

Abingdon

News

The Newsletter of Abingdon School

April 2005

No 8



Champions...



Mark Bassett @ The Source Photography



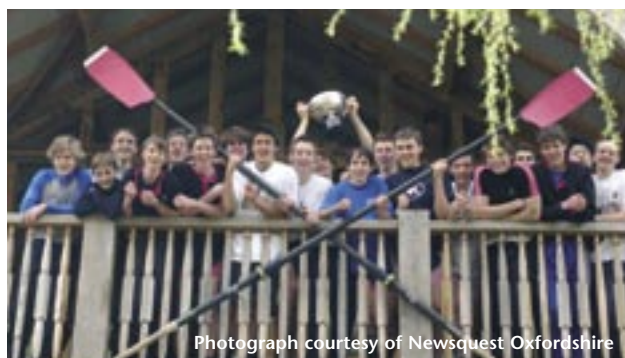
... of the County

Harry Desmond, Sam Dent, Sam Fletcher and Edmund Long, all members of the top fourth-year science set, came first, second, third and runner-up respectively in the 14 – 16 age group of the Oxfordshire Science Writing Competition, which invited essays from entrants aged 12 to over 25 on the theme: *Chemistry, the Creative Cauldron*. These exceptional results were topped by the decision of the editor of The Oxford Times to award the prize for the best overall entry from a school-age competitor to Harry Desmond's essay, *Marmalade Skies, Titan's Plasma Chemistry and the Pre-History of Life*.



... and of the Thames

The Boat Club won the Thames Trophy at the School's Head on 7th March. Other champions include the Cross Country Club who are county champions, Neil Houlshby, Oxfordshire Under 19 Cross Country champion, and Felix Wood, Public Schools' Under 14 Sabre champion.



Photograph courtesy of Newsquest Oxfordshire



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Oxbridge Offers



This year, twenty-four Abingdonians have received provisional offers from Oxford and Cambridge. Every year over 99% of all boys go on to university. Last year fifteen went to Oxford, making it the most popular destination, and ten went to Cambridge and UCL, which put these universities in joint second place. The most popular subject was Geography, chosen by nine boys. Medicine, chosen by eight, came second.

The Sound of Silence



The library became a haven of peace on World Book Day, 3rd March, as written work and computer research gave way to reading. Throughout the day a continuous stream of boys and staff, for whom a staged drawing room had been arranged, read their way through both lessons and breaks.

Easter Extravaganza



Members of the Older and Bolder Club, residents of Cygnet Court, Lady Eleanor Court and Old Station House, were entertained to tea on 15th March by a group of forty-three boys. Whilst the tea and cakes were provided by the school caterers, the boys provided the entertainment - a quiz and raffle, together with music from Tim Barrow and Arjun Kingdon .

Tsunami CD



Joe Mason and David Mears, both members of The National Children's Orchestra, joined some of the biggest names in the music business at the Abbey Road studios in January. They recorded one of the three tracks on the official charity CD, *Grief Never Grows Old*, a One World Project to raise money for the Disaster Emergency Committee's work in South-East Asia following the tsunami.

Abingdon Print

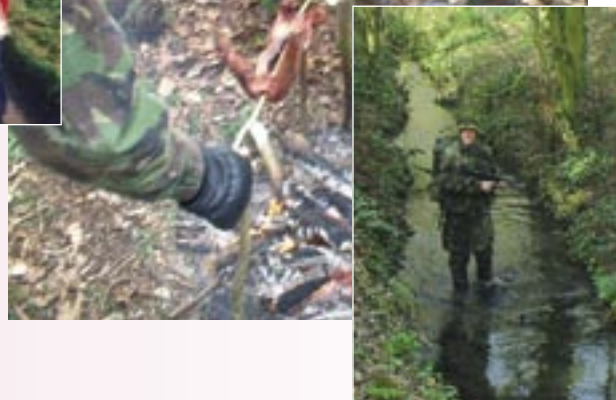


There are still a few copies of the print of Abingdon School available from the school shop. Painted by the Head of Art, James Nairne, who studied Fine Art at The Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford University, the limited edition, framed and signed print can be bought for £75.

