

# Abingdon

## News

The Newsletter of Abingdon School

Spring 2004

No 5



# Royal Salute



Photograph courtesy of Oxford Mail/Abingdon Herald

Colour Sergeant James Stanier of the Abingdon CCF, one of the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire's four cadets, was on duty in Abingdon on 20 February, when the Queen came to open the new Sophos headquarters in the town. James, a pupil in the Upper 6th, has been offered a place to read History at University College, Oxford, one of twenty-nine members of the School to have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge colleges this year.

## Eleven Consecutive Victories for the 1st XI



With their 7-0 victory over Rendcomb on the 24 March, the First XI finished a superb season, unbeaten in a run of eleven consecutive matches. Driven by tremendous team spirit, self-belief and commitment, their victories included a 4-0 win over St Edward's and 6-4 against Dean Close's nationally recognised squad.

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## News

### Abingdon take 1st and 2nd in Navy Engineering Challenge

Two teams from Abingdon School took 1st and 2nd prize, ahead of nine other Oxfordshire schools, in the Royal Navy Engineering Challenge at Faringdon Community College on 28 January. The challenge was to design, construct and test an amphibious vehicle, suitable for pollution control in docks and harbours, within the time allowed, five and half hours, from an assortment of materials provided by the organisers.

Both Abingdon's A and B teams demonstrated that their vehicles had the ability to enter the water and collect floating debris. However, the greater manoeuvrability of the A team's boat, and the fact that it collected more ping-pong balls, earned them the 1st prize.



### Community Tea Party

Home-made cakes and sandwiches, beautifully decorated tables and lovely spring weather greeted a large group of elderly people when they came to tea at the School on 16th March. The guests were entertained by the Abingdon Academics, challenged by a quiz and amused by card tricks performed at their tables.

### World Première Birthday Party

David Pope's 40th birthday was the occasion for the world première of Nicholas O'Neill's arrangement of *Spem in Alium*, in the ante-chapel of Magdalen Chapel, on 14 January. Composed originally by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) for forty voices, it was 're-imaged' by O'Neill for forty counter-tenors. Striggio's forty-part motet, *Ecce Beatam Lucem* was also performed in a new arrangement for forty counter-tenors. Conducted by Grayston Ives, the singers included David Pope, Common Room colleagues Simon Whalley and Alex L'Estrange, OA Howard Feather and current pupil, Adam Mould. The retiring collection raised nearly £600 for the refurbishment of St. Helen's Church, Abingdon.



### Arts Centre Appeal

The School hopes to be able to nudge the Arts Centre Appeal over the £1m mark before it closes. Consequently, please fulfil any pledges you have made now so that we can calculate the grand total! It is still possible to buy Secret Art pictures in the School Shop, which also has fifty framed limited edition signed prints, at £75, of James Nairne's specially commissioned painting of the School.

To make a donation please contact Felicity Rutland, Campaign Director. [registrar@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:registrar@abingdon.org.uk)

To view the Abingdon print, and all the Secret Art pictures, visit [www.abingdon.org.uk](http://www.abingdon.org.uk)



# 29 Oxbridge Offers



Some of the twenty-nine boys who have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge this year

Oxbridge results are only one measure of academic success, but in a climate where competition is fiercer than ever and candidates from independent schools are being critically assessed, this year's twenty-nine offers are particularly notable and compare well with last year's twenty-three and the previous year's twenty-six. They are the best of any school in the area, represent twenty-three per cent of the year group, are unaffected by the demise of the Assisted Places Scheme, which has contributed to the disappointing results of some schools, and encompass a wider range of subjects than ever before. Perhaps this shows that the breadth of an Abingdon education is very much in tune with the current expectations of the top universities.

## Robert Harris at The Roysse Society



Robert Harris, bestselling author of *Enigma* and *Archangel*, spoke about his latest book, *Pompeii*, at the annual scholars' dinner on 1 March. Harris explained that the book, set in the Bay of Naples in the 1st Century AD, offered a timeless criticism of hedonistic excess, with interesting analogies to modern America. In addition, writing the book, he said, had enabled him to express his tremendous admiration for the achievements of the great Roman hydraulic engineers who constructed the aqueduct supplying the fleet at Misenum, together with several other towns along the coast.



