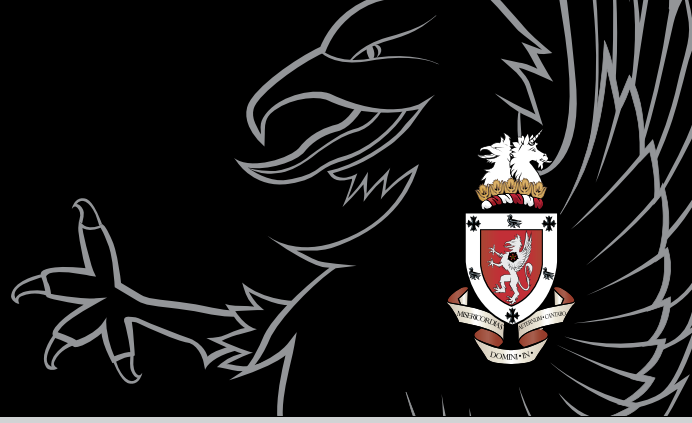


# AbingdonNews

The Newsletter of the Abingdon Foundation Schools



## SPORTS CENTRE OPENS



Kate Hoey MP, former Minister of Sport and an ex-PE teacher, opened the new Sports Centre on Open Day, Saturday 4 October, just two years after the first turf was turned by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. Miss Hoey was assisted by Martin Keown, the former England and Arsenal footballer, Kate Allenby, a World Champion and Olympic pentathlete who hopes to fence at the 2012 Olympics and Robin Brew, the former British Olympic

swimming captain – who inaugurated the sports hall, fencing room and swimming pool respectively. The Sports Centre, with its fitness suite, swimming pool, squash courts, fencing studio and sports hall is now in full use, spreading the idea of sport for all in the run up to 2012.

### New Chairman of Governors



(L – R) David Lillycrop, Mark Turner, Richard Dick

After six years as Chairman of the Governors, Richard Dick has resigned in anticipation of his appointment in April to the post of High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. In a letter to the parents he spoke of the record demand for places at the School, his appreciation for the high level of parental support that the School receives, and his confidence in the strong leadership of the Headmaster, Mark Turner. He announced that David Lillycrop, a Governor for the past ten years, will become the new Chairman. David, a former parent and a barrister, was until recently a director of Smiths Group PLC.



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## The New Sports Centre

*'Cool!' – 'Wicked!' – 'Wow!' ...*

The reaction of the boys on first entering the new Sports Centre spoke for itself – they were impressed, which is not surprising as not only are the facilities superb but it is also a very attractive building.



The first floor martial arts and fencing studio has five competitive pistes, a sprung floor, mirrors and wall bars, allowing it to be used as a performing arts studio.



On the first floor there is also a classroom and a hospitality area with a bar, a balcony overlooking Waste Court Field and a spectator viewing area into the sports hall, which has an Olympic quality Taraflex sports performance plus surface. It has space for four cricket nets and can be used for badminton, football, volleyball and basketball. The eight-lane infinity swimming pool has an innovative ceiling made of poplar wood with underlying acoustic panels to deaden noise and echo. The Sports Centre also boasts two squash courts, with a glass viewing wall, a fitness suite, an ergo suite and it is hoped that there will soon be a physiotherapy suite and a climbing wall.



## Sports Centre Window

Along the south wall of the Sports Centre's foyer is a floor-to-ceiling, six panel, coloured-glass window. A series of energetic, colourful, sporting figures are intertwined with the School's motto and the Latin phrase, *Ingredere ut Proficias*. The acid etched and sand blasted glass is the work of the architectural glass artist Martin Donlin.



