



HAIL AND FAREWELL!

A new era has dawned – Abingdon School has its first female Head, Felicity Lusk, who is not just the first woman to lead the School during its centuries-long history but also the first woman in the UK to head a major all-boys boarding public school. Felicity Lusk, a New Zealander, has been Headmistress of Oxford High School for Girls for the past thirteen years. She takes over from Mark Turner who, after eight and a half years at Abingdon, has taken up his new appointment as Headmaster of Shrewsbury. We wish them both well in their new appointments – hail and farewell! ■

Star Results

Congratulations to all last summer's exam candidates: at A level an impressive 70% of results were at A or A*, the latter a new grade introduced this year to stretch the brightest candidates, 24% were at A* itself whilst two boys, Joe Mason and Richard Moon, achieved A* in all five of their subjects. At GCSE for the third year running almost 80% of all grades were at A and A* with four boys, Edward O'Brien, Christian Reedman, Thomas Salt and Sarab Sethi gaining eleven A* grades each. These exam results are all the more impressive in that Abingdon boys participate at the highest level in a multiplicity of 'Other Half' activities in addition to their academic studies. ■



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Meet the Head

Felicity Lusk is looking forward to meeting past, present and future members of the Abingdon community.

Current parents and prospective parents will have an opportunity to meet her at a variety of events during the Michaelmas term.

Current parents are invited to a Head's Reception, arranged by year groups, which will be held throughout September on the following dates:

1st Years:	Monday 6 September, 3.45-4.30 pm Lacies Court Garden – Tea
2nd & 3rd Years:	Wednesday 8 September, 6.30-8.00 pm Sports Centre Hospitality Suite – Drinks and canapés
4th & 5th Years:	Wednesday 15 September, 6.30-8.00 pm Sports Centre Hospitality Suite – Drinks and canapés
Sixth Form:	Monday 13 September, 6.30-8.00 pm Sports Centre Hospitality Suite – Drinks and canapés
Lower Sixth boarders:	Sunday 5 September, 4.00-5.00 pm Lacies Court Garden – Tea

Prospective parents are invited to a variety of events ranging from coffee mornings, which need to be booked via our website, to the annual open day on Saturday 2 October.

Prospective parents should visit our website www.abingdon.org.uk/visit_abingdon for further details about visiting Abingdon and booking an event.



Felicity Lusk

Born and educated in New Zealand, Felicity Lusk attended Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, an all-girls school in Wellington, after which she read Music at Victoria University of Wellington. She was Director of Music at Wellington East Girls' College and at Aotea College, a co-educational state secondary school, before coming to England in 1990 as Director of Music at Hasmore High School, another co-educational state secondary school this time in north London. After three years she was appointed deputy head before becoming Headmistress of Oxford High in 1997. ■

Portrait of an Artist



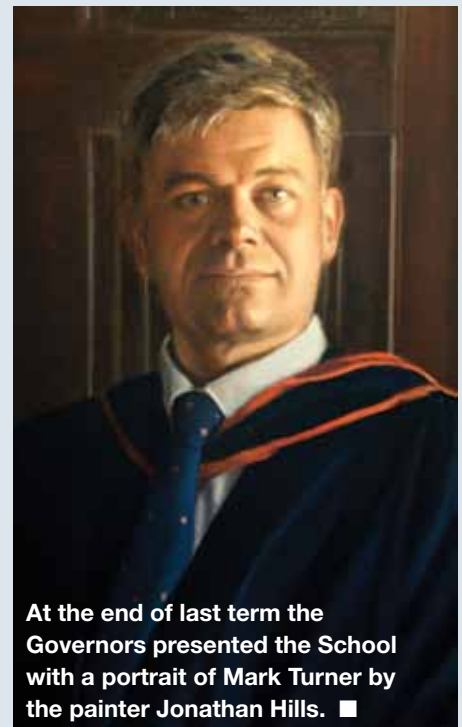
Jonathan Hills, who painted the portraits of both Mark Turner and Michael St John Parker, was educated at Winchester College and Queens' College Cambridge where he read Art History and decided that his interest was in making pictures not in talking about them.

By what he describes as "a piece of unforgiveable deceit", Jonathan was introduced to Graham Chapman of Monty Python fame as, "one of Europe's leading canine artists" and was awarded the commission to draw Graham's beloved terrier. Graham quite liked the portrait of the dog but was more impressed by the portrait that Jonathan had surreptitiously painted of Graham himself. From then on he found himself designing posters, illustrating books and painting anyone who would sit still.