## Joint Schools' Choral Society

Pupils, parents and staff from Abingdon and St Helen's gave a magnificent performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor in the Amey Theatre on 6 March. The concert was conducted by Richard Elliott and the soloists included OA parent, Henry Herford, and our distinguished singing teacher, Andrew Yeats.

## CCF Weekend



The skills of camouflage, concealment and shelter building were taught to the new recruits at their training weekend in February on Salisbury Plain. The recruits were taken on a night patrol exercise, performing a reconnaissance mission and later laying an ambush on a group of 'unsuspecting' NCOs. Cadets not involved in recruit training were introduced to some more advanced infantry skills, including a sniper hunt and a section attack demonstration.

## Michael Morpurgo



Michael Morpurgo, the well-known author of more than sixty books for children, enthralled some two hundred and sixty boys on the morning of the 23 March, when he came to the School to talk about his work. That afternoon, he entertained an even larger audience of four hundred pupils, from seven local schools, when he related the stories involved in the writing of his books and revealed how he got some of his ideas.

# News

## Recent outings, expeditions and exchanges.



Members of the Kayak Club spent a week in surf and white water in North Devon just before Christmas.



The ski trip went to Powder Mountain, Utah, last December.



A mixed group of 4th year pupils from Abingdon and St Helen's spent two weeks in Germany with their exchange school in Bielefeld. The group is seen here in front of the statue of Roland in Bremen.



2nd year pupils on their visit to the Roman baths in Bath during February.



Seven 6th form linguists and Mrs Slatford outside Versailles during their four-day cultural visit to Paris in February.



Twenty pupils from Abingdon and Our Lady's Convent, went on the French exchange to Prades, south-west France, during the Christmas holidays.



During the 3rd year trip to the battlefields of the First World War the group visited the largest of all Commonwealth War Grave cemeteries at Tyne Cot and placed a cross in memory of an Old Abingdonian on the Ploegsteert Memorial to the Missing.



Lower 6th artists braved the January cold to visit the New Art Centre Sculpture Park at Roche Court, Salisbury, researching contemporary sculptors such as Anthony Gormley and Richard Long.



## Rowing

The Hampton Head was cancelled at the beginning of term owing to the weather, but a week later the senior crews went to the Peterborough Head. Abingdon crews took first place in the Senior 2 Pairs, the Open Senior 3 VIII and the Open Junior VIII. On the same day, at Eton, the J15 crew beat their opponents, as did the J16's coxless four. All the crews performed well at the Reading Head, in particular the A crew who won the Junior VIII event and were declared the fastest school. At Worcester the J16s won three events and two weeks later, at the Schools' Head of the River, rowed away from the field, overpowering the opposition to be 17 seconds faster than their nearest rivals, Eton. Both the 1st and 2nd VIII came second in their groups.



Reading Head

## Road Relay

Over 400 runners took part in the annual road relay race, including many members of staff, one of whom, Mike Webb, produced the fastest time. The winners were 1st Year Freddie Howe, 2nd Year Cody Yellowlees-Bound, 3rd Year Joseph Buckley, 4th Year Philip Hatzis, 5th Year Neil Houlsey, Lower 6th Michael White and Upper 6th Harry Green.



## Footballers Raise £400

A 5-a-side charity football tournament, held on Ash Wednesday, raised £400 for two charities, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and the Sabre Trust. The 6th form winners were the *Starsailors*, captained by C More, the 5th were *Witness the Fitness* under T Davie and the 3rd and 4th form winners were *The Russians*, led by G Mouradian.



## Fencing

The twenty-seven members of the school fencing club now meet twice a week and this term have undertaken some friendly matches against other schools. On 5 February the Senior and Junior Foil teams challenged St Helen's; the seniors won 7-2 but the Juniors were narrowly defeated 5-4.