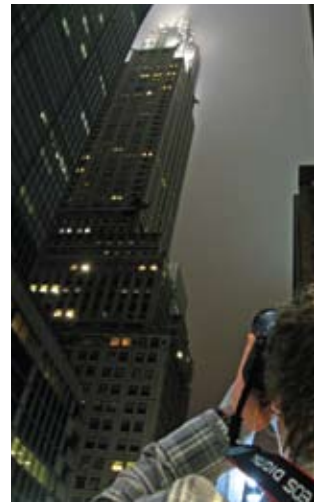


# Half Term in New York, Beijing, Athens

During the Michaelmas half term a party of forty-seven Classics student journeyed to Greece for a tour of some of the most important sites of the ancient world including the Acropolis, the Theatre of Dionysos, the Temple of Poseidon, the citadel of Mycenae and the site of the Battle of Marathon. After racing in the original Olympic stadium, a race which James Edwards won, Euan Campbell, Guy Cutting and Fergus McIntosh gave a short concert in the beautifully preserved theatre in Epidauros, which has the most wonderful acoustics.

Among the places visited by the party of Modern Languages students who went to China were the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Summer Palace and the Birds Nest Stadium. It would be hard to say what impressed them most. Among the things they learnt was that Chinese food bears no resemblance to the Chinese food we eat in the UK and nor does shopping where you are expected to barter.

The Art Department took a party of boys to New York to visit the Art Galleries and Museums there, which have the reputation for being the best in the world. They took in the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum, the Guggenheim, the Whitney and the New Museum as well as some of the smaller commercial galleries in the Chelsea area. They were impressed by everything they saw, including the site of Ground Zero, which despite the rebuilding in process is still a very sobering place.



## Sponsored Walk

The biennial sponsored walk from Donnington Bridge back to Abingdon on 18 September raised over £25,000 for charity. Tappins coaches once again donated their services to ferry more than eight hundred and fifty members of the School community to Donnington Bridge from where they walked back to Abingdon, pausing for a barbecue lunch at the Radley boathouse. The money will be divided between two Oxford charities, *Maggie's Cancer Care Centre* and *Helen and Douglas House*, *Asha*, a charity in Delhi that runs health and education centres in the slums, and *Agape*, the charity that the School supports in Moldova.



## Congratulations

Among so many boys to whom congratulations are due are Tim Middleton, OA 2008, who won a Royal Geographic Society award for the best A level Geography results in last summer's AQA exams; the Senior Maths Challenge team of Joshua Stedman, Alex Muir, Richard Slade and Ian Housley who were clear winners at the regional final; James Yan who won the senior section of the annual Oxford Diocesan Cranmer Reading Competition, and to James Jenkins and Zander Cornish-Moore who were runners up in their sections. In the Schools' Challenge at Radley on 2 December the Abingdon team beat Wycombe Abbey and Radley and will now enter the regional finals to be held in London in January.



Cranmer Reading Award

## House Singing Competition



There was the usual expectant hum about the School in the run up to the House Singing Competition on 22 October. Adjudicator Jon Cullen, Director of Music at Magdalen College School, was hard pressed to pick the winner but in the end chose Webb's rendition of American Pie. The School's Blues Society provided additional entertainment during the judging process.

## Songs From the Four Corners of the World



A new musical event was introduced last term when Carswell, St Nicolas and Long Furlong primary schools joined Abingdon First Years for a joint singing event. Each school performed a song from a different part of the world – Russia, Malaysia, Chile and Canada – and there were some communal numbers. The concert, designed to introduce young people to the joys of singing, was organised, rehearsed and conducted by Jenni Matthews.



Christmas Concert 2008

## Puccini Anniversary Twinning Concert

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Giacomo Puccini in Lucca, Abingdon's twin town in Italy, Upper Sixth-former Guy Cutting joined the *Lucchese Duo*, Silvana Froli and her accompanist husband Marco Tomei, for a concert in St Nicolas Church on 19 November. Guy impressed both professionals and audience alike who felt they were listening to a star of the future. The concert was organised and promoted by Abingdon Governor Michael Matthews.



## An Italian Straw Hat



The Senior Drama Group brightened the end of term with their production of Labiche's marvellously chaotic nineteenth-century farce, *An Italian Straw Hat*, expertly directed by Alison Quick. In the photograph, Fadinard (Stephen Hodgetts) apologizes to his fiancée (Olivia Powell) for yet more strange behaviour on his wedding day as he frantically tries to replace a straw hat eaten by his horse, and thereby save a young lady's reputation.

