

# Abingdon

News

The Newsletter of Abingdon School

January 2005

No 7



## £20,000 for Charity



The Abingdon School community raised £20,000 for charity last term. In September, four charities received the proceeds of an eight-mile sponsored walk by the whole School from Donnington Bridge back to Abingdon. The same day, a Gala Concert in Oxford Town Hall raised money for StreetSmart, a charity working for the homeless. At the beginning of November, Tim Dawson's sell-out revue raised £1,500 for Alzheimer's Research. At the end of the month, a sponsored sleep-out by sixth-form boys raised money for two local charities for the homeless and it was in the same cause that George Milne-Day slept outside for the ten nights before Christmas. Further details are on pages 6 and 7.



## Dedicated to the Holy Trinity

The Right Reverend Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, dedicated the new east window above the altar in the Chapel on 7th October. The subject of the window is the Holy Trinity, reflecting the dedication that John Roysse chose for the school he helped re-endow over four hundred years ago. The window was commissioned to mark the centenary of the Chapel, dedicated to the Holy Trinity on Trinity Sunday, 7th June 1903. The symbolism in this dramatic window, the work of the Oxford glass-artist Nicholas Mynheer, is echoed in the new altar frontal, burse, veil and lectern fall, embroidered by Mary Barton of Abingdon.



TASS News p.8  
Josca's News p.9  
OA Club News p.11

# The Big Draw

A group of boys from Abingdon and Josca's took part in a workshop aimed at making drawings from moving figures. Led by the Oxford artist Cassandra Isaacson, the workshop was part of a national campaign to get everyone drawing.



# Kids' Lit Quiz



# Roman Military Life



The Lower School Classics Club visited Fishbourne in September to see a display of Roman military equipment by the Ermine Street guard. This was followed by a visit to Portchester, a Roman shore fort converted into a castle in the 12th century.

The regional heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz was held in the Charles Maude Room at Abingdon on 17th November. Eighty pupils from twenty Oxfordshire and Berkshire schools battled it out for a place in the national final, held in Newcastle in December. The winners, Cherwell School, went on to become the national champions, gaining a place in the international final, held in New Zealand next June.

# After the Arts Centre



The opening of the Arts Centre has released space for a number of other changes within the School. Design and Technology is now housed in the



Warehouse leaving the old woodwork shop to become a new houseroom for Fishpool's whilst the wood store above has been converted into a study



hall for Lower School. Meanwhile, Fishpool's old houseroom has been divided into a Modern Language classroom and a Careers' Library.

## Freedom of Abingdon



On 9th October the CCF took part in a parade to mark the re-affirmation of the granting of the Freedom of Abingdon to The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. The Duke of Gloucester took the salute and was joined for the inspection by the Mayor of Abingdon, Councillor Keith Hasnip, former member of Abingdon Common Room, housemaster and head of Modern Languages.

## Chapel Choir



On St Nicholas's day, 6th December, the Chapel Choir sang Evensong at the Cathedral Church of St Peter and the Holy and Indivisible Trinity, Gloucester.

## Balloon Debate



In the Debating Society's centenary year, a well-attended balloon debate found the dubious sounding 'Schnott', championed by Andrew Brown, finally winning out over its rival vodka, championed by Dr Zawadzki, against their fellow rivals which included beer, Coca Cola, whisky and cider.

## House Shout



The House Singing Competition was won by Crescent with a splendid rendition of 'Cecilia' by Paul Simon. School House came second with 'Alright' by Supergrass and Aitken's were third with the 'Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves' from Verdi's opera Nabucco.

## Winning Chemists

Chemistry might be suffering at other places of learning but it is alive and well in Abingdon. In a recent chemistry quiz, Abingdon beat Winchester by 410-220 in the semi-final and then went on to beat Radley 420-130 to win the final.

In a National Analytical Chemistry competition sponsored by the Nuffield Foundation, the team from Abingdon were runners-up in a field consisting of teams from a hundred schools.



## A hundred to tea

The Abingdon 'Christmas Crackers' entertained a hundred guests from the local community to a tea party in the dining hall on 6th December. The guests ranged in age from three months to ninety-six years.



