

Abingdon

News

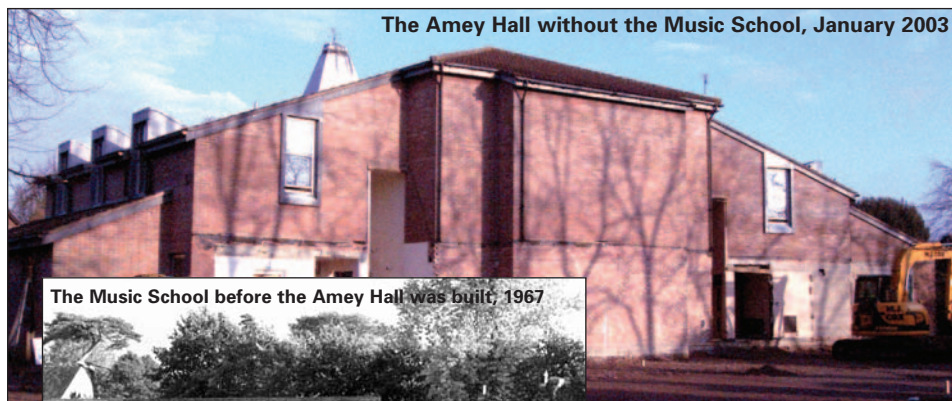
Lent 2003

Incorporating Gravitass & Old Abingdonian Club News

No 1



Foundations in Place for Prestigious New Arts Centre



The Amey Hall without the Music School, January 2003

The Music School before the Amey Hall was built, 1967

Following donations of more than £75,000, which were received last term, the Appeal

The foundations for the new Arts Centre are now firmly in place - £780,000 has been raised, the concrete footings have been laid and everything is ready for Sir Colin Lucas, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, to lay the foundation stone in a ceremony on the 28 February.

has reached its halfway point. Over the next few months the approach to the School from Park Road will be transformed as the Arts Centre rises to conceal the south front of the Amey Hall. The new building should be ready for occupation by the Autumn of 2003.

Oxbridge & All That Jazz

Three members of the Abingdon Jazz Quartet have won places to read music at Oxford and Cambridge; an exceptional feat for a non-specialist music school. Johnny Herford (one of the National Youth Orchestra's young composers in residence) has an offer from Gonville and Caius, Matthew Gardner from Christ Church and Matthew Hardy from Merton. They are just three of the twenty-two members of the School who have received offers at Oxford and Cambridge this year.



The Abingdon Jazz Quartet



I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce the first edition of *Abingdon News*. During the course of my first year at Abingdon, I became aware of the vast amount of positive achievement and success generated by boys and staff on an almost daily basis that often went unnoticed by the wider school community. *Abingdon News* is an attempt to remedy this.

It will be available to a circulation of some 8,000 – parents (present and prospective), staff, pupils and Governors at both Abingdon and Josca's, together with Old Abingdonians and friends of the School.

I hope you will enjoy reading it.

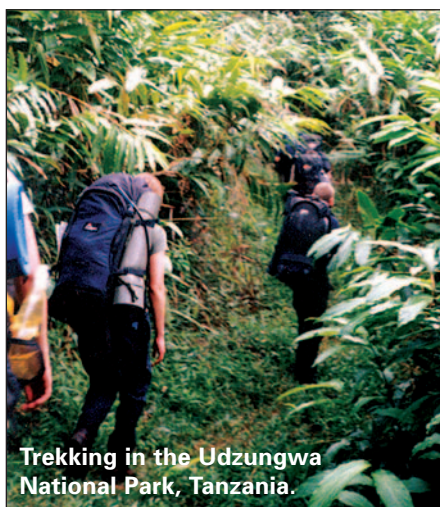
Best Wishes to *Abingdon News*.

Mark Turner

Expedition to Tanzania

The four and a half week World Challenge Expedition to Tanzania last summer lived up to its name. Mapping waterfalls and a mountain for an eco-tourism project was followed by a safari in the Ruaha National Park, a four-day trek in the Udzungwa National Park a 9,200ft. climb to swim under the Sanje Falls, a train journey through the Selous Game Reserve and a 15,000 ft. climb up Mount Meru. The final four days of the trip were spent snorkelling, diving and relaxing in Zanzibar.