## Hockey

The 1st XI has enjoyed a superb season – played 12, won 11, goals for – 48, goals against – 24. After the initial disappointment of losing to King Edward VI, Southampton, the team picked themselves up and individuals showed themselves prepared to make considerable sacrifices for the sake of the team. The highlights were the matches against St Edward's, 4-0, and Dean Close, 6-4, a nationally recognised team. Special mention should be made of Alistair McKenzie who scored 23 of the 48 goals; Dominic Roche for his leadership; Henry Cole for his determination; Marcus Woodward for his goalkeeping; Jonathan Barclay, who deputised for him, as well as to Toby Roche and Rowan Wheeler who are playing two years ahead of themselves. Abingdon School versus:

King Edward's . . .	lost	.. 1 – 5
(Southampton)		
St Edward's . . . . .	won	.. 4 – 0
Pangbourne. . . . .	won	.. 4 – 2
Warwick. . . . .	won	.. 4 – 3
MCS . . . . .	won	.. 3 – 1
Shiplake. . . . .	won	.. 2 – 1
Dean Close . . . . .	won	.. 6 – 4
Stowe . . . . .	won	.. 4 – 1
Bloxham . . . . .	won	.. 4 – 3
Merchant Taylor's	won	.. 4 – 2
Old Abingdonians	won	.. 5 – 2
Rendcomb. . . . .	won	.. 7 – 0



1st XI against Magdalen College School

# Arts Centre

The Amey Theatre now has data projection facilities, a technical gallery and an extended conservative-style foyer, shown here in use for a Chamber Orchestra rehearsal.



## A tour around the



Members of the film unit in the editing suite transferring footage to the computers using Final Cut Pro. Six short films made by the unit will be screened on 19th May in the Amey Theatre.



The Art Department now has an integrated

4th Year art



The computers in the music technology teaching suite use eMagic Logic Pro and are connected to 13 midi keyboards.







The Amey Theatre's new facilities make it an even more popular venue for outside productions. The Abingdon Operatic Society used it in March for a sensational production of Chess.

## e new Arts Centre



3D area specialising in ceramics.

ists working in the new painting studio; north facing and high ceilings create a conducive space.



The extended Music School now has more than double the previous space, including a very large rehearsal room and four extra practice rooms.



The Art Technology teaching suite has sixteen eMacs with pressure sensitive tablets for pen input, scanners, digital cameras and video projection facilities all connected to the school network.

# The Abingdon School Society - TASS



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.

## Another Splendid Burns Night Supper



Sold out in November, this year's supper was the best yet, with the perfect balance of food and wine, speeches and music, and lots of time for dancing.

A most charming aspect this year was that the piper who entertained us before the meal began and who also piped in the haggis was Philip Hatzis, an Abingdon boy in the fourth year. He played wonderfully.

This year's Burns Night Supper was the last to be organised by Moira Brodie. She was involved in the very first, helping Rita Higazi and Pauline Gardner, and took over the complete show herself two years ago. She'll be missed.

Rose Gill will run the 2005 event. Don't forget to book as soon as tickets become available in the Michaelmas Term.



## Lost Property

Changes to the Lost Property system mean that SUS will now be receiving unclaimed items from School housekeeping after four weeks. Any nametapes will now be left in the articles and sports bags will be left intact rather than split up.

SUS helpers will make lists of items, sorted by house. These lists will be sent to Housemasters and the boys will be encouraged to reclaim their belongings. There will be a charge of 50p per single item and £2 for a complete sports bag.

Unclaimed items will be sold in the usual way after 6 weeks in SUS. The Lost Property lists will be on House notice boards and the School's SUS web page.

It is hoped that this new system instigated by TASS will help parents and boys.



Picture credit: Antonio Olmos

## Andrew Motion and the TASS Lecture

The Poet Laureate Andrew Motion will be giving the TASS Lecture in October. He will read and discuss a selection of his work. More news nearer the time.