## News



## Once in a Lifetime

The joint Abingdon and St Helen's senior drama production, 'Once in a Life Time', set in Hollywood at the time the 'talkies' came to town, sees three out-of-work actors decide to make their fame and fortune by offering elocution lessons to the old silent-movie stars. Bumbling 'Dr' George Lewis (Nick Turnbull) finds himself propelled to the top of Herman Glogauer's (Ben Phillips) film studio, much to the alarm of his friends, May Daniels (Hannah Berham) and Jerry Hyland (Tom Swarbrick).



## World Challenge trip to Mongolia

The destination was Mongolia but by the time the travellers returned they felt as though they had been to another world where, amid beautiful valleys and wide-open plains, life is reduced to its essentials.



The team's mission was to re-plaster and paint the dormitories of a school at Renchulum and the successful accomplishment of this project gave everyone who participated a real sense of achievement.

## Geographers in Spain

During their field trip to Spain over the summer holidays, geographers sample the local cuisine.



## Classicists in Greece

With the Acropolis in the background, Dr Burnand delivers a lecture to a group of classicists during their half term visit to Greece.



# Sailing



In a triangular match with St Edward's and MCS, Abingdon emerged victorious after convincing wins over St Edward's and two close races with MCS. This term has seen the start of training for the match-racing team who will race in yachts next August in the RYA National Championship. The next major event in the sailing calendar is the RYA National Youth Championship at Largs, Scotland, in which Alastair Blackmore and Matthew Pinner will represent the School.



# Boat Club



# Rugby



After a convincing victory over Triveneto during their pre-season visit to Italy, the 1st XV failed to find their form. Beset by injuries, it became difficult to create a settled team and, in a reversal of last year's results, they only won two more matches: 23-8 against Bloxham and 32-5 against Sir William Borlase School in The Daily Mail Cup. Nevertheless, the Rugby Club as a whole won 61% of their matches whilst the Junior B's XV won 100% of theirs.

Rugby 1st XV against:

Oratory lost 3-13  
 Radley lost 5-40  
 St Paul's lost 13-65  
 Bedford School lost 13-33  
 MCS lost 6-18  
 Stowe lost 17-27  
 Pangbourne lost 10-34  
 Warwick lost 8-27  
 St Edward's lost 3-46  
 Bloxham won 23-8  
 Bedford Modern lost 17-47

# Badminton

The Badminton Team continue their unbroken run of victories against :

Bloxham won 9-0 and 9-0  
 Cheltenham won 7-2 and 9-0  
 Stowe won 7 1/2 - 11 1/2 and 9-0  
 Radley won 6-3 and 8-1  
 Oratory won 11-5  
 Malvern won 9-0  
 Cheltenham won 5-4

Several crews took part in the Wallingford Regatta on 5th December where the A IV took first place and the A and B Vllls came second and third respectively.

Two crews entered the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, USA, over half term. This is the 'biggest Fall Rowing Race' of the year and although the crews raced well, the 2nd crew finishing 31st out of 55 entries, the 1st eight incurred a time penalty, which dropped them right down the order.

## Charity Fundraising



### Bang Goes Douglas Smith

A capacity audience in the Amey Theatre was given a night to remember on 12th November with a series of original sketches written and presented by Lower 6th former Tim Dawson. Swelled by a bevy of girls from St Helen's, the cast of thirty were rewarded with a standing ovation. At the end of an evening that included songs from the sixties as well as music hall favourites over £1,500 was raised for the local Alzheimer's unit.



### Sponsored Walk

About seven hundred members of the school community, staff and pupils, undertook the eight-mile walk from Donnington Bridge back to Abingdon on 29th September. Sponsored every step of the way, the walkers raised £15,157 for the charities: Agape – working with under-privileged children in Moldova; SeeSaw – a local charity that offers help to bereaved children; Light for the Blind, a charity operating amongst the sightless poor in India and Streetsmart who work with the homeless.

# Romanian Holiday



A group of ten boys and two masters accompanied a coach party of Moldovan school children on a week's holiday in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania. There, amid scenery reminiscent of the Sound of Music, they walked, played football and went on excursions. The Moldovan children's holiday was made possible by the funds raised within the School for Agape.

