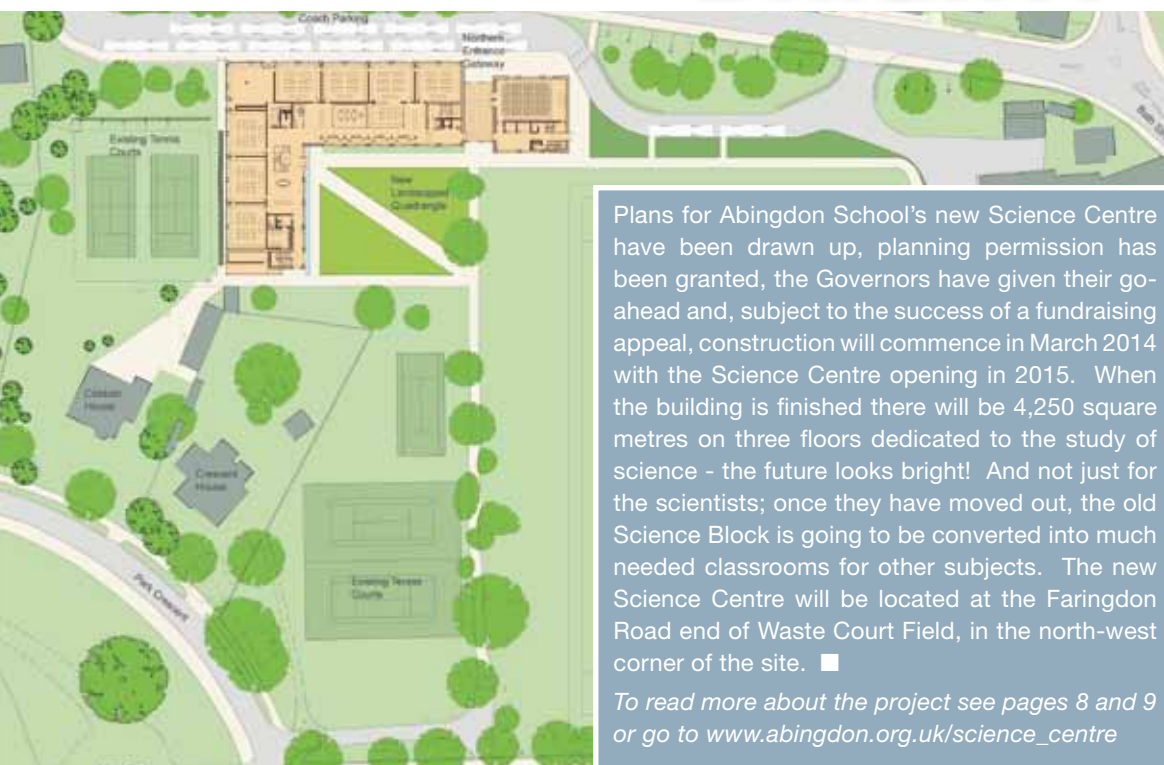




THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT!



Plans for Abingdon School's new Science Centre have been drawn up, planning permission has been granted, the Governors have given their go-ahead and, subject to the success of a fundraising appeal, construction will commence in March 2014 with the Science Centre opening in 2015. When the building is finished there will be 4,250 square metres on three floors dedicated to the study of science - the future looks bright! And not just for the scientists; once they have moved out, the old Science Block is going to be converted into much needed classrooms for other subjects. The new Science Centre will be located at the Faringdon Road end of Waste Court Field, in the north-west corner of the site. ■

To read more about the project see pages 8 and 9 or go to www.abingdon.org.uk/science_centre