The next Abingdon School World Challenge Expedition is to Mongolia in 2004.



Trekking in the Udzungwa National Park, Tanzania.

Kayaking in Norway

A party of 27 boys went white water kayaking and canoeing in Norway. Instructed by two of the best coaches in the UK, Mike Devlin and Robert Cunnington, the group experienced the fast and freezing glacial melt water of the Otta, the huge waves and rapids of the famous River Sjoa and the spectacular gorges of the River Driva. The party camped on the banks of the River Lagen building shelters and fires every night and creating culinary delights out of tins, marshmallows and noodles!



Kayaking in Norway

Big Stars from Little First Years Grow

Rory Corpus looks set to follow in the footsteps of Tom Hollander who began his film career whilst still a school boy at Abingdon. Rory, who is a first year, appeared on Boxing Day as Alerdyce in the ITV production of 'Goodbye Mr

Chips', which starred Martin (Men Behaving Badly) Clunes. At the beginning of January he took the role of David in the BBC Radio 4 production of 'I am David' and last October he appeared with Harold Pinter in a BBC production of Pinter's own play, 'One for the Road'.



Some of the twenty-two boys who have won places at Oxford and Cambridge this year.

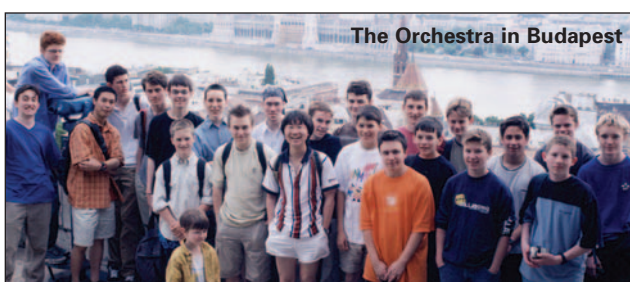
Biology Field Work in Sweden

Åbisko, 155 miles above the Arctic Circle was the location of last July's Biology Field Course. The boys carried out fieldwork in a mosquito ridden bog and on the top of Mount Slatterjaffa. The party also visited an iron ore mine in Kiruna, 1.8000 ft below ground. They also had time to carry out some individual projects which included tree rings at altitude and anthills in bogs. The group took home with them memories of a vast unpopulated landscape with huge panoramic views where, for five months of the year, the sun never sets.

Sweden 155 miles above the Arctic Circle



Orchestra trip to Vienna, Prague and Budapest.



The Orchestra in Budapest

Ninety members of the First Orchestra undertook an ambitious and highly successful tour of three European capitals. Part of their repertoire, heard by audiences in the Votivkirche, Vienna, the Church of St Nicholas of Lesser Town, Prague and the Millenaris Hall in Budapest were Grieg's Piano Concerto, played by Luke Berryman and Mozart's D major violin concerto played by Roderick Morris. Jonathan Mak, pianist, and Edward Lee, violinist, played concertos by Mendelssohn and Saint-Saens.

Cabaret

How to Make a Drama Out of a Crisis.

Last term's joint production of Cabaret with St Helen's was a brilliant example of how to make a drama out of a crisis. Just weeks before the opening night, it became obvious that the surrounding building works would make it impossible to use St Helen's Yolande Patterson Hall as planned. Normally the production could just be switched to Abingdon School's Amey Hall - but building works had removed all the usual back-stage rooms from the Amey Hall. This forced the producers to make plans for a variety of 'worst-case' scenarios, including one for keeping the entire cast on stage for the whole evening. In the event it was 'all right on the night' and nothing could stop an absolutely scintillating performance, as these photographs show.



Ian Sanderson and Cast

Richard Webber and Alex Nash



George Potter and the Kit Kat Klub



Sophie Burns



Hannah Rhodes as Sally Bowles



George Potter as Emcee



Ian Sanderson and Rosie Towe



Finale

A Magical Evening at the Sheldonian

The historic Sheldonian Theatre, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, is one of the most beautiful places in Oxford. When the Arts Centre Appeal Committee decided to hold a series of Celebration Events as a showcase for music, art and drama at Abingdon School – the Sheldonian was the perfect venue for a special concert. The Director of Music, Michael Stinton, created a programme based on the First Orchestra's successful summer tour to Europe.