# Sleeping Rough



Two charities for the homeless, Oxford Shelter and Porch Steppin' Stones, benefited from the £1,000 raised by thirty boys during their sponsored sleep out in the grounds of the School on the night of 27th November. Inspired by this, George Milne-Day slept out over the ten nights before Christmas, in freezing temperatures and driving rain, raising £500 for the same cause.

# Gala Concert

Just days before the concert, which had been planned for the Sheldonian Theatre, structural engineers were forced to close the building for emergency repairs and a new venue had to be found.

Fortunately, Oxford Town Hall was available and the Charity Gala Concert was able to go ahead. Performances by the orchestra, Chapel Choir and both the Jazz Big Band and the Wind Band combined to raise over £3,000 for Streetsmart.



# 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.

### New Committee

Following many years of dedicated work Steve White stepped down as chair of TASS. The new officials were appointed at Open Day

Mrs Karen Brombley	Chairman
Mrs Rose Gill	Member
Dr Tim Gunn	MCR Rep
Mr Mike Hallett	TDC
Mrs Rosie Hawkes	Secretary
Dr John Howe	Vice Chairman
Mrs Louise Ivimey-Cook	Member
Miss Finola Donovan	MCR Rep
Mrs Jane Jorgensen	Registrar
Mrs Carol Kane	Member
Mr David Lillycrop	Governor
Mrs Sue Marsh	SUS
Mrs Carol Thorn	Treasurer
Mr Mark Turner	Headmaster
Mr Maurice Waite	Music Soc Rep
Mrs Lou Woods	Refreshments

### Tass Lecture

On Thursday 14th October, over four hundred people enjoyed hearing the Poet Laureate, Professor Andrew Motion, read from some of his recent work, including unpublished autobiographical prose. His subject matter ranged from birds to the last chapter of St John's gospel. Professor Motion described writing poetry as a biological thing, like developing flu. Many in the audience left having caught the bug and wanting both to read and hear more.



### Second Hand Uniform Shop Dates for the Spring Term 2005

Saturday 8th January	12.15 - 1.15 pm
Wednesday 12th January	12.15 - 1.15 pm
Saturday 22nd January	12.15 - 1.15 pm
Saturday 5th February	12.15 - 1.15 pm
Saturday 26th February	12.15 - 1.15 pm
Saturday 5th March	12.15 - 1.15 pm
Wednesday 9th March	12.15 - 1.15 pm
Saturday 19th March	12.15 - 1.15 pm

### Tass and Tappins Travel Awards

Each year TASS and Tappins Coaches join together to fund travel projects for boys leaving the sixth form. Philip Craig, who won an award last year, sent this report of the time he spent in Malaysia:



'My time at Uplands, the British International School at Penang, a large island off the North West coast of Peninsular Malaysia, were some of the best months of my life. I had a great variety of roles at the school - in classes I would sometimes be listening to year 1s (5-6 year olds) read or help them with their maths puzzles; in other lessons I might be with the year 4 set helping to control the chaos in a Art Lesson! A lot of my time was spent helping students both in and out of lessons with their English. I also had responsibilities in the boarding side of the school: helping the younger pupils with their homework in the evening during the week and being an extra 'adult' on afternoon trips at the weekend. During school holidays and over long weekends my Gap partner Chris and I would travel as much as possible. Highlights included climbing Mt Kinabalu, the tallest mountain in Southeast Asia; learning to SCUBA dive on the Pehrentian islands, one of the best dive sites in the world; going to the Malaysian Grand Prix in Kuala Lumpur; and walking in bat caves underneath some of the oldest rainforest in the world.

I cannot recommend a Gap Year enough. I had the time of my life and saw and experienced far more than I had imagined was possible.'

### Forthcoming events

#### Burns Night Supper and Dance

January 21st 2005

A wonderful occasion for parents and friends to enjoy Scotland in Oxfordshire including, of course, haggis and whisky, Scottish dancing and the traditional speeches. – SOLD OUT

#### TASS Lecture 2005

Tuesday 8th February 2005

7.30 pm Amey Theatre

Hugh Leach OBE

*From Muhammed to Osama: How Religion can be Turned into Hatred*

Hugh Leach (OA 1953) spent most of his thirty-six year career as a soldier and diplomat in the Middle East. During his last four years he made a study of Islamic fundamentalism for the Foreign Office. His thought-provoking lecture, on the history of Islam, will show how extreme fundamentalism has developed within what is a devout and peace-loving faith.