## Congratulations

On the Arts front, congratulations to David Mears (clarinet) and Nicholas Ereaut (double bass) who played in the National Youth Orchestra's Promenade Concert last summer – David also travelled to Rome to play with the National Children's Orchestra – George Bone (French horn), who played in the National Youth Wind Orchestra last year and has been selected again this year, and to Guy Cutting (tenor voice) for gaining his ATCL professional performance diploma with an impressive 94%. In the Abingdon Film Unit, James Yan has had two films accepted for national and international film festivals and Pierre Leveque's animation was nominated for an award at the Bradford Animation Festival.



## Rugby

There were some convincing displays of rugby last term. Despite the fact that there weren't as many victories as the teams would have liked there were some narrowly close games. The matches against St Paul's, the Oratory, MCS and Marlborough were among the 1st XV's victories, the 2nd XV took Radley to a 24-24 draw. The Senior Colts A had good wins against St Edward's and the Oratory. Possibly the School's strongest performances have been against MCS where the 1st XV won 39-3 and the Junior Colts As 66-0. All the sides have been playing attractive rugby and spectators have been lucky to witness some superb tries right across the age groups.



## Boat Club

The Boat Club took part in The Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia last October where the results were very impressive. The Lower-Sixth eight came second out of forty crews and the Upper-Sixth eight second out of thirty-seven. At the Head of the River Fours on the tideway in November, Abingdon won the Senior 3 coxed fours division, beating fifty-two other crews. There were good results all round in the Wallingford Eights and Fours Head with one of the senior coxed fours winning the J18 event outright.



## Congratulations to

Harry Wood of the Rifle Club, 2008 Junior Oxfordshire Champion and winner of the Class D trophy, who with James Boreham won the Markland Cup and also the C and D pairs class. Congratulations also to Michael Summers who reached the 100m semi-finals of the National Championships last summer and to Peter Barnshaw, a member of the

## Fencing



As a result of recent competition, William Fotherby is now ranked as Great Britain's Number 1 Under 17 fencer. William won a gold medal in the England team sabre event last summer despite being forced, as a result of injury, to fence with his left hand. In November he travelled to Dormagen in Germany as part of the GB U20 team. Thomas Chan was the silver medalist in the Southern Region finals and has consequently qualified for the British Youth Championships. In their first competition of the year, the Fencing Club had a resounding success against Bradfield College.

## Sailing



Over the summer, Abingdon sailors Nick Wilkinson, Rory Spriggs, Tom Altmann and Jonty Cook, with Sam Goodchild from Burford, won the RYA National Youth Championships and were invited to compete at the national championships in September and at the Governors Cup in California this July. Nick Wilkinson and Rory Spriggs have been selected for the prestigious Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme for 2008-2009, which will give them unparalleled access to among other things, specialist RYA keelboat training, coaching, grants and placements.

Oxfordshire Schools' Junior Boys Pentathlon team who won the 2008 English Schools Athletics Association Combined Events Championships. And, among the Boat Club's multiple successes, to Matthew Rossiter, who rowed in a GB men's U23 eight placed 5th at the World Championships in Brandenburg last summer, and Rory Copus, Felix Wood and Andy Hatzis whose respective crews were placed first at Coup de la Jeunesse events in Cork last summer.

## Abingdon Prep Takes to the Water



At half term a group of 109 boys and ten staff took part in a long weekend of water and land-based activities at Croft Farm, near Tewkesbury.

The most popular activities were sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and raft-building. Conditions were largely benign for the time of year, although Saturday was cold in and out of the water. This didn't stop the majority of boys, and staff, from taking every opportunity of getting even wetter than necessary. The boys took advantage of some good instruction and supervision to try out, or show off their aquatic skills.

Of the land-based activities, the climbing/abseiling was most popular. The evening activities proved entertaining for participating boys and watching staff alike. The challenge of 'laying eggs' and becoming 'group elephants' certainly led to some revealing traits in unexpected quarters!

## Rugby Round Up



One of the most notable features of this term's rugby has been our strength in depth. Looking beyond our successful 1st XV, the 2nd and 3rd XV's have recorded many very good results, and both sides have fielded increasingly keen and skilful players. All three Colts teams have found the going a little tougher, yet have all tried to play good quality rugby and all three teams have excelled in a number of games. Our U9s have worked hard for little reward, but the U8 tag sides have played out an unbeaten season.