The evening was magical. An audience of over five hundred gathered to hear the three soloists. Roderick Morris, OA 2002, played movements from Mozart's Violin Concerto in A Minor, Luke Berryman from Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor and Jonathan Mak, OA 2002, Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto in G Minor. In addition, the orchestra played Rossini's Overture to William Tell and Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance' March No. 4 in G. By the time the applause was a distant memory, the concert had raised over £9,500 for the Arts Centre.



The Orchestra outside the Sheldonian



Jonathan Mak receiving the applause

Roderick Morris

Luke Berryman



Secret Artists

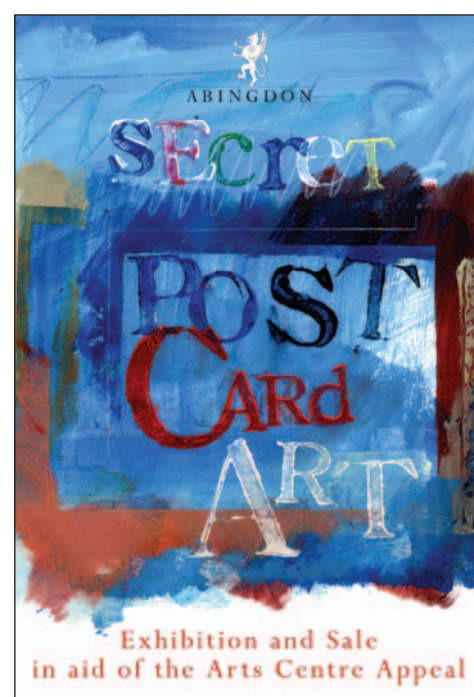
Do you 'know what you like' or can you tell a masterpiece at ten paces? Either way, don't miss 'Secret Art', an exhibition of post-card-sized works of art, which will all be for sale, anonymously, at a fixed price of £25. There will be a catalogue of exhibiting artists but work will only be identified once a sale is made. All members of the school community – boys, staff, parents and OAs - together with friends and celebrities, have been invited to submit work so there may well be some famous names amongst the exhibitors.

All proceeds from the exhibition will go to the Arts Centre Appeal.

EXHIBITION OPEN
Monday 3 March 6-9,
Tuesday 4 March 5-6,
Wednesday 5 March 2-4
Thursday 6 March 2-4.

Reception and Viewing
Friday 7 March 6-8 and
Saturday 8 March 12-2.

See website nearer the time for details of location.
www.abingdon.org.uk/secretart



History of the House 1442 - 2002



Lacies Court in the 1920s, the gardens well grown



A smoking party sponsored by a local tobacconist at Lacies Court c.1910

Peter Heylyn: lived at Lacies Court 1656-1660



Lacies Court has been occupied by the School for fifty years, owned by the School for over a hundred but associated with it for centuries.

Originally it was a farm, the farmhouse built in 1442. Early in the 17th Century the house was extended and in the 1650s the Revd Peter Heylyn, once chaplain to Charles I, built a chapel at the west end.

In 1828 William Bowles built a new house just south of the old farmhouse and transferred to it the name, Lacies Court. This house became the vicarage of St. Helen's Church. Later in the century Albert Park, the surrounding streets and houses, St Michael's Church and the new Grammar School were all

created on land that had once been Lacies Court farm.

In 1880, the freehold of the old farmhouse, known as Lacies Cottage, came up for sale. It was bought, for £600, by the Revd. Edgar Summers, headmaster of Abingdon 1870-1883, who realised how important the site was to the School. Summers used the house as a sanatorium and spent over £500 fencing the grounds, raising the chimneys and extending the building. In 1894 he offered the house to the School for £300. That same year an OA, Herbert Young, offered the School £500 to fund a scholarship. Young bought the house and passed it on to the School together with the remaining £200. The income from both funded the Young and Summers' Scholarships.

In 1901 Mrs Richard Chamberlain took a lease on Lacies Cottage. The following September she bought the freehold of Bowles' Lacies Court from Christ's Hospital, dismantled it and transferred the name back to the old house. She commissioned plans to extend her house from the OA Arts and Craft architect, Harry Redfern, and for the garden from Thomas Mawson. Some of Mawson's original planting, such as the standard lilacs, remain, as do his moon arch and the pierced wall to the south of what is erroneously known as the Jekyll Garden.