#### Quiz Night

Sat 12th March 2005

Postponed from the autumn, this is a fun event for parents, friends and boys to attend. Make up a team of 6-8 people, chose a name, and preferably a theme, and come and have some fun. In 2003, a wonderful evening with Anne Diamond as Quiz master, there were some great entries: Country Bumpkins, Red (even down to red food, wine and squash) and football teams. The dressing up is voluntary. A very informal occasion providing a great opportunity to meet other parents.

Look us up under the Welcome tab on the Abingdon School web site [www.abingdon.org.uk](http://www.abingdon.org.uk)



## 1st XV Rugby



The 1st XV won four of their ten matches and lost six. The most impressive of these performances came against Oratory where, 19-0 down at half time, we battled back to 26-29. Our first win came against local rivals, St. Hugh's, and coincided with the debut of a 6 foot 4 inch Number 8, Josh Jackson, who signalled his intent by scoring five tries before half-time in a 50-12 win. Against Abingdon, a Jack Rogers try early on gave us great impetus in what turned out to be a closely fought game. We certainly deserved a draw, and this looked possible at 12-12 going into the last few minutes, but a lapse in concentration let their full back through for the winning try.

A tremendous forward effort in our next match against Caldicott, and a brace of tries from Sam Houston and Josh Jackson, took us to a 27-0 win. Our backs came to the fore against Prior Park School ( 36-7 ) with Joel Collins on the right wing scoring a hat trick.

With the second team pack and a sprinkling of 1st team backs, we eventually ran out 47-0 winners against Christ Church. In our penultimate game against St. Andrew's we lacked that spark or 'Jerry Guscott' piece of brilliance to unlock their defence and lost very narrowly 0-5. In our final game against Cokethorpe we had 90% of the game, scored first when Joel Collins went over and should have capitalised on a lot of pressure on their line but they broke away and converted a try and won 7-5. I must congratulate Richard Parkin-Mason and Ben Read on their efforts in captaining the team and I look forward to taking the team to Treviso in March 2005.

## Advent Carol Service

The Advent Carol Service at Josca's this year took on a slightly different slant and included all the ensemble groups that the school offers. All the boys from Year 3 to Year 8 were involved and the programme was a tribute to the variety of musical talent within the pupil body. The audience were regaled with readings both ancient and modern, which added to what was a fitting end to a very full and productive musical term at Josca's.



## Nativity - The Grumpy Sheep

The pre-prep department put on a production of 'The Grumpy Sheep' by Caroline Hoile. It tells the traditional Nativity story from the point of view of a cantankerous sheep who doesn't want to move anywhere under her own steam. The Wise Men have camels on which to ride, the angels have wings with which to fly, and the travellers in the inn are all sitting down comfortably having a good time! Why should a sheep have to walk to see a baby king? The narrators and members of the cast and chorus worked very hard to get the performance up to a fantastic standard. There were two performances – one for pupils and staff, followed by one for families and friends the following day. Thanks to all the teachers, teaching assistants, parents, maintenance staff and pupils who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it all possible.



## School Bazaar

On Saturday 4th December the school hall was transformed thanks to a dazzling display of stalls put forward by the pupils in Years 2-8. In the pre-prep rooms, the JPA had organised a variety of stalls from White Elephant to hand-made greetings cards.

For the pupils' stall, Charlie Mander took the 'most memorable sight of the day' award as, dressed as a Sumo Wrestler, he grappled opponents to the mats. Other popular stalls included pillow fighting and the 'cracker snacker' of Sam Houston et al.



## Camp at Hooke Court

Years 7S and 7L went to Hooke Court for three days from the 13th to the 15th of September. The trip was aimed at bringing old and new pupils together with group activities. These activities included building a shelter out of branches in a wood, bridging a moat with ropes and poles, using skills we had learnt earlier, and building rockets. We also did assault courses and a low rope course. Breakfast and dinner were served in the dining area but we ate our packed lunches outside. Before dinner we had a free period in which we played football and rugby. We were also allowed to go to the tuck shop to buy sweets. We slept in dorms of eights and sixes. I thought it was a very successful trip.

