

Abingdon

News

Summer 2003

The Newsletter of Abingdon School

No 2



Saturday School – The Verdict

The great debate is over; Saturday school will be abolished for 1st and 2nd years and retained throughout the rest of the School.

The results of the questionnaire to parents last year showed that they were almost equally divided on the matter – 42% in favour, 44% against. However, 57% of sixth form parents favoured its retention, which suggests that the longer a boy remains at the School the greater the appreciation of Saturday school.

The new exeat weekends should allow more time for expeditions like this 2nd Year trip to Bath in February.



Other decisions taken by the Governors at their meeting on 18 March included: the introduction of five extra exeats, one of which might include a Monday; and investigations into identifying further ways of increasing collaboration between Abingdon and the School of St.Helen and St. Katharine.



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

Secret Art



Evening Light, James Nairne

It wasn't only scenes of Abingdon that were on display at the Secret Art Exhibition last March but evidence of the artistic talent that exists within the school community. The exhibition provoked much discussion about 'art' where the work of a sixth former was mistaken for that of a distinguished RA and the Headmaster's entry, so he claimed, was mistaken for that of his four-year-old son! £5,000 was raised for the Arts Centre Appeal and more is still coming in.

For the virtual exhibition of Secret Art go to <http://study.abingdon.org.uk/secretart>

Judging from the emails we have received, many of you enjoyed reading the first edition of Abingdon News – thank you. Despite my best efforts it is impossible to squeeze in everything that deserves a mention but you can read all the details of every event on the school website – www.abingdon.org.uk. Although it is barely two months since you received your first copy, Abingdon News will only come out three times a year, at the beginning of every term. I hope you enjoy issue No.2.

Sarah Wearne

Sarah Wearne
Editor Abingdon News

News

Founders' Day

The Right Revd. Richard Harries, bishop of Oxford, gave the annual Founders' Day Sermon at St.Helen's Church on 28th March. He urged members of the School to remember their benefactors, not only those whose names were known but also those who had no memorial but who by their compassion had influenced the world around them. He said that a good school should do what it could to help its pupils discover what they could give to their generation, especially with regard to the problems caused by AIDS, poverty and by the spiritual poverty of the West.



The Right Revd. Richard Harries outside St. Helen's Church

'Brick buy Brick'

Head boy Nick Herbert contributes his brick to the 'Brick buy Brick' appeal. Buy a brick for £50 and the name of the person you would like to commemorate will be included on a plaque in the new Arts Centre. £5,000 has been raised so far in this way.

www.abingdon.org.uk/bricks



New Arts Centre

Sir Colin Lucas, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, unveiled the Foundation Stone of the new Arts Centre on 28 February. The building of the Arts Centre remains on target for its opening this Autumn.

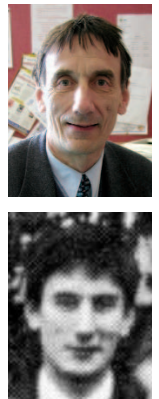


Arts Centre April 2003

Sir Colin Lucas

A Hundred Terms Ago

There was a time when Nick Pritchard's name came last in the order of seniority by appointment to the School but that was a hundred terms ago – in September 1969. These photographs show that the thirty three years have hardly left their mark!



Secret Art - it's no secret anymore!

It's not too late to buy pictures from the Secret Art Exhibition. A virtual exhibition can be found at – <http://study.abingdon.org.uk/secretart> - all the entries, all the identities and whether or not the pictures are still for sale. Fixed price £25. Among those illustrated are the two prize winning entries.

Clockwise from left: *Townscape* Adam Burniston, *Cave Palimpsest* Rosamund Chorley Winner of the Mark Turner Prize, *Silence* Alex Powis Winner Winsor and Newton Prize, *Snow in the Park* Judith Payne, *Abagram* James Dibble, *Garden V* James Nairne, *Doorway* Susan Wright, *Wittenham Clumps* Wendy Hughes.





Community tea party at the School in March

Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Award



Six Abingdon School sixth formers, Jamie Anderson, Jonathan Fisher, James Buchan, William Horwitz, Alec Pechers and Alex Eeles have been awarded the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award for Young People. In their five years at the School they have organised a regular programme of visiting and entertaining the elderly residents of Abingdon. This work has not only made a difference to the lives of the elderly in Abingdon but has also raised the profile of community service within the School.