Now married and living in Kent Jonathan admits that while he still may not be 'one of Europe's leading canine artists' his portraits have been seen at the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibitions and at the Royal Society of Portrait Artists.

Jonathan says that it was a huge treat to be asked to paint a second Abingdon headmaster, especially as Mark was so charismatic and approachable. ■

Portrait of a Headmaster



At the end of last term the Governors presented the School with a portrait of Mark Turner by the painter Jonathan Hills. ■

More Goodbyes at the end of last term...



Alun Watkins, who has been Deputy Head Pastoral since 2005, has left to take up a new appointment as Headmaster of Victoria College, Jersey. Alun arrived at Abingdon in September 1989 as a Biology teacher and the master-in-charge of rugby. ■



Will Phelps came to Abingdon in 1992 to teach Religious Studies. Since 2001 he has been housemaster of Phelps' House, Waste Court. He goes to be Headmaster of the British International School, New York, charged with the responsibility for its development and expansion. ■

Governor Profile: Tanya Hawley

Tanya joined the Governing Body in 2007 nominated by the Mercers' Company of which she is a member as was John Roysse, one of Abingdon's most significant benefactors.

She is chairman of the Staff Committee and a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. She has special responsibility for Child Protection matters to the Governing Body.

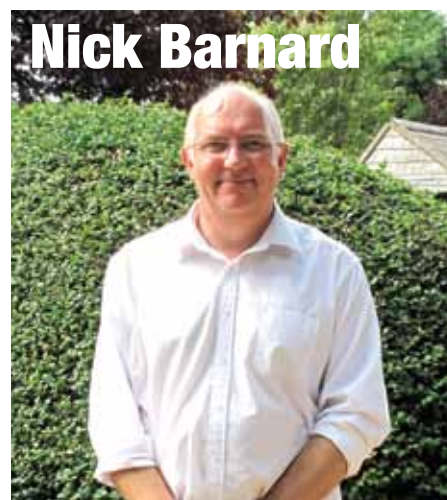
Tanya was brought up in a boys' boarding school where her father was headmaster. After Cambridge and L.S.E., she trained as a social worker in Birmingham. She started work as a probation officer in north London. Later she joined Social Services in Surrey and, finally, worked in Education Welfare in Reading.



In retirement she has been a board member for three different regions of a major housing trust focusing on community development and turning round failing housing associations. She is a Trustee of the Friends of Dorchester Abbey.

Her particular concerns are 'the average boys' at Abingdon. She believes that they should find their feet, have the opportunity to excel at something special, work hard, enjoy themselves and leave well prepared for life after school. She is also interested in the provision for the boarders, some of whom are a long way from home.

Tanya's main leisure interest is singing as a back row alto in local choirs so she is delighted by the widespread excellence of music at Abingdon. She travels the world with the International Law Association started by her husband and supports her scientist daughter and her three lovely little grandchildren. ■



Nick Barnard, the Estate Manager (Buildings), has worked at Abingdon for 23 years starting as a carpenter/joiner. He remembers the School in 1987 as a very different place with the boarding facilities in particular being pretty basic – School House had long open dormitories with a single open bath at one end. It was his responsibility to plan and institute the necessary improvements and he designed and manufactured the original cabin beds, which, with a few modifications, are still in use today.

Technology has transformed the job over the years, in particular the Building Management System, which makes it possible to monitor the whole site from a single location. He enjoys showing this to Third-formers as part of an Other Half activity designed to increase their awareness of energy usage and conservation.

Nick Barnard grew up in Wantage and was educated at King Alfred's Grammar School. After a four-year apprenticeship at Harwell he worked there for a further six years before joining Abingdon. He is married with two daughters who were both baptised in the School Chapel. His wife, Jane, is a HLTA at Larkmead School responsible for KS4 Foundation Learning.

Formally a Parent Governor and now a Community Governor at Fitzharry's School, Nick has been involved in the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme locally. He has found the Governor role fascinating and says that although he joined hoping to be able to offer some of his expertise to Fitzharry's he has also learnt a great deal, especially the complexities of Local Authority funding! ■

Helping to Build the Nations



The Abingdon South Africa Partnership, which operates under the aegis of the charity *Build the Nations*, provides the means whereby pupils from the developed world can contribute to projects designed to help develop communities in South Africa. Over the summer holidays, seven Abingdon sixth-formers spent three and a half weeks in Venda, Limpopo

Province where they were hosted by the *Shayandima School of Tomorrow*. The group helped to build a school playground and mend a village well and worked as classroom assistants as well as on outreach projects. The group had raised £2,000 over the past school year to help fund all these projects. ■