## TASS/Tappins Travel Awards

In the Summer Term, Sixth Form boys will be asked to apply for TASS/Tappins Travel Awards. These largely go to boys planning gap years. Parents should encourage their sons to apply once application forms are distributed by Mr Watkins later in the term.

## TASS Committee

TASS has a number of new committee members. Carol Thorn has become the new Treasurer in succession to Rory Jackson. Other new members are Karen Brombley, Louise Ivimey-Cook, Rose Gill, John Howe, and Carol Kane.

Rory Jackson has been Treasurer of TASS for longer than he would care to remember. We'd all like to thank him for the care and good humour he has always shown in his stewardship.

## TASS Other-half Awards

Every year, TASS gives money to school clubs and societies. We raise funds for big projects like the Arts Centre appeal, to which TASS gave £20,000, but giving grants to the Other-half is a regular, annual event.

This year, we have made the following donations:

**Fencing Club: £819** for an electronic scoring box

**Kayak Club: £500** to support a trip to Norway

**The Moldova Group: £500** towards its charity work there

**Rifle Club: £500** towards a competition week in Germany

**Sailing Club £500** towards a European competition in Ireland

**Squash Club: £500** for coaching

**Tennis Club: £500** for coaching

**The Wood Turning Group: £466** for lathe equipment.

TASS strongly supports Abingdon School's desire that every boy should develop interests outside the formal curriculum and is delighted to help in this way.

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



## Josca's Continues to Expand

After the success of the expansion of years seven and eight over the last three years it has been decided that the school should bring the additional intake forward a year to the start of year six.

Ten additional year six pupils can thus start at Josca's in September 2004, bringing the total for the year group up to thirty. This move is in response to the considerable demand for places at Josca's. In addition, it gives the mutual benefits that additional pupils bring three years to make their impact rather than the current two.



## National Rugby Tournament

Thirty-six schools were represented at the National Preparatory Schools Rugby Finals, which were held on Sunday 7th March at Epsom College.

Given the size of the schools against which we were competing, the fact that Josca's was making their third appearance in these finals in the last five years at Under 13 level is, in itself, a remarkable feat. To secure a place in the last eight amongst such company at that time of the year reflects great credit on both the boys and the coaches.

## An Unbeaten Season for the Colts B Team

It's Golds all round for the school's only unbeaten team of the football season. The Colts B, under John 'Souness' Herrington, have achieved a record of played 8, won 6 and drawn 2.

The team really 'gelled' together into a tight unit, with an especially mean defensive line.

Although illness and lesson commitments ensured a changing line-up for many games, the whole squad worked hard to achieve this rare level of success.

## Farmer Gow's Activity Farm

The three pre-school year groups set off for the farm and enjoyed a wonderful forest walk, where they listened to bird calls and saw some big crows' nests in some very tall trees. They discovered and learnt about a number of different trees, some with little boxes in them for bats to nest in. They looked very closely at some piles of sawn down tree trunks, counting the rings to find out how old the trees were. A great indication of the enjoyment of the day was from our visiting boy, Todd, who I am sure has Josca's as his first choice of school ... if school is that much fun everyday!



## Josca's Crosscountry



On Friday 12th March all the boys from Year 3 and up took part in the cross-country. We had a cold day with a strong wind and still some snow left on the ground.

The U9s produced a great race, Alasdair Carmichael leading all the way. The race for second place was amazing, Angus Parker eventually losing to Bernard Chalk.

The U11s was won by Josh Bull. Second place went to Alexander Hatzis and third place to George Bull. A good day for the Bull family!

The U13s was a long tiring race. First place went to Jordan Tabor, who led all the way. Jeremy Talbot came second and Ben Read third.

*By Jeremy Talbot*

## Golf Tournament

The Josca's Golf team made up of Andrew Hatzis, Jordan Tabor and Sandy Bolton recently took part in the British Heart Foundation regional golf tournament. This is an annual event open to school boys of all ages with the ultimate aim of raising funds for the British Heart Foundation. The boys were placed fourth (on handicap) in a field of seventeen teams with our lead scorer, Sandy Bolton, playing the least amount of strokes on the day.