Parental Questionnaire 2002

Last summer more than half Abingdon School parents responded to the questionnaire circulated by the Schools' Marketing Partnership. We have seen on page 1 their response to the subject of Saturday school. Overall, a gratifying 98% of parents indicated a preparedness to recommend the School to a friend, 96% were in general satisfied with their son's overall development, 94% with the quality of teaching whilst 91% indicated that the School represented value for money. A third expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of catering, however the staff, who eat the same food, gave it a pretty high satisfaction rating. A sixth of parents commented adversely on pupils' appearance but the forthcoming uniform changes

should improve this. One in seven criticised the school bus services. Furthermore, although in 1999 the inspectors were very impressed with our pastoral care, only 70% of parents were satisfied with it – what are the problems?



Thumbs up to school meals?

School Tops League Table

No.4 School Ialoveni, Moldova, is now the best school in its local area thanks to its connection with Abingdon School through the charity Breadline. Over the last three years Abingdon has raised over £6,000 which has gone towards equipment, books, internet access and repairs to the heating system. During the holidays a group of sixth formers visited Moldova to see for themselves where help can be given.

This term Drummond Hay's House raised money for No.4 School by collecting money for the Road Relay.



Abingdon and the League Tables

Last year Abingdon came 15th, 36th, 59th, 91st and 123rd in the A level League Tables – same boys, same exam results, what's going on?

We were 123rd in The Times who order their table by an average of the UCAS point per subject. The Telegraph, where we came 91st, calculates the proportion of A level entries graded A and B. The Independent, where they operate a similar points system to The Times but use an average points score per candidate rather than average per subject, placed us 59th. We came 36th in The Financial Times, their table is a hybrid; it gives equal weight to the average UCAS points per candidate and the average points per subject. In The Guardian, where we came 15th, they use the same calculation as The Independent but they exclude schools with fewer than fifty candidates. So, how does Abingdon School do in the League Tables – it all depends on the newspaper you read!



News

Carmina Burana

Pupils and parents from Abingdon and St Helen's together with an orchestra of pupils from the two schools gave a tremendous performance of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana and Benjamin Britten's Ballad of Heroes to a packed Amey Hall on 8 March. The evening was a tribute to the high standard of music making now being achieved at both schools.



And the winner is -

- The pianist, **Luke Berryman** has won the Reading Symphony Orchestra Young Musician Competition. This is the third time in ten years that an Abingdon boy has won the competition.



- **Ivan Collin, Matthew Gardner and John Herford** have won a place in the finals of the National Chamber Music Competition which will be held at St. John's Smith Square. This is the fourth Abingdon Ensemble to have gained such a place in the last three years.

- Abingdon School defeated Magdalen College School to win the final of the Oxfordshire Schools' Blackwell Challenge Chess Shield.

Abingdon Operatic Society at the Amey Hall

Despite being surrounded by a building site the Amey Hall was still able to provide the venue for Abingdon Operatic

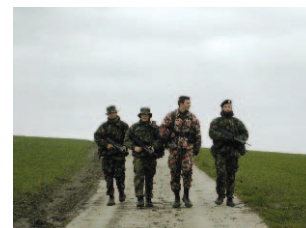
Society's production of 'The Hired Man', the largest event in the Abingdon Arts Festival. During its six-night run the show, written by Melvyn Bragg, was seen by 2,500 people, including the show's composer and lyricist, Howard Goodall. For the Operatic Society's next performance, 'Pickwick', 27 October – 1 November 2003, both cast and audience should be able to enjoy the greatly improved facilities of the new Arts Centre.



The set was designed by art master Chris Biggs who also played Seth Tallentire

CCF Escape and Evasion Exercise

There was no escaping the weather during the CCF's weekend escape and evasion exercise in Wiltshire during March. In the wind and rain the escapees were hunted down – the hunters possessing the distinct advantage of a Gazelle helicopter.



Headmaster Caught Reading ...in the Library

Coffee and books – we're used to the combination in Blackwell's and Border's but in the school library? Nevertheless, on World Book Day, 6 March, the librarian Mrs Cooper laid on coffee and biscuits in order to encourage the staff to "get caught reading". In addition Mrs Cooper organised a sale of second-hand books which raised £100 for Book Aid International.



