



ABINGDON'S AWESOME OARSMEN!

For the third year in succession the 1st VIII has won the internationally prestigious Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta, only the second time in the Cup's history that this has ever happened. Abingdon beat Eton in the quarter-finals, Scotch College, Melbourne in the semi-finals and then met St Edward's, Oxford in the final. St Edward's, eager to crown their 150th anniversary year with a win, were beaten by half a length by Abingdon celebrating their 450th! This victory, combined with their success at the National Schools' Regatta in Nottingham, means that Abingdon is currently ranked the top rowing school in the world – a great tribute to the dedication of the Boat Club, boys, staff and parents. ■



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A Great Year

The exam season has brought the School a bumper crop of results. At A level the 152 candidates achieved 25% of their passes at A* and over 60% at grades A* and A. GCSE results were Abingdon's best ever with over 50% at A* and 83.6% at A* and A.

This has been a wonderful year altogether for the School, not only have boys got into top universities in the UK and in the US but they have represented the UK in the Geography and Linguistic Olympiads and in national sporting squads – all of which, and more, you will see when you read the rest of the magazine. ■



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Prep





Staff Profile: Ian Beachey

Ian Beachey, the Sports Centre Facilities Manager, is Abingdon born and bred. Educated at John Mason School, his first job was in the Pavlova leather factory where he became a skilled leather worker. After this he worked for Medisense as a production supervisor. He came to the School in 2009 as Sports Centre caretaker, became the maintenance supervisor of the prep school and main school sites and in his current job is responsible for all aspects of the Sports Centre building from the chemical quality of the water in the swimming pool to the energy management of the whole premises.

Ian is a keen footballer who trialled for Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1980. He has played for Abingdon Town and Abingdon United, and for Milton United in the year they won the Hellenic Premiership. He coached Abingdon Youth Under 12s in 2011, the year they won the Oxford Boys League, and now referees here at the School where he hopes to get involved with coaching. Married with three children he says his interests are family and football! ■

The Atomic Spies of Abingdon: Klaus Fuchs and Bruno Pontecorvo

**Professor Frank Close, Wednesday 9 October 2013
7.30 pm Amey Theatre All welcome, admission free**

Following the arrival of the secret atomic research establishment at Harwell in 1947, several of the leading scientists sent their sons to Abingdon School, including Bruno Pontecorvo. In August 1950 the family disappeared whilst on their summer holiday in Italy, causing huge consternation among the intelligence services, especially when Pontecorvo resurfaced in the USSR.

Pontecorvo has long been numbered with Britain's atomic spies even though he was never formally accused of spying, unlike his fellow Harwell scientist, Klaus Fuchs, who was sentenced to fourteen years in prison. Fuchs didn't have a son at the School but he once lodged in Lacies Court, now the Head's house.

Frank Close is writing a biography of Pontecorvo and has been in touch with his son Gil, a nuclear scientist working in Moscow, and with some of Gil's school contemporaries who remember the international sensation caused by his father's disappearance.

The biography – *A Life of Two Halves* – is almost finished but if you think you might have anything to add then do come along to the talk and speak to Frank afterwards. Otherwise, just come along; it is bound to be a fascinating evening. ■



Frank Close



Klaus Fuchs



Bruno Pontecorvo

10th Anniversary of the Abingdon News

Now on its 33rd edition, the Abingdon News celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Introduced by Mark Turner, headmaster 2002-2010, it has been edited by Sarah Wearne since the beginning. Issue 1 covered the start of the Arts Centre; issue 10 outlined the plans for the Sports Centre and the last issue, number 32, outlined the plans for a Science Centre. It is interesting to see how quickly news becomes history so it seems appropriate that the editor is also the School's archivist.

The back numbers can all be read online at www.abingdon.org.uk/abingdon_news.



Someone Has to Take the Helm ...

... and sometimes that someone has to be you.

This quote from Anouilh's *Antigone*, which he remembered from his schooldays, was Martin Edward's (OA 1985) main message to leavers in the memorable speech he gave at Prize Giving on 26 June. In a life dedicated to charitable fund raising, he has raised millions of pounds for many good causes including famine relief in Ethiopia and Somalia. However, for the past ten years he has been working for *Julia's House*, a Dorset charity dedicated to children with life-limiting conditions, of which he is the Chief Executive.