Shadowing the Carnegie



Every year the Chartered Institute of Librarians award the Carnegie Medal to the writer of, in their view, the most outstanding book for children, and every year schools all over the country shadow the award. At Abingdon, teams of eight readers from each of the towns six secondary schools read their way through the short list before meeting up to decide which book they think should win the medal. This year the Librarians chose Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book*; the Abingdon schools chose Laurie Anderson's *Chains*. ■

CCF Impresses Inspectors



After the CCF biennial inspection parade on 5 May, the reviewing officer, Colonel Newman, congratulated the 100-strong contingent on the high standard of their turnout. The training, motivation, organization and skills of the RAF and Army sections impressed the inspecting officers, who commented on the evident dedication and enthusiasm of both staff and boys. ■

Hands-on-Maths



The Hands-on-Maths Roadshow visited Abingdon on 22 April. It introduced the younger boys to the idea that maths involves imaginative and creative thought as well as logical and deductive argument and above all to the fact that maths is fun! ■

Summer Camp in Moldova



Just after the end of term a group of sixth-formers accompanied twenty Moldovan children across the border into Romania for a summer camp at Lacu Rosu in the Carpathian Mountains organized by the charity Agape. Here amidst the spectacular scenery the group boated, walked and played sport and the Abingdon boys taught English and gave guitar and recorder lessons. ■

Abingdon Challenges

Abingdon had ten competitors in the county stage of the UK Chess Challenge, the Megafinal, five of who went on to the next stage, the Gigafinal. Of these five, Richard Slade won the boys U18, Jeffrey Yu the Boys U16 and Omri Faraggi the Boys U15.

After the Intermediate Maths Challenge, eight boys were invited to take part in the Intermediate Maths Olympiad where Tom Salt won a gold medal, coming 11th overall, and Bernard Ng a bronze.

Having lost to Winchester in the opening round of the Schools' Challenge General Knowledge Competition, Abingdon went on to defeat Bury Grammar School 860 points to 490 in the final of the plate competition. ■

International Chemist



Abingdon boys maintained their track record in Chemistry competitions when they won four gold medals in the BA CREST awards and four gold and three silver medals in the first round of the International Chemistry Olympiad. After two fiercely competitive rounds, Josh Stedman was selected from nearly 2,500 of his fellow competitors for the four-person team to represent the UK at the 42nd International Chemistry Olympiad held in Japan in July – the third successive year an Abingdon boy has been in the UK team – where he won a silver medal with a score of 80.4. ■

Election at Abingdon



Whilst the country sent mixed messages to its leaders at the General Election on 6 May, Abingdon voted decisively for the Monster Raving Loony Party. On 23 April, the leaders of the seven parties were invited to address the voters in the Charles Maude Room after which they faced close questions from the floor on their various policies. On the day of the election there was an impressive 64% turnout. Each House voted separately and the results were: seven for the Monster Raving Loony Party, three for the Conservatives and one for UKIP. ■

Highlights from a Musical Term



It was a gala evening at the Sheldonian Theatre on 25 June when the end-of-year concert was combined with a farewell to Mark Turner. There were so many wonderful performances from soloists and ensembles alike culminating in Adrian Lo's powerful rendition of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, which earned him a standing ovation. ■



Evidence that Lower School is bursting with musical talent was displayed at the Lower School Concert on 5 July with exciting performances from among many others the African Drum Circle, the brass quartet who played an original arrangement of *What Shall We Do With a Drunken Sailor*, Leon Wu who impressed with his accomplished performance of Debussy's *Clair de Lune* and Bruno Rogers who brought the house down with his one-man-band of voice, ukulele and mouth organ performing Noah and the Whale's *Sun, Sun, Sun*. ■



Abingdon's Big Band Jazz Festival drew in musicians from Abingdon Preparatory School and The Manor together with professional jazz musicians from Oxford and London. The evening was a delight for the audience as well as a wonderful education for the young players who performed with the professional bands like *Big Colours Big Band* and the *Tom Richards Orchestra*. ■

Dr Faustus

Abingdon's first drama scholar Joe Westcott made an impressive appearance in the title role of Christopher Marlowe's *The Tragical History of Dr Faustus*. The ambitious choice of this sixteenth-century play was more than justified by the performances of the actors who came from both Abingdon and St Helen's. The box set and 'studio on stage' format gave the production an added intensity for the audience, whose experience was further intensified by the ingenious stage effects. The play was originally meant to have been performed last January but heavy snow meant it had to be cancelled. ■

Annual Summer Exhibition



Thursday 27 May saw the opening of the annual exhibition of Art, Design and Technology. The work on view ranged from the drawing and painting of conventional subjects to conceptual sculptures, while the design section included contemporary furniture and sports equipment. Prominent amongst the Upper Sixth A level work were architectural themes since five pupils are going onto read Architecture at University. ■

AFU Reunion Dinner

The first AFU reunion dinner was held in the Dining Hall on the evening of 14 May. The dinner celebrated seven years of the Unit's existence and the making of almost 100 films. Among the distinguished guests were documentary maker Michael Grigsby, OA 1955, the original inspiration for the Unit; Cannes *Palme d'Or*-winning animator and cartoonist Geoff Dunbar, and the head of Sky News, John Ryley.