04

Arts



06

Sport



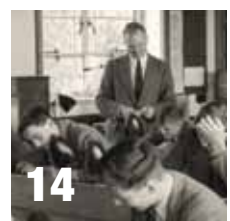
08

Science



10

Prep



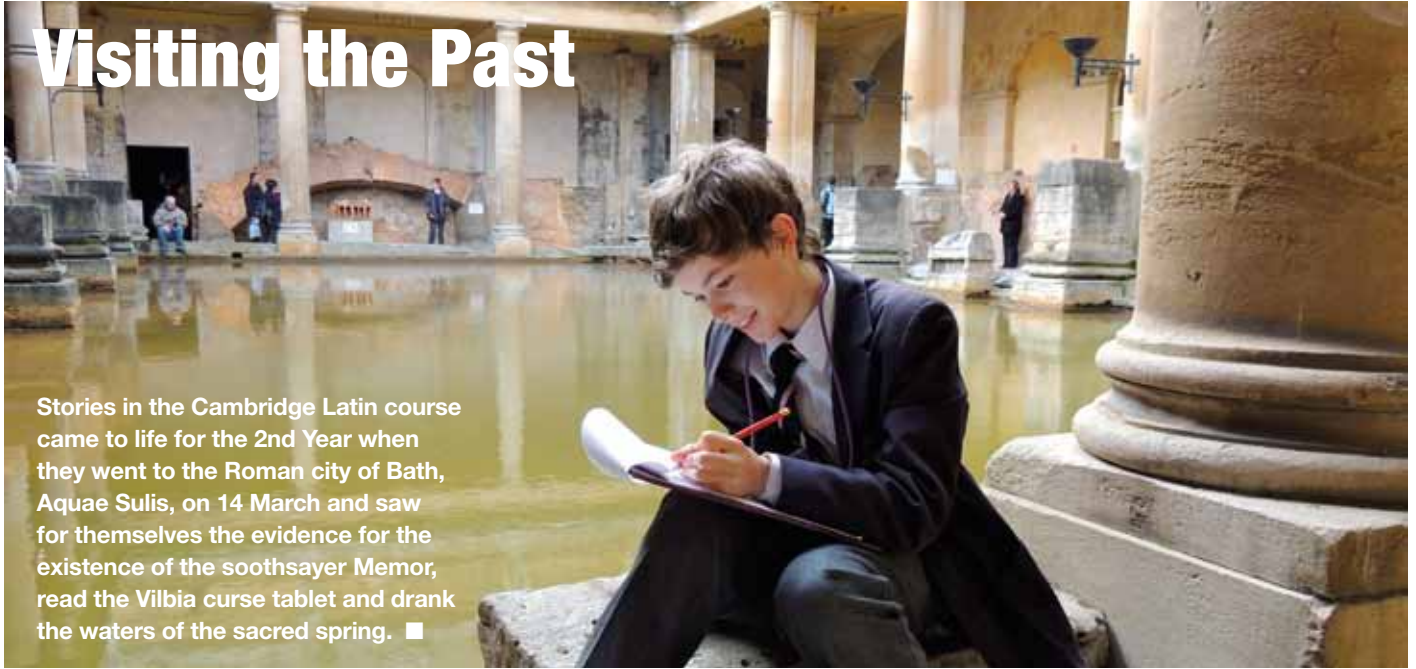
14

Out of the Past



Visiting the Past

Stories in the Cambridge Latin course came to life for the 2nd Year when they went to the Roman city of Bath, Aquae Sulis, on 14 March and saw for themselves the evidence for the existence of the soothsayer Memor, read the Vilbia curse tablet and drank the waters of the sacred spring. ■



Academic Challenges

In a range of academic competitions last term, Abingdon boys showed that they were equal to the best.



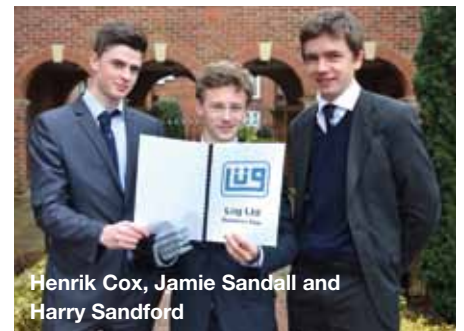
Richard Matousek

Richard Matousek will be one of the four members of the UK team competing against 34 other countries at the International Geography Olympiad to be held in Kyoto, Japan this summer. Richard will spend a week in Japan where the aim of the Olympiad is to encourage participation in a range of geographical activities and share cultures and friendship.



The BASE Finalists

A team of Abingdon sixth-formers have won the regional round of the Institute of Chartered Accountants business game, BASE, and a place in the national final to be held in Birmingham in June. The competition requires students to use a range of business skills to analyse and evaluate a business case study and then present their findings to a board of chartered accountants.



Henrik Cox, Jamie Sandall and Harry Sandford

In the PolyU Global Student Challenge, a team of Abingdon economists – Henrik Cox, Jamie Sandall and Harry Sandford – is among the 30 teams shortlisted from schools around the world to take part in the semi-finals and finals of this prestigious business competition, which will be held in Hong Kong in June.

Three of Abingdon's top linguists – Omri Faraggi, Philip Zealley and Oliver Sayeed – have won through to the second round of the UK Linguistics Olympiad. There were 1,200 entries to the competition and of the 18 who won through to the second round three were Abingdonians. Omri won a bronze medal at the international final last year.



Lower School Maths Challenge

A cross-number puzzle and a complicated relay round, where speed was all important, were just two of the tricky challenges the eight teams of Lower School mathematicians found themselves tackling during the first round of the National Team Maths Challenge. Members of the two winning teams will now compete for places in the School team, which will go on to compete in the national competition.

The 450th Anniversary

The 450th anniversary of John Roysse's endowment of Abingdon School has been marked by the launch of a website *History of Abingdon School in 63 Objects* (www.abingdon.org.uk/63objects) and an exhibition in Abingdon County Hall Museum – *From Abingdon to Zanzibar – people and places associated with Abingdon School over 450 years*. The exhibition closed on 21 April but there will be a chance to see it in the School later in the year.

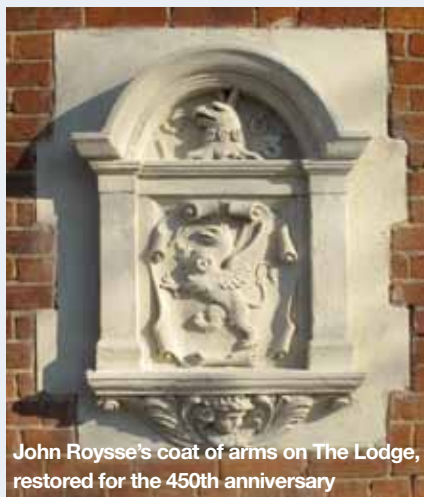


Laying a wreath on John Roysse's tomb



Visiting the exhibition From Abingdon to Zanzibar

On the anniversary of the day itself, 31 January, the 1st Years laid a wreath on John Roysse's tomb in St Helen's Church, visited the museum exhibition, heard a talk in the old schoolroom on the history of the School and got an idea of what education was like in the past. That evening, the annual New Year Concert marked the occasion with a special performance of a sixteenth-century composition, William Byrd's *The Earl of Oxford's March*, played by a brass ensemble.