Whilst urging the boys to take advantage of their education, something that he appreciates even though he says that his own time at the School was absolutely terrible, Martin Edwards had five pieces of advice that he wanted boys to carry with them through their lives: don't mix lager and red wine; never overdo the aftershave; appreciate your parents as parenting is one of the most demanding jobs around; do the job you love since you will be much better at it than if you do the job people expect you to do and, most importantly, life can be cruel and unfair but the true test of life is whether having been knocked down you can get back up again and keep moving forward. ■



Tilsley Park

In a move that will guarantee the future of Tilsley Park as a sports facility for both the School and the local community, Abingdon School has taken a 125-year lease on the site and in co-operation with the Vale of the White Horse District Council will assume responsibility for its management and development.

The School has been making use of Tilsley Park's top-class, purpose-built facilities for the past 16 years and the move will ensure that it can continue to do so for years to come. After the site changes hands next year, and subject to planning permission, Abingdon School will begin a development project to extend the facility, building a new full-size 3G rubber crumb pitch for football and rugby, as well as new pitches for five-a-side football and further provision for tennis. The extra tennis courts will more than make up for the two tennis courts that will be lost when the Science Centre is built. ■

Abingdonians at University

Recent research has revealed the following interesting information. Over the past ten years Abingdonians' top five university destinations have been: Bristol, University College London, Oxford, Durham and Birmingham. The top five subjects read have been: engineering, geography, economics, history and business. Forty per cent of leavers have read a STEM subject – science, technology, engineering, maths – which is an impressive percentage and one that has given impetus to the School's plans for a new Science Centre so that it can further encourage the study of these important subjects. ■



Out and About in Europe

France and Flanders

Third-year historians visited the battlefields of the Great War during the Easter holidays. They saw both English and German trench systems near Ypres and visited Tyne Cot cemetery where 11,956 Commonwealth servicemen are either buried or commemorated, casualties of the fighting in the area between August 1917 and November 1918.



Normandy

Staying in an old chateau with extensive grounds, Lower School enjoyed their long weekend in Normandy where, in addition to experiencing the local cuisine, they got a glimpse of a wide sweep of history when they visited the Bayeux tapestry and the D-Day beaches, taking them from the Norman conquest of Britain in 1066 to the Allied conquest of Normandy in 1944.



Berlin

Fourth-year historians went to Berlin over the May half term to see some of the historic sites associated with the Cold War and the Nazi regime. Taking in the Stasi prison, the DDR museum, the Holocaust memorial, the 1936 Olympic stadium and Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the visit provided the group with plenty of food for thought.



Salamanca

Lower-sixth formers learning Spanish spent a week in Salamanca. Staying with host families they studied at a language academy during the mornings, toured the sights in the afternoon, sampled the nightlife in the evening and altogether had a very enjoyable time!



Moldova

The 10th anniversary of the Moldovan Project saw eleven sixth formers help the charity *Agape* to organise a summer camp for children in the town of Ialoveni. There were plenty of English lessons as well as lessons in art and craft, and of course there was plenty of sport. The camp was extremely popular and 50 or 60 children attended every day.





The whole group before setting out from School on Sunday

63 Miles in 24 Hours

The challenge was both to mark the 450th anniversary of John Roysse's 1563 endowment of Abingdon School by walking 63 miles in 24 hours, emulating the walk a group of sixth formers completed 50 years ago to mark the 400th anniversary, and to raise £6,300 to be divided between the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals' Childhood Cancer Research Fund and the Abingdon School Bursary Fund.

Beginning at Avebury the walkers followed the Ridgeway to Streatley. Here they were joined by some of the original 1963 walkers, Miss Lusk and a number of parents for the nine miles back to Abingdon where their arrival was greeted by the sound of the School bell being rung 63 times. Both challenges were triumphantly met and the walkers, exceeding their financial target, were able to give each cause a cheque for £3,605.63p. ■



Arriving back at School on Monday



Mark Hatton who twice won a gold medal in the luge at the Commonwealth Games

Be the Best You Can Be

If you want to achieve your ambitions you need focus and determination, this was the message that Commonwealth gold medallist Mark Hatton gave to Lower School last September. He returned in July to see presentations from each second-year tutor group on how they had got on, and to remind them that the message wasn't just for a year but for life. ■

PolyU Global Challenge



In the opinion of the judges at the final of the *PolyU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Global Student Challenge*, held in Hong Kong in June, the Abingdon team gave a 'phenomenal' presentation on their app-controlled suitcase, *Lüg*, which has a remote locking facility, in-built scales, GPS locator, LCD screen and a carbon footprint calculator. Henrik Cox, Jamie Sandall and Harry Sandford are to be congratulated both on their innovative idea and on their success in reaching the finals of the competition. ■

Academic Olympiads



Omri Faraggi and Oliver Sayeed, were members of the eight-strong UK team at the International Linguistic Olympiad held in Manchester in July where Omri won a silver medal. Richard Matousek, representing the UK at the final of the International Geography Olympiad in Kyoto also won a silver medal. All three boys beat more than a thousand other UK entrants to win their places in the teams, an impressive achievement and a tribute to the quality of subject teaching at the School. ■

Firsts for the Art Department

The first ever scholars and exhibitioners' art show at the end of last term provided an excellent opportunity for visitors to see the vast range of talent that there is in the department.