A week later, eleven new films – six documentaries and five animations – were shown at the annual AFU screenings on 21 May. Among the documentaries were James Yan's *Living It*, which touched on the controversial subject of AIDS in China, and Matthew Copson, Tom Bateman and Will McDowell's *One Foot on the Ground*. The film, about a young Moldovan's dreams of being a basketball player, had been premiered in March at the NFT.

The 2009 AFU documentary, *The Sacrifice*, has won an award at the Think



Stepping Out

The Abingdon Dance project was launched in style on Sunday 9 May with a programme of original choreography by professional actor and dancer Matthew Hawksworth OA 2000. The dance numbers were performed by about twenty senior pupils from Abingdon and St Helen's who shared the stage with a troupe of professional dancers from London. ■

Artist-in-Residence

Abingdon's first artist-in-residence, Steven MacIver, is an award-winning painter whose most recent exhibition, *Latitude*, involved him in circumnavigating the world in order to gather material. He joined the School in June and plans to produce a body of work over the summer, which he will show in September. The project has been funded by the Abingdon Foundation Development Fund. ■



Festival in Hong Kong. The film, made by Hong Kong residents Simon Lam and Matthew Choi together with Will Abell, highlights the sacrifices in terms of friends and family that boys from Hong Kong

make when they come to Abingdon. The film very effectively highlighted the extreme contrast between the town of Abingdon with its quiet riverside and the crowded bustle of Hong Kong. ■

Sports Round-up



Cricketer's Record Success

A successful cricket season saw Abingdon's 1st XI achieve a 40-run victory over St Bede's, followed by a very impressive victory over a previously undefeated Dulwich College side to reach the semi-final of the Schools' Twenty20 Cricket Tournament, where they lost to Bedford School. In their first match of the season the 1st XI created a War Memorial Field record when they scored 363 for 3 – Joshua Smith hitting a magnificent 161 – against King's Bruton who were all out for 73. Captain Nathaniel Watkins has been listed in Wisden as the number two bowler in schools' cricket.

The U13s won the quarter finals of the National Cup with a victory over RGS Worcester before losing to the eventual winners of the Cup, Manchester Grammar School, in the semi-finals.

The U12 were crowned county champions for the second year running following their victory over Cokethorpe, scoring 163 from their 25 overs to Cokethorpe's 123 all out. ■



Abingdon's Athletic Achievements

Abingdon Seniors took the first three places in the 1500m at the Vale Athletics Team Trials, and the Intermediates took the first four places in the 100m – a great start to a successful season. In the Radley, Wellington, St Edward's meeting the Inters won the 100m again and Stuart Jones won the 1500m with a 30-second, 80m lead. At the Harrow meeting Joe Kempton knocked 5 seconds off the School's 800m record whilst the Inters reduced the School 4x100 record to 46.7 seconds. The star of the show was Tom Watkins in the 2k steeplechase who led the field at the finish by more than half a lap.

In the House Athletics Competition O' Doherty's took first place with Christodoulou's coming second and Franklin's third. Nick Boreham broke Mike Summers' five-year-old 100m record by 5 seconds.



Peter Barnshaw, representing Oxfordshire Schools, won the ESAA Combined Events Regional Final on 26-27 June with a score of 4495, setting personal bests in the long jump (6.11m),



high jump (1.77m), shot (9.61m) and Octathlon. The Oxfordshire Schools' team won the event and go forward to the National Finals in September. ■

Medal-Winning Rowers



At the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham the J14 second octuple won gold, the J16A and the second VIII won silver, the J15B coxed IV made the semi-final of the event whilst the 1st VIII came fourth with only seconds dividing the top four places. At Reading Amateur Regatta the J16 IV beat Eton by two lengths in the final and the J15 VIII beat KCS Wimbledon also by two lengths to win the event for the third year in succession. At the final regatta of the season the J14s demonstrated their strength-in-depth when they won 1st and 2nd places in the B quad event and 1st place in the A octuples. At Henley in the Princess Elizabeth Cup the 1st VIII beat the City of Norwich School and Dulwich College to reach the quarter finals where they lost to an impressive Eton crew who went on to win the event. ■