To view print:
<http://www.abingdon.org.uk/print>

CCF Survive the Elements

After weeks of training, the fourth-year Army and RAF sections, together with boys undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award, spent two days in Wiltshire on an Adventure Training Expedition. Braving cold, rain, mud, kit inspections, heavy backpacks and blisters, the boys finished the 18.4 kilometre walk across Salisbury Plain in good spirits despite the stormy weather.



A month later, in mid-March, twenty cadets departed for Wiltshire again for their annual survival exercise. They were split into three teams - hunters, escapees and partisans - and were squared off against each other in a series of war games and simulations, which necessitated the practise of their survival skills.

Captain James Barr (OA 1995) made a surprise appearance at the controls of a Gazelle helicopter.

Science Week

For three days in March, Abingdon played host to pupils from a number of local schools who came to see, hear and participate in a series of lectures, competitions and displays associated with Science Week. One of the highlights of the week's events was a display of the work of Peter Parks who gave a lecture on his pioneering work in Macro- and Micro-photography.



Bielefeld Exchange

Fourth-year Germanists from St Helen's and Abingdon spent an enjoyable ten days on their annual exchange to Bielefeld. German history was on the agenda when they visited Hamlin, Bremen and Münster but for many it was football that was on their minds. During the trip, Arminia Bielefeld won a stunning 3 – 1 victory over the German giants, Bayern Munich.

Edmund Society

Last term, the Edmund Society, set up with the intention of discussing issues of philosophy and theology, heard Professor Russell Stannard, former Professor of Physics at the Open University, explain the concord between science and religion, and the Reverend John Polkinghorne, former Professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge, discuss signs of life in the universe. In a joint meeting with the Roysse Society, the Reverend Joanna Jepson spoke about abortion and the handicapped.



Arts



Dark Lights

An evening of drama, music and art, inspired by the mid-winter solstice, featured magic by Simon Evans (OA 2002), jazz and gospel music from George Potter (OA 2004) and the St Helen's Gospel Choir, and ultraviolet 'black light' drama depicting the origins of human life. There were also grisly stories from Grimm's Tales, comedy from Tim Dawson and a spectacular display of outdoor fire sculptures by sixth-form artist, Tristram Bainbridge.



Andy Bush wins Emmy

Trumpet teacher Andy Bush has been awarded an Emmy for 'outstanding individual achievement' for the score he wrote for the BBC and US History Channel series, *Days That Shook the World*. Andy has taught trumpet at Abingdon for eleven years, working particularly with the Big Band. He brings with him a wonderful level of experience and professionalism, having worked as trumpeter and arranger with Radiohead, Beyonce, Tina Turner and U2.



Legendary Violinist's Masterclass

An illuminating and immensely enjoyable evening was had by many young musicians and local string teachers when Emanuel Hurwitz CBE, widely acknowledged as one of Britain's



greatest violinists of the twentieth century, paid his third visit to Abingdon School to give a masterclass on Wednesday 9th March. Hurwitz was for many years professor of violin at the Royal Academy of Music and was leader of the English Chamber Orchestra, The Melos Ensemble and the Aeolian String Quartet.



Joint Choral Society Concert

The Joint Schools' Choral Society, drawn from pupils, parents and teachers from St Helen's and Abingdon, gave a wonderful performance of Mozart's *Requiem* and Purcell's *Come Ye Sons of Art* in the Yolande Paterson Hall at St Helen's on 5th March. Among the soloists were several St Helen's pupils, Harriet Molyneaux, Mel Spencer, Alicia Clarke and Alice Herford. Next year the Society will give a performance of Haydn's *Creation*.

Chamber Orchestra Triumph

Anthony Lloyd (flute), Adrian Lo (violin) and Joe Mason (piano), have won



a place in the finals of the National Chamber Competition for Schools with a 'triumphant' performance of a piece by the Czech composer Martineau. This is the fifth successive year that Abingdon musicians have won through to the finals of this competition.



Boat Club wins Thames Trophy

The rowers enjoyed a triumphant day at the Schools' Head of the River on 7th March. Competing against a hundred-and-twenty crews, they won the Thames Trophy for the school with the best overall times. This was the culmination of a promising regatta season, which saw the J16 VIII win their event at the Worcester Head.