The chance to look at students' sketchbooks gave viewers a deeper understanding of the finished works at the annual GCSE and A2 art exhibition, held at the end of May just before the students departed for their exam leave. ■



In another first, art and academic scholars came together for an unusual workshop, which began with the growing of some crystals in the lab that were then used for an installation. It produced some thought-provoking work. ■



A Gift for the Music Department



Thanks to the generosity of the Screech family, Professor Michael Screech and OAs Matthew (1978), Timothy (1980) and Toby (1981), the School has acquired a fine-quality virginal. Made in 1960 by Alec Hodsdon, the virginal will make a valuable addition to the School's chamber music making. ■

Musical Farewells

At the orchestral concert on 3 May several leavers gave farewell performances – counter-tenor Lewis Spring, violinist Humphrey Thompson, cellists Jacopo Blumberg and Joe Ereaut, and the leader of the orchestra Ian Chan who wore traditional Chinese costume for a performance of *The Butterfly Lovers*.



The year's musical finale, Jazz on a Summer's Night, featured not only our own Big Band and jazz ensembles but for the first time those from Abingdon Prep and from St Helen's too. Highlights included some fine barbershop singing, a performance by the award-winning Frank Jazz and two Frank Sinatra songs by the amazing jazz pianist Henry Binning and his fellow leaver Toby Marlow. ■

AFU 10th Anniversary and Annual Screenings

The Film Unit's tenth annual screenings was an opportunity for past members of the Unit, pupils and tutors, to get together and pay tribute to its founder Michael Grigsby who died in March. Since the Unit's founding in 2003, it has produced 111 films, many of which have won awards.

One such film is *Nirvana* made last year by Jack Bradley and Will Mylrea Hemmings, which has just won first prize at the Bedford Shorts Festival, a new festival with a prestigious pedigree. ■



Twelfth Night

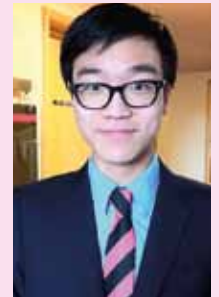
A Shakespearian island with iPhones and laptops may sound strange but this was Illyria in the Lower School's exciting production of *Twelfth Night* last May. The audience were delighted by this fast-moving, physical, contemporary take on a tale of love and mistaken identity. ■



Dramatic Futures

There was great excitement in the drama department when it was learnt that Chris Young, who played Voltaire so memorably in last December's production of *Candide*, had won a place at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Meanwhile, TC Chu, who equally memorably played the sheep, was invited to take part in an induction course at the National Youth Theatre over the summer. Joe Westcott, Abingdon's first drama scholar, has won a place at the Guildhall School of Acting, which, like RADA, is one of the UK's top training centres for actors, and Ben Mallett has won a place at the Year Out Drama Company in Stratford-upon-Avon. All the above are very significant achievements since many apply but few are chosen! ■



Rowing Glory

The first VIII won the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley, beating St Edward's by half a length and the course record, which they had only just set the previous day. A superb achievement for the crew: Tom Browne, Luke Wiggins, Will Horlock, Rory Brampton, Jonathan Lord, Matt Carter, Ed McLaughlin, Joel Cooper and Ian Middleton.

At the National Schools' Regatta, not only did Abingdon retain the title, and knock 1.5 seconds off the record they had set last year, but four of the 1st VIII won the coxed fours, leading the race from start to finish.

Meanwhile 1st VIII member Matt Carter won a gold medal as part of the GB VIII at the Munich International Regatta, where he was also a member of the coxed four.



At the Bedford Regatta, earlier in the term, the J14 B and Cs won their respective titles whilst the J15A were the losing finalists. It is always good to know that there is talent coming up behind the senior crews. ■



Magnus Gregory – U16 Kayak Champion

Kayaking ace Magnus Gregory, the youngest competitor in the U16 category at the Kayak Sprint National Championships at Nottingham in April, came away with five out of the seven titles. He won both the individual K1, and the two-man K2, 500m and 1000m titles, and was a member of the winning K4 crew. ■



Summer Rugby Tour to South Africa

Abingdon's 1st and U16 squads went on tour to South Africa at the end of last term. They each won two of their four matches, gained valuable team experience and had a fantastic time sand-boarding, sight seeing and witnessing the work of the DRC Schools Project, which works with the disadvantaged community in Swakopmund Municipal District. ■



Cricket



It was a successful season for all the School's cricketers: 68% of games were won, 24 boys played for Berkshire and Oxfordshire and the U15As won the Bunbury County Cup and represented Oxfordshire in the regional finals.