## Wind Workshop

On a bright Monday morning in October, 11 of our musicians set out for a day of inspirational music-making at Radley College's annual Wind, Brass & Percussion Workshop. The day started with the instrumentalists working in their section groups, mixing together with pupils from four other prep schools. After a substantial lunch, all the players met in the Silk Hall for a full rehearsal with the event organiser and Head of Wind at Radley, Simon Carr. Parents were invited to afternoon tea and a concert, which show-cased the achievements of the day. Given the extremely limited amount of rehearsal time, this was an impressive standard. Each section was given the opportunity to perform as a group before they all came together for a grand finale of Sax to the Max and Swing Low Sweet Saints. The boys enjoyed themselves, worked very hard and ate well too!



## Pre-Prep Dine Out



The pre-prep department is always concerned with what's for lunch and this term they have had two opportunities to decide for themselves. The fruits of their summer labours were harvested in September, with an abundance of carrots which the children enjoyed during snack time. The star of the vegetable patch was a fantastic pumpkin, grown from last year's seeds. It managed to escape being carved up at Halloween and was turned into pumpkin soup!

The second culinary highlight was the Roman Feast with an abundance of fresh fruit, nuts, olives, chicken legs and bread for the Romans to enjoy. Roman soldiers, emperors and some ladies (dressed in togas) attended the event and there was plenty of entertainment in the form of music and games where children had a chance to learn Roman numerals.

## Toddle Waddle



Thursday 9 October saw the younger pupils at Abingdon Preparatory School line up for the annual Toddle Waddle to raise money for the Meningitis Trust. 51 pupils aged between 4 and 7 took part in the sponsored walk, which involved laps of the School's sports fields at Frilford. The children were delighted to be joined by the Trust's, Monty the Duck and they raised over £1,000 from the walk.



## Having Fun with Science



On Saturday 8 November about 150 Abingdon Prep pupils, their siblings and parents came to the Prep School to take part in a fun-filled science morning. Activities were run by the Year 8 boys who manned their stations with great enthusiasm and competence. Experiments ranged from bouncing custard balls, making slime, mystery metals, painting with red cabbage, ice candles to fun with colour. There were problems to solve, such as the marble maze where an obstacle course was designed to slow down a rolling marble, and making plasticine boats to float with as many weights as possible. The highlight of the morning was a science show extravaganza given by Abingdon Senior School scientists, Dr Jamie Older and Dr Peter Willis whose demonstrations of chemical reactions produced a lot of big bangs – a very popular finale to the event!

## Year 3 on Manoeuvres



On one of the few dry, sunny mornings in September, Year 3's World War II topic came to life, when they received orders from Brigade to secure the pillboxes in Marcham. A and J Companies were reinforced with an impressive number of Support Platoon volunteers (a.k.a. parents). Meeting very little resistance – the enemy was nowhere to be seen – the objective was soon within our sights. The Battalion Commander, somewhat intimidated by the size of the stinging nettles, hung back to take essential reconnaissance photographs. Undaunted, a volunteer, wearing long trousers, broke ranks and led the assault on the nettles, which soon surrendered. With the doorway in view and the smell of adventure in their nostrils, the Battalion stormed the pillbox in orderly groups of six. After breaking the code (which bore a strong resemblance to the bus driver's mobile number), the retreat was sounded and the Battalion made a tactical withdrawal to brigade transport. The General Staff, the Umpires and Battalion officers thanked the troops for being such a well-disciplined and fearless force.

## Ridgeway Ramblings



On 12 September, Year 4 from Abingdon Prep School set off on a demanding and gruelling challenge. We were about to tackle an 11 mile walk along the oldest road in Britain, the Ridgeway. I was feeling very excited and cheerful.

We set off from Ilsley at about 2pm and only 5 minutes in, it started pouring and we took shelter under some trees. We were shown Scutchamer's Knob, a burial mound for a Saxon King. We marched 5 ½ miles and at last reached the warm, welcoming youth hostel, overlooking Wantage, where we were to stay the night.