*Stephen Horlock - Year 7S*



# Out of the Past

## OAs in the Oxford DNB

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, a sixty volume, sixty-two million word collection of fifty thousand lives, was published in September 2004 having been ten years in the writing. Whilst the books occupy twelve feet of shelving, the on-line version can be searched at the touch of a button. Doing so reveals that twenty-nine of the entries have associations with Abingdon School.

These include the Tudor diplomat, Sir John Mason, who was present with Henry VIII at the Field of the Cloth of Gold; Sir Thomas Smith, Latin Secretary to James I and Sir Edward Turnor, Speaker of the House of Commons in the Restoration Parliament. Among the OA clergymen are Francis Ayscough, tutor to the young George III and William Newcome, son of the vicar of Abingdon, who rose to become Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

The longest OA entry is probably that of Sir John Holt, Chief Justice of the King's Bench following the Glorious Revolution of 1688, who played a significant part in drawing up the Bill of Rights.

Four of Abingdon's headmasters have an entry: Thomas Godwyn, John Lemprière, Joseph Hewlett and Sir James Cobban. Sir James's entry was written by his successor Sir Eric Anderson, whose successor, Michael St John Parker, contributed six of the total entries.



Sir John Mason



William Newcome



Sir John Holt



## A Battle Remembered

On Saturday 11th December a group of pre-1944 OAs met for lunch and to see a trailer of the film, 'Days in June', being made by the School's film unit and featuring the four Abingdonians killed sixty years ago during the Normandy campaign. Among the guests were John Farmer, who left in 1927, and Mrs Margaret Midwinter whose first husband, William Giles (OA 1937), was killed near Caen in June 1944. Their son, Graham Giles, was another of the guests. William Giles played for the 1st XV in 1936 and Graham met Hugh Lunghi (OA 1937), who captained his father's team.

'Days in June', the finished film will be shown on 18th May.



1st XV 1936 - centre row: William Giles(left), Hugh Lunghi(centre)

## The Mastersingers

Long before the days of Radiohead a group associated with Abingdon School had a record in the charts, reaching number twenty-six the same week that Manfred Mann made number one with 'Pretty Flamingo' in May 1966. Produced by the Beatles producer, George Martin, and recorded in the Abbey Road studios, 'The Highway Code' was set as a psalm by John Horrex who sang with the group that included George Pratt, Geoff Keating and Barry Montague. The group also recorded a version of The Weather Forecast and From Me to You in Latin.

Those with broadband can hear both *The Highway Code* and *The Weather Forecast* –

<http://study.abingdon.org.uk/audio/highway.mp3>

<http://study.abingdon.org.uk/audio/weatherforecast.mp3>



## New President

At the AGM in October, J M Bunce (1962) succeeded P F Thompson (1974) as President, and J Green (1982) became President Elect for 2005-6.



## 8th Cronk-Cunis Under 21 Rugby Festival

On Sunday 5th September a squad of Old Abingdonian rugby players represented the school in the 8th Cronk-Cunis Under 21 Rugby Festival at Richmond Athletic ground. This is a large national U21 festival with many of the country's largest public schools entering sides. The first game against Campion was won by Henry Monsel (2003), scoring three converted tries and Scott Milne (1992) one, with a brilliant performance also coming from Jonny Watkins (2003) at flanker. Abingdon unfortunately lost to Manchester Grammar School in the quarterfinals. The Old Abingdonian Rugby Club is based in Clapham and is currently playing to a very high standard in Surrey Division Two. If you are a recent school leaver at university in London, or living near Clapham, why not join the club?

*Mat Browne OARFC Development Officer*

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## OA 60s Dinner 5th November