During the summer holidays, Aadam Samiullah (Oxon U15s), Soumya Bhadra (Berks U16/17s) and Alex Davies (Oxon U17s) all completed centuries in the ECB County Cup Competition.

The 1st XI gained valuable pre-season experience when they took part in the Emirates Arch U19 International Trophy in Dubai and Abu Dhabi last April. The season itself saw excellent wins over Radley, Stowe, Oratory and MCS.

Fencing



Jack Dawson and Ben Schneider

The British Public Schools' Fencing Championship at Crystal Palace in March saw an all-Abingdon final in the Boys Junior Epee when Jack Dawson beat Ben Schneider in a closely fought match. Ben Schneider then triumphed in the Boys Epee at the Leon Paul Junior Series in April. Both boys were among the six Abingdon finalists at the British Youth Championships in May where Jack Dawson won a bronze medal. ■

A Champion Tennis Season

It was a good tennis season for the School, which won three titles at the Oxfordshire Independent Schools' Tennis Championships last term, the U18, U15 and the U14. The U18s finished 6th out of 16 in the Independent Schools' League and made it to the final of the St George's Tournament for the third successive year. The U14s have had a particularly good season, winning all their matches and beating Radley, MCS, St Edward's, Eton, Wellington, Stowe, Bradfield and Marlborough in the process. And both U13 pairs reached the last 16 in the National Tournament. ■



The Senior tennis squad at their pre-season training camp at Queenswood School

Individual Rugby Achievements

Abingdon's rugby players have notched up some notable achievements: Jamie Pearson played for the England U16 North side at the BMW Wellington International Festival in April; Jamie Cox and Sam Telling were selected for Wasps and London Irish respectively at the U15 Academy Festival, and both Tom Kyngge and Peter Moore played for the Oxfordshire U20s in the RFU County finals in May despite still being only 18. ■



Jamie Cox and Sam Telling



Jamie Pearson

Blast Off !

... mission accomplished



After months of practice, it was one small step for Year 5 to be ready for 'Blast Off!'. The boys performed the space inspired musical in front of packed audiences. The production was a great success and was enjoyed by all ages. The boys gave fantastic performances with hugely enjoyable song and dance routines.

Scholarship and CE results

2012-13 has been a truly record breaking year at Abingdon Prep for both Common Entrance and scholarship results. 14 scholarships were won across the curriculum and with no fewer than six academic scholarships to Abingdon School, including the top Mercers' Company Award. The boys sitting Common Entrance 13+ exams were equally impressive, between them achieving 96 A grades and 94 B grades. In total, 25 boys will be joining Abingdon School in September, having distinguished themselves in their final year at Abingdon Prep. Well done to all the Year 8 boys on their wonderfully successful year! ■

Junior Verse Speaking

Years 3 and 4 have been looking at poetry in English and the Junior Verse Speaking competition final was held in June. Every boy chose and learnt a poem that they particularly liked, ranging from classics by A A Milne to more modern offerings by Ken Nesbitt. The judge was our very own Head of English, Simon Littlewood, and his was an unenviable task. We all laughed as we heard about Red Riding Hood *whipping a pistol from her knickers!* and the dentist's run-in with a *gorgeous crocodile*. We were even treated to an original work by one of the finalists. After these thoroughly enjoyable and outstanding performances, the winners were chosen. Congratulations to Lucas Gunatilleke, Henry Doerrer, Alasdair Emmett and Robin Collins. ■

Minibeasts invade Pre-prep

The minibeast topic began with a WOW for Pre-prep with a visit from The Bug Man, Martin Rapley. He brought along a number of wriggling, squirming guests for the boys to meet and touch. We learnt about habitats, camouflage, food and classification as Martin carefully introduced each of the creatures. There were gasps of amazement as cockroaches hissed and scuttled, giant millipedes marched, Simon the scorpion arched his tail, stick insects clung to our jumpers and Lucy the tarantula patiently allowed us to stroke her. We gazed in awe as the chameleon perched on top of our heads watching his afternoon locust-snack, waiting for just the right moment to snap it up! ■