Party in the Car Park

It will be quite a party when fifty visitors from the USA and the UK arrive to stay at the School on 5 July to construct the new Abingdon School boathouse. There will be a marquee in the Lower Field car park where the visitors will put together the massive timber frames of the new boathouse. Once the frames have been assembled they will be transported to the riverside site and lifted into place with the help of a twenty-ton crane. This is expected to happen on 12/13 July. Visitors will be welcome to join in the fun; ten more volunteer DIY carpenters would be very welcome. But, if you're not going to be offering your skills you might consider sponsoring a piece of timber, which can be carved with your rowing club's name. Alternately you could donate some money, the Boat club need to raise £50,000 as a demonstration of their commitment to the project.



Raising a timber framed building

Further details of project - www.abingdon.org.uk
 To volunteer - nguiver@btinternet.com
 To sponsor or donate - clanbro@aol.com



The new boathouse will incorporate showers, toilets, changing and training rooms, a video/debriefing room and a workshop.

First XI Hockey Results, Lent 2003

Abingdon School versus -

King Edward's			
Southampton	won	4 : 3	
St Edwards	lost	1 : 2	
Pangbourne	won	7 : 1	
Shiplake	won	5 : 1	
Dean Close	lost	3 : 5	
Stowe	won	4 : 3	
Eton	lost	0 : 2	
Bloxham	lost	3 : 7	
Warwick	lost	1 : 7	
MCS	lost	0 : 2	
Radley	lost	2 : 5	
Merchant Taylors	won	4 : 1	

In the RAF Cup - Abingdon beat Radley 3 : 2 in the semi-finals. They lost the final 0 : 1 to St. Edward's in extra time.



First XI against Warwick

Full details of all results can be found on www.abingdon.org.uk

GB Team Selection for Matthew Watkins

A very successful winter has culminated in 3rd Year Matthew Watkins' selection for Great Britain U14 squad training for the Tennis World Cup this summer. Matthew, shown here at Wimbledon where he recently played, represented Great Britain at an international event in Iteuil over the Easter holidays.



Home and Away

Just four months into the year and parties from Abingdon have already visited places as far a field as Moscow, Madrid and Moldova. Economics and Business Studies students went to Spain where they combined visits to some impressive Spanish businesses with some equally impressive football: Real Madrid v. Borussia Dortmund, Atletico Madrid v. Real Mallorca. A combined group of students from St. Helen's and Abingdon went to Bielefeld, Germany. Under a perfect blue sky and in sub-zero temperatures they visited Cologne, Munster and Hamlin. George Cowie, the Bielefeld scholar, will spend half next Michaelmas term at the Ratsgymnasium there. During the Easter holidays a

group from Abingdon and Oxford High have visited Moscow, there has been a visit to Prades in South-

Western France and to Moldova. Closer to home the 1st Years went on a team building exercise in the Isle of Wight, which included abseiling, archery and quad-biking. The 2nd Years took things just that bit further and their Easter trip included canoeing and gorge walking in Snowdonia.

1st year trip to Isle of Wight 2002



Football watching in Spain



SW France

George Cowie with the Pied Piper

Outside Cologne Cathedral



School Chapel

Centenary of the Dedication of the School Chapel 1903 - 2003

THE EAGLE LECTERN dates from the 17th Century, 1694 having been found carved on its base during the restoration work which was carried out in 1904. The lectern, which is made of wood and stands nearly seven foot tall, was given to the School in 1743 by Brasenose College. Their records show that they acquired it in 1708 for £30. It was part of the furniture in the old Grammar School. It was transferred to Big School in 1870, then to the chapel in the Bennett Room before finally coming to rest in the new Chapel. During James Cobban's era it was lent to Dry Sandford church. Michael St. John Parker ensured that it was returned to what he felt sure was its rightful home.

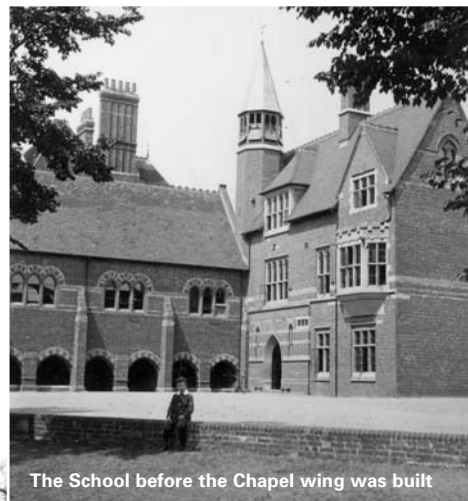


On Trinity Sunday, 7 June 1903, the new chapel at Abingdon School was dedicated to the Holy and Undivided Trinity, the dedication reflecting John Roysse's wish, three hundred and forty years earlier that the school he helped re-found should be known as The Free School of the Holy Trinity – it never was. He also decreed that the boys were to pray three times a day and were to conclude their prayers with the words 'Upon our founder John Roysse and all Christian people the Blessed Trinity have mercy' – there is no evidence they ever did.