The 2004 dinner, held on Guy Fawkes Night at the Pines Hotel, Burnham, went with a bang! Twenty-eight OAs attended with ten staying overnight at the hotel. We met in the bar around 7pm and many still recognised each other. At 8 we adjourned to a private room where we were all able to sit round one large table and enjoy an excellent meal of crab cakes, steak and deserts, washed down with 19 bottles of wine and 4 bottles of port. Those attending were Rupert Allison, 1961; Richard Bampton, 1961; Michael Bett, 1961; Bryan Burn, 1963; David Brice, 1961; John Bunce, 1962; Anthony Dillabough, 1960; John Dunthorne, 1965; Michael Ford, 1963; David Goodwin, 1961; Keith Haarhoff, 1960; Roger Havelock, 1961; Richard Hook, 1961; Jeremy Hurd, 1961; David Letley, 1966; Terence Libby, 1961; Ken Mein, 1966; John Mellor, 1965; Randell Moll, 1960; David Morris, 1959; Michael Neilan, 1960; Simon Opie, 1963; David Riddick, 1961; Telfer Saywell, 1958; Mike Spencer, 1966; Robert Shepard, 1960; Paul Williams, 1966; Christopher Wright, 1960. Many old acquaintances were renewed and it was especially pleasant to see a strong new contingent from 1965. Hopefully we can fill the gap between 1962 and 1966 in future years. Many of the guests went on to School for the impressive tribute paid to Joe Talbot at his Memorial Service the next day.

*Roger Havelock*

## Joe Talbot

Copies of the address given at his thanksgiving service may be obtained from the club's office.

## City Lunch

Another very successful City Lunch took place on 19th November at the Bank Restaurant on the Aldwych with the following OAs attending: Hans Allnutt, 1998; Matthias Bader, 1999; Noel Crosse, 1972; Julius Green, 1982; Andrew Higgs, 1971; Michael Hurry, 1979; Laurence Llewellyn, 1965; Jon Madgwick, 1979; Andrew McMillan, 1971; Jamie Peterson, 1997; Matthew Smith, 1996; Olly Smith 1998; Peter Rutland, 1996; Russell Taylor, 1978; Jack Wearne, 1998; Jerry Westmore, 1979. Please get in touch with Jack Wearne for details of the May lunch: jack.wearne@citigroup.com

## 1994 Reunion

A very successful reunion took place on Saturday 18th September 2004 at The Atlas Pub in Fulham, London. Around 60 people attended of which 20 were old girls from St Helen's who also left in 1994. Amongst the OAs attending were: Philip Aiken, Philip Allan, Philip Baker, Ardeshir Batty, Adam Brown, Rowan Browne, Robert Carder, Richard Carter, Mark Clarke, Will Clothier, Daniel Collins, Philip Cooper, Richard Davies, Nick Edmonds, Alex Edwards, Matthew Eyre-Brook, Stuart Fisher, Ben Fuggles, Peter Godsell, James Grayling, Alex Greaney, Adam Guy, Tim Hardacre, Guy Horton, Will Houston, Philip Jupp, Brendan Kay, Chris Keith, Alistair Kieran, Matthew Laing, Michael Litchfield, Sheridan Lord, David Malcolm, Brian Marnane, James McCormick, Daniel Otterburn, Tom Pollard, Robert Porter, Henry Powell-Jones, Nick Rees, Chris Sandford, Richard Scott, James Sporle, Barney Ulyatt, Ben Utenthal, Will Wagner, Jonathan Watkinson and Mark Woodward. The Club thanks Nick Rees for organising the event!

## Class of '86

Jon Cracknell and Tim Gentles are planning an informal get together of OAs who left in 1986 for Saturday 19th March in the Oxfordshire area. This event has already generated many positive responses and a high turnout is foreseen. It would be great to see as many faces as possible. For more details... and a chance to get the low down on what your mates are up to now, drop an email to classof86@hotmail.co.uk .

## OA Professional Development Award

You have until 14th March to apply for a 2005 OA Professional Development Award. Three awards of around £500 each are normally made in April/May for career development. Forms are available from the Club Office.

## Lost OAs

T A Beardsworth (2001), J P H Bosley (1967), T R Burton (1997), D R Carter (1951), D C Dunn (1962), C J M Fulton (1989), J W P Gray (1986), T R J Gray (1986), C N J Hornbuckle (1991), W Horner (1999), P N Jenkins (1962), P J Ladmore (1983), J C Lau (1996), M Nowottny (2002), S M Nowottny (1991), L C Pearce (2001), G I O Riches (1988), H G J Riches (1985), N P E Riches (1989), J Seymour (1996), G E Slator (1990), J C Stamper (1988)

## Deaths

R H Coleman (Hon), K W Ewing (1930), A E B Foxwell (1931), M J J Newport (1945), C H Woodham (1961), H R Wyatt (1940), C J Reenan (1938) *non-member*.