Firstly, and most importantly, we ordered our dinner. After that we made our beds (with varying degrees of difficulty) and Stefan, the teacher in charge, took us outside into a vast, tall wood to play for an hour. Then we went back into the youth hostel, took our shoes off and had dinner. I had pizza. Having finished our supper, we went outside for a spooky stroll in the pitch black woods. We went to bed at 9pm.

I woke up at 6am so I read my book for a while. We all had breakfast and then scurried to the woods to play a massive game of hide and seek. We left the hostel at 9am with 5 ½ miles ahead of us. On the way we stopped to have a small snack. In the end, after 3 hours of hobbling, we reached White Horse Hill. There were dozens of parents waiting, watching as we slowly, wearily scrambled up the hill.

I was feeling extremely tired but I would certainly recommend this walk to anyone. I was very happy to have completed the challenge, as were my friends! Year 4 showed great determination and team work, as articulated by James Messenger, "During the Ridgeway trip I persevered when my feet were exhausted and one mile felt like a year. I persevered because I knew that if everyone else could complete the challenge, so could I."

Ben Hutchison, Year 4

# TASS – The Abingdon School Society



1988 – Shahid Malik, escapologist

## Third Year Parents' Contact List

At a Third Year Social Evening on 26 September, parents were asked if they would like to give their contact details to a House Rep, who would draw up, maintain and update a contact list that could be informally circulated among them, enabling parents to make contact with each other should the need or want ever arise.

This is an initiative by the parents for the parents and if it is felt to have been successful, we will do it again next September with the new Third Year parents.

If you are a current Third Year parent TASS would welcome your feedback on how this system is working – [tass@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:tass@abingdon.org.uk)

## Want to help?

The TASS committee meetings are where the decisions are made. If you would like to become a member contact TASS Secretary, Leila Beggin at [tass@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:tass@abingdon.org.uk).

You can find out more about TASS on the School website: [www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass)

## Forty Years of TASS



1978 – Michael St John Parker behind the megaphone

Forty years ago last January almost 400 people attended the inaugural meeting of the Abingdon School Society. Making merry with a cask of anonymously donated sherry, they elected The Right Revd the Lord Bishop of Durham, Dr Ian Ramsay, as president and the Headmaster, James Cobban, as vice-president of the Society whose aim was to bring together all those who had the interests of the School at heart – Governors, staff, parents, old boys and friends – and provide them with the means of supporting it.

In those days it was known by the acronym ASS, Cobban reporting proudly that they had much to bray about. And they did, those early years are full of reports of Wine and Cheese parties, croquet matches, concerts, the provision of refreshments at OA cricket matches and at new-boy receptions. But the main purpose of the Society was fund-raising and as a result of 1968's Easter Fayre, £340 was raised towards the purchase of a mini-bus. However, by the end of the first year the Society had decided not to be known as ASS but as TASS and despite sharing these initials with what was in those days the far better known, news gathering agency of the USSR, the name has stuck. Twenty years later and what was now known as the TASS Fête was still going strong, employing the UK's top escapologist, Shahid Malik, to help them raise £4,000 towards an annual total of £10,000, which went towards the cost of building all-weather tennis courts. Malik wowed the crowds by escaping from a straightjacket whilst suspended from a crane by his feet 25 metres above the ground. Twenty years later and TASS is still raising money, in particular in support of Other Half activities so that the School can continue to fulfil its mission of educating boys in as full a sense of the word as is possible.

## TASS Presentation



Headmaster Mark Turner and the Director of Sport, Andrew Hall, receive a cheque for £10,000 from John Howe, Co-Chair of TASS, for the purchase of cricket equipment for the School's new Sports Centre. John and his fellow Co-Chair, Carol Thorn, who is also Treasurer of TASS, will both be retiring at the end of this year after seven years on the committee. We should like to thank them very much for all that they have done.

## Second Hand Uniform Shop

Opening hours 12.15 to 1.15pm

Sat 10, 31 Jan	Weds 14 Jan
Sat 28 Feb	Weds 04, Feb
Sat 14, 21 Mar	Weds 04, 18 Mar

## Ticket to Ride

As a result of its fund-raising activities TASS is able to assist a number of boys each year who elect to undertake community work, often overseas, during their gap years.