Cross Country

The Cross Country Club had an excellent season finishing as champions of both the county and the Vale. Neil Houlby is U19 Cross Country champion for Oxfordshire and has been selected to run for the county in the Schools' All-England Championships. Tim Rippon, Will Guast, Henry Holdsworth and Ted Stansfield will join him in the team.

Fencing Champion

Felix Wood won the Mount-Haes Under 14 Sabre Competition at the Public Schools' Fencing Championship held at Crystal Palace on 17th March. From a field of sixty-one, Felix fought off strong competition to beat Anton Howes, from Whitgift, 15-12 in the final. This is the first time for many years that Abingdon has sent a team to this event.



Charity Football Tournament

Seventeen teams took part in Lower School's Five-a-Side Charity Football Tournament on 9th March. The matches were highly competitive with several being decided by penalty shootouts. The winners were The Titans, a first year team. Over £250 was raised for the Abingdon Tsunami Appeal, which will be sending the money to the Pahumuna Rehabilitation Centre in Sri Lanka.

1st XI Hockey Results

King Edward's Southampton	won 1-0
St Edward's	lost 1-6
Pangbourne	won 6-3
Warwick	drew 2-2
Shiplake	lost 4-5
Dean Close	lost 0-4
Stowe	won 4-2
Radley	lost 0-1
Merchant Taylors	drew 2-2
Bloxham	won 8-0
MCS	won 4-2
Old Abingdonians	drew 2-2



Road Relay



Neil Houlby won the 39th Annual House Road Relay in a time of 8 minutes 37 seconds, beating a field of 440 runners. Philip Hatzis came fifth and was the fastest Middle School runner, his time 8 minutes 58 seconds. Freddie Howe, who ran in 9 minutes 19 seconds, came twentieth and was the Lower School winner. Hamilton's were the overall winners of the competition in which 110 teams took part.

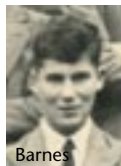
Class of '35



Seventy years ago, in the summer of 1935, nine members of the sixth form left Abingdon: two were destined for university, the head-boy, **DG Brown**, who was on his way to Oxford having won the Pembroke Scholarship, and **HLG Livingston** who went to study science at King's College, London. The others took up a variety of employment: **MRT Cooper** returned to Kenya to become a coffee planter, **DFW Newman** went to work at Faraday House, **PR Wood** secured an appointment with the Vines Products Company. Only one went into the services, **ARM Adams** who passed into RMA Woolwich. Ten years later, every single one of them had served in the armed forces and two of them, **ARM Adams** and **DE Mills**, were dead.

The 1935 school photograph shows 139 boys, fourteen of whom were killed between 1939 and 1945. The School lost a total of forty-nine OAs during the course of the war and by far the greatest percentage were OAs of the 1930s. In fact, no one who left school later than 1942 was killed.

The first casualty of this 1935 photograph was Pilot **Officer Anthony Barnes** who was killed on 23rd March 1940 whilst undergoing flying training in Pembrokeshire. He is buried in the churchyard in Carew Cheriton.



Barnes

On 10th May 1940 the Germans invaded France, sweeping all before them in a stunning display of military might and tactical brilliance, driving the British Expeditionary Force back towards the Channel ports.

On 21st and 22nd May, **2nd Lieutenant Michael Holme**, Royal Berkshire Regiment, and **2nd Lieutenant Robert Emmett** were killed in Belgium, covering the retreat to Dunkirk. Michael Holme's younger brother, Denis, was killed in 1944. By 27th May the evacuation had begun and on 1st June, **Signalman George Baker** RNVR, serving on the minesweeper HMS Speedwell, was killed when the small boat he was crewing was strafed by machine-gun fire.

Their land armies having been driven out of France, the British continued to fight the war in Africa and in the skies over Europe. On 18th February 1941, **2nd Lieutenant Douglas Mills**, Royal Artillery, was killed in the assault on the Italian stronghold of Keren in Eritrea.