## Honorary Members

During 2004, the following were elected honorary life members of the Club:

Mrs E H W Curran; B A H Figgis; R P Finch;  
Mrs F M Rutland; Mrs E M Watson, long-serving  
Headmaster's Secretary.

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  
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## Old Abingdonians

# OAs in Band Aid 20



**Jonny Greenwood (OA 1990)** on guitar and **Thom Yorke (OA 1987)** on piano, both members of the OA band Radiohead, together with Sir Paul McCartney and brothers Dan and Justin Hawkins from The Darkness, were the core instrumentalists on Band Aid 20's 'Do They Know It's Christmas'. On Sunday 14th November a host of stars, including Robbie Williams, Dido, Will Young and Bono, came together to record the vocals.

Two days later, the completed track was ready. It went straight to number one and remained there for four weeks, selling more than 1.2 million copies. Twenty years ago, the first Band Aid record raised over ten million pounds for famine relief in Africa; the proceeds of this new recording are intended to help the victims of famine in the Darfur region of Sudan.

## OA Journalists

*Four Old Abingdonians describe how they entered journalism - always a popular career choice.*

**Alan Huw Smith (OA 1961)** now a freelance writer was a reporter, specialist writer, columnist, political correspondent and news editor for The Guardian. He read Economics and Politics at Trinity College, Dublin, but spent most of his time editing student journals. He joined The Guardian after a three-year apprenticeship with The Oxford Mail. He retains an interest in the training of journalists.

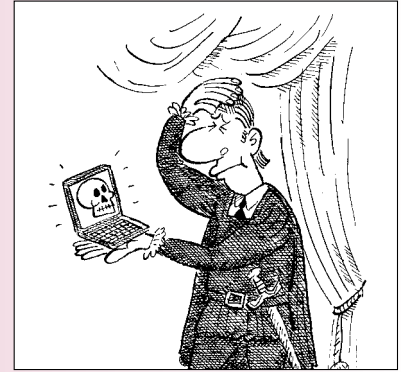
**Ben Longstaff (OA 1995)** is a senior sub-editor on The New Scientist. He read Mathematics at Pembroke College, Oxford, and, on the recommendation of a friend, applied for an internship with The New Scientist. Following the placement, he was offered a job and is still with them. He says the graduate recruitment scheme is still running.

**Richard Wooldridge (OA 1959)** is President and Chief Operating Officer of The International Herald Tribune, based at its offices in Paris. He began his career as an apprentice on The Maidenhead Advertiser and three years later took The National Council for the Training of Journalists Proficiency Exam. For fifteen years he edited a number of provincial newspapers, was appointed Editorial Director of Westminster Press in 1992 and to his current position in 1998.

**Richard Tilley (OA 1988)** is Sports' Editor of The Oxford Times. He read History at Durham and then took a one-year course in journalism at Highbury College, Portsmouth. His first job was with The Henley Standard. He joined The Oxford Mail and Oxford Times in 1995 as a sports writer and was appointed Sports Editor in 1998.



## A New Role for Alex



No, Alex has not left Megabank; the devious corporate financier is set to star in his own West End play. His creators, Charles Peattie and **Russell Taylor (OA 1978)** have transformed their hero from a strip cartoon on The Daily Telegraph's city pages into a ninety-minute play, which they hope will be put on early in the new year – once they have secured a venue, the money and the star. Russell Taylor says that he is 'really looking for a young Alan Rickman...a posh and obnoxious young man in his thirties – but there don't seem to be many of these about.'

## If the Face Fits

**Toby Jones (OA 1985)** is to play Truman Capote in the film, 'Every Word is True', which will start shooting in January. Toby was first suggested for the part because of his uncanny resemblance to the young Capote but, as director Douglas McGrath revealed, screen tests showed that Toby not only had the looks but also the ability to portray the wit, malice and tenderness necessary to take on the role. Last year, Toby appeared with Maggie Smith and Judy Dench in 'Ladies in Lavender' and with Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet in 'Finding Neverland'. In 'Every Word is True', Sandra Bullock is to play the author Harper Lee and Gwyneth Paltrow the singer Peggy Lee.