John Roysse's coat of arms on The Lodge, restored for the 450th anniversary



Experimenting with writing on a slate

On 27 February, a large audience were entertained in the old schoolroom by a witty and knowledgeable talk on the history of the School from Michael St John Parker, headmaster 1975-2001. ■

Snow



Snow and freezing temperatures brought an extra challenge to the 2nd Years visiting Plas Pencelli Outdoor Education Centre in the Brecon Beacons at the end of March, but did not seem to hamper their enjoyment in the activities on offer – climbing, canoeing, gorge scrambling and mountain walking. ■



Whilst the snow earlier in the term brought many challenges to transport and sporting fixtures, it also brought much fun to the boarders. ■

Chess Champions



Jeff Abraham and Joseph Truran, joint winners of the Wiltshire Junior Open Chess Championships in February.

The Community Service Tea Party



The Pardoner's Tale

In January, Abingdon's four 3rd Year drama scholars led an accomplished production, full of menace and dark humour, of Chaucer's *Pardoner's Tale*. Charlie Landells played the Pardoner, with Patrick Cole, Tim Foster and Ethan Saphie as the three murderous villains. ■



Patrick Cole (R) has recently won a part in Youth Music Theatre UK's *Vanishing Point*, which will be filmed on location in Plymouth in August.



Abingdon Passion Play

Chris Young, who played Voltaire / Dr Pangloss in last December's production of *Candide*, took the role of Jesus in the Abingdon Passion Play on 24 March. It had been hoped to hold the performance in the Abbey grounds but as a result of the extremely cold weather most of the scenes were played out in the Guildhall. It is estimated that almost a thousand people turned out to watch the play. ■



The Big Sing



This singing workshop for 90 primary school pupils involved intensive rehearsals throughout the afternoon culminating in an exhilarating concert in the evening. Inspired by a performance from the Abingdon Academicals, our visitors were both impressed and impressive. ■



Australian Musicians in Abingdon

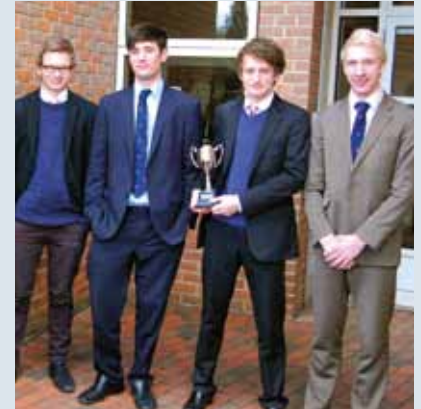
Having been hosted themselves by families in New York and Washington on their American tour in 2011, and appreciating just how much difference it can make to both the cost and the cultural experience of a tour, Abingdon families hosted the 61 musicians and 7 staff from Scotch College Melbourne when they visited the School in January. The joint concert on 22 January was a powerful occasion with a particularly fine performance of Dvorak's *Cello Concerto*. ■



New York

Abingdon's artists and economists went to New York last half term so that whilst some boys were visiting the Museum of American Finance and the Federal Reserve Bank, others were visiting MoMA and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The group combined to go ice skating in Central Park, see *Spiderman Turn off the Dark* and eat at the Hard Rock Café. ■

Musical Winners



Frank Jazz - Jack Gee (tenor saxophone), Henry Binning (piano), Tim Davies (drums), and George Burrage (bass guitar) – Abingdon's senior jazz ensemble, were the clear winners in the jazz band category at the Chipping Norton Music Festival. The adjudicator, Anthony Williams, praised their truly professional sound, which he described as technically polished and highly imaginative in its creativity. ■



Humphrey Thompson was the outright winner of the 2013 Frances Kitching Award. This award, instituted in 1968, goes to young musicians who are actively contributing to the musical life of the Abingdon area. Humphrey, who is a singer, won a trophy and a cheque for £250. ■

Rowing's Future Promise

In the light of the gold medal won by Jamie Copus, OA 2011, in the lightweight men's double sculls at the Australian Olympic Festival on 20 January, it's good to see Abingdon's junior rowers promising well for the future. The J14s first fixture of the year saw them win 6 out of the 7 races against St Edward's on 2 March and come third at the J14 National Sculling Head. ■



Football

Abingdon's footballers continue to do well, none more so than William Whitworth in the 4th Year who has been selected for the prestigious Independent Schools Football Association. William is already involved with Reading Football Club's Elite Academy. ■

Hockey

Abingdon had three county championship teams last term – the U13A, U14A, and U16A. The latter went through to the South Regional Championships, which puts them among the top 16 hockey U16 hockey teams in the country. William Carter Keall has been selected for the England U16 team to play in the four nations' tournament against Holland, Germany and Spain in Valencia. ■



Road Relay

Just two seconds separated the first three places in the Annual Road Relay at the end of last term. Thomas Kelly was the fastest individual in a time of 8:17. O'Doherty's 5th Year team came first in 37:22 with Davies' upper sixth team second and lower sixth team third. ■



Inter-House Sports Afternoon

Eight fiercely contested sporting competitions in one afternoon saw Davies's win the football, squash and water polo, Boyd's the shooting and ergos, Christodoulou's the hockey, O'Doherty's the badminton and Webb's the table tennis. ■