This year's recipients of the TASS Travel Awards were:

Simon Edwards £200  
 Thomas Clee £100  
 Oliver Cook £200  
 Gus Raftery £200  
 Jonathan Bayfield £100  
 James Hawkes £100  
 Rhys Cadman £100  
 Tom Metcalf £100

The Paul Tappins Memorial Awards went to Thomas Clee £500 and Jonathan Bayfield £500

Applications for 2009 should be sent to the Upper Master by 30 April 2009.

## Date for the Diary

Friday 6 March

Parents' Quiz Evening

For further information:

[www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass)

[www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass)



## Annual Fund

The annual fund 2007 – 2008 raised a magnificent £84,384 in cash with pledges of a further £81,781 to be donated over forthcoming years. This has allowed the School to provide equipment and resources for a wide variety of subject areas with the Sports Centre benefiting from a large portion of the funds raised.

In times of economic uncertainty, it is even more important for the School to raise funds if it is to continue to provide the best possible resources for both current and future boys. The Governing Body are determined to ensure continued financial stability and this will require prudence in the immediate future. The annual fund, and other fundraising initiatives, will play a vital role in ensuring that we can provide the facilities and equipment which will make a very real difference in securing and enhancing Abingdon's future.



## Sports Centre Reception

A reception to mark the opening of the Sports Centre was held on Friday 3 October. Among the invited guests were OA sportsmen of the recent and distant past as epitomised by the presence of Derek Slingsby, OA 1944, and his son John, OA 1978, together with donors, members of the Governing Body and contractors and suppliers who have been involved in the building. Speeches were made by Richard Dick, Chairman of the Governing Body and Mark Turner, Headmaster, who congratulated all those involved in the planning, design and building processes and thanked all those who had generously contributed to the Sports Centre equipment through the annual fund.



## The Nigel Hammond Bequest



Nigel Hammond, OA 1957, was not only an Old Abingdonian but also a former member of Common Room and Abingdon School was very close to his heart. He always wanted to help the sort of boy that he himself had been – a bright boy from a modest background – and it is to this end that he has left the bulk of his estate to the School. This magnificent bequest of some £600,000, to create an endowment fund for bursaries, will ensure that many boys will benefit from his generosity in the future.

At a memorial service held for Nigel in the School Chapel on Saturday 22 November both Richard Dick and David Lillycrop, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Governing Body were present, the Headmaster read the lesson and moving tributes were paid by Sarah Wearne, the School's Archivist; Martin Iredale, OA 1956, friend and fellow member of the John Roysse Lodge; David Barrett, OA 1944, cousin and former Governor, and Nigel Payne, former Common Room colleague.

Abingdon's socially inclusive policy has been made possible over many years by munificent bequests from men like John Roysse, William Bennett and Thomas Tesdale and this tradition will continue not just due to Nigel's legacy but also to the generosity of many donors who have contributed to bursaries through the School's annual fund. An additional £14,000 was raised in this way during the last academic year and this has nearly been matched already during the Michaelmas term.



## Sixty Years of Drama



It was John Griffin (Common Room photo, front row right) who began the Abingdon School Drama Society back in 1948 with *Julius Caesar*, the School's first full dramatic production. The School did not have a theatre, only a temporary stage, which could be erected in the gym for the annual Rag Concerts. John Griffin hired the Corn Exchange (now demolished) in the centre of Abingdon where the stage was small and sloped precipitously. Productions moved to the Abbey Hall in 1966 but in 1980, with the building of the Amey Theatre, Nigel Brown's production of the musical *Dracula Spectacular* could be performed in all its glory on the School's own premises.

The photograph shows John Griffin's 1957 production of *HMS Pinafore* in the Corn Exchange – with many thanks to Mrs Diana Griffin.