House Quads

In the final of the House Quads event O'Doherty's beat Phelps' to win gold whilst bronze went to Crescent. ■



Dragon Boat Race

A thrilling final to the annual Abingdon Rotary Club Dragon Boat Competition saw a crew of twenty-one upper-sixth-formers beat a Thames Valley Police crew and in the process raise a significant sum of money for the charity Helen and Douglas House. ■



Road to Wimbledon

In the *HSBC Road to Wimbledon 14 and Under Tennis Tournament*, unseeded Abingdon third-former, Giles Waterson, winner of the Oxfordshire Under 14 Championship this summer, won his way through to a place in the final where he lost to the top seed. Giles was a member of the 1st VI which had a successful season winning eight of their ten matches whilst the U15A won six of their eight. ■



New Headmaster appointed

Mr Crispin Hyde-Dunn will become Abingdon Prep's new Headmaster from Easter 2011. Crispin is currently the Deputy Head of King's College School in Cambridge. He is an historian and graduated from St Catherine's College Oxford in 1995. He has teaching experience in both the secondary and preparatory sectors, including five years as Head of History at New College School in Oxford and three years as Deputy Head in his present school. He is married to Lucy, a research fellow of St Edmund's College Cambridge. His interests include music and distance running, classic Italian cars and Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. Crispin Hyde-Dunn said, 'I am honoured and delighted to be appointed as the Head of Abingdon Preparatory School, and to be leading the School into the next exciting phase of its development. I am firmly committed to fostering a supportive,



stimulating educational environment and will strive to promote excellence in all its forms, whilst being careful to nurture the distinctive atmosphere that makes Abingdon Preparatory School such a special place. My wife Lucy and I greatly look forward to getting to know staff, pupils and parents and playing a full part in the life of the school community.' ■

The Emerald Crown



On a balmy May evening Year 3 performed their rainforest themed play *The Emerald Crown*. The play told the story of the Amazonian rainforest coming under attack from profit-hungry developers. However the jungle richness and tranquillity is fiercely protected by its animals. The artistic backdrop and fabulous costumes set the scene perfectly and the boys gave a confident and tuneful performance! ■

Exploring Science 2009-2010

We have taken advantage of the local area to enhance our science programme this year. Years 5 and 7 had ecology fieldtrips to the Harcourt Arboretum and Year 4 visited Snelsmore Common to investigate invertebrates. Science Oxford visited Pre-Prep for a day looking at materials and forces and some of Year 8 have been busy with the Salter Chemistry competition, where they had the opportunity to work in the Oxford University chemistry labs. They were delighted to win second prize. Pupils from Years 3,4, 5 and 8 have taken part in the British Science Association CREST awards with some Year 8s gaining their Bronze award which involved independent investigations into topics ranging from comparing different shampoos, finding the most effective washing powder, to extracting and comparing the DNA in different fruits. The younger pupils have been working towards their Crest SuperStar award in the junior science club where they needed to complete twelve investigations such as fingerprint identification, worm charming, and science



magic. Other highlights of our science activities were a visit from the RAF outreach team and the Quantum Theatre Company who performed a play to Years 2 to 7. The play was called *Bin Raider*, it was a musical sci-fi comedy promoting energy saving, recycling and environmental issues. ■

Common Entrance Congratulations

The excellent achievements of our scholarship candidates earlier this year were followed by more outstanding grades from our boys taking Common Entrance. Their results ensured that each pupil was able to move on smoothly to their first choice school. Whilst this has been the case for the last decade it does not reduce the amount of work that each individual needs to do to succeed. Every boy can be proud of his achievement. ■

Summer Ball Success

Parents of both current and former pupils, governors and staff, dined on steaks and ostrich kebabs at this year's stunning Prep School summer ball which was themed around 'A Touch of Africa.'