Cross Country



The Cross-Country Club started the term as they meant to finish when the U19 and U17 teams won the Cross-Country County Championships at Radley on 29 January. As a result, U19s Thomas Kelly and Matthew Hartshorne, and U17s Nat Jones, Teddy Curtis and Alex Munro, won places in the National Schools Championships. The season ended at Marlborough College where all three Abingdon teams took first place with U19 Thomas Kelly crossing the line ahead of the field. ■



Fencing

James Beazley and James Fotherby, recently selected for the GB squad, acquitted themselves well in their first tournament, the GLL Camden International Cadet Sabre Tournament. ■

Abingdon's New Science Centre

A place to discover science through learning, study, mentoring, collaboration and personal reflection



The Master Plan

Plans for Abingdon's new Science Centre are part of the School's master plan, its strategic blueprint for future investment in its facilities. The new Science Centre will address what the plan identified as the School's two most pressing needs – for more science laboratories and more standard classrooms. By September 2015, 4,250 square metres will have come into use for the teaching of science, nearly three times the amount that was previously available. This will free up the 1,560 square metres of the old Science Block for other subjects.

The Future for Science

Science is a very popular subject at Abingdon: half of last year's Lower Sixth took Physics AS level and more than half took Chemistry. This means that we have outgrown our old facilities, which were based round the original 1950 Science Block, extended in 1957, 1969 and 1991. In 2011 we hired two temporary laboratories in a rented modular building and in 2012 we had to hire two more. The time has come for a purpose built Science Centre – practical, efficient, spacious – one that will meet the School's needs not just for the present but into the future too.





The Facilities

- 7 laboratories per floor / subject – 21 in total
- 1 project room per floor / subject – 3 in total
- Flexible open-plan study space on each floor
- Dedicated quiet sixth-form study space on each floor
- 1 centrally placed technicians' prep room per floor
- Greenhouse and ecology pond for Biology
- Head and departmental staff offices
- Space for subject display areas on each floor

A Lecture Theatre with a reception lobby and an Outreach Laboratory will be part of phase 2, set for 2017. Outreach programmes will begin in 2015 making use of the Science Centre until the Lecture Theatre and Outreach Laboratory are built.



The Architects

The School have chosen Hopkins Architects Partnership (London) designers of the 2012 Olympic Velodrome, who have also built schools, colleges and universities in the UK and USA.

The Timetable

- August 2013
Modify coach park
- September 2013
Finalise building designs
- February 2014
Tender / award contracts
- March 2014
Prepare site
- June 2015
Complete construction
- August 2015
Fit-out / move-in
- September 2015
Opening

The Cost

The cost will be £15 million: £5 million will come from existing reserves, £9 million from borrowings, leaving £1 million to be raised from an appeal.

The Appeal

To enable these plans to become a reality, Abingdon School has launched a £1 million Science Centre Appeal. We seek the widest possible participation in giving to the Appeal, including current and former Governors and staff, Old Abingdonians, and current and former parents as well as science-based companies in the region and educational grant-making charities.

For more information, or to make a pledge or donation, contact Michael Triff, Director of Philanthropy on 01235-849129 or email philanthropy@abingdon.org.uk.

Full details of the project together with an animated overview can be seen at www.abingdon.org.uk/science_centre

World Book Day

The Prep School was transformed for World Book Day with boys and staff dressed as a plethora of characters. A winner from each form was chosen by teachers and the overall winner was Robin Collins as Goldilocks. Some staff arrived as characters from traditional tales such as Little Red Riding Hood and Pocahontas, others channelled a more wizardly or scholarly look. Lessons then took on a book-related theme with teachers discussing their favourite books and characters with boys. ■



House Music Competition

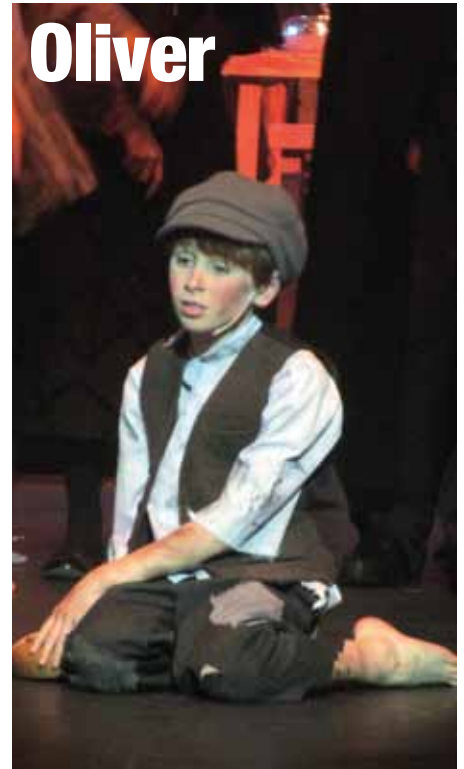
With the majority of the Prep School boys now learning at least one instrument, it was extremely difficult to choose just four from each year group to go through to the final round of this year's House Music Competition, which was held in front of the whole school on February 22nd. Our adjudicator was Michael Stinton, Director of Music at Abingdon. He is a very experienced musician and teacher and was impressed with the standard of playing and singing. He gave the performers some helpful and encouraging remarks, before choosing a winner from each year group. The overall competition winner and winner of the House Music Cup was Max Wedmore (Unicorn) for his sensitive violin performance of *Wiegen Lied* by Brahms. ■