During 1942 **Sergeant Graham Randall**, RAFVR, serving as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner, was reported missing when his plane was shot down over Belgium on 16th April. The following month, on 3rd May, **Pilot Officer Harold Whitfield** was killed during flying training. He is buried



Holme



Emmett



Baker



Mills



Randall

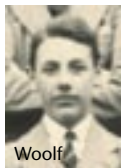


Whitfield

in St Paul's churchyard, Culham. **Sergeant Nicholas Kortright**, RAFVR, serving as a Rear Gunner in a Stirling operating out of RAF Lakenheath, was reported missing following the 1,000 bomber raid over Essen on the night of the 5th/6th June. Eleven days later **Signalman Peter Woolf**, RNVR, was killed on the night of the 17th/18th June when the destroyer, HMS Wild Swan, on convoy duty in the North Atlantic, came under attack from U-boats and Ju88 bombers off the SW coast of Ireland. HMS Wild Swan's steering gear was shot away; she collided with a Spanish fishing vessel and sank.

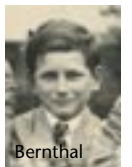


Kortright



Woolf

On 8th July 1943 Flight **Sergeant Leslie Bernthal**, RAFVR, was reported missing following the failure of his Wellington to return from a bombing raid during the run-up to the invasion of Sicily.



Bernthal

By 1944 the Allies were back on the European mainland. **Lieutenant William Giles**, Royal Armoured Corps, was killed on 30th June 1944 in the attempt to break out from Normandy. **Trooper David Pimm**, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, was killed on 5 September at Salerno during the invasion of Italy. Three weeks later, **Flying Officer Alan Wiggins**, RAFVR, the youngest of seven brothers who



Giles



Pimm



The School 1935

all attended the School, was killed when his plane crashed over Belgium. Wiggins's Squadron of Mosquitoes was engaged in patrolling nightfighter airfields with the aim of shooting down enemy aircraft as they took off and landed. Wiggins is buried in Leopoldsburg War Cemetery.



Wiggins



Adams

The final casualty of this 1935 photograph was **Captain Arthur Adams**, Royal Artillery - the only one of the 1935 leavers to have chosen a career in the army - he was killed in action in Burma on 3 March 1945 and is buried in Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar.



Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar



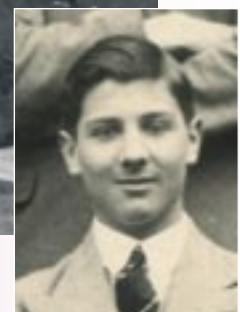
Keren War Cemetery, Eritrea



Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Belgium



Lunghi (centre) with General Montgomery (left)



The Russian Interpreter

Standing second row from the back, eleventh from the left, in the 1935 photograph is **Hugh Lunghi (OA 1939)**, who originally joined an artillery regiment when he left school but was transferred to Intelligence when his ability to speak Russian was discovered. At the age of twenty-three he found himself acting as Churchill's interpreter with Stalin at the Teheran Conference; a duty he performed twice more at Moscow and Yalta. Speaking recently on BBC's *Churchill the Forgotten Years*, Lunghi remembered Churchill's vision, courage, energy and, most of all, his doggedness. He remembered also Churchill's despair as first Roosevelt and then Truman froze him out of their negotiations with Stalin over arrangements for ending the war and their plans for peace.

The Abingdon School Society - TASS



Questions and Answers

What is TASS?

The Abingdon School Society is a parent body that supports the School's aim of educating boys in as full a sense as possible. It is also one of the many ways that parents can support the vital partnership between the School, the boys and themselves. All parents are automatically members of TASS and the committee includes parents, staff and a governor. TASS also acts as the overarching parents' group that coordinates the activities of various specialist groups such as the Boat Club, Touchliners, Music Society, etc.

What does TASS do?

The essential purpose of TASS is to raise funds to assist with the funding of the Other Half activities (i.e. the more than fifty activities that are additional to basic academic studies) *and* to organise social events. The two activities often reinforce each other. TASS decides which Other Half activities to fund and the amounts to be awarded.

It also supports a variety of activities to help parents including:

- Sorting out lost property and providing second hand uniforms for sale.
- Providing catering at Open Days and for many parents' evenings, acting both as a focal point for socialising and a venue for existing and prospective parents to seek information from other parents.
- Organising events for both social interaction (e.g. Burns Night) and education (Poet Laureate lecture).
- Funding to assist boys who undertake "community work" – often overseas – during their gap years, in parallel with the "Tappins" awards. (Tappins Coaches have for some years contributed funds to facilitate gap year travel.)