The event, organised by the Parents' Association Ball committee, led by Mrs Shirley Popham, raised over £5000 for our link-school in Kenya. We hope that with the support of the Wantage, Abingdon and International Rotary Societies, this money may be doubled for the Jimba Gede School. This should set them well on the way to accessing mains water and electricity. ■

Normandy



A pleasant, sunny June Sunday evening saw an excited group of Year 8 boys boarding the coach for their traditional post-CE trip to Normandy. On arrival, our first activity was a walk near the Pegasus Bridge followed by a trip to a fascinating goat farm, one lucky boy even got a ride on one of the bucks. Tuesday saw us all in Mont St Michel for shopping and a visit to Alligator Bay with its crocs, alligators and a selection of smaller reptiles - always an interesting place to see. Wednesday was William the Conqueror's day and our boys' historical knowledge was

put to the test as we were shown around the castle. Thursday was spent at Arromanches with the boys experiencing life during the D-Day landing and on Friday morning we looked at the Bayeux Tapestry and the Cathedral. Our last visit was to the Allied War Cemetery which was a sobering experience for everyone. Due to the glorious weather we were also able to spend quite a lot of time on the beach. There's nothing quite like a free-for-all football or rugby match on sand. A good time was had by all! ■



Following in ancient footsteps

In June Year 4 enjoyed walking from West Ilsley to White Horse Hill, including an overnight stay at the Ridgeway Youth Hostel. ■

Cricket in the sunshine

For the first time in living memory, the cricket season lost no matches due to bad weather. We enjoyed plenty of good cricket and had many great individual and team performances - the highlight being 1st XI captain Will Bull's 93 against Ashfold in the opening fixture. ■

Jazz Day



Members of our Jazz Band joined forces with musicians from the Senior School's Big Band and The Manor for a performance of Funk One in the Amey Theatre on 18 June. The event was masterminded by our Jazz specialist, Simon Currie, who has played with many great Jazz musicians including Fats Domino, Shorty Rogers, Mel Torme and the Manfreds. ■



Welcome!

A very warm welcome from ASPA to all parents who are new to the School this term. ASPA holds a number of social functions throughout the year. Each one is usually for parents of boys in a specific year group and we very much look forward to welcoming you to yours in the coming months. Invitations and full details are posted in the School's weekly mailing.

These and other activities are organised by a committee of parents from across the School, along with a band of 'parent helpers'. New members, particularly from the 1st and 3rd Years, are always welcome to join either group. The committee meets just a couple of times a term. Please see the ASPA section of the School website for further details. If you would like to join us or have any questions please email Wendy Lambe, Vice Chair aspa@abingdon.org.uk

I wish you and your sons a very happy start to your time at Abingdon.

Susan Williams
Chair ASPA



SUS – Second Hand Uniform Shop

ASPA volunteers man the Second Hand Uniform Shop. Opening times are as follows. You would not believe what turns up from lost property in the shop – it could belong to your son! ■

Opening hours 12.15 – 13.15

Saturdays	Wednesdays
Sept 04, 11, 18	Sept 08, 22
Oct 02, 16	Oct 13, 20
Nov 06, 13, 27	Nov 03, 17
Dec 11	Dec 01

ASPA / Lower School Quiz Night



A brave contingent of Lower School parents met on the 14 May in the Entertainment Suite of the Sports Centre to take part in a quiz, and battle for the Lower School Cup.

Six teams fought a highly competitive and challenging series of question-rounds, which covered a variety of subjects including music, science, maths and film. Parents got an insight into their boy's minds during a particularly enjoyable round in which they had to predict how their sons had answered a set of questions.

The lead changed hands many times during the evening with the worthy winners displaying a broad range of knowledge across many subjects.

ASPA would like to thank the question masters Messrs Jenkins and Broadbent, and the Lower School Staff who devised the quiz. ■

ASPA/Paul Tappin Memorial Travel Awards

All sixth form pupils are reminded that this is the time to act if they wish to apply for an ASPA/Paul Tappin Memorial Travel Award. These are monetary awards available to any sixth form pupil who is undertaking some form of travel and activity, either during the summer holiday between his sixth form years or in his gap year. The value can be anything between £50 and £500 depending on the activity and its benefits. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 20 April. Full details and the application form can be found on the ASPA section of the website – www.abingdon.org.uk/go/aspa. ■

Parent Contact Lists

ASPA strives to facilitate the compilation of Parent Contact Lists – one for each Tutor Group (TG). They are initiated at the 1st and 3rd Year Parent School Social evenings in September when all parents are invited to sign up, and they are maintained thereafter by a volunteer parent from each group, the Tutor Group Rep.

All parents new to the School in 4th – 6th forms are encouraged to add their name to the list. Please send your name(s) and contact details (email and telephone), along with your son's name and Tutor Group, to aspa@abingdon.org.uk. They will be forwarded to your Tutor Group Rep. who will send you the complete TG contact list.

Any current parent who thinks they may have missed signing up and would like to be included on their TG list is also encouraged to contact ASPA on the above address. ■

We Made it a Million!

In the last issue we exhorted our readers to 'make it a million' and within weeks we had done just that! It is very gratifying that, in hard times, the School's wider community is prepared to support fundraising initiatives which can, and do, make a very real difference to teaching and learning at Abingdon.