Une semaine avec Year 8 en Normandie



In June a group of very excited Year 8 boys boarded a coach for the overnight ferry to Caen. Excursions began bright and early the next morning with a visit to a goat farm. The farmer only spoke French but the boys were satisfyingly good at interpreting. Tuesday saw the boys at Mont St Michel then on to Alligator Bay to see the reptiles. Other trips during the week included ferocious rides at the Festyland theme park, Arromanches, site of the D-Day landings and the Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral. The boys were very moved by the visit to the Allied War Cemetery and enjoyed exploring the bunkers and bomb craters in Pointe du Hoc. A midnight arrival back at school heralded the end of a great week. ■

Science - CREST Success

Year 8 has been working towards their Bronze CREST Awards from the British Science Association (BSA). The awards require around ten hours of project work and projects ranged from making the perfect glider to investigating the stretchiness of chewing gum. Patrick McCubbin explored the properties of antibacterial products, using yoghurt as his base. His work was so detailed and thorough, that his project was successfully submitted for the Silver CREST Award, aimed at 14-16yr olds carrying out extended studies. ■

Sports Day

The sun may not have shone but the rain just held off for Sports Day this year. Years 3-8 competed in their house teams in six track and six field events. As always, competition was fierce but the end result saw Unicorn winners of the House Athletics Cup and Victor Ludorum cups for Thomas Kent, Joe Richardson, who set a new school record for the 400m and Archie McChesney. Pre-prep also thoroughly enjoyed their sports day, gaining points for their house teams from a variety of activities including sack and bean bag relays, throwing the howler, long jump and hurdles. ■



Year 4 Roam the Ridgeway

On a wet and windy Friday morning 30 Year 4s began their walk along the Ridgeway towards White Horse Hill. This was the boys' first experience of an 'overnight school trip' and had been eagerly anticipated. The weather didn't dampen spirits and progress was excellent. Arriving at the hostel the boys explored the outstanding woods in the grounds, constructing camps, drawing battle lines and playing tag. A very welcome supper followed and, with renewed energy, the boys returned to the woods. Early next morning, following an amazing cooked breakfast, lethargic legs set off for the last six miles. The sun shone as we crested White Horse Hill and touched the trig point symbolising the end of the trip. Crispin and parents were met with tired smiles and the ice creams were most gratefully received and devoured! ■





ASP Dinner at Pembroke

Tickets to ASPA's whole-school parents' dinner sold out within a few hours of becoming available and, come the evening, the event was everything that was expected of it and more – beautiful venue, great atmosphere, good food and excellent company. Thanks to the amazing generosity of those present, the silent auction and raffle raised £6,500. Some of this money will go towards equipping the new Science Centre. ■



ASP – the Committee and its Work

So summer is almost over and a new school year begins, with new boys and new parents as well as some of us who are coming to the close of our time associated with Abingdon School. Many of the ASPA committee will be leaving at the end of this school year and we sincerely hope that the association will continue and go from strength to strength, not only as a way for parents to meet and socialise but also to provide support in other ways, such as the second-hand uniform shop, which is such an asset for parents and boys.

For ASPA to flourish new members are always needed and we would welcome anyone who is interested and has just a few hours to spare in the school year. ASPA meeting dates can be found on the ASPA section of the school website. If you are interested in coming along to meet us then please contact Wendy Lambe at aspa@abingdonschool.org.uk and she will provide you with more details.

Peter Garratt, Neil Leah and Kathy Hampden have now retired from the ASPA committee and we should like to thank them for all their hard work over the last few years. ■

www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

Quiz and Curry Evening

The Quiz and Curry Evening provided excellent entertainment on 17 May with a superb quizmaster, Jim Bischoff, Senior Master of Pinewood School. The eight teams fought hard but in the end Team I (Lower 6 parents) won. ■

Second-Hand Uniform Shop

Opening times: Wednesdays 12.15-13.15
Saturdays 11.00-12.00

September

Weds 4 / 18 / 25 Sat 7 / 14 / 28

October

Weds 2 / 16 Sat 5 / 12

November

Weds 6 / 13 / 20 / 27 Sat 9 / 16 / 23 / 30

www.abingdon.org.uk/sus

Future Events

Friday 11 October

3rd-Year Parents Italian Supper
Meet other 3rd-year parents on an informal basis. Drinks reception in the CMR followed by supper in the Dining Hall; licensed bar. Tickets: £15 (to be added to next school bill), send booking form to ASPA 3rd year supper, c/o The Bursary, or by email to amnugent@btconnect.com

Friday 15 November

Big Bang restaurant, Oxford
Details of this evening for parents of all years will be available on the School website and in future ASPA mailings.

Friday 7 February

ASP Quiz evening

Friday 16 May

ASP Dinner Eynsham Hall

Thursday 6 June

ASP BBQ at school

What's On

Events

Saturday 14 September

Heritage Open Day

The School Chapel and Library, along with many other buildings in the town of Abingdon, will be open to the public as part of the Heritage Open Days scheme.