On 17 January 1934 the east end of the house was gutted in a fire. It was rebuilt the following year.

On the outbreak of war the house was requisitioned by a convent, the girls making use of the air-raid shelter that still lies under the vegetable garden. The name, the Nuns' Garden, is a legacy of these years. After this Lacies Court became a lodging house for scientists from Harwell, one of whom was the atomic spy Klaus Fuchs.

In 1950 the tenant, Lady Radcliffe offered the School the reversion on the lease, together with the freehold of her garden and the chauffeur's house, Heylins, for £4,500. The School, in the immediate post-war years, was extremely

short of money but an appeal to the OAs raised £2,980 and the retired Maths master, Mr Rudd, paid £2,250 for 'Heylins', with the promise to leave it to the School when he died.

The downstairs rooms were immediately converted into the Library, a sixth form room, the Scout Headquarters and a Green Room for the Dramatic Society. Upstairs was divided into three staff flats.

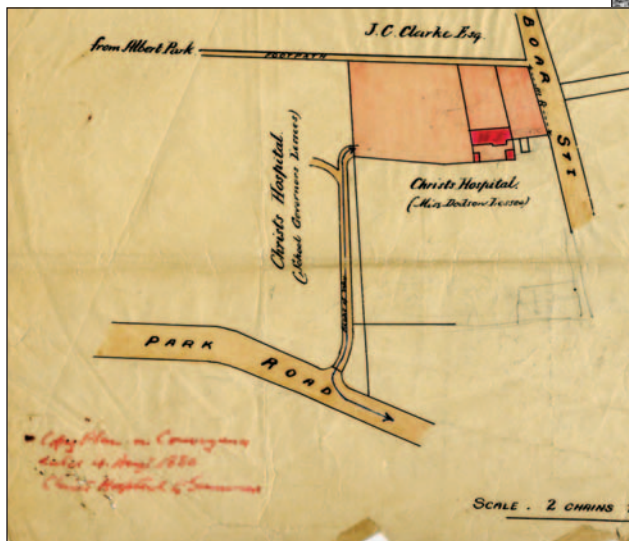
In the early 1960s Lacies Court became the headmaster's house and gradually administrative offices replaced the classrooms on the ground floor. During the recent renovations the kitchens were restored to the ground floor. The school archives remain in what was once the servants' sitting room but there are new plans for the use of the upstairs rooms.

Edgar Summers had seen, in 1880, how important the house and grounds of Lacies Court could be to the School and he was right; the Court Room stands on what was once the tennis court, Little School and Hamilton's houseroom on part of the garden and the new Arts Centre is rising around the Amey Hall, which was built over the orchard. Summer's foresight and generosity, together with that of the OAs and Mr Rudd made it possible for the School to acquire what Summers described in 1895 as, 'this piece of old Abingdon'. The School's restoration of the house repays some of these debts.



1894, Bowles' Lacies Court through the trees with the current Lacies Court on the left

Edgar Summers and family



Plan of the Lacies Cottage property as bought by Edgar Summers in 1880



A Sixth Form lesson in the Heylyn Room



The Abingdon School Society - TASS

Gravitass

Burns Night Supper

It's all in the detail. Running an authentic Burns Night requires care and attention to the particulars. You need a real flesh and blood piper to welcome the guests as they arrive, not a CD from the gift shop at Edinburgh Castle. And you have to execute the formalities just so. You start with the Selkirk Grace in the Lallands version, especially said by Mary Mure:



'A real flesh and blood piper'

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
and some wad eat that want it,
but we hae meat and we can eat,
and sae the Lord be thankit.*

After a little cock-a-leekie soup, a mighty chef, 6'5" in his socks, bears the first haggis into the hall preceded by the piper. Ian Brodie should then recite Burn's Ode to a Haggis:

*Fair fa your honest sonsie face
great chieftain of the puddin' race!*

English people should nod appreciatively through all nine verses, trying ever so hard to understand one word in ten. Scots may sit smugly. Then everyone eats. Haggis, neeps, and tatties with suitable alternatives for the squeamish.