# Out of the Past

## An OA at the Olympics

Robin Bourne-Taylor is still a contender for the British VIII at the Olympic Games in Athens this year. The last time an OA represented Great Britain in the Games was at Stockholm in 1912 when RG Rice (OA 1903) was picked for the 100m, 200m and 110 metre hurdles. Rice failed to win any of his races at the Games. However, when he represented the Old Boys at the Past v Present Athletics Sports in 1912, according to the Abingdonian, he won the Quarter Mile 'very easily without extending himself' and 'outclassed' the field in the 120 yard hurdles.



Past v Present Athletics Sports 1912 RG Rice front row third from left

## A School Within A School?



In this book, Nigel Hammond (OA 1957) covers the years 1609 to 1870 and deals with the education of Bennett Boys at Abingdon School, and with the twenty-six Tesdale Ushers appointed to teach them. It also examines the establishment of scholarships at Oxford for Abingdon boys, which led eventually to the foundation of Pembroke College in 1624.

Nigel Hammond, who is Honorary Archivist of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon, has donated the proceeds of this book to the Abingdon School Appeal.

**A School Within a School is available, price £5.95, from**

The Abingdon School Shop  
shop@abingdon.org.uk

The Bookstore, Bury Street,  
Abingdon.

Or From Rectory Orchard Books,  
Winter Lane, West Hanney, Wantage,  
OX12 0LF, cheques payable to Nigel  
Hammond £5.95 (+50p UK, £1.25  
Europe and £1.50 USA to cover  
postage and packing).

## Abingdon School Debating Society 1904-2004

The first meeting of the Abingdon School Literary, Scientific and Debating Society took place one hundred years ago this year. HW Weaving proposed the motion that *"The adoption of conscription would be advantageous to England,"* claiming that the present army was inefficient and that conscription would improve the physique of the lower class and keep them out of trouble. AA Brown opposed the motion, arguing that, as a naval power, England did not need a large army and that should it ever need one volunteers would come forward to supply the need. The motion was rejected by twenty votes to ten. AA Brown volunteered on the outbreak of war in 1914 and died in Palestine in 1918.



Captain AA Brown MC

## Centenary Dinner Debate



Dinner debate  
Wycombe Abbey 2003

Saturday 12 June 6.30 meet for  
coffee in Charles Maude Room

7 pm Debate: *The adoption of  
conscription would be advantageous to  
England*

Followed by Buffet Dinner in Dining  
Hall

OAs interested in taking part are  
warmly invited to contact Dr Hubert  
Zawadzki at the School.

## An OA in the OED

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, Daffy's Elixir was a toothache remedy, though its inventor, the Revd. Thomas Daffy, (OA 1635), preferred to promote it as a general pick-me-up suitable for a whole variety of illnesses. The medicine, never patented since that would have meant declaring the ingredients, was sold with the implication that its contents were exotic. However, chemical analysis of a bottle excavated in the 1940s revealed the main ingredients to have been gin and senna, so much gin that in the language of the fast set in Jane Austen's day, gin was known as 'daffy'.



Many thanks to Nigel Hammond for the research for this article



## Events

### City Lunch – Friday 14th May

Location to be confirmed – but near Bank Station. Approximate cost: £20.00. Please contact Jack Wearne (1998): jack.wearne@citigroup.com if you would like to attend or be added to the mailing list.

### OA Oarsmen Buffet Dinner

#### – Saturday 22nd May

Calling all OA Oarsmen! – W G Potter (CR 1955-92 and Coach 1955-94) is inviting you to a gathering on 22 May. A shuttle bus will take you from School to the Boathouse for a drinks reception kindly provided by the Headmaster, followed by a Buffet Dinner (£15.00 per person) in the Dining Hall. Cash Bar. Guests invited too. For more information visit the Website or contact the Club Office.

### President's Dinner - Sat 29th May

– There's still time to book your table!

