

AbingdonNews

The Newsletter of the Abingdon Foundation Schools



Congratulations!

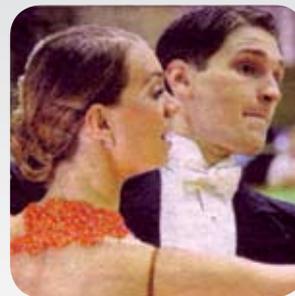
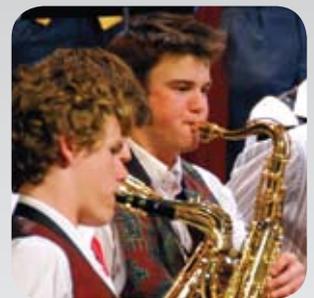


Congratulations to all last summer's exam candidates – and to all those who taught them – on their impressive results. This year, a record 80% of all GCSE passes were at grades A* and A whilst 96% of all A level passes were at grades A to C and five Chemistry candidates scored marks that put them within the board's top 10. Special congratulations to Howard Loh who

achieved in one sitting a record 7 A grades at A level, to Kevin Cheung and Leonid Ganins who gained 6, and to Alex Muir and Geoffrey Penington who were awarded 12 A* at GCSE together with two grade As at AS level. All this whilst the boys continue to compete, participate and perform at the highest level in a whole variety of other activities.

On Top of the World!

These four boys, part of the group of forty who went with World Challenge to the Western Himalayas over the summer, are at Khanul in the Kullu Valley at the beginning of a fifteen-day trek – Deo Tibba can be seen in the background and the River Beas far below. In addition to trekking, the boys undertook voluntary work in a local primary school and saw the sights of Delhi and Agra.



Abingdon Preparatory School
The Abingdon School Society
Development
Old Abingdonian Club

p 6
p 8
p 9
p 11

Abingdonians in Moldova

During the summer holiday, pupils from Abingdon and Our Lady's went to Ialoveni in Moldova to help the charity *Agape* fulfil its mission to 'transform lives and communities' in that impoverished Eastern European country.



The team organised activities – crafts, games and sports – taught English and set up a branch of the Abingdon Film Unit.

The Headmaster, Mark Turner, saw *Agape's* work for himself when he visited the Ialoveni Gymnasium last May. He was inspired by both the love of learning and the joy in living that he found at the school.



Activity Challenges

A group of Second years, on a team-building visit to Brecon in April, spent their time canoeing, caving, climbing, abseiling, gorge scrambling and mountain walking, as well as problem solving and orienteering. Although team building might have been the stated aim of the exercise, huge confidence building has been one of its main results.

The same is true for the First years who went to Osmington Bay for five days of extreme activities, pushing themselves way beyond their expectations, especially on the Giant Swing and the Trapeze – it's not for nothing that the latter is known as the leap of faith.



International Scientists

Harry Desmond was a member of the five-man team representing Great Britain at the 39th International Physics Olympiad held in Vietnam in July. Harry, who has received two gold *Crest* awards and also won gold at the British Chemistry Olympiad, won a bronze medal in Vietnam. In the same month, John Morgan, a fellow *Crest* award winner representing Great Britain at the 40th International Chemistry Olympiad in Budapest, won a silver medal.



The British Physics team,
Harry Desmond (right)

The Good Old Days?

The First years went on a walk round Abingdon in May – in search of the history of the School. They discovered that things aren't what they used to be: this birch cane is now kept in a display cabinet in the old schoolroom, but once upon a time it would have played a more active role!



CCF Biennial Inspection

Wing Commander Luck, Commanding Officer of 28 Squadron, RAF Benson, conducted the Biennial Inspection of the Abingdon CCF on 18 May and was very positive and enthusiastic about all that he saw. During the parade, Major Joss Williams formally received control of the Abingdon contingent from Major David Carson who has been Contingent Commander for the past seven years.



Tug-of-War

There was enthusiastic competition between the Houses in a Tug-of-War for Charity on 30 June. O'Doherty's were the Lower 6th winners, Webb's the Fourth year and Phelp's the Third year winners.