After the meal, traditions tumble upon themselves, starting with the headmaster giving the loyal toast and followed by Jeremy Taylor speaking to the Immortal Memory. A Jeremy Taylor will disguise himself as a Scot even though he's really very, very English. He amuses and informs, revealing his past

associations with Scotland. He should remind listeners that the Memory that is Immortal is held dear in every country reached by the Scots diaspora. And hint at why they all left.

And then the duelling Scots. In the blue tartan corner one might see Mr Michael Martin proposing a Toast to the Lassies and in reply, looking belligerent in the pink corner, is Mrs Jan Johnson. Many ringside judges would give a points victory to the lassie as she got stuck into men. Especially men from Dumfries. Especially men from Dumfries who support Queen of the South.

Once this institutionalised formal warfare is over, the entire party takes to the floor and dances for two hours to a good band that can play anything. Dinner jackets are discarded and silken scarves left at the table. Finally the band should play just one more number and everyone departs to a late bed and just enough sleep to get up for Saturday school.



The Headmaster and his wife enjoy the dancing

The TASS Development Committee

The TDC was formed to raise funds to support Abingdon's Other Half activities. We raise money through events such as the Burns Night Supper, quiz nights, theatre suppers and the Griffen Ball. Each year, clubs and societies are invited to apply for grants to support their activities. Grants are awarded to those with needs beyond what the school would normally expect to fund.

In the past few years, these grants have benefited both the arts and sport. This year funds for grants to the Other Half are limited because most of TASS' fund-raising is devoted to the Amey Hall extension project, but we have still been able to give modest awards to the Fencing Club for equipment and to the Hockey and Cricket Clubs to support tours.

Richard Webber

Team Table-Top Trivia

Look out for more announcements about the Team Table-Top Trivia Quiz Night we shall be holding in the Michaelmas Term.

- Prizes for 'Best Dressed Table', 'Worst Score Ever', 'Food for Thought', and of course 'Scholars Table'.
- Start recruiting your teams NOW! Tables of 6 and 8 still available - book early to avoid disappointment. You bring the food, dress the table, you're your team, wear the fancy dress.
- If you need some match-making to make up table numbers give me a call.
- Only £10 per person - Wine will be on sale

Mike Hallett 0118 924 4118
mike.hallett@oracle.com.

Griffen Ball

On these cold, wet days, it is good to know that work is already in hand on the Griffen Ball, which will be held on 28th June and, it is hoped, will be even better than last year's very successful event. We hope to see as many of you as possible, including Old Abingdonians. This is a great opportunity to organise OA reunions. Tickets will be available from early April, but I recommend that those who wish to go contact me to register their interest as soon as possible. Prices will be about £60 per head with a substantial discount for school leavers.

Prit Buttar 01235 205257
prit.buttar@ntlworld.com

SUS

The Second Hand Shop will be open this term at the top of the Greening Wing between 12.30-2.00pm on the following dates:

March 1st & 12th April 30th
May 3rd & 14th June 7th & 18th

The Restoration of Lacies Court 2002

The renovation of the main body of Lacies Court, caused by concerns about the wiring and the external structure, is now complete. When the crumbling external render was removed from the walls a complete mixture of brick, stone, wattle and daub and concrete blocks was revealed, little of it worthy of leaving exposed, so it was decided to re-render them. The choice of colour was difficult. The aim was for a pale honey tone to complement the fragments of stonework that could be left. At first the colour was less pale than expected and several people expressed their reservations but now that it is fading it appears to be a successful choice. Other exterior work included re-pointing the chimneys, replacing the guttering and repairing and in some cases replacing the windows. Inside, the house was re-wired, re-plumbed, gas fired central heating was installed and a new kitchen fitted. The work took six months and was overseen by the school's estates bursar, David Carson, who thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and is pleased to think that, as a result of this work, the house is now in a position to survive for another few hundred years.



The recently exposed 17th-century studding of the west end wall

LACIES COURT REUNION

Saturday 3 May 12noon-2pm, drinks and buffet lunch - to welcome back to the newly-refurbished Lacies Court everyone – former headmasters, staff and boys – who have lived and worked in Lacies Court. The headmaster and his wife will be happy to arrange for guests to have a tour of the house on this occasion.

Would all those interested in receiving further details, and an invitation, please contact:

Mrs. Marilena Kaye
 OA. Club Administrator
 Telephone 01235 529517
 Email administrator@oclub.org.uk



ABINGDON SCHOOL SHOP provisional opening times Monday to Friday 9.00-10.00 and 4.30-5.15.