The old school had never needed its own chapel; for centuries it had used the adjacent church of St. Nicholas in the centre of town. For centuries also either the headmaster or the usher usually held the curacy of St. Nicholas. All this came to an end in 1870 when the School moved to its new site in Albert Park. The link with St. Nicholas was maintained for many years through the annual Leavers' Service, which used to be held there until the number of leavers and their parents outgrew the space.

There is no record of where the School worshipped after the 1870 move but, when

the first extension was built in 1880 one of the new rooms, the Bennett Room, now a modern language room, was used as the chapel. Judging by remarks made by the editor of The Abingdonian in 1897 that, "no kind benefactor has left us a fortune for a chapel" the lack of a real chapel was keenly felt. Then, in 1899, the Governors approved a scheme for adding new classrooms, a science

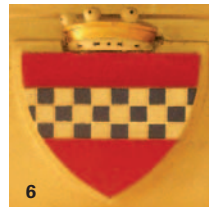
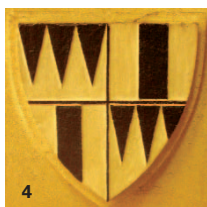


The School before the Chapel wing was built



Building the Chapel, 1902

THE ROOF CORBELS were decorated with the heraldic devices of those associated with the building of the Chapel: The Coat of Arms of Archdeacon Hayward (1), representing the Old Boys; those of Lord Benyon (2), Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire and Lord Wantage (6) who was the largest donor having given £1,000 to the appeal. The arms of Thomas Layng (4) the headmaster; of J T Morland (5) OA and Mayor of Abingdon in 1901 when he laid the Foundation Stone of the New Building and the monogram of Bishop Mitchinson (3) who dedicated the Chapel.



lecture theatre, physical and chemical laboratories, an art room, a gymnasium and –‘a new and handsome Chapel’. It was estimated that this would cost £5,000, an appeal was launched and J.G.T. West OA, the town architect, was commissioned to draw up plans.

The Chapel was dedicated by the Rt. Revd. John Mitchinson, Master of Pembroke, Chairman of Abingdon School’s Governing Body and formerly Bishop of Barbados, who stressed the central role a chapel played in public school life, especially in binding boys together and forming character.

The Chapel is built in the late Perpendicular style and is fifty-two feet long by thirty feet wide. The interior was originally red brick but this was painted over in the 1960s. It was very sparsely furnished; the vicar and churchwardens of St.Helen’s Church donated the altar but beyond that there was little money remaining – even for chairs.

Memorials mark the passing of the years; the dead of the World Wars are commemorated on two brass plaques - seventy-three Old Abingdonians were killed in the First and forty-nine in the Second. There are individual memorials to a number of long serving masters; hymn boards, which commemorate Rupert Sladden who was drowned in 1958 while swimming in the Thames

Silver Cross, part of the altar silver designed by Atholl Hill in memory of Lorna Cobban.



and the altar silver, intended to mark the Silver Wedding of James and Lorna Cobban but which became instead Lorna’s memorial.

The Bennett Room used a chapel between 1880 and 1903



The Chapel before its refurbishment in the 1960s

THE NORTH WIND

The stained glass window in the Chapel is a copy of part of one of the twenty lights in the windows of the Choir at Dunblane Cathedral. They were designed in 1913 by Louis Davis OA and were based around the words of The Benedicite. Davis, who was an exponent of the School of Arts and Crafts, was described by *The Times* in its obituary as “a genuine Pre-Raphaelite”. The window depicts the North Wind carrying ‘the golden boat of dauntless adventure’. The Pole Star appears in the background with the Latin motto ‘Spiritus Dei Fecit me’, the spirit of God made me. Davis, who was born in 1860, was the son of an Abingdon coal merchant. The window was given to the School by Davis’ widow in 1952, following his death in 1941.