Shadowing the Carnegie

Abingdon played host to five other local secondary schools at the Carnegie Forum on 25 June. The Abingdon schools' voted *Ruby Red*,



by Linzi Glass, as their choice for the prestigious Carnegie Medal. In the event, the children's librarians who award the prize chose *Here Lies Arthur* by Philip Reeve.

Blenheim Triathlon

A number of teams of pupils, staff, OAs and parents marked the formation of Abingdon's Triathlon Club by taking part in the fourth Blenheim Palace Triathlon in June. They were among the 5,500 competitors to swim 750 m, cycle 20 km and run 5 km in the Palace's beautiful grounds. Money raised from the event went to Cancer Research.



Community Tea Party

Guests from Old Station House, Lady Eleanor Court, the Older and Bolder Club, Cygnet Court, and St Helen's and St Michael's churches were entertained to tea and music at the School on 24 June.



Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

Six months after Abingdon's first waste audit a second one has revealed that the School has reduced the mass of waste it sends on a daily basis to landfill sites by 49.7%. The Waste Force team, in conjunction with Global Action Plan, has worked hard to achieve this success – but there are plans to do still more!



The Arts at Abingdon – Summer 2008



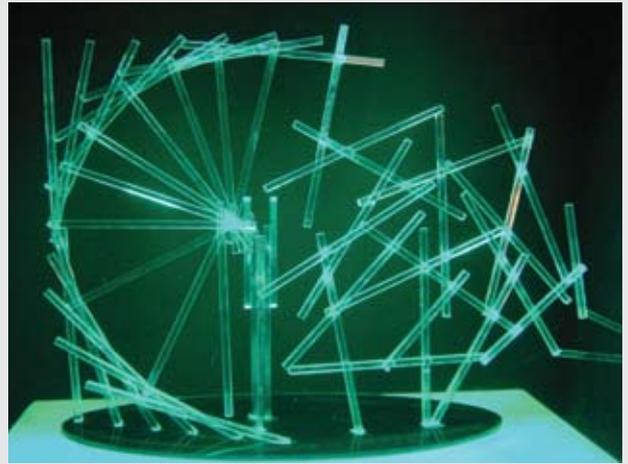
A level artists exhibited their examination work in the Arts Centre at the end of May.



The Music Society cruised down the River Thames one evening in June, serenaded by the School's musicians.



Comedy trio *FxP²*, Patrick Appleton, Paddy Gervers and Finlay Taylor, with Joe Buckley and Kate Shlugman, said farewell to Abingdon in July before taking their show, *FxP² in Trouble*, to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.



Matthew Halls' *Repetition in Sport* was selected for the Royal Academy of Arts' *A level Summer Exhibition Online 08*.

Ozy Tack, Guy Cutting and Tristan Mitchard each played a movement of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto Number 3 in C Minor Opus 37* at the Summer Concert in June.



The Sports Centre Appeal was the beneficiary of *Jazz on a Summer's Evening* on 18 June, at which champagne and strawberries were served by TASS – the Abingdon School Society.



The *Abingdon Academicals* travelled to Normandy to perform in a Europe Day concert at the Eglise St Germain in Argentan on 18 May.

Boat Club

A successful regatta season saw victories for the 1st VIII at a 'BASHER' regatta in April and at the Reading and Marlow regattas in June. Whilst high winds prevented them rowing at the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham, the crew made it through to the quarter-finals at Henley before being knocked out by the losing finalists, Shawnigan Lake School, Canada. The J16 VIII won the Novice Eights at Bedford, and at Reading one Abingdon J15 crew beat another Abingdon J15 crew in the final of the coxed IVs before the two crews combined to win the J15 VIII event. The J14 octuple won the Giles Every Challenge Cup at Marlow.



The J16 with their trophies at the Reading Regatta

Mike Martin

We said farewell to Mike Martin, Abingdon's outstanding rowing coach, at the end of last term. In 2002, Mike coached the 1st VIII to rowing's famous Triple – the Schools' Head of the River, the National Schools' Regatta and the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley. Mike has been appointed Senior Depute Rector of Hutcheson's Grammar School, Glasgow.



GB Oarsmen

Max Gander and Simon Jeffreys won gold medals for Great Britain rowing with the GB VIII at the Munich Regatta in May. Max was selected to cox the GB Coxed IV at the Junior World Championships held in Austria in July where the crew won silver.