11 am to 1 pm

Wednesday 9 October

The Atomic Spies of Abingdon

– Klaus Fuchs and Bruno Pontecorvo

Professor Frank Close, broadcaster and author (for full details see page 2)

7.30 pm Amey Theatre

All welcome, admission free

Sunday 10 November

Remembrance Sunday

The School CCF will parade at the Abingdon town war memorial

10 am St Helen's Church

10.45 am War memorial, The Square

Music

Wednesday 9 October

Music Scholars' Concert No.1 and Music Society AGM

6.45 pm Charles Maude Room

Tuesday 15 October

Singing Masterclass

Peter Harvey, Visiting Professor at the Royal College of Music and Baroque music specialist

7 pm Charles Maude Room

Wednesday 13 November

Music Scholars' Concert No. 2

7 pm Charles Maude Room

Wednesday 20 November

Cello Masterclass

Robert Max, principal cellist London Chamber Orchestra

7 pm Charles Maude Room

Saturday 30 November

Joint Choral Society Concert

Magnificat Bach, *Dixit Dominus* Handel

7 pm Amey Theatre

Tickets: £6.00, £4.00 (concessions), £16 (family)

Wednesday 4 December

Christmas Concert No. 1

7 pm Amey Theatre

Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

Friday 6 December

Christmas Concert No.2

7 pm Amey Theatre

Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 (family)

Lectures

Monday 23 September

Royssse Society

Dr Philomen Probert, Wolfson College, Oxford, Lecturer in Classical Philology and Linguistics

5.30 pm

Thursday 26 September

Chemistry Lecture: NMR Masterclass

Dr Martin Christlieb, Gray Institute for Radiation Oncology and Biology, University of Oxford

4 pm

Thursday 3 October

Sicily

Robin Lane Fox, Emeritus Fellow, New College, Oxford, University Reader in Ancient History

5.30 pm

Friday 4 October

Economics Society

Professor Alan Barrell, Entrepreneur in Residence at the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

4 pm Amey Theatre

Thursday 21 November

Michael Faraday and the Royal Institution – his life story in his own words

Dr Mike Partridge, Department of Oncology, Gray Institute for Radiation Oncology and Biology, University of Oxford

4 pm Amey Theatre

Friday 22 November

Economics Society

Bunt Ghosh, Vice Chairman, Fixed Income for Asia Pacific at Credit Suisse

4 pm Amey Theatre

Friday 22 November

Royssse Society

Dr Claire Vallance, Lecturer in Physical Chemistry, University of Oxford

5.30 pm Charles Maude Room

Drama

Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27,

Thursday 28 November

Equus

Peter Shaffer's play about a psychiatrist's attempt to treat a boy who has a pathological fascination with horses

Joint Senior Drama Production

7 pm Amey Theatre

ASPA

Friday 11 October

3rd-Year Parents' Italian Supper

7.30 pm Drinks Charles Maude Room followed by supper in Dining Hall

Tickets: £15 each see booking details page 12

Friday 15 November

Big Bang Restaurant, Oxford

An all-parent event, details will be available on the School website and in future ASPA mailings

FASBC

Saturday 9 November

Curry and Quiz Evening

Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club

7.30 pm Dining Hall

Touchliners

Saturday 7 December

Touchliners' Leaving Dinner

Abingdon's parent rugby supporters

OA Events

Monday 23 September

Hong Kong Reception

Reception for current and former parents and Old Abingdonians living in Hong Kong

6.30 pm to 8.30 pm Marina Room, Excelsior Hotel, Causeway Bay

Saturday 12 October

OA Club AGM

1 pm Lacies Court

Saturday 12 October

1st XV v Radley College

to be followed by refreshments

2.30 pm Waste Court Field

Friday 15 November

Calling all OA Medics

6 pm – A career networking event

Wednesday 4 December

OA Club London Drinks Reception

6 pm to 8.30 pm National Liberal Club

Check details of all these events on the calendar at:
www.abingdon.org.uk



The expedition members at Mastuj

Across the Roof of the World

Hugh Leach, OA 1953 has recently donated to the School his record of the 1994 Abingdon School expedition he led from Naltar to Mastuj in North West Pakistan. The diary and slides document the exceptional challenges the group of ten boys, one OA and one master faced in their trek across this remote region, a trek which involved traversing mountain passes along paths sometimes no more than a foot wide with raging torrents several hundred feet below, fording waist-high, ice-cold mountain streams and ascending sheer ice faces.