Pre-prep explore Oxford Castle

Years 1 and 2 went back in time to visit Oxford Castle. They thoroughly enjoyed squeezing into a prison cell, hearing about a day in the life of a prisoner and the history behind some of the former inmates. The boys tried some of the hard labour meted out to prisoners including cranking a handle and pushing on the "stepper" - they decided it definitely wasn't for them! ■



Oliver



The Prep School's production of Lionel Bart's musical, *Oliver!* enjoyed a very successful run at the Amey Theatre. Ably supported by girls from St Helen's and St Katharine's, Headington, Rye St Anthony and The Manor, the boys rose to the occasion as expected and convincingly portrayed their Victorian characters. As always in a production of this size there was a huge team effort. Superbly backed by the small orchestra, the cast produced a memorable performance. They fully deserved the enthusiastic support of the appreciative audiences. ■

Young Voices at O2



In January the Senior Choir travelled to the O2 Arena for the Young Voices concert. With around 8000 children taking part, this is one of the biggest children's choir concerts in the world. With many, many words to learn, the boys had been preparing since September. The songs ranged from *Electricity* from *Billy Elliott* to *Brother James' Air* and a pop medley. One of the many highlights was performing *Sing* with the African Children's Choir, who performed at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee last year. The atmosphere in the arena was electric and the boys held the banner, made by Katie in CDT, with pride, so parents could spot them from the other side of the arena. ■

Years 3 and 4 get Creative

Friday February 1st became a day of industrious creativity as Years 3 and 4 used the atmospheric painting *Tiger in a Tropical Storm* by Henri Rousseau to inspire them with many activities. It was a fabulous day. All the boys were enthusiastic and willing to try everything from creating a Haiku poem, inspired by the School's woods, to learning a jungle dance and making a mixed-media collage copy of the painting. This now takes pride of place in the school hall. ■



Cross-country Success

In mid-February, The Oratory Prep School Cross Country Championships represented the start of the cross country season following a series of cancellations due to the weather. Both juniors and seniors finished second in the team competition and second overall. Later that month, at the Rose Hill, Westonbirt, Cross Country Championships, Abingdon Prep was represented by a squad of runners from Under 8s through to Under 11s. Out of the 24 schools taking part, our Under 9, 10 and 11s all finished in first place in the team competitions and came first overall in the boys' category. ■



Year 1 explore the Planetarium

Year 1 have been learning all about space, planets and the solar system and thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Winchester INTECH Science Centre where they had a chance to explore the hands-on science exhibits. The boys turned levers and dials to move a corkscrew, worked out angles to bounce a ball into a hole, picked up weights using a crane, floated a ball in air and even made their own water tornado! The highlight of the trip was the Astrium Planetarium where the boys could see the Earth from space and even zoom off to visit the Sun and Jupiter. It was a truly mesmerising show and Year 1 will never look at the night sky in the same way again! ■



Manet inspires artists

In February, 15 aspiring Prep School artists headed to the Royal Academy to see the Manet exhibition. They enjoyed learning all about the fascinating life of the 'father of the Impressionists' and were inspired to approach their art with renewed imagination. ■

Have Fun. Join the ASPA Committee!

At last it seems that Spring has arrived! Regretfully, however, parents of sixth-formers see the approach of summertime as ushering in the forthcoming AS and A Levels, which for many boys heralds the end of their school career.

This also means that many of the parents involved in the Association are nearing the end of their time with the School. This will leave a considerable void in ASPA, and we would greatly appreciate it if you could consider joining with a view to becoming a new Committee member or helper at some of our ASPA events.

The main focus of ASPA is the organisation of enjoyable social events to bring parents together, and also to provide the opportunity of getting to know each other better. Over the past few years, there have been many successful events including a boat trip on the Thames, a Race Night, a dinner at the Cherwell Boathouse and an outdoor skittles and BBQ evening.

Becoming an ASPA Committee member or helper is not an onerous task – it only takes a few hours of your time per year, and is enjoyable, very sociable and worthwhile. If you would like further information or are able to attend an ASPA meeting, please contact Wendy Lambe, Vice Chair, at aspa@abingdon.org.uk. The next two scheduled meetings are 29 April and 17 June 2013 at 7.30pm. Meetings are generally held in Christ's Hospital Room, Mercers Court. ■



Salvatore, Limoncello restaurant

Fund Raising and Second-Hand Uniform Shop



New canoe bought with money raised by SUS

Whilst the main focus of ASPA is social networking, there is also a small element of fundraising in the ASPA events. Any money raised is transferred into an Annual Fund and money is then allocated within the School for the benefit of all boys. For example, last year we donated £8,000 to the School for various items including an open canoe and iPod nanos.