DIRECT LINE 01235 849107.

TUCK SHOP opening times Monday to Friday 10.45-11.20, 12.40-1.40, 3.45-4.30.

Mr. Barnard and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Barnard, outside the new shop.

Opening of School Uniform Shop

The Abingdon School Shop was opened on 16 January by Mr Philip Blackwell, of Blackwell UK. Located by the car park close to the Bursary it sells uniform – blazers, ties, rugby shirts, track-suits etc. together with Abingdon School mugs, cufflinks and 'The Martlet and the Griffen', the illustrated history of the School.

Shepherd and Simpson, the last school outfitters in Abingdon, closed nearly thirty years ago since when uniform could only be bought in Oxford. The Abingdon School Shop will be far more convenient for parents.

The shop is managed by Mr Tony Barnard, who also runs the new Tuck Shop and stationary store next door.

Josca's New Teaching Block

The recent opening of a new block housing two classrooms and two music rooms completes the first phase in the development of Josca's, Abingdon's Junior School, since its 1999 merger with Abingdon School

This 'first phase' has included the refurbishment of much of the original school, the building of a state of the art Science and Computer block, in which Abingdon's Richard Coleman and David Haynes have been key advisers, and the building of the Savin pavilion on the Frilford fields for the use of both schools.

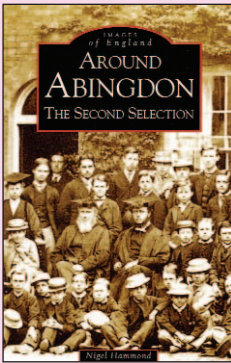
Josca's Head master, Chris Davies, said that, "the aim since the merger has always been to give those pupils who enter Abingdon at eleven the choice of either going straight into the senior school or to a preparatory school for a further two years in order to hone their skills and increase their confidence before arriving at the senior school at thirteen." The music rooms, in particular, provide much needed space now that half Josca's pupils play their own instruments.

'Phase two' will include bridging the School and its playing fields, together with the construction of further amenities.

Mr John Driver, Chairman of the Governors, and the headmaster, Mr Davies, at the opening of the new building.



Out of the Past



Around Abingdon

Nigel Hammond, OA1957 and former master, has followed Around Abingdon (1996) with a

second volume of old photographs, in which the School features prominently. Both photographs and captions are full of interest. Around Abingdon: the Second Selection is published by Tempus at £11.99.

The Sir James Cobban Bursary



It was the stated aim of Sir James Cobban, headmaster 1947-1970, that no boy living within 20 miles of Abingdon who deserved to come to the School should be denied the opportunity to do so. Cobban fought hard to retain the direct grant system in the mid 1970's and then worked tirelessly alongside Sir George Sinclair, former Chairman of the Governors and now a Steward of the School, to set up the Assisted Places scheme, which was launched in its place in 1981. After Sir

James' death two of his ex-pupils, key members of the OA 60's Club, determined to set up a bursary to be supported by OAs in his memory. The bursary would be for a boy entering Abingdon School at the age of eleven. It is a testament to their commitment and energy that the first beneficiary of this award started School in September 2002

UT PROFICIAS and NO TUMBLED HOUSE

Members of the school community will no doubt recognise 'Ut Proficias' as part of the motto over the door into Big School, - perhaps not? Those well versed in English Literature might recognise the quotation from Meredith, but some OAs will instantly recognise the titles of Abingdon School's two prize-winning, films. 'Ut Proficias' was made fifty years ago this year, and 'No Tumbled House' a year later, in 1954. The films have recently been copied onto video and will be shown soon at an anniversary event. If any OA has any memories about the shooting of these films the school archivist, Sarah Wearne would be pleased to hear from them: email