Although thoroughly exhausted, the group appreciated the specular scenery of the Himalayan, Hindu Kush and Karakoram ranges, the hospitality of the local people, their contentment in simplicity, and the lesson that an expedition is not about the survival of the fittest but about the strong helping the weak knowing that the roles could be reversed the next day. ■

ASPS Film Screenings and Reunion

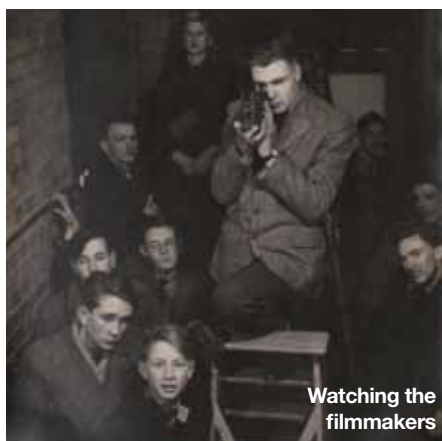
Saturday 21 September: 10.30 am - 5.30 pm, Arts Centre, Abingdon School

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of Abingdon's first film, *Ut Proficias*, 1953, made by ASPS (Abingdon School Photographic Society), and directed by Michael Grigsby, OA 1955, the School is hosting a reunion with lunch and screenings for all those who made, appeared in, contributed to, or merely remember with interest the films produced at Abingdon in the years between 1953-2003 (when the present Abingdon Film Unit began). We will be showing all the recently digitized 16mm films held in the School archive and are keen to meet those associated with the making of these films so that we can find out more about them. And, if anyone can shed light on the whereabouts of *Thanks a Million!* or any other ASPS film we have not mentioned, we would be delighted to hear from you!

If you would like to come and haven't yet been invited then please make contact as soon as possible with Jeremy Taylor, Master in Charge of the Abingdon Film Unit. ■ jeremy.taylor@abingdon.org.uk



The filmmakers



Watching the filmmakers

A History of Abingdon School in 63 Objects



This online history has now entered its final phase, which will bring it up to the present day by the end of term via two world wars, seven Heads and the expansion of the School from fewer than 120 boys in 1914 to 950 at the beginning of this academic year – objects are uploaded every Tuesday and Thursday to the website. www.abingdon.org.uk/63objects ■

Digitised Films in the School Archive

- Ut Proficias (1953)
- Achilles and the Gryphon (1954)
- Seed Germination (?)
- No Tumbled House (1955)
- BBC film of Roger Bannister running the first sub-4-minute mile (1954)
- Abingdon athletes running from Westminster to Abingdon in 1963 (meeting Airey Neave and James Cobban)
- Into the Dark (late 50s)
- Yours is the Earth (late 50s)
- Three's a Crowd (late 50s)
- The Building of Little School (mid-late 50s)
- The Conversion of the Old School Room into the new Library (early 60s)
- The Visit of Princess Margaret in 1963
- Letters to America (1963)
- School Trip to Sicily (1963)
- Chameleon (1967/68)
- Undated material from the 70s/80s and perhaps even the 90s.

Michael Grigsby Memorial Service

3 pm Wednesday 9 October at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London WC2N 4JJ. Michael's family extends a welcome to everyone, particularly members of the ASPS, Unit 4 and the Abingdon Film Unit. ■

50s / 60s OA Event, Bath



On Friday 10 May, over 90 OAs and guests gathered at Woods Restaurant, Bath for a very convivial evening. With excellent food and wine, enhanced by apt and entertaining speeches, it was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion in which the strong camaraderie and spirit of this group of OAs was palpable. The Club thanks Tony Howell (1959) for organising a superb event. ■

Tennis: OAs v 1st VIII



The OA v School 1st VIII on 5 July was a very close competition. Each player played two doubles and two single matches. In a magnificent doubles match, Abingdon's first pair, Peter Honey and Giles Waterson beat two previous tennis captains, Joel Morris (2012) and Sam Murrell (2011) in a tiebreak.

In the singles, the match between Dylan Robinson (2010) and Elliott Mills lasted most of the afternoon and there were good wins for Jack Maxted, Joel Morris, Peter Honey, George Ruck, Martin Butler and Thomas Kelly. Each team won 8 matches so the competition ended in a draw. ■

Steve Brenchley (Common Room)

OA team: Joel Morris, Sam Murrell, Rupert Waterson (2012), Martin Butler, Dylan Robinson, Olly Deasy, JJ Robinson (2009) and Dale Barker (2009).

OA Golf Day



The annual OA Golf Day on Tuesday 14 May, held at Frilford Heath Golf Club, saw 22 players compete during the morning on the Blue Course over 9 holes for the Trenaman Trophy, which was won by a new member this year, Nick Shephard (1975), with a score of 25 Stableford points. After lunch the Roysse Cup, competed for on the Red Course over 18 holes, was won by another new player, Andrew Snodgrass (1971), with a score of 38 points. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, which was rounded off with dinner and prize giving.