## Common Room Reunion

Among the more than fifty former members of Common Room who attended the reunion on 22 November (see page 11) were eight whose faces can be seen in this 1963 photograph – their names are highlighted in bold



L – R

Back row: ?, George Pratt, Tom Fairhead, **Chris Owen**, John Tyson, Keith Murray, ?, Allan Tammadge, Barry Montague, ?, ?

Front row: Ron Coleman, Stuart Parker, Mervyn Gray, Roger Hoyle, Don Willis, James Cobban, JB Alston, George Duxbury, Tom Moore, Freddie Sewry, John Griffin

## Who, What, When, Where – the Answers!

Thank you to everyone who responded to my request to know something about the photograph of the band in the last edition of *Abingdon News*. It didn't take me long to find out that they were called *The Zodiacs* and that the members were, from the left, Paul Williams, Peter Clark, Roger Spencer, Roger Limerick and Martyn Holloway.



The Scorpions

After going their separate ways, some of the band have reformed together with members of *The Scorpions*, another 1960's School band, to form *The Zodiions*, a 60's cover band who are available for hire!

## Historic Book Collection

Rodney Pitt OA 1961 – seen in his splendid Abingdon School boater, sports' sweater and OA cravat at the *September Steam* event – has recently sourced and donated several items to the School's historic book collection. Among them is a 1623 edition of headmaster Thomas Godwyn's *Romanae Historiae*, first published in 1614 'for use of Abingdon School'; a copy of *Universal Biography*, the 1808 scholastic work of headmaster John Lemprière, and *Peter Priggins*, published in 1841, the best-known novel of another headmaster, Joseph Hewlett. Rodney says that he was never a fan of history whilst at School but that he is now fascinated by it. The School is very grateful to him for the direction this late-flowering interest has taken.





## 60's Reunion – September Steam



On 25 September 2008, sixty-five Old Abingdonians and their partners took a return trip from Oxford to Abingdon on one of Salters' traditional river steamers, with lunch enjoyed to the sounds of a New Orleans' style jazz band.

The party was joined at Sandford Lock by Jan Glover (Development Director) and Alison Lester (OA Administrator) who had cycled from School to take the opportunity to mingle with OAs from the 1960s.

On our return to Oxford, we adjourned to St John's College to enjoy the splendid hospitality in the form of dinner provided through OA Prof John Kelly (1961). It was voted a most enjoyable day and the boat trip provided a unique opportunity for much longer discussions with more people than is the case with simply a dinner. Thanks to everyone for their support and I appreciated the privilege of organising this annual reunion!

Rodney Pitt (1961)

## Griffen Rugby Sevens Tournament



This year's tournament will be held on Sunday 15 March 2009 at Abingdon School.

Last year's victorious OA team – featuring a combination of OAs and members of MCR – will be defending their champion's title. If you are interested in playing, or entering a team of OAs, please apply using the entry form available on the OA Club Website.

## Common Room Reunion

Abingdon welcomed back former members of staff to a lunch on Saturday 22 November 2008. Among the 87 guests attending were: Tom Ayling, Roger Baker, Chris and Bridget Biggs, John Bird, John Blagden, Martin Blocksidge, David Brodie, Frank and Shirley Burrow, Ray Butt, John Clare, Brenda Coleman, Gerald Cooper, Michael Dillon, Vicky Evans, Rick and Angela Finch, Gervald Frykman, Andrew Gasson, Diana Griffin, Keith and Audrey Hasnip, Keith Holloway, John Horrex, Rory Jackson, Tim King, James Millard, Chris Owen, Charles Parker, Nigel Payne, Gerald and Annette Phizackerley, Bill and Angela Potter, Phil Richardson, Julia Richards, Paul Simpson, Russell Slatford, Anne Smithson, Kris Spencer, Sean Spratling, Pat Stockwell, David and Janet Taylor, Edward Towne, John Tyson, Mike Vallance, John Varley, Evelyn Watson, Steven White, Brian Williams, Martin Woodgett, Brian Woolnough, Hubert Zawadzki, Jane Egerton-King and Charlotte Whalen.



## OA Open Day 2009

Saturday 16 May 2009

All OAs are invited to visit School either just to meet up with old friends or to take part in a variety of activities that will be on offer. The new Sports Centre will be open for both viewing and, we hope, for families to enjoy. Full details will follow soon.