Members of ASPA also run the Second-hand Uniform Shop (SUS). This provides a good opportunity to pass on, and pick up, items of uniform and kit that are in good condition but surplus to requirements. Note that donated articles must be clean on arrival! The shop is staffed by twelve volunteers, and is open on Wednesdays (12:15-1:15) and Saturdays (11:30-12:30) during term time. Takings are divided so that 60% of the sale price goes to the parent donor, and 40% to a fund, which is used to purchase items to benefit the school. ■



Lower-School Parents' Dinner

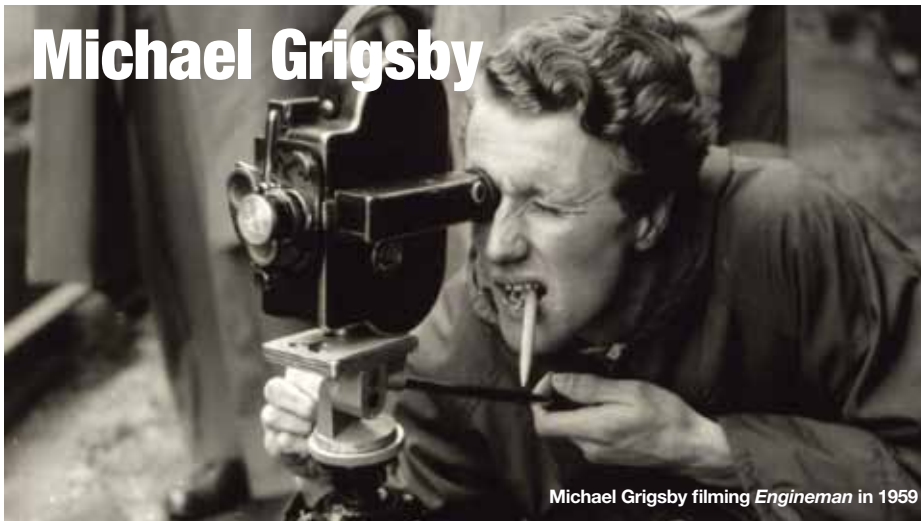
On March 8, a Lower-School Parents' Supper was held at the *Limoncello* restaurant in Abingdon to coincide with the evening of the Lower School Disco. Fifty-two parents enjoyed a meal together between the disco drop-off and pick up. Although the number of boys able to attend the disco was fewer than hoped, due to an illness that swept through Lower School in early March, this did not deter the parents on the night. The feedback for this evening has been really positive, with all agreeing that both the atmosphere and food were fantastic. Huge thanks go to Salvatore and his team at *Limoncello* for such an excellent event. ■

ASP A Forthcoming Events

17 May **Quiz Night** with quizmaster Jim Bischoff, master of Pinewood School. This promises to be an entertaining evening with a curry supper included in the price. Some tickets are still available for this, so please contact Wendy Lambe by email aspa@abingdon.org.uk.

7 June **Dinner Pembroke College.** *Sold out* This event has been overwhelmingly over-subscribed. Because whole school events have proved so popular, ASPA is planning to hold more in the near future.

www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa



Michael Grigsby

Michael Grigsby filming *Engineman* in 1959

As a pupil, Michael Grigsby, OA 1955, presided over a weekly film club before persuading Headmaster James Cobban to purchase a camera and kick-start practical filmmaking at the school. Grigsby directed the first two films, *Ut Proficias* and *No Tumbled House*, with support from a small army of pupils and staff. Collectively known as ASPS – the Abingdon School Photographic Society – they made films rooted in school life that established Abingdon as one of very few schools in the country engaged in such activity.

Grigsby secured his first job as a cameraman at the new Granada Television company in Manchester. His subsequent career spanned six decades and produced more than forty films. Described as “one of Britain’s greatest documentary filmmakers”, Mike made films characterised by a concern for the lives of ordinary people and a desire “to give voice to the voiceless”.

In 2003, Mike returned to Abingdon to help establish the Abingdon Film Unit. His passion and energy were vital to the success of the enterprise as he recruited a formidable team of tutors and challenged new generations of Abingdon filmmakers to look with compassion at the world around them. His reputation helped the AFU’s work achieve a level of attention it would never otherwise have enjoyed, including national press coverage and screenings at the National Film Theatre in London. ■ *Jeremy Taylor*

A History of Abingdon School in 63 Objects

Inspired by Neil MacGregor’s *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, Abingdon’s 63 objects illuminate the School’s past through its present possessions. New objects are uploaded every Tuesday and Thursday during term time. www.abingdon.org.uk/63objects



Whats On

Music

Wednesday 24 April

Joint Chamber Choir Concert
7 pm: Yolande Patterson Hall, SHSK

Friday 26 April

School Bands' Concert
7 pm: Amey Theatre
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

Wednesday 1 May

Thames Vale Youth Orchestra Concert
7.30 pm Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford
Tickets at the door

Friday 3 May

Summer Orchestral Concert
7 pm: Amey Theatre
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

Wednesday 22 May

Junior Scholars' Concert
7 pm: Amey Theatre

Wednesday 26 June

Lower School Gala Concert
7 pm: Amey Theatre

Thursday 27 June

Jazz on a Summer Evening
7 pm: Amey Theatre
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

Friday 28 June

Leavers' Concert
7 pm: Charles Maude Room

Drama

Friday 3 May

4th Year Drama Performances
6.30 pm: Abingdon Drama Studio

Tuesday 14 May, Wednesday 15 May

Twelfth Night
Lower School Production
7 pm: Amey Theatre / Ingham Room

Tuesday 18 June, Wednesday 19 June

4th Year Drama Production
7 pm: Amey Theatre / Drama Studio (tbc)

Abingdon Film Unit

Saturday 18 May

10th Anniversary Screenings
7 pm: Amey Theatre

Loose-Limbed Collective

Thursday 30 May

Sixth form theatre studies, AFU students and OAs' networking event and film screenings
2 pm: BFI Southbank, London