Design for Dunblane Window



There will be a service to commemorate the centenary of the Chapel on Saturday 7 June at 3 o’ clock to which all are welcome. The service will be followed by refreshments. Please let the OA office know if you would like to attend. Contact: The Old Abingdonian Club, Abingdon School, Abingdon OX14 1DE Tel: 01235 529517 Email: administrator@oaclub.org.uk

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.

Fund Raising

TASS raises money from the Griffen Ball, the Burns Night Supper and other events to support Other Half activities. Each year, clubs and societies can apply for cash raised at TASS events. The money must be spent on activities that would not be paid for by the School as a matter of course, such as sports tours, theatre runs at the Edinburgh Festival and equipment. Abingdon has an excellent tradition of expecting all boys to participate in sporting and cultural activity. TASS helps clubs and societies achieve the best.

In recent years, TASS has given awards to the Theatre Group, Tennis Club, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Club, Fencing Club, Canoe Club, Rifle Club, Classics Society, and the Amey Hall Technical Crew Club.

Second-hand Uniform Shop

SUS is a uniform and sports kit exchange. From a complete uniform for a starter whose growing taller by the day to the fourth pair of replacement rugby socks, SUS provides.

Events

TASS provides refreshments at school events. It runs the lunch tent on Open Day and provides tea, coffee, wine and sandwiches at many more school and house events, as well as suppers at parents' evenings.

TASS Travel Awards

Each year, TASS and Tappins Coaches join to give awards to Upper Sixth boys who intend travelling to interesting places before they start university. Many of the awards are made to boys joining formal gap year projects and others are for plans created independently.

Links to other parent supported bodies

TASS maintains links to other parent-supported bodies including the Music Society and Rowing Club.

If you are an Abingdon parent and would like to take part in TASS' work, contact us by

- e-mail to tass@abingdon.org.uk
- telephoning the Chairman on 01235 850951
- writing to TASS at Abingdon School

Griffen Ball

This year's Griffen Ball will be a cracker. Starting with a Champagne Reception, the Ball gets under way with a wonderful meal in the big marquee set up in front of the school. Then there's dancing to a live band in the tent and a disco in the Charles Maude Room (aimed more at the younger revellers). Of course, there's a bar. And fireworks. But this year we're having dodgems and a casino, too.

Why not make up a table and come along with friends. Or just come as a couple and join others in the fun.

The Griffen Ball will take place on Saturday 28th June. Tickets are £49 each and can be bought from Prit Buttar on 01235 205257 or e-mail griffen.ball@ntlworld.com.

Quiz Night

There's going to be an unusual Quiz Night in the Michaelmas Term with Anne Diamond as Quizmaster-in-Chief. Here are the rules:

- Teams of eight;
- Each team buys table space and gets a table and eight chairs (so far, so Spartan);
- Once you've named your team (the Magnificent Seven plus Doreen; the Quick-witted Brown Foxes; Masters of all Wisdom or whatever) you decorate your table accordingly;
- You bring along a picnic meal of your choice paid for by you (no primus stoves, please);
- You can buy wine, beer and other drinks from the organisers;
- You answer questions posed by the Quizmaster General;
- The winners take all the glory.

Come along on Saturday 11th October.

More news soon. If you can't wait to know how to start training your team, contact Mike Hallett on: mike.hallett@oracle.com.

Travel Awards

It's pretty well too late to apply for a TASS/Tappins Travel Grant. But possibly not quite if you're very quick.

The Emerald Crown

The Emerald Crown, the Year 4, 5 and 6 play, was about saving the rain forests. The lead was taken by Jeremy Talbot as Toucan, Eddie Yeatman was the narrator and Ben Wescott sang a solo, forest animals were played by Year 4 and the tourists and workmen by Years 5 and 6. Sue Glaisher's hard work at rehearsals was rewarded by the audience's demand for two encores. A collection was taken at the end for the WWF.



Sporting Heroes

Josca's term ended in a blaze of sporting success. The U.9 rugby squad added a one hundred percent winning record to their similar success in soccer last term. The U.11A and U.13A soccer sides were also unbeaten over the entire season. Highlights included victories against St, Hugh's, draws against powerful and well organised Dragon first teams, and for the U.13s, a 4 - 0 victory over Abingdon.