## Website

We are in the process of updating the OA Club website. During 2009 it will be possible to log on more easily, to amend your details and to book events. We also hope to introduce a career networking facility. Please do keep visiting the site to find out more about the Club and its activities and to keep in touch with the School and its progress. [www.oaclub.org.uk](http://www.oaclub.org.uk).

## Happy New Year from the OA Club Committee

Chairman	John Bunce (1962)
President	Jonathan Gold (1988)
Past President	David Brice (1961)
Treasurer	Richard Stone (1992)
Headmaster	Mark Turner

### Elected Members

David Allison (1993)
Richard Bampton (1961)
Noel Crosse (1972)
Ian Fishpool (MCR)
Simon Hills (1976)
Terence Libby (1961)
Mike Litchfield (1994 and MCR)

### Co-opted Member

Jan Glover (Development Director)

### Ex-officio Members

Heads of School

The Committee welcomes suggestions from any OAs for future activities so please do get in touch if you have ideas.

## Professional Development Awards

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the OA Club Professional Development Awards:

William Unsworth (1995)  
– £500 to part fund a PGCE

Tom Reid (2005) – £300 towards an art foundation course, Camberwell

Matthew Thomas (1998) – £300 towards an MSc in environmental assessment

Luke Williamson (2004) – £150 towards a medical elective, Brisbane

Applications for Professional Development Awards are considered annually and further information can be found on the OA Website.

## OA Diary Dates 2009

Tuesday 12 May 2009  
OA Golf Day, Frilford Heath

Saturday 16 May 2009  
OA Open Day

Saturday 16 May 2009  
OA Club AGM

There will also be programme of reunions during the year.

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# Old Abingdonians

## Hugh Lunghi

Hugh Lunghi OA 1939, who among other wartime exploits interpreted for Winston Churchill at the Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences, gave one of the 2008-2009 Churchill Lectures on 21 October in the Cabinet War Rooms. He spoke of his memories of The Big Three: Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt – of his surprise at how very small Stalin was, and how badly dressed, of Roosevelt's attempts to belittle Britain and Churchill, and of his admiration for the vision, courage and energy of the British prime minister who was voted out of office during the Potsdam conference.



### The Churchill Lecture Series at the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms

October 2008 - May 2009



## Dan Evans



Dan Evans, OA 1997, in competition with one hundred and seventy other guides from all over the world, won a silver medal in the prestigious Paul Morrison Guide Awards sponsored by *Wanderlust* magazine. The judges praised Dan, who works for Art History Abroad, for his inspirational approach and infectious enthusiasm. Dan, who says

that he loves every aspect of his job, considers that the award is a triumph for art history rather than for himself. He plans to use the £3,000 prize money as the foundation of a scholarship scheme for disadvantaged students. Dan will be speaking to the Roysse Society on Friday 16 January – all welcome.

## Martin Burton



Interviewed by Olivia O'Leary on Radio 4's *Between Ourselves* last August, Martin Burton, OA 1972, spoke of how his interest in all forms of performance led him to become the founder-owner of Britain's largest touring circus, *Zippo's*.

After Abingdon, Martin went to drama school and became interested in street theatre. He spent five years travelling and performing in a variety of venues before deciding that it would be much easier to buy his own big top. *Zippo's* does a lot of work within Greater London and here Martin says that his animals – four huge horses, several ponies and twelve budgerigars – play a vital role in bringing children close to the sight, sound and smell of animals. In 1992, Martin founded The Academy of Circus Arts, Europe's only travelling circus school and one of his fellow directors is Hugh Leach, OA 1953, who once had his own circus.



## Foals



2008 was a vintage year for *Foals*, the Oxford-based band that boasts 2002 OAs Walter Gervers and Jimmy Smith among its members. They released their debut album, *Antidotes*, on 24 March and new singles *Cassius*, *Red Socks*, *Pugie* and *Olympic Airways*, in March, June and October. Having played at Glastonbury and Reading last year, their next big concert is at Olympia on 11 and 12 April where they will be playing with *Bloc Party* – tickets are going fast!