Cricket

Strong batting and tight bowling saw the 1st XI defeat St Joseph's School, Ipswich in the final of the Independent Schools' Twenty20 Plate competition played at Wormsley Park on the pitch that was built to Test match standards by John Paul Getty. The former Warwickshire and England bowler Gladstone Small presented the winners with their trophy.



The 1st XI with Gladstone Small

Athletics

At the Oxfordshire County Athletics Championships in May, Peter Barnshaw won gold medals for the U15 800m, 400m and the high jump, and silver for the 80m and 200m hurdles. Both Peter, in the hurdles, and Michael Summers, in the 100m, achieved national times, which makes them available for national competitions.

In the Inter-House Athletics Competition, the overall winners were School House with 442 points, Older's came second with 403 and Gooding's third with 398.



Peter Barnshaw



Scenes from the Inter House Athletics Competition

Rifle Club

The Rifle Club competed at Stade in Germany where they won the trophy for the second year running.



Year 8 Success

We were delighted with the effort and successes of our pupils at scholarship and Common Entrance level this year, with nearly one in three boys receiving academic, sport, music, art or drama awards to their secondary school.

This autumn, in order to assist the preparation of both Common Entrance and scholarship pupils, we will be introducing a scholarship set in Year 8.

Summer Concert 2008

On a sunny evening in May, the upper years of the Prep School descended on the Amey Theatre to demonstrate their musical ingenuity and interests in the Summer Concert. The concert provided a platform for individual performance, ensembles and whole class work.

The evening was opened by the Jazz band, led by Simon Currie, with a superb rendition of *Mercy, Mercy, Mercy* by Joe Zawinul. Other notable performances followed with the string group and then the choir performing exceptionally well with an arrangement of *All I Have To Do Is Dream*, which included a solo by Christopher Young. The evening provided an opportunity to showcase some of Abingdon Preparatory School's finest musicians.



This included a passionate performance on the flute by Peter Moore, a beautiful musical rendition of *Pie Jesu* by James Allen, and a sublime clarinet solo, played by Jonathan

Lord. The audience was also treated to a magnificent performance of Chopin's *Waltz in E^b* by Campbell Baum.

The concert concluded with 'a collection of musical oddities'. This was a medley of popular songs, including *Fix You* by Coldplay, *Flash and We are the Champions* by Queen, and a somewhat unique performance of *The Lion Sleeps Tonight!*

Parents are Victorious – at last!

The fourth annual Treviso Trophy cricket match between parents and staff took place on 14 June. Both teams were feeling the pressure as victory for the previous three years was with the teaching staff. The fixture began after fathers challenged the teachers to a game of beach cricket during the 2004 rugby tour to Italy.

Doug Terry, the parents' captain, won the toss and elected to bowl. The staff demonstrated considerable prowess with the Headmaster notching up a fine 25, ably supported by Stefan Gerrard and Simon Littlewood. The teachers closed their innings on 100, after 25 overs.

It took a couple of balls for the teachers' opening bowler to find the right length and a couple of trips for the square leg fielder into the car park. Thereafter, it was a tight game. Martin Bibby made a classy 25 for the parents, and he, Scott Garrett and Doug Terry ensured the game went all the way to the wire.

John Herrington stepped up to bowl the last over. His careful line and length meant that it came down to the final delivery ... which Doug Terry stroked through mid-off for four.

Many congratulations to the Parents XI – a thoroughly deserved victory.



Special Visitor for Reception

On 10 June artist Michelle Kitto visited Reception for the day. The morning was spent making a rainforest print to go with the summer term's topic. The boys made leaf printing blocks which they inked using rollers and water inks. When both boys and prints were thoroughly inked they put their leaves onto the fabric.

In the afternoon the boys made animal blocks using sticky backed rubber pieces discarded from a car factory. The children chose where they wanted to put their prints, what colours they wanted and had a completely free hand in the final piece of artwork. It was a very busy and happy day.