The U13As were unbeaten



The victorious Under 9 Rugby team in action



Comings and Goings

John Baker along with both Gwen and Clive Organ will be retiring as of July 2003. The trio have served Josca's in combination for a total of eighty years. They will be greatly missed but their time away from being 'ruled by the bell' is clearly well deserved.

Congratulations to Laura and Jamie Chamberlayne on the birth of Barnaby in March - all three are doing well - "Barnaby is very greedy!"

Rush to get here

The new teaching facilities which were opened in November (see last edition) have attracted record applicants for Year 7. Josca's has been able to take fifteen of the candidates who aim to go on to Abingdon in September 2005. It appears that in September 2003 Josca's numbers may exceed 200 for the first time.

Abingdon Awards

Joseph Delo, Year 8, has been awarded a Music Exhibition to Abingdon School for September 2003. Ben Cooke, who left Josca's for Abingdon in 2002, has won an additional award at the School. Congratulations to them both.



Joseph Delo

Bridge is not too far...

After five years campaigning, planning permission has been granted for a bridge across the A415. Although other permissions are still needed the Headmaster hopes that this much needed bridge will soon become a reality.

Cross-Country

Josca's Second Annual Cross Country races were staged on March 5 in wet and overcast conditions. A splendid U9's race was won by Alexander Hatzis from Jamie Goldthorpe and George Bull. Eddie Grant, in fourth place, was the first Year 3 finisher; true grit and determination were shown by all the runners. In the U11 race the first three home, Ben Read, Ed Yeatman and Robbie Winearts all beat last year's inaugural track record. Josh Bull was the first Year 5 home. Mallam Grant triumphed over Alex Fisher in the senior race, reversing last year's result. Daichi Tonomura's brave run gave him third place. The event was well supported by the School and looks set to become a permanent and popular event in the school calendar.

Cross Country Supporters



Paris Trip

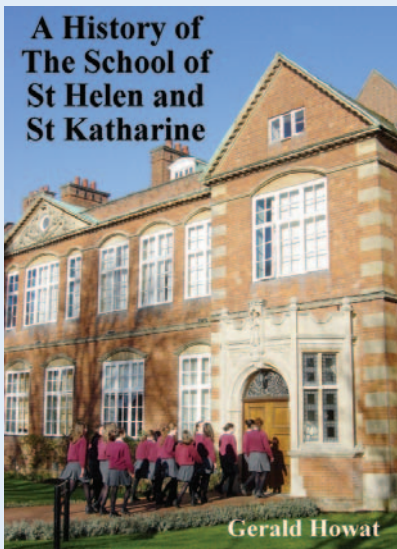
Baguettes, cheese, pâté and other French delicacies were the order of the evening at a party at the end of March for all those involved in the French trip. Thirty-seven boys, from various grades, went to Paris over the Easter holidays where the itinerary included an evening cruise on the Seine and visits to Versailles, Notre Dame, Disneyland and the Eifel Tower. Our thanks go to Lynne Hough of the French Department who organised this trip.



Out of the Past

Centenary of the School of St. Helen and St. Katherine

There were eleven girls at St.Helen's when it opened a hundred years ago in a building on the corner of Faringdon and Wootton Road. The following year Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Christian, laid the Foundation Stone for the new building. Thirty years later, in 1938, St Helen's merged with St Katharine's, Wantage and the present School was created. The number of Golden and even Diamond Wedding Anniversaries that are shared by past pupils of both schools is evidence that unofficial fraternisation long preceded the official social and academic collaboration that now characterises relations between the two schools.



A History of the School of St Helen and St Katharine by Gerald Howat will be published in May. Price £10.



Fifty years on - some of the original pupils in 1953

450th Anniversary of Christ's Hospital of Abingdon

For four hundred and fifty years, ever since it was charged with making funds available for the sustaining of a Grammar School in its charter of incorporation, Christ's Hospital have been faithful friends of the School. Over the centuries they have augmented the salary of the headmaster, supported the education of poor boys through the Bennett Scholarships, provided the School with land and generously supported various building appeals. This is in addition to the charitable work they carry out in the town on behalf of the poor, the sick and the elderly. There will be a service in St.Helen's Church on Sunday 18th May to mark this anniversary at which the headmaster, Mark Turner, will preach the sermon.