Many of the donations were in support of the Headmaster's activities. In spite of serious blisters, Mark completed his row from Abingdon to Henley raising just under £10,000, which will enable the School to buy a new coxless pair. He also completed the Blenheim Triathlon on one of the hottest days of the year, and with a heavy cold, raising further funds for bursaries.

Thank you to everyone who over the last three years has helped us to 'make a million'. ■



Climbing Wall Complete

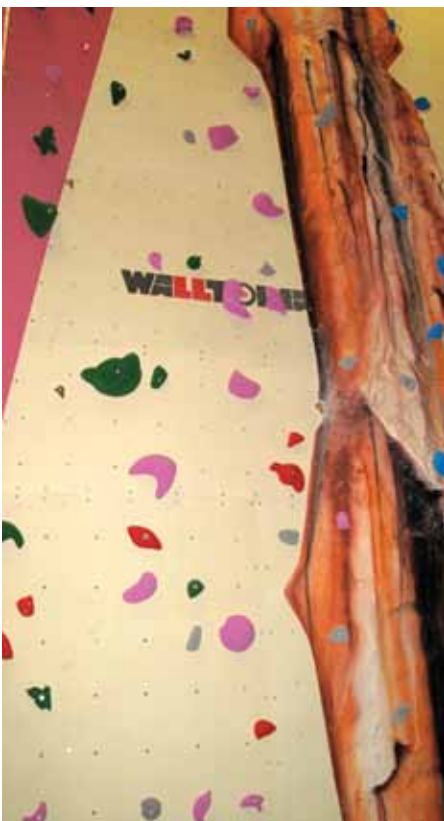
The installation of the climbing wall, which boys will be able to use this term, means that the Sports Centre project is now complete. This exciting new activity will bring those who use it face to face with challenging situations that will teach them both self-reliance and the value of working in a team. ■

New Chapel Window Commissioned

The support of the Chapel window appeal has allowed the School to commission the first of the proposed six windows. The Michaelmas window will be installed during this term after which we hope you will take the opportunity to come and view it. ■

How Funds Are Allocated

Many donors choose to nominate how they wish their gifts to be allocated and the School always ensures that this happens. Others opt to allow the School to choose. Funds raised are held in a ring-fenced account and members of staff are encouraged to bid for items that will enhance teaching and learning and benefit as many boys as possible. Bids are then referred to the Senior Management Team who agree which bids fit the criteria and the funds are then allocated accordingly. Recently the Geography Department outlined their wish for GPS equipment in order to enhance their teaching of Geographic Information Systems, a fast and rapidly changing area within the curriculum. The acquisition of this equipment will not only be of benefit to the Geography Department but it can also be used by the CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. ■



One of the Few



Hurricanes of 56 Squadron, Roger's plane is fourth from the left

Roger in 1940

Roger Morewood, OA 1933, joined the RAF in 1935, flying a succession of biplanes that looked as though they had come straight out of the First World War. But that was before May 1938 when 56 Squadron took delivery of the Hurricane. Roger's admiration for the plane is as palpable as his disappointment with the Blenheims he had to fly on his transfer to 248 Squadron soon after the outbreak of the Second World War. Nevertheless, 248 Squadron's role during the crucial months of July to October 1940 meant it became one of the distinguished Battle of Britain squadrons and its pilots joined the ranks of 'the Few'. With typical modesty Roger says that he just got up every morning and flew about and then discovered that he had been part of history. ■



... and in 2010 wearing an Abingdon 1st IV cerise and white cravat, which he always wore when flying. ■

Rowing at Abingdon more than 160 Years Ago

Abingdon is one of the country's oldest rowing schools. In 1830 we know we had two crews because the day after King George IV died the headmaster, Joseph Hewlett, having recorded that event in his diary, mentioned that he "went to Sandford with the second crew". The next day, the 29 June, the two boats raced each other.

In 1900, William Richardson, OA 1847, circulated a manuscript book amongst OA rowers so they could record their memories. Henry Tompkins, OA 1843, wrote lyrically of the beauty of the water flowers, remembering the creeks and backwaters full of their lovely foliage and blossoms, as well as swans, seabirds, musk-beetles, low-lying white mists and all the "divers out-of-the-way happinesses to be found and enjoyed in and under the clear water by one not tied to time." I hope that in 57 years our current rowers will be remembering their days on the river as happily. ■

In the Pink!