Art

Tuesday 25 June

AS Art and Design Exhibition
5.30 pm: Art Department

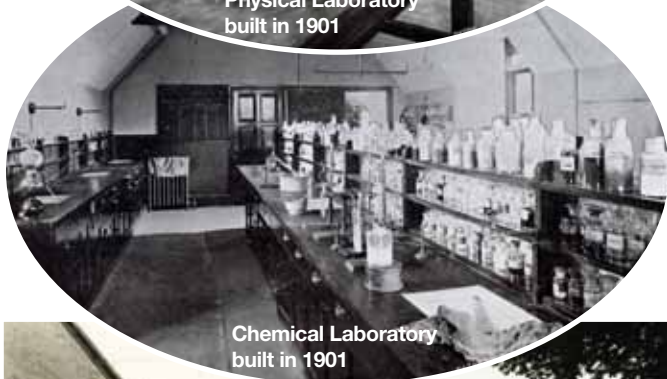
Monday 1 July

Art Scholars and Exhibitors' Show
5.30 pm: Amey Theatre Foyer

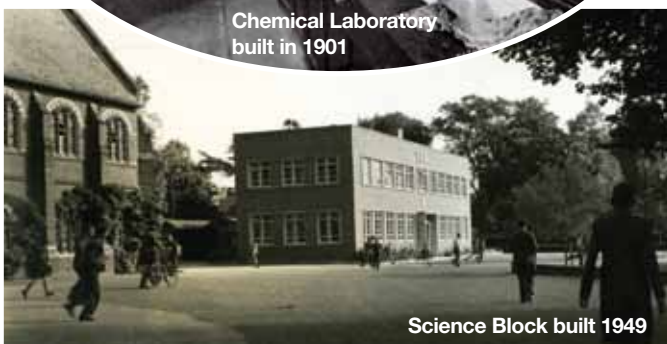
An Early History of Science at Abingdon School



Physical Laboratory
built in 1901



Chemical Laboratory
built in 1901



Science Block built 1949



1952 Joe Talbot –
Biology Laboratory



1952 Mervyn Gray –
Chemistry Laboratory

“Science classes have now been started, one in chemistry and one in botany.” *Headmaster’s Report to the Governors, November 1889*

“The science work is carried out by three masters who are all well qualified by knowledge and experience and practical teaching skills to carry out this work successfully. The labs are two good and well fitted rooms, equipment adequate for present needs but not sufficiently extensive for magnetism and electricity.” *Inspection Report June 1907*

“There has been a growth in sixth form work since the last inspection and there are now eight boys in their first year, seven studying physics, chemistry and maths and one chemistry with maths.”
Inspection Report 1939

Extra science classrooms “are required to ... meet the expected requirements for sons of parents engaged on Atomic research and living in the Harwell – Abingdon area.” *Governors Minutes October 1947*



Jennifer Pulley as President of the OU Scientific Society with Sir John Cockcroft, who was giving its 59th Robert Boyle Lecture in 1957. Sir John, who set up the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE) at Harwell, shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1951.

Jennifer Pulley

Mrs Colin Wiggins, OA 1953, is that extremely rare species, a female OA. A pupil at St Helen’s and St Katharine’s, Jennifer took her S Level Chemistry lessons at Abingdon. Her arrival was an unexpected consequence of Abingdon’s improved science facilities.

A sceptical Mr Gray initially reported that her work was ‘not yet’ up to the men’s scholarship standard, but through hard work and determination she won his respect, and a State scholarship to St. Hugh’s College, Oxford. Now living in New York, she is a Trustee on the board of the Planting Fields Foundation. The Foundation preserves and interprets the Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park – a Gold Coast mansion and its 400 acres of greenhouses, woodland and formal gardens with outstanding plant collections. ■

OA Club Awards

The OA Club awards are designed to further an individual's personal and professional development at any age, recognising that we never stop learning.

The award criteria cover, but not exclusively:

- work experience
- vocational/professional training
- mid-degree course electives

Gap year projects, medical electives, an OA's first degree, MBA degrees or post-graduate law conversion courses are not included. The OA Award Sub-Committee encourages more eclectic applications and expects to allocate a total of £1,500 to two or three successful applicants.

Application forms should reach the OA Office by the end of May 2013 in order that the Sub-Committee can consider applications by the end of the Summer term. Forms are available on request from the OA Club Officer or by downloading as a PDF file from the OA Club website. ■

Recent Events

Rugby – Touchliners / OA Six Nations Event

On Saturday 16 March 2013 OAs joined members of Touchliners for Sevens on Waste Court Field, lunch and viewing of Six Nations matches in the Sports Centre all in celebration of rugby at Abingdon.

Reunion in Sydney, Australia

Many thanks to Richard Bampton (1962) and Derek Taylor (1960) for organising the reunion dinner in Sydney, Australia, held on Saturday 23 March 2013.