Long Alley Almshouse built in 1446 for eight elderly people and still maintained by Christ's Hospital

Waste Court 1928-2003, 75 Years

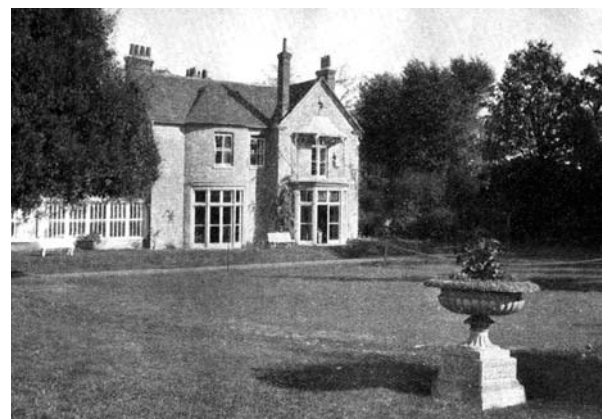
"...Waste Court, lately erected on a piece of ground where before stood a dunghill." Dated 1779 this is the first known reference to the house and the only clue to its peculiar name. Waste Court was bought by the School in 1928 as a memorial to the Old Boys killed in the First World War. The house was refurbished and when the first twelve boarders moved in conditions were described as 'little short of luxurious'.

Little had changed when Keith and Audrey Hasnip took over thirty years later but what had appeared luxurious in 1928 was positively archaic in 1967.

As Keith remembers, "The central heating and hot water were powered by two magnificent old stoves which each consumed thirty shovels of coke every day." Plans to introduce oil were

hurried up after a prefect accidentally set fire to the whole coke stack. The Hasnips relaxed the rigidly timetabled routines of prayers, prep and washbasin rotas and removed the two canes which hung over the dining room door.

The new housemaster and his wife, William and Kimberly Phelps are holding an open afternoon and reunion on Saturday 21st June between 1.00 and 5.00 pm to which everyone associated with Waste Court over the years is welcome.



There are very few photographs of Waste Court in the archives, if you have any that you would like to give to the School, or would let us copy, please contact the archivist either via the School or sarah.earne@abingdon.org.uk

Old Abingdonian Club News

Thank you to all OAs who have given us so many positive comments on the very first edition of Abingdon News. This feedback is very important to us as we plan future features.

Marilena Kaye, OA Club Administrator

www.oaclub.org.uk

525 OAs have registered on the website since it was launched in January! Already, we are receiving emails from Old Boys saying how great it is being able to contact old friends so quickly and easily.

City Lunch

Balls Brothers in St. James was the location for the City Lunch on March 7th. The twelve who attended were: W J Courage (1958), N M R Crosse (1972), J W B Dunthorne (1965), K N Haarhoff (1960), R A Joy (1978), M J Neilan (1960), J D Peterson (1997), P W J Rutland (1996), M R Smith (1996), R J E Steed (1978), C E Utley (1969), J W F C Wearne (1998). The next City Lunch will be held in November.

OARFC Day Out

England vs Italy: Twickenham, 9th March

Over 40 OAs got together to watch England beat Italy 40-5! The OARFC Committee hosted a drinks and luncheon party in the Cardinal Vaughan car park before and after the game to thank all who have supported the OARFC on and off the pitch.

Abingdon Town Rugby Union Football Club (ARUFC)

Tim Davies, Honorary Secretary of the ARUFC, has asked the OA Club to convey his thanks to all OAs who attended a reunion of the Club on 8th February at the Clubhouse in Lambrick Way. The event was such a success that the ARUFC plans a follow-up, details of which will be posted on the OA Club website as soon as we receive the information. Among the OAs who attended were: R Allison (1961), W C Broad (1957), D J Creese (1964), G Dimond (1958), G Fenton (1979), D J Heavens (1951), S J North (1995), D C Pollard (1962), R C Spring (1955), K G W Sykes (1972), R J Tilley (1988), D H Willis (1965).

Griffen

This will accompany the September edition of Abingdon News. Please would members send news for it to HT Randolph, 30 Park Road, Abingdon OX14 1DS by early July.

The Abingdonian

This is now published each November. The five-year subscription has been raised to £40. Members wishing to subscribe should send cheques made out to Abingdon School to Hugh Randolph at the Club's office.

Deaths

We have been informed of the following since Abingdon News No 1 went to press: S P Austin (1929); J T Buckland (1957); P J Ford (1960); T B Moore (1965); P A S Scott (1943).