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

How does it raise funds?

TASS generates funds in a number of ways. It organises various fund-raising events – Quiz Night, Burns Supper, Public Lectures, etc – at the rate of about one per term. The Second-hand Uniform Shop is a vital part of TASS, providing a vehicle to return lost property and to organise the sale of Second-hand uniforms.

Want to participate?

TASS needs a steady stream of new members to maintain effectiveness. New members are also a useful source of innovative ideas for social events and fund-raising. If you think you would like to participate and help your and other people's sons then a good start is to attend a TASS meeting, initially on a no commitment basis. The TASS committee meets about six times a year usually on a Monday evening at 8pm, for around an hour-and-a-half. To do this send an email to the current chair, Karen Brombley at kbrombley@hotmail.com

Some of this term's events:

Burns Night

On a cold night in January about 130 people were welcomed into Lains Barn by the sound of Philip Hatzis's (fifth year pupil) bagpipes, heralding the start of another successful TASS Burns Supper (which raised approx. £1500). The evening progressed with a combination of haggis, whisky, poetry and witty speeches, warming everyone up for a quick twirl on the dance floor to the strains of the Gay Gordon. Many thanks go to everyone who made the evening a success, especially the speakers and the piper, who may be called upon to use their talents once again next year (unless there are any volunteers, in which case they should contact a member of TASS or let the school know).

Talking of next year, pencil in Saturday 28th January 2006 and watch this space for more details of this very popular fund-raising event.

Quiz night



On Saturday 26th February TASS held 'an evening of un-paralleled tumult' hosted by Anne Diamond – Quiz Mistress extraordinaire. Fourteen teams of would be intellects (!) gathered for an evening of fun and entertainment. A great way to meet other parents.

TASS Lecture 2005

On Tuesday 8th February, **Hugh Leach OBE (OA 1953)** gave a lecture on 'From Muhammed to Osama; how religion can be turned to hatred', in which he led his listeners through the history of Islam from its foundation to the present time. This was a thought-provoking and challenging subject that helped the audience appreciate and understand the mind of the extreme fundamentalist Muslim in the context of the majority who are devout and peace-loving. Hugh proved to be an interesting and entertaining speaker who used drama to great effect in his presentation.



TASS Awards

This year's awards for other half activities were:-

- Boarders Croquet Set - £235
- Drama, Theatre Lanterns - £750
- Film Unit, Ambient Microphones - £750
- Music, Digital Organ - £750
- Rifle Club, German visit - £300
- Sailing Club, Road trailer and Launching Trolleys - £750
- Squash, Coaching - £500

Ofsted Report

In the official report of our recent Ofsted reception year inspection, Josca's was awarded the rare accolade of being called a 'very good school'. This is the highest available praise within the Ofsted vocabulary and to achieve it we had to gain the top judgement in each of the aspects in which we were assessed.

Music Scholarship



Alistair Nicholl deserves our congratulations for winning a Music Exhibition to Abingdon.

Cross-country



A colourful inter-house cross-country event was keenly contested on a course spanning the Josca's and Abingdon playing fields.

Science Day



The Year 7 boys took part in a highly productive and informative Science Day at Abingdon School.



Rugby Tour to Italy

Over the Easter weekend 54 boys, 18 parents and 7 members of staff headed to Italy on a four-day rugby tour in Treviso, near Venice. The boys played two matches each for the U11 and U13 teams and on the second day they watched a championship match involving the main Benetton adult team. Also included on tour was a day trip to Venice and a tournament against local opposition, making for a very successful tour.

Performing Arts



The Concert Platform series of informal concerts continued with the customary programme of instrumental music provided by pupils of all ages. For the first time, poetry readings were included and we saw the debut of a Year 7 pupil rock band. Fourteen pupils took music exams, and nine pupils received their certificates for exams taken before Christmas. String players attended the Radley College Prep Schools' Strings Day in January, and Years 5 and 6 attended a singing workshop at Headington School, run by Val Whitlock. Pupils from Josca's sang with over 250 pupils from three other schools. Years 3, 4 and 5 have been working hard on different plays, culminating in staged performances in the final week of term.