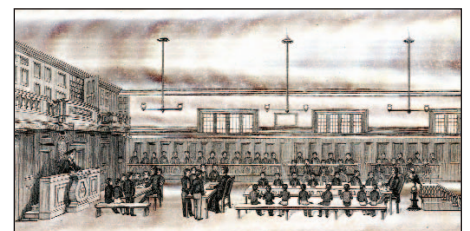
Abingdon.news@abingdon.org.uk

Ingredere ut Proficias



Sixty-Three

The obvious amount for the OAs to try to raise for the Cobban Bursary was £63,0000. In 1563, John Roysse, an Old Abingdonian, then aged 63, paid for the building of a schoolroom that was to be 63 feet long and 15 feet wide in which 63 boys could be educated. Four hundred years later, when James Cobban was headmaster, Roysse's benefaction was celebrated by the launching of an appeal, which raised £63,000; a 63 mile walk by the prefects from Worcester to Abingdon and a 63 mile relay run by the Cross Country team from the House of Commons to the school, this last event taking place on 1 May 1963 – 1.5.63. All this explains why, in the past, the first bell was rung 63 times and the second 15. This is only done now on special occasions. However, the numbers 1563



Top photo: The prefects who walked from Worcester to Abingdon

Middle photo: The cross country runners outside the House of Commons 1.5.63.

Above: A 19th-century print of Roysse's schoolroom 63 feet long and 15 feet wide.

are still embedded in the School's telephone number – 01235 521563.

OLD ABINGDONIAN CLUB NEWS

Welcome to your NEW OA Club Newsletter which has been very smartly incorporated within the newly designed School publication. OAs will now continue to enjoy reading all about the Club's news and activities as well as finding out what's been happening in School. Do let us have your comments on this very first edition!

Marilena Kaye, OA Club Administrator

NOTICES

www.oaclub.org.uk

Many thanks to all Old Abingdonians who have already registered on the Who's Who Section of your new Website! It is especially exciting for us to re-establish contact with many former 'lost' OAs. So please remember to log in and register.

The Club's President

Major-General W J Courage (1958) succeeded Dr T J King at the AGM. The President Elect is P F Thompson (1974).

OA Professional Development Awards

These Awards are designed to further an OA's professional development at any stage in his career, but they do not fund gap year projects. The types of programmes considered are work experience, vocational or professional training, mid-degree course electives and postgraduate courses. The Selection Committee hopes a wide range of applications will be forthcoming. Deadline for applications is 31st March 2003. Contact the Club Office via email (administrator@abingdon.org.uk) or phone (+44 (0) 1235 529517) for an application form. Interviews are scheduled to take place on Saturday 3rd May.

The Club's Finances

At the AGM, the Club's Treasurer reported that income had exceeded expenditure by £4,861, but that he

expected a deficit in the year ending on 31st August 2003 because of costs to which the Club was already committed. The Club's assets amounted to just under £50,000.

Congratulations

The Club's congratulations were sent to Sir George Sinclair (1931), who was 90 on 6th November.

EVENTS

5th OA City Lunch Friday 7th March 2003

If you would like to attend contact PRutland@uk.adventinternational.com.

Lacies Court Reunion Saturday 3 May 2003 12 noon -2pm

Drinks and buffet lunch for all OAs and staff who once lived or worked in Lacies Court. There will be tours of the newly refurbished house.

President's Dinner Saturday 24 May 2003

This year, the President is encouraging OAs to get together with their contemporaries and book tables (of 8 or 10 people - partners are welcome) for this splendid evening. The price of the tickets has remained the same as last year: £22.50 per person, including wine. Please book as soon as possible by using the form which accompanies this magazine. Alternatively, feel free to contact the Club Office if you have any questions or wish for help in contacting your contemporaries.

Waste Court 75th Anniversary Saturday 21 June 2003

Open House 1 -5 pm, afternoon tea from 3 o'clock with the Headmaster, display from the archives. Waste Court was bought as a memorial to Abingdonians killed in the Great War.

OA Day: Saturday 11 October 2003

Please note this date in your diaries. The Annual General Meeting will be taking place at 11.00 am, immediately followed by the annual OARFC match against Abingdon Town - kick-off at 11.30 am.

Further details will appear in the Summer Issue of the OA Club Newsletter as well as the Website.

GENERAL NEWS

Deaths

Since the last mailing, we have heard of the following deaths: Dr R E Bowman (1936), A F Bragg-Smith (1926), R F W Budden (1962), L G Cather (1936), R Cooper (1955), C T Gresswell (1961), J R Jacques (1933), Major P R Lucas (1950) and His Honour D E Roberts (1939).