### Crescent House Golden Jubilee

#### – Saturday 12th June

Thomas and Alexandra Garnier would like to invite OAs to an Open Afternoon and Reunion of friends and families associated with Crescent House during the last fifty years. Bring a picnic and relax in the gardens. The House will be open between 1.00 and 5.00 pm. Tea and strawberries will be served at 3.00 pm.

### OA Sportsmen's Weekend 2004

#### 9th to 12th July

Cricket, Rowing, Tennis, Rugby – something for everyone. Come and watch – or play.

#### Fri 9th - Cricket: 11.30 am

Alligators v Oxford Downs CC  
War Memorial Field

#### Sat 10th - Cricket: 11.30 am

Alligators v Headmaster's XI  
War Memorial Field

#### Rowing: 12 noon @ Boathouse

for more info:  
dj\_kingsley@hotmail.com

#### Tennis: Courts available all day

Any volunteers to organise?

Sportsmen's Evening: 7.30 pm

Buffet Dinner in the Boathouse  
£6.00 per person  
subsidised by the Alligators

#### Mon 12th - Cricket: 11.30 am

Alligators v Old Whitgiftians CC  
War Memorial Field

Bring the whole family. For more information, contact John Bunce (1962): johnbunce@btconnect.com or the Club Office.

### OA Day

#### Saturday 9th October

11.00 am AGM

11.30 am OARFC v Abingdon Town

1.00 pm Buffet Lunch in Dining Hall

### OAs 60's Dinner

#### Friday 5th November

At the Bull Hotel in Gerrards Cross. The cost will be £50 including fine wines. Overnight accommodation can be booked at the hotel. Please contact Roger Havelock (1961) at roger@havelock.co.uk or the Club Office for more information.

### 40th Anniversary of The John

#### Royse Lodge on Saturday 18th

#### September 2004

Freemasonry had great appeal to Sir James Cobban. Its robust moral and charitable code, deeply held non-sectarian approach to religion, and an equivalent ambivalence to matters politic sat firmly within his own disciplines. Many lodges are formed from an association of like-minded individuals, clearly demonstrated by old school lodges throughout the country. However, many have subsequently widened their gates, extending membership to a wider audience. The John Royse Lodge has maintained the principles set down by its Founders, restricting membership to Old Abingdonians and members of the Common Room, cost and style enabling the Lodge to be attainable to those starting out on life's great adventure, as well as those attracted to become joining members.

Why not join us at our usual meeting on 18 September. If you, or you and your partner, are interested, please call Paul Holmes (1968), our Secretary, on 01235 520230 or email at PHolmes444@aol.com, or call in to the Punchbowl – those of a certain age will remember the nearby den of iniquity that was the Mousehole!

Paul Holmes (1968)

## Sport

### Hockey: OAs v 1st XI

A champagne breakfast preceded a friendly between OAs and the current First XI. Final score: 5-2 in favour of the XI. Many thanks to the Umpires, Stephen Kirby (1970) and Andrew Hall, Head of Sport and PE.



Stephen Kirby

### Anyone for Badminton?

Oundle are looking to organise Badminton matches and are wondering if any OAs would rise to the challenge? Please contact the Club office.

### Alligators v Downside Wanderers

on Sunday 20th June

11.30 am start,

War Memorial Field

## News

### Griffen

Please send your news for Griffen (due out in September) to H T Randolph, 30 Park Road, Abingdon OX14 1DS by early July.

### Lost OAs

R J Bradley (1978), R T Carter (1985), J V W Fisher (2003), D J Galloway (1982), R A Jewitt (1986), J L Knibbs (1984), R C Lowman (1991), A G Maclean (1969), B J W Mather (1998), A J Mustarde (1957), P J Rushton (1980), C G Schoof (1994), J D Towe (1997), P J Watson (1998), R C Watson (1999), J M Winsbury (1983), P J Winsbury (1991), J C V Wise (1969).