Out of the Past



St Nicolas's Church and the Abbey Gateway, Abingdon

1256 - 2006

There was a time when this gateway was the entrance to one of the largest abbeys in medieval England. The gateway survives but the Abbey itself, first founded at the end of the seventh century, has all but disappeared. It has been suggested that Abingdon School too was first founded at the end of the seventh century although there is no evidence for this. The existence of the School is implied in various twelfth century abbey records but it isn't until 1256, when Abbot John de Blosneville creates an endowment for the support of thirteen poor scholars, that its existence is confirmed. In 2006, a year-long programme of events will celebrate the School's contribution to academic achievement, culture and service over the past 750 years.

Evelyn Watson

More than thirty years separate these two photographs, years in which Evelyn Watson worked in the Headmaster's office, first as assistant secretary to Eric Anderson and then secretary to Michael St John Parker and Mark Turner. Always a quiet presence, Evelyn had her finger on the pulse of the School and even if you didn't know her she knew you – and she usually knew the answer to your question too. Evelyn retired in January and after so many years loyal service to the School we wish her a long and happy retirement.



Above: Mark Turner, Evelyn Watson and Eric Anderson
Right: Evelyn, Eric Anderson and Rosemary Coleman



An Elizabethan scene from the 1963 entertainment

A Me Ad Te

On the evening of 14th June 1963 the School celebrated the 400th anniversary of John Roysse's re-endowment with a series of masques representing historical episodes from past centuries. The entertainment was held in the Jekyll Garden in the presence of HRH Princess Margaret who, among other things, heard a group of boys - **Peter Henderson (OA 1965)**, **Christopher Wood (OA 1964)**, **Michael Giddings (OA 1964)**, **Nicholas Wharton (OA 1965)** and The Falcons - combine past and present in one song, 'A me ad te', a Latin rendition of the Beatles hit 'From Me To You.'

The song can be heard on the [Abingdon audio archive](http://study.abingdon.org.uk/audio/ameadte.mp3)
<http://study.abingdon.org.uk/audio/ameadte.mp3>



The Hem of Eternity

Following the OA reunion last December, **Terence Charley (OA 1933)** has given the School his memoirs of his time as a Japanese prisoner-of-war, from February 1942 to August 1945. In them he charts the fragile friendships that grew up among the prisoners, the brutality of their daily existence and the exotic beauty of the tropical landscape in which they spent their captivity. Of their release he says, "They told us afterwards that we all seemed a little mad and I am not surprised for when you have touched the hem of eternity you will never be quite sane again."



OA City Lunch

The next OA City Lunch will be held on Friday 20th May in Central London. These lunches are very informal and all OAs are welcome. For further details, contact Jack Wearne (1998): jack.wearne@citigroup.com.

Alligators v Downside Wanderers Sunday 19th June

11.30 am start, War Memorial Field

OA Weekend 2005 8th to 11th July

Cricket on War Memorial Field

Friday 8th July: Alligators v Oxford Downs, 2.30 pm

Saturday 9th July: Alligators v HM's XI, 2.30 pm

Monday 11th July: Alligators v Old Whitgiftians, 11.30 am

CONTACT: john.bunce@anite.com or Club Office

Rowing at the Boathouse

Saturday 9th July, from 12 noon

CONTACT: dj_kinglsey@hotmail.com or Club Office

Tennis – all weekend

CONTACT: steve.brenchley@abingdon.org.uk or Club Office

President Dinner Saturday 9th July

Drinks in Foyer of Amey Theatre, Dinner in the Dining Hall. This year's Dinner is being held on Saturday 9th July to coincide with the OA Weekend. Accommodation will be available in School House. Contact your contemporaries and book a table! See enclosed flyer for further information.

Tickets are £25 each and include wine.

CONTACT: Club Office

OA 1960's Leavers Dinner

David Brice (1961) has already booked the RN Club in Old Portsmouth for a Trafalgar Night Dinner on Friday 28th October. For further details, please contact David at djbrice@dircon.co.uk or telephone 02380 402229 or the Club Office.

Rugby: OAs who have played for Abingdon Town

Tim Davies, Honorary Secretary of Abingdon RUFC, is planning an informal evening at which the aim is to reunite as many former players as possible from the period of the inaugural competition in 1956. Many members over the years have been former Abingdon School pupils and Tim would like OAs who may have played at any time during the 1950s to get in touch with him.

www.abingdonrufc.co.uk has all the details.