Lost Members

We should be grateful for help in tracing the following, whose mail has been returned to us:

A S Chamberlain (1991)
G R Colquhoun (1978)
T Grevatt (1986)
N J Holder (1977)
H C M Jones (1982)
A H-K Leung (2000)
S J Mardle (1988)
D T Midwinter (1997)
I M Sonuga (1998)

Change of Address

If your post-town or post-code has changed, as in the Bicester and Witney areas, please would you let us know.

SPORTS NEWS

Hockey

The game between Old Abingdonians and the School will be played at 2.00 pm on Sunday 30th March at Tilsley Park.

If you have any news, or would simply like to make contact, the OA Office details are:

The Old Abingdonian Club
Abingdon School
ABINGDON
OX14 1DE
Direct Line
+44 (0)1235 529517
Email
administrator@oaclub.org.uk

Emma Curran

Emma recently left Abingdon to become Development Officer for Templeton College, Oxford. She

joined the School in 1998 initially as the first permanent Administrator for the OA Club and then, since 2000, as the Foundation Director.



Old Abingdonians

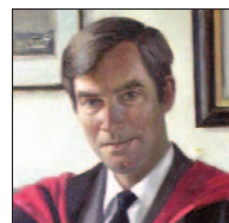
The Lost Prince

Tom Hollander, OA 1984, has been appearing on our screens with increasing frequency over the last few years. Most recently he starred as George V in the BBC's highly acclaimed production of 'The Lost Prince'. In a recent interview he described how it was whilst he was still a school boy at Abingdon that he decided to make acting his career, "I was fourteen, being picked up in my own car and getting paid. It all rather turned my head. Anything else was going to have to be pretty exciting to rival that." He played Lieut. Commander Anthony Meredith in Gosford Park, Logie in Enigma and was Saffy's boyfriend, Paolo, in Absolutely Fabulous.



Knighthood for Former Headmaster

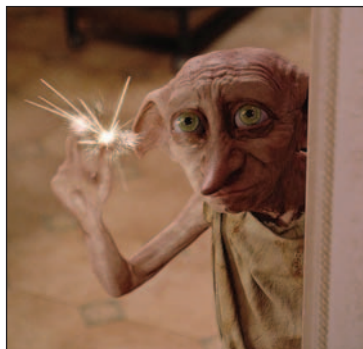
The whole School community congratulates Sir Eric Anderson, headmaster of Abingdon School (1970-75) on being made a Knight of the Order of the Thistle. From Abingdon Sir Eric moved to become headmaster first of Shrewsbury and then Eton. On his retirement from Eton he was appointed Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, but now he is back at Eton as Provost.



Sir Eric Anderson K.T.

Olivier award and Harry Potter role for Toby Jones

Toby Jones, OA 1985, won the 2002 Olivier Award for the Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his part in 'The Play What I Wrote' at London's Wyndham Theatre. The play was described as the smash hit of last year's West End season. It is transferring to New York and opens at the Lyceum Theatre on Broadway on 30 March with the original West End cast of three and the director, Kenneth Branagh. Toby Jones provided the voice-over for Dobby the house elf, in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.



Toby Jones is the voice of Dobby

Alex Masterly

Commiserations may be due to Alex Masterly, the pinstriped cartoon banker from the Daily Telegraph's business pages, who recently lost his job at Megabank, but congratulations are in order for one of Alex's co-creators, Russell Taylor OA 1978, who was awarded an MBE in the recent New Year's Honours List.



The Royal Society for Asian Affairs

Hugh Leach, OA 1953, has written the history of The Royal Society for Asian Affairs from the days of pith-helmeted imperialism to the present. Although he writes chiefly for the Society's members, its history and membership are so colourful that anyone interested in history or travel should enjoy it. After all, how many societies have seen a member assassinated during a meeting, lost another to a tiger or, in modern times, enabled those touring Pakistan to have tea with the last Wali of Swat? Mr Leach and his helpers have produced an elegantly and carefully written gem of a history that combines discriminating scholarship with a light touch. The many photographs include one of the 1994 expedition.

Because Abingdon is one of the Society's half-dozen school members, current pupils, members of Common Room and governors and members of the Old Abingdonian Club may purchase Strolling about on the Roof of the World by sending a cheque for £21.50 to The Royal Society for Asian Affairs, 2 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8JP.