### Deaths

We regret to report the deaths of N C J Badley (1947), G V Bayley (1938), J M Benson (1951), K T Broadbury-Sayer (1940), W W Budden (1957), J H Light (1950) and D B West (1939).

### Then and Now

Sixty-four years separate these photos. Peter Verrall (1939) (left), who now lives in Australia, was thrilled to meet up with Gordon Dodge (1944) (right) when he visited the School last July. Peter is writing his memoirs and was very happy to reminisce in the pleasant company of Gordon, John Rayson (1942) and Hugh Randolph.



### Jonathan Julian

We would like to thank Jonathan Julian (1978) who recently presented the School with some of his collection of classics books – which have been divided between the Classics Department and the Library.

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

## OAs in the Armed Services

**Air Vice Marshall Steven Nicholl CB CBE AFC (OA 1965)** retired from the RAF in 2001. He left Abingdon to read Engineering Science at Pembroke College, Oxford and entered the RAF on a university cadetship. He became a pilot and flew phantoms and tornadoes eventually commanding RAF Leuchers in Fife. His final posting was as Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff.



**Captain David Brice RN (OA 1961)** entered the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1961. In 1985 he took command of the frigate, HMS Naiad and from there became Assistant Chief of Staff Aviation, CINC Fleet. After several years at the NATO Defence College in Rome he became responsible for the new naval aircraft, helicopters and carriers requirement programme before finally becoming Project Director Defence Helicopter Flying School. He retired from the Navy in 1997 and is now a Defence Consultant.

**Major RJ Craig Royal Signals (OA 1989)** attended Welbeck College after Abingdon and then went to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. In 1992 he was commissioned into the Royal Signals and between 1995 and 1998 attended RMC Shrivenham where he read Electronic Systems Engineering. Promoted major in 2003 he has served in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Kosovo. He is currently serving at the Defence Procurement Agency in Bristol and is due to attend a Staff Course back in Shrivenham in September.



**Major General Walter James Courage CB MBE (OA 1958)** known as Jack Phipps at school, later adopted his step-father's surname. He served with the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, commanding the regiment 1982-4. He was chief of staff UN Force in Cyprus 1988-90, Chief Joint Services Liason Officer BAOR Bonn 1990-94 and Chief External Affairs Division Germany 1994-5.

## Dunbar in Victorious Falcons

**Jon Dunbar (OA 1999)** played for the winning Newcastle Falcons' team, which snatched a 37-33 victory over Sale Sharks in the final of the Rugby Union Powergen championships at Twickenham on 17 April. Jon, who this season has played at No 6, is 6'5" and weighs 19 stone. He read European Studies at Durham and in 2002 played flanker for the England under-21s against Wales and France in the Six Nations championships. He has played for the Falcons since 2001.



## Joe Talbot

Joe Talbot (Common Room 1948 – 1978) died on 2 April. It is planned to hold a service of thanksgiving for his life. Further details will be available from Marilena Kaye, 01235 529517 [oa.club@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:oa.club@abingdon.org.uk)

## Simon Rutland

Rowing in 'The Bill Potter', Simon Rutland (OA 1999) captained the Oxford Lightweights' reserve crew (Nephthys) to victory in record time against the Cambridge crew (Granta) at Henley on 28 March.



Jack Tarrell (OA 2003) rowed in the victorious reserve Isis crew on the same day.

## Grigsby Retrospective at the NFT

4-25 June 2004

*Master and Pupils*, NFT2 11 June, will show an extract from *No Tumbled house*, 1955, directed by Michael Grigsby (OA 1955) whilst still a pupil at the School. The evening will include screenings of some of the short films made by the new Abingdon School film unit. Tickets from NFT after 12 May.

## Tristan Gurney

Tristan Gurney (OA 1995), as winner of the 2002 Thames Valley Young Musicians Platform, performed a series of violin sonatas at one of the 'Music at



St Peter's' concerts in Wallingford last summer. Tristan studied the violin at the Royal Northern College of Music and at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. He is currently sub-principal violinist with the northern Sinfonia.