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 849074
Fax: +44 (0)1235 529517
Email: administrator@oaclub.org.uk

Joint Abingdon/St Helen's event Saturday 10th December 2005

Attention all 1997-2005 Leavers! Please make a note of the above date. The Old Girls and Old Abingdonian Clubs are organising a Hog Roast/Disco evening which will take place in The Atrium at St Helen's. Tickets (£10 each) will be limited. More information will be available in the next Newsletter – due out in September. However, feel free to register your interest by sending an email to us! We will make sure you're on the list for tickets as soon as they are released.

Old Girls contact:

Sandie Burnett: sburnett@sthelens.oxon.sch.uk.

OA contact: Marilena Kaye: administrator@oaclub.org.uk.

Lost Members of the Club

N L Allanson (1981), J R D Arthur (1998), A J Charlton (1985), F W Charlton (1980), A J Dalziel (2002), T A Hooper (2003), A P James (1997), C F Johnson (1960), A J Kayley (1994), C R Kent (1987), J H Kingston (1980), J C Loosemore (1987), J P Martin (2003), J P Montague (1999), P J Penney (1958), A J F Robertson (1979), R E Slater (1992).

Deaths

M C Glassbrook (1951), K Mills (1932), and non-member A G Freeman (1996).



William Money-Kyrle Memorial Garden

1986 Reunion

The Reunion was held on Saturday 19th March and around 33 OAs gathered at the Rose & Crown in Oxford run by Andrew Hall (1968). A big thank you to both Jon Cracknell and Tim Gentles for arranging the event and to Andrew too who looked after the OAs so well. The 1986 OAs remembered their friend, William Money-Kyrle, who was killed in a climbing accident in Kenya in 1990, and were interested to know about the garden that had been created in his memory at the School, pictured here.

If you would like to organise a get-together for your contemporaries, contact the Club Office.



Old Abingdonians

Golden Award for OA

David Mitchell (OA 1992) and his co-star Robert Webb won the 2004 Golden Globe Best Sitcom Award for their performances in Channel 4's Peep Show, described by The Telegraph as "one of the funniest, most acutely observed sitcoms to have come British television's way since The Office".

David says that he remembers writing reams of sketches whilst he was at school but that he never managed to put on a show. All that changed when he went to Cambridge to read History and met Robert Webb at Footlights.

They performed at the Edinburgh Fringe and have built up their careers from there. Another series of the Peep Show has been commissioned and recently the pair could be heard in their own radio show, 'That Mitchell and Webb Sound'.



Mitchell (right) and Webb

... and all that jazz



Tom Richards (OA 1999) recently graduated with a First from The Royal College of Music where he was twice the recipient of the Craig Ball award for jazz saxophone. His love of jazz frequently sees him on the night shift at Ronnie Scott's playing with such jazz notables as The Laurence Cottle Big Band featuring Claire Martin. The Tom Richards Jazz Orchestra made its debut at the Festival Hall last November and has been playing at several jazz venues across London this spring.

Oxford Power to victory

Robin Bourne-Taylor (OA 1999), President of Oxford University Boat Club, led his crew to an impressive victory over Cambridge in the 151st Boat Race on Easter Sunday. Oxford, the heaviest crew in the history of the race, won in 16 minutes and 42 seconds, beating Cambridge by 6 seconds for a two length win. When asked by The Daily Telegraph recently what was his most memorable sporting moment Robin, whose international career has included representing Great Britain at last summer's Olympic Games and winning a bronze medal at the 2003 World Championships, replied, "Beating the Radley 1st XV 12-11 at home when I was at Abingdon".



Robin Bourne-Taylor (above)
Nick Brodie (right)



Photographs from www.theboatrace.org

Nick Brodie (OA 2004), in his first year at St Catherine's, coxed the Oxford reserve boat, Isis, who lost to Goldie by five lengths.

Capped for Scotland

Jon Dunbar (OA 1998) gained his first international rugby cap for Scotland on Saturday 5 February, coming on as a late replacement for Grimes in the match against France. He represented Scotland again in the match against Italy. Jon plays for Leeds Tykes.