Lost Members

If readers know where the following are, please would they ask them to send us their new addresses:

N M Chisnall (1981)
M C Geary (1969)
I R Hewes (1966)
J W H Howe (2000)
J H A Jaques (1986)
B P A Jaques (1989)
B D Johnson (1980)
I A L Kilbey (1960)
C J Lockwood (1988)
M R Patey (1993)
J G A Thomas (1990)
M L Thomas (1983)
J D Towe (1997)
C J Wyatt (1978)

OA Day: Saturday 11 October 2003

Annual General Meeting	11.00 am
OARFC vs Abingdon Town	11.30 am
Buffet lunch	1.00 pm

Important Dates for 2003:

May

24 May President's Dinner

June

7 June Chapel Centenary Service
Chapel 3:00pm.

21 June LXXV Celebration of
Waste Court

September

13 Sept Recent Leavers Reception

October

11 Oct OA Day:
11:00 am Annual General Meeting
11.30 am OARFC vs Abingdon Town

November City Lunch

OA Reunion in Vancouver

John Harper (1966) reporting

Six OAs of the 1960s held a reunion in Vancouver over the weekend of 22nd March. It was hosted by Julian Kenney and included a road trip to the ski resort of Whistler, a sea plane flight around Vancouver and its environs, plus a train journey on Amtrak which made British rail look good!

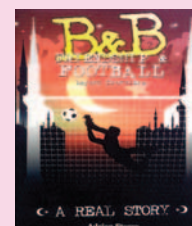


Left to Right: Ross Coomber (1966), John Harper (1966), Bob Jessett (1966), Cavell Portman (1964), Julian Kenney (1966). David Clare (1966) was holding the camera.

B&B Friendship and Football Beyond Frontiers

by Adrian Stores (1983)

tells the true story of Adrian's friendship with a professional Turkish footballer and with the Turkish woman



who was to become his wife. Separated by culture and religion - united by a love of football. Published by Acrobat £6.99.

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

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Email administrator@oaclub.org.uk

Old Abingdonians

Good Samaritans

Radiohead have donated a live track and video to the Samaritans in support of a new counselling service which enables people to contact the Samaritans by email rather than telephone. Phil Selway (OA 1985), who has been a volunteer for years, believes that the Samaritans play an important role in society where the World Health Organization predicts that by 2020 the biggest cause of death, amongst young men, will be depression.

The band, who support a number of Green causes and have campaigned for Amnesty International and Drop the Debt, will release their 6th album, 'Hail to the Thief', on 9th June. This follows the release of their new single, 'There There', on 26 May. They start a sell-out tour of the UK and Europe on 17 May and will headline Glastonbury on Saturday 28th June.

Radiohead – Thom Yorke (OA 1987), Ed O'Brien (OA 1986), Colin Greenwood (OA 1987), Jonathan Greenwood (OA 1990), Phil Selway (OA 1985)



Abingdon's 'Old Boy Network'

According to the forty per cent who replied to the questionnaire circulated to OAs in 2001, of those who are working – as opposed to retired or in tertiary education – seven per cent are in accountancy and banking, six per cent in medicine, five per cent are in teaching and another five per cent are in law. There are four per cent in IT, three per cent in engineering and a further three per cent in equities, financial services and merchant banking. Two per cent are self-employed and 1.5 per cent are in media and advertising. There are fourteen farmers, eight airline pilots, seven musicians and six actors. Two OAs are involved in motor racing, one is an estate agent, one a magician and one a clown.

Zippo the Clown

Martin Burton (OA 1972) created Zippo's Circus in 1985. The circus, which visited Oxford in March, works with the International League for the Protection of Horses. It was represented on the Government all-party working group, which helped set new standards in animal welfare. In 2001 the circus won a special award for outstanding animal husbandry.



Zippo (centre)

The Magician

Simon Evans (OA 2002) plans to disappear for a few months – on his gap year - but will reappear in 'The New Magic Show – The Return of the Magician' at The Old Fire Station, Oxford between the 2nd and the 7th of September 2003.



Oxford Boat Race Victory

Robin Bourne-Taylor (OA 1999) - second from left on rostrum - rowed in the victorious blue boat for the second year in succession. Robin, reading engineering at Christ Church, plans to defer his final year if he wins Olympic Selection.



Photos courtesy of Matchtight