“ I know why they call it cross-country.
It's because every time they make me run it, I get cross. ”

Years 5 & 6 Science and Technology Day

On 13 June the Oxford Trust visited School to run a Science and Technology day. The aim of the day was to enable the boys to explore and understand scientific concepts in an exciting way. We were lucky to have two science and engineering ambassadors from local industry to help. The morning was spent investigating forces and air resistance with parachutes. This culminated in an egg drop challenge where pupils had to design protective gear for eggs that were then dropped from the first floor music room window. Record success followed with 9 out of 14 eggs surviving the fall.



Working on parachutes

The afternoon challenge was fairground engineering with the focus on forces and structures. The boys designed and built a fair ground ride from *KNEX* and were complemented on their imaginative and original designs.

Cricket Roundup

All teams had a slow start to the season, but, like the weather, things picked up.

The 1st XI is a young, talented side, but it took a few games for them to gel as a team. They enjoyed several close matches, and a thumping victory over New College. There were many highlights for players in the other senior teams. The pick of these were Josh Perry and Dan Torrance's century opening stand against Abingdon School, Luke Teh's 5 for 9 against St Hugh's, Freddie Craik's 67 against Pinewood and Peter Moore's fine 58, not out, against St Hugh's.



The Colts A team also has a number of very talented younger players. The team notched up victories against Pinewood and Davenies, and were frustratingly close in what might be regarded as 'winning draws'! There were notable individual performances in all the Colts' teams, including Jonathan Bibby's hatrick against Davenies, Alexander Turner's 5 for 5 against Chandlings, and Colts A captain Will Bull's match-winning 52 against Pinewood.

Year 8 trip to Normandy.

Sunday 15 June saw some excited boys setting off for France on the overnight ferry to Caen. Despite little sleep they were up and ready for a rendez-vous at a snail farm at 9am. Snails were everywhere - about 500,000 of them in fact! A tasting session followed and the smell of garlic soon enveloped everyone.

Next on the agenda was a trip to Mont St Michel and a walk round the Abbey. It's hard work climbing all those steps! The boys had a guided tour around William the Conqueror's castle in Falaise which confirmed all that their history had taught them.

The five day tour included a trip to the D-Day landing site at Arromanches, the Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral. There was a walk around the British Cemetery (over 4500 headstones) which is just outside the town. Some of those who died in battle were only 3 or 4 years older than our Year 8 boys who found the experience very moving. As well as the educational parts of the trip there was time to go swimming, play on the beach, go shopping and sample the delights of French pâtisseries. A good time was had by all.



Sports Day



Sports Day again took place under sunny skies. The boys, dressed in their house colours, were keen to demonstrate their athletic abilities in front of a large gallery of onlookers.

Events included the pre-prep 'sandbag' race, high-jump, long-jump, cricket ball throw, shot-put, accuracy throw and various track events culminating in the house relay races.

The U9, U11 and U13 Victor Ludorum Trophies were won by Precious Aduwa-Emovan, Will Bull and Georgie Craik respectively, with the overall house cup going to Dragon.

TASS – The Abingdon School Society

The Abingdon School Society (TASS) is the parent body that supports the School's aim of educating boys in as full a sense as possible. It raises money to support Other Half activities. All parents are automatically members of TASS and the committee includes parents, and staff.

For further information on TASS activity visit www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass.

New members are always welcome; please contact Leila Beggin, TASS Secretary, tass@abingdon.org.uk.

Centre of Excellence

'Hugely impressive', 'it's been worth waiting for' and 'it knocks all other schools' sports facilities into a cocked hat' are just some of the comments made by members of the TASS Committee when they were given a sneak preview of the sports facility that will have its grand unveiling at Open Day on Saturday 4 October. With its sparkling 25 metre eight lane swimming pool boasting a beautiful curved 'wave' roof; its light and spacious weights and fitness gym with a panoramic view of the sports field and an ergo suite overlooking the pool (which gives the user the impression he is rowing over the water), it would be hard not to be impressed. What strikes you when you walk around the centre is the fact that it has been so well thought out and every attention has been paid to detail. The TASS committee which has, on your behalf, donated just over £10,000 of TASS funds for the purchase of cricket nets in the sports hall, came away feeling delighted that our sons will have the good fortune to benefit from such an outstanding facility.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Opening hours 12.15 to 1.15pm

Sat 06, 27 Sep	Weds 10 Sep
Sat 11 Oct	Weds 01, 15 Oct
Sat 08, 29 Nov	Weds 12 Nov
Sat 06 Dec	Weds 03 Dec

All that jazz!

