those interested in attending could contact the OA Club Office so that detailed planning can go ahead.

Professional Development Awards: These awards are given out annually and are designed to further an individual's development at any stage of his career. (A reminder that gap year projects are not supported.) For more details, visit the Club's website or contact the Office. The deadline for applications is 31st March 2004.

If you have any news, or would simply like to make contact, the OA Office details are: Marilena Kaye, Administrator
The Old Abingdonian Club, Abingdon School, Abingdon, OX14 1DE Tel: +44 (0)1235 529517 Email: administrator@oaclub.org.uk

Old Abingdonians

Headmasters from Abingdon School

Angus McPhail (OA 1974) was appointed Warden of Radley College in 2000. He read PPE at Oxford and worked for the Bank of England before taking up his first teaching appointment at Glenalmond in 1982. He became Head of Economics at Sedburgh in 1985 and headmaster of Strathallan in 1993.



Martin Spoor (OA 1977) has been head teacher of Agnes Stewart Church of England High School in Leeds since 1999. He read English at Oxford, where he got a First, and took his PGCE in Cambridge. He originally taught in the Bristol area before moving north to become Deputy Head of Beckfoot Grammar School in Bingley in 1996.

Andrew Trotman, who takes up his appointment as Warden of St. Edward's Oxford in September 2004, taught English at Abingdon between 1984 and 1990. He is currently head of St. Peter's School, York.



David Tanner OBE

It was David Tanner (OA 1966) who was awarded an OBE for services to rowing in the Queen's Birthday Honours not David Taylor as we announced in the last edition. David has accepted our apologies and sent a photograph to eliminate any further chances of mistaken identity.



David, who was head teacher of a London comprehensive, took up his appointment as International Manager and Performance Director at the Amateur Rowing Association in 1996. He has been manager of the British Olympic rowing team since 1992.

Kiwi OA

Pat Sale (OA 1953) has been awarded the Bledisloe Cup by the New Zealand Fruit Growers' Federation for his services to the industry. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1965 and worked for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. His early days in the country coincided with the kiwifruit boom and in 1983 he wrote a guide to their cultivation.



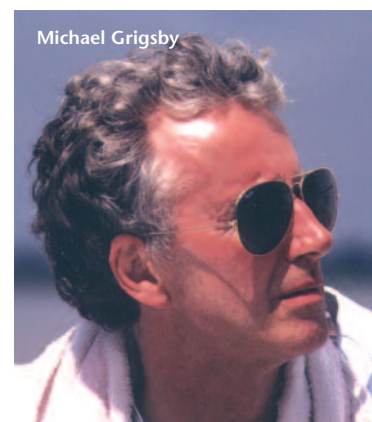
Heard but not Seen

Unlike some of their fellow OA thespians, whose faces are becoming familiar on our screens, Martin Hyder (OA 1980) and Nick Rawlinson (OA 1982), are increasingly becoming known for their voices. In the last twelve months Martin Hyder has featured on Radio 4 in 'Brideshead Revisited', part of the Evelyn Waugh Centenary celebrations; a Maigret series; 'The Mark Steel Lecture'; 'Love 2', an Iain Curteis's play with Bernard Hepton and Barbara Leigh Hunt and as 'Hives', a character in 'The Rapid Eye Movement'.

Nick Rawlinson is making his name as a reader of novels for audio tape and CD. His reading of 'The Dream of Scipio' by Iain Pears was described as showing "uncommon intelligence, sensitivity and technique" and of JL Carr's 'A Month in the Country' as adding an extra dimension to the book.

Another 'unseen' OA is Jeremy Lovering (OA1983) who is involved in television as a writer and director. His drama documentary 'Killing Hitler' was broadcast on BBC2 last year.

National Film Theatre Retrospective For Michael Grigsby



In June 2004 the National Film Theatre will be screening a retrospective of the career of Michael Grigsby (OA 1953). Michael's career stretches from the amateur films he and fellow pupils made whilst at school through to many admired and influential documentaries made for Granada Television and the BBC. Part of Michael's strength as a documentary maker lies in his unpatronising concern with the lives of ordinary working people and his commitment to letting his participants speak for themselves. These qualities, together with the sense of stillness that characterises his work, have contributed to the success of many of his programmes; in particular 'Solway Harvester', screened on BBC1 in 2001 and 'Lockerbie – a Night Remembered', Channel Four 1998. The retrospective will juxtapose some of Grigsby's best films with films that have influenced him or been influenced by him. It is hoped that one of the screenings will include an extract from the film he made whilst at Abingdon, 'No Tumbled House'.

The British Film Institute's Archive is currently collating and preserving his relevant production papers.