Hockey – OAs v 1st XI

Abingdon's 1st XI took on the OAs at Iffley Road, Oxford on Friday 22 March 2013. Always a closely fought match, the OAs continued their recent run of success with another win this season. The OA side was captained by Harry Hole (2008) and featured a number of former 1st XI players. The School 1st XI took an early lead, before being pegged back to 1-1 at half time. An OA strike force of Toby Blong (2012), Seb Wilson (2008), Andy Partridge (2009) and Paz Rabindran (2009) were looking more and more threatening in the 2nd half, but it was the School side that took a 3-2 lead. This lead was cut with a Gregor Hearn (2012) run and finish before a last gasp winner saw the OAs home to a 4-3 victory. Jasper Cooper (2007) epitomised the OA spirit by taking a number of blows late in the game to protect the win. *Steve Brenchley (Common Room)*

John Horrex, Common Room 1953-1964, who passed away in March, was a member of the Master Singers, the group of Abingdon masters whose version of the *Highway Code* reached the charts in 1966. An obituary will be included in the next issue of the *Griffen*.

Forthcoming Events

50s / 60s Event, Bath: Friday 10 May

Tony Howell (1959) is the coordinator of the reunion dinner for 50s and 60s OA leavers at Woods Restaurant, Bath, on Friday 10 May 2013.

Further information is available from Tony and online booking is available via the OA Club website.

tony@howell15.plus.com

OA Golf Day: Tuesday 14 May

David Blomley (1976) is organising the next OA Golf Day to take place at Frilford Heath on Tuesday 14 May 2013. OAs of all ages and levels of ability are welcome.

Please email David if you would like further information.

d.blomley@btinternet.com

Year Group Reunions: Saturday 8 June

Reunions for 1973, 1983, 1993 with 1992 and 2003 leavers will be held at Abingdon on Saturday 8 June 2013 from 6 pm. Tours of the School and drinks receptions will be followed by a buffet dinner. There is no charge for this event and partners are very welcome. Booking is available online via the OA Club website.

Henley Royal Regatta: Friday 5 July

If Abingdon are still in the draw, you are invited to join the OA Club for strawberries and Pimm's at the Abingdon tent in the Henley Cricket Club car park during the afternoon tea break.

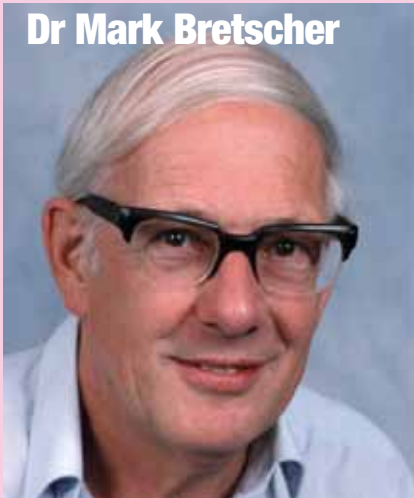
Hong Kong Reception: Monday 23 September

A reception for OAs, current and former parents and friends of Abingdon School will be held on Monday 23 September 2013 from 6.30 pm in the Marina Room at the Excelsior Hotel in Causeway Bay.

01235 849098
www.oaclub.org.uk

OAs in Science and Technology

Dr Mark Bretscher



Dr Mark Bretscher, OA 1958, is a distinguished biologist who was head of the Cell Biology Division at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) in Cambridge between 1984 and 1995. From Abingdon, he won a Major Scholarship to Gonville and Caius, Cambridge, took a First Class Degree in Chemistry and joined the MRC Unit as a research student in 1961, working on protein synthesis and the genetic code under Francis Crick and Sydney Brenner. He was a postdoctoral fellow with Paul Berg at Stanford University and then became a member of staff at the new LMB. He continued working on how proteins are made, but switched in 1971 to study the structure of the erythrocyte membrane, and soon after the endocytic cycle and how cells move. He was a visiting professor at Harvard (1974) and Stanford (1984) and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1985.

Mark's two brothers also went to Abingdon; their father Egon Bretscher was head of the Nuclear Physics Division at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell. Peter Bretscher, OA 1961, is Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada and Anthony Bretscher, OA 1966, is Professor of Cell Biology in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics at Cornell University in the US. ■

Neil Carson



Neil Carson, OA 1992, is Chief Technology Officer of *Fusion-io*, makers of next generation data storage devices for servers. He studied Software Engineering at the Royal Military College of Science, Cranfield University. In his spare time at university he consulted in software development for clients in the UK and Hong Kong and worked on porting BSD unix to the ARM family of processors, used in the *Apple iOS*. After graduation he set up a consultancy company with a friend. This took them to Palo Alto in Silicon Valley where Neil led the operating systems group at *Network Computer*, a subsidiary of *Oracle*, and later worked for various start-ups and enterprise software companies. Not all prospered but some went on to build software used by tens of millions of people or to be bought out by *Dell*. Neil has been with *Fusion-io* since its start up days; it is now a publically listed company with Steve Wozniak, the inventor of the original *Apple* computer, also on its management team. ■



Foals

Foals' third album *Holy Fire* was released on 11 February and made the charts all over the world. The band, which includes Walter Gervers, OA 2002, and Jimmy Smith, OA 2002, is set to play at Glastonbury this summer following a tour of North America. ■

Michael Grigsby

In 1970 Michael Grigsby, OA 1955, went to Texas to interview three soldiers on their return from Vietnam for his powerful documentary *I Was a Soldier*, forty years later he returned to interview them again. The resulting film, *We Went to War* has been hailed as a masterpiece, the epitome of Mike's quiet, patient style of film making – allowing the subjects and the silences to speak for themselves.

Mike died on 12 March after a short illness, and his obituary is on page 13.

"If you want to watch a resonant, intelligent, ambitious and beautiful piece of documentary filmmaking then you won't do much better than *We Went to War*."

Total Film ■