TASS served strawberries and champagne at the *Jazz on a Summer's Evening* concert on 18 June. It was not quite as balmy an evening as we had hoped for but good fun was nonetheless had by all. The evening featured the best of Abingdon Jazz including the Big Band under Simon Currie's direction and group Funk Lore, from the Upper Sixth and the fifth year Jazz Quartet.



TASS – Tappins Travel Awards

Each year, TASS together with Tappins Coaches fund travel projects undertaken by boys leaving the Sixth form. Usually, the grants help towards gap year activities but we are happy to support a summer project of someone going straight to university. We look for adventure mixed with benefit both to the individual and to others. Application forms are available from the Headmaster's office and should be submitted by the end of April.



Jason Mann (above), who won an award in 2007, spent four months in Madagascar working with Oxford Brookes' University's Nocturnal Primate Research Group. A full report of his visit can be found at www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass and more information on his website www.madagascar07.co.uk



Children in the village of Andasibe, Madagascar

Dates for the Diary

Monday 15th September – 7.45pm for 8pm
TASS Committee meeting in the Christ's Hospital Room, Mercers Court.

Saturday 4 October – Open Day and the official opening of the new Abingdon School Sports Centre. TASS is looking for volunteers who can spare a couple of hours to help serve lunch and refreshments to current and prospective parents. If you would like to help contact tass@abingdon.org.uk.

Saturday 29 November – Quiz Evening, with supper, for parents and boys of Abingdon School. To mark the fact that TASS is celebrating its 40th Anniversary the evening will have a Sixties theme. There will be teams of 4-6 people but if you don't already have a team, we can put you in one. For more information please contact carol.thorn@ntlworld.com

Saturday 31 January 2009 – Burns Night – Abingdon's 10th Burns Night supper, to be held in the Guildhall, Abingdon, will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the poet's birth.

This is always a popular event and tickets are always in short supply.

For further information: www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass

Here comes Christmas!

A reminder for all those whose sons are budding artists that the deadline for the Christmas card competition is September 19th. A panel of judges, including the Headmaster, Mr Nairne and two members of the TASS committee, will decide the winning entry, which will attract the prize of £25.

www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass

An Invitation to the Opening of the Sports Centre

Put Saturday 4 October in your diary – not only is it Open Day but it is also ‘opening’ day for the new Sports Centre and you are warmly invited to attend. Following the ceremony the building will be open for tours allowing you to see these impressive new facilities for yourself.

Kate Hoey, Labour MP for Lambeth North and Minister for Sport 1999 to 2001, will perform the opening ceremony; Martin Keown, ex-England and Arsenal footballer, will inaugurate the Sports Hall, British swimmer Robin Brew the swimming pool, and British fencer Kate Allenby the Fencing Salon.

The opening ceremony will take place at 10 30 am



60 Years of Development

As we prepare to open our superb new Sports Centre, it is interesting to see just how much the School has grown over the past 60 years. The black and white photograph was taken in 1938 when there were 164 boys at the School – which, as the headmaster William Grundy reported to the Governors, was the highest number the School had ever reached.

Today there are 850 boys at the School, which now owns War Memorial Field at the top of the photograph and the four houses that can be seen in Park Crescent. There is an Arts Centre on what was once the Lacies Court orchard and classrooms on its tennis court, a science block on the School's vegetable garden and a teaching block on the site of the former council offices in Bath Street.



Sir James Cobban Bursary

Issue Number 1 of the Abingdon News, back in January 2003, announced that the first boy to hold a Sir James Cobban Bursary had joined the School in September 2001. Now, seven years later, the boy has left – to read Classics at university, which is something that would have pleased Sir James a great deal since that was his own subject.

The Sir James Cobban Bursary was initially established by a group of OAs of the 1960s in memory of their former headmaster who died in 1999.

In 2010 the School plan to celebrate the centenary of Sir James Cobban's birth on 14 September 1910 – further details will be announced nearer the time.