We were delighted to have nine new players this year and always welcome new players of all ages and abilities. ■

David Blomley (1976)

Next year's OA Golf Day will again be held at Frilford on Tuesday 13 May.

Year Group Reunions

Reunions for 1973, 1983, 1992, 1993 and 2003 leavers were held at Abingdon on Saturday 8 June. Over 100 guests enjoyed a drinks reception in the Jekyll Garden and tours of the School followed by a buffet dinner.

Forthcoming Events

Hong Kong Reception Monday 23 September

6.30 to 8.30 pm Marina Room, Excelsior Hotel, Causeway Bay

Reception for current and former parents and Old Abingdonians living in Hong Kong

Saturday 12 October

- OA Club AGM
1 pm Lacies Court,
- 1st XV v Radley College
2.30 pm Waste Court Field,
to be followed by refreshments

Friday 15 November Calling all OA Medics

6.00 pm A career networking event focused on Medicine, providing an opportunity for pupils to talk to OAs about their careers, to include a TED-style talk and dinner. Further details will follow – please save the date.

www.oaclub.org.uk

**OAs are invited to the
London Drinks Reception
at The National Liberal Club,
Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2HE
on Wednesday 4 December
6.00 pm to 8.30 pm**

There is no charge for this event

**NLC dress code:
Lounge suit (jacket and tie)
Please reply by
Friday 22 November
Alison Lester – OA Office
Email: oa.club@abingdon.org.uk
Or book online at www.oaclub.org.uk
01235 849098**



'Leach of Arabia'

In 1963, Hugh Leach (OA 1953) featured as a recent leaver in the 400th anniversary edition of *The Griffen*, 50 years later we catch up with him again.

Commissioned into the 6th Royal Tank Regiment, Hugh Leach saw service in Egypt during the Suez operation (1956) when he was the first tank ashore at Port Said. He studied Arabic at MECAS, the Middle East Centre for Arab Studies in the Lebanon, and in 1959 was appointed Desert Intelligence Officer in Oman. The job entailed extensive travel in company with the Bedouin, whom he greatly admired. He came to love the vast desert and its night skies and remained working in the Arab world, first with the Army and then with the Foreign Office until his retirement in 1989. His last four years were spent on an extended 'travelling sabbatical' engaged in a seminal study of Islamic fundamentalism on which he writes and lectures. During long furloughs he made expeditions into the northern Indian sub-continent including Afghanistan and Iran, and after his retirement he led expeditions in the area.

Hugh was awarded the MBE (Military) in 1961 and the OBE in 1976 but his proudest award is that of the Royal Society of Asian Affairs Lawrence of Arabia Memorial Medal, which he received in 1998 for his outstanding work in that part of the world. ■



Atoms for Peace

Thom Yorke, OA 1982, appeared to be having a great time with his new band, Atoms for Peace, when he appeared with them at the Roundhouse at the end of July. The 'superband': Flea from Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Joey Waronker of Beck and REM, Mauro Refosco from Forro in the Dark, and Radiohead's long-term producer Nigel Godrich on keyboard and synthesisers, released their debut album *Amok* in February and are currently touring the USA, Mexico and Japan. ■

Griffen Boat Club win Thames Challenge Cup



Photograph – Robin Middleton

Supported by the School and with sponsorship from the OA Club, the Griffen Boat Club, Joe Calnan (2003), Andrew Halls (2012), Alex Fisher (2013), Jakob Schleu (2010), John Carter (2011), Tom Pagel (2012), Felix Newman (2012), Vas Ragoussis (2011) and Neil McKenzie (2012), achieved a magnificent win over the Upper Thames Rowing Club at Henley Royal Regatta on 7 July, making it two championship wins in one day for the School. ■

New Blue Peter Presenter



Lindsey Russell, who left *St Helen's* in 2009, is the new Blue Peter presenter. She is seen here with (clockwise) Abingdonians Andrew Partridge, Jack Trotman, fellow Hellcat Jo Hall, Mark Heffernan and Steve Hodgetts in 2009 the year they took *Sketch, Drugs and Rock and Roll* to the Edinburgh Festival. ■

Magnus Macintyre

Former journalist, film producer and wind-farm owner Magnus Macintyre, OA 1989, has just published his first novel, *Whirligig*, a comedy about wind-farm war in Scotland. ■



Johnny Herford



Baritone Johnny Herford, OA 2003, winner of this year's Song Prize at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards at the Wigmore Hall on 26 April.

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