Out of the Past

And Finally

At last, after two editions of the *Abingdon News* have looked at the subject of boy-produced publications, the archives now have a copy of the first edition of *Organ*, sent to us by William Chislett, OA 1969. The magazine, published by a group of senior pupils from Abingdon's six secondary schools – both independent and state – achieved a certain amount of notoriety by being banned in all six schools, news of which was reported in the pages of the *Guardian*, the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Mail* on 6 December 1968.

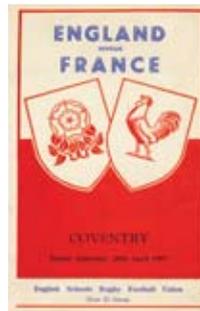


John Buckland – Schoolboy International

Among a number of items that have recently been lent to the archives is a scrapbook covering the rugby career of John Buckland, OA 1957.



John Buckland, captain of the 1956 1st XV



John, who captained the Abingdon 1st XV in 1956, was selected to play for the English Schools' Over 15 team against both France and Wales in April 1957. Whilst doing his National Service he represented RAF Innsworth and Home Command and later played for Gloucester. John died in 2002 but it is pleasing to be able to report that his grandson will be joining the School this September.

Who, What, When, Where?

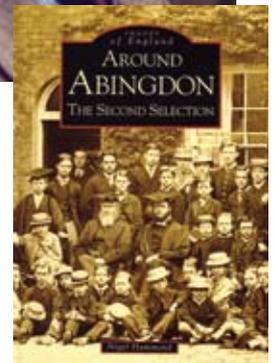
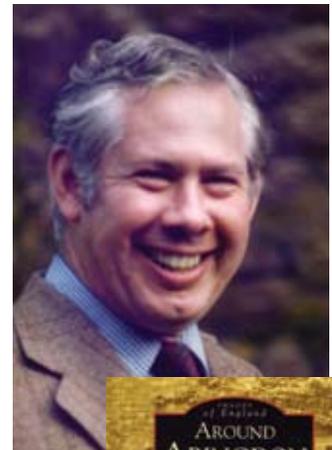
The only answer I can provide is to the question 'where' since this photograph was taken in what is now the Guildhall's Roysse Room but which used to be – from 1563 to 1870 – the schoolroom of the old grammar school. As to who, what and when I'm rather hoping that somebody out there will be able to enlighten me!

Sarah Wearne, Abingdon School Archivist
sarah.wearne@abingdon.org.uk



Nigel Hammond

It is not only his school friends and former pupils who will regret the passing of Nigel Hammond, who died after a short illness on 16 June, but everyone who loves the Vale of the White Horse and appreciates the research he did and the books he published on the history of the area. The titles speak of his interests and his love for the region: *Rural Life in the Vale of the White Horse*, *Golden Berkshire*, *Eight Men of Berkshire*, *The White Horse Country*, and two books of photographs, *Around Abingdon*, in the Images of England Series. The School itself is greatly indebted to him for his research on its history and in particular for the register he compiled of Old Abingdonians 1563-1947.



A memorial service for Nigel Hammond will be held in the School Chapel on Saturday 22 November at 11 am. If you would like to attend please contact the OA office – Tel: +44 (0)1235 849098 e-mail: oaclub@abingdon.org.uk

OA Open Day

After experimenting over the last three years with different dates for OA Open Day, Abingdon Alligators cricket, the President's Dinner and various reunions, it was very gratifying to see how well this event on 17 May 2008 successfully combined a social and sporting programme with record attendance. The date is here to stay, not least because it fits well into the School calendar with all the catering and logistical facilities available. A big vote of thanks is due to the Headmaster and the staff for their enthusiastic support and, of course, to Jan Glover, Alison Lester and Karen Davenport in the OA Office for the tremendous amount of organisation necessary to cajole and shepherd hundreds of OAs into some sort of order!

For those who could not attend, you missed a reception hosted by the Headmaster, the OA Club AGM, reunions, tours of the School, 'School lunch', a dramatic cricket match (Headmaster's XI v Abingdon Alligators), a marvellous afternoon at the boathouse in honour of Mike Martin superbly organised by Felicity Rutland and the best attended President's Dinner in living memory, Jonathan Gold (1988) presiding. So, make a note in your diaries to be at Abingdon next year on Saturday 16 May and if you want to organise a reunion or some artistic or sporting event on the day do not hesitate to contact the OA Office. Anyone for tennis?



The Abingdon Alligators with the Headmaster's XI



A 1960s OA VIII who row as the Sporting Club of South London

Sports Centre Opening

OAs are warmly invited to attend the opening of the new Sports Centre by Kate Hoey, Minister for Sport 1991-2001, on Saturday 4 October at 10.30 am. Let us know if you would like to come. There will, however, be plenty of opportunities to view the new development at future events.

City Lunch

The next City event will be a lunch on Friday 26 September 2008 – venue yet to be decided but it will be in the City/West End at a cost of around £30 per head. Please contact: Matthias.Bader@Hawkpoint.com if you are interested in attending.

'September Steam' 60s OA Event

Thursday 25 September 2008

There are a few tickets remaining for this year's OA 60s event. Enjoy a boat trip on the Thames with a jazz band followed by dinner at St John's College, Oxford. Contact Rodney Pitt (1961) - rodney.pitt@googlemail.com

Foundation OAs

OAs Sam Barton (2007) and Harry Moore (2007) have finished their gap year as teaching assistants at Abingdon Preparatory School. Sam and Harry, who are both 'Josca's' old boys having attended the Preparatory School themselves, are now off to university - Sam to the Royal Veterinary College, London and Harry to Exeter to read Biological Sciences.



Sam Barton



Harry Moore

OA Diary Dates 2008

Thursday 25 September 2008
'September Steam' 60s OA Event

Friday 26 September 2008
City Lunch

Saturday 22 November 2008
11 am – Memorial Service for Nigel Hammond

Saturday 16 May 2009
OA Open Day

Saturday 16 May 2009
OA Club AGM

Tuesday 12 May 2009
OA Golf Day, Frilford Heath

*For full details please see the OA Club website:
www.oaclub.org.uk.*

Please do contact us if you have any news or would simply like to get in touch:

*The OA Club,
Abingdon School,
Park Road, Abingdon
Oxon OX14 1DE*

*Tel: +44 (0) 1235 849098
e-mail: oaclub@abingdon.org.uk*

Old Abingdonians

Olympic OAs



Robin Bourne-Taylor, OA 1999 (right), represented Team GB in the men's pairs at the Beijing Olympics. With the Olympics over, Robin, a Second Lieutenant in the Life Guards, will return to his regiment, currently serving in Afghanistan.

David Tanner, OA 1966, performance director of British rowing, has been responsible for the most successful rowing squad in British Olympic history. The squad won two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.



David Champion, Astronomer

Dr David Champion, OA 1997, is the lead author of the paper *An Eccentric Binary Millisecond Pulsar in the Galactic Plane*, published recently in *Science*. The pulsar, J1903+0327, was discovered using the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico and challenges conventional pulsar evolution theory.

David, who read Physics and Astrophysics at Bristol, studied for his PhD at the Jodrell Bank Observatory. He is currently at the Australia Telescope National Facility working for the CSIRO on the Parkes Pulsar Timing Array project.



New Novel from Paul Vlitos

Every Day is Like Sunday by Paul Vlitos, OA 1997, published by Orion on 4 September, is a comic novel about the adventures of a young teacher in the mid-1990s. Paul, who read English at Bristol, spent three years at Tohoku University in Japan lecturing on English language and literature. He now lives and works in Edinburgh. Paul's first novel, *Welcome to the Working Week*, was published in 2007.



Burma Relief

Henning Goersch, OA 1994, of the University of Karlsruhe, was a member of the rapid deployment unit sent to Burma to assess the water supply by the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief in the aftermath of cyclone *Nargis*.



James Rose

James Rose, OA 2003, was the joint winner of this year's £5,000 TE Utley Memorial Prize for his essay on the set title: *Will the UK still be united in ten years time? And should it be?* James, who is reading International Relations at Southampton, received his award from Mrs Thatcher.



Strictly Come Dancesport

Oli Zeldin, OA 2005, and his partner Fran Barrow have been representing Oxford in the University Dancesport team during the past year. Oxford came first in the Intervarsity Dancesport Competition at Blackpool in March, but was beaten by Cambridge at the 35th Annual Varsity Match in May.



Photograph by Damian Halliwell