It may be that at other schools it's "manners that makyth man" but here at Abingdon we know that it's the wearing of pink – or to be more precise, cerise. How a boys' school came to wear pink we don't know, but we do know that originally there was nothing gender specific about the shade, if anything, pink, a pale shade of red, was the masculine colour and pale blue, a colour associated with the Virgin Mary, the feminine. By the earliest editions of *The Abingdonian*, in the 1890s, cerise was already indelibly associated with the School. OAs at Oxford used the pseudonym 'Cerise and White' to sign their termly letters, and a ghastly school song was being encouraged with the chorus:

Cerise and White! Cerise and White!
To the front of the game! in the thick of the fight!
Sing boys sing; let the wide world ring
With the fame of the boys in Cerise and White!

The dictionary defines cerise as a light, bright red: the colour of cherries. There is nothing cherry-like about the colour the rugby players wear today, but then nor was there about the rowing cap we have in the School archives, which Anthony Wilding (stroke) wore in this 1904 photograph of the 1st IV. ■



1st IV 1904



Professional Development Awards 2010

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

Matthew Duhan (2005)

£200 towards an MSc in International Studies

Ben Harris (2006)

£200 towards an MSc in Targeted Radiotherapy

Stewart Jackson (2004)

£400 towards an Ophthalmology elective

Ben Jones (1996)

£200 towards a PhD in Economics

Andrew Cole (2006)

£500 to support work as a Human Rights Legal Assistant in Malawi

Applications from Old Abingdonians are invited for consideration for the 2011 awards. Further details can be found on the OA Club website. ■



Mark Turner

At an evening reception at the end of term, the Chairman of the OA Club, John Bunce (1966) presented Mark and Elizabeth Turner with a watercolour of Lacies Court as a lasting memory of their former home. ■



Gerald Smithson Memorial Twenty20 Cricket Tournament



On Sunday 27 June, three teams of cricketers turned out to pit their skills against one another in the Twenty20 Cricket Tournament held in memory of Gerald Smithson, former England cricketer and Abingdon's first professional cricket coach and groundsman. We were honoured to welcome Gerald's widow, Anne Smithson, and daughters – Jacqueline, Gillian, Joanne, and Justine – along with their families. ■

Diary Dates Michaelmas Term

An evening with Peter Wheeler

Date: Thursday 7 October 2010

Venue: Abingdon School

Speaker: Peter Wheeler (*Leicester Tigers*)

All rugby enthusiasts (OAs, pupils, parents and staff) are invited to register their interest in this event with the OA Office.

Professional Dinner: Engineering

Date: Friday 15 October 2010

Venue: Abingdon School

Host: Terence Libby (1961)

If you work in engineering, or are aspiring to the profession, and have not yet received an invitation, please contact the OA Office.

OA 60s Club Event: Gurkha Museum

Date: Friday 22 October 2010

Venue: Winchester

Organiser: Richard Morris (1965)

A unique opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of one of the UK's finest historical institutions followed by a genuine Gurkha Curry in the Officers' Mess.

OA Cambridge Reunion

Date: Saturday 6 November 2010

Venue: St John's College, Cambridge

Host: Christopher Dobson (1967) (*Master of St John's College*)

For all OAs currently studying or who have previously studied at Cambridge.

Professional Dinner: Finance

Date: Thursday 18 November 2010

Venue: Glaziers Hall, London

Speaker: Angela Knight CBE

Chief Executive British Bankers' Association

If you work in finance, or are aspiring to a career in that sector, and have not yet received an invitation, please contact the OA Office.

OA Club AGM

Date: Saturday 27 November 2010 - 2.30 pm

Venue: Abingdon School

Sir James Cobban Centenary Celebrations

Date: Saturday 27 November 2010

Venue: Abingdon School

Contact the OA Office if you would like to attend this event. Tickets for the annual dinner are still available (OAs: £35, Guests: £35, Students: £10)

Full details on all of these events and other activities are available on the OA Club website: www.oaclub.org.uk

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Email: alumni@abingdon.org.uk

Andy Byfield

Andy Byfield, OA 1979, Landscape Conservation Manager of the charity *Plantlife* – which he co-founded – studied Botany at Bristol then spent three years in Cornwall researching the flora of the Lizard District. He worked in Turkey during the 1990s, promoting the sustainable production of bulbs, particularly snowdrops, in remote mountain communities. As leader of the first Important Plant Areas project, he helped identify 122 key plant conservation sites in Turkey. In honour of his work, which added more than 40 new species to the Turkish flora, a scree-loving snake's-head fritillary has been named *Fritillaria byfieldii*. A contributor to Dorling Kindersley's *Plant*, an encyclopaedic guide to the plants and flowers of the world, in 2005 he joint-authored a report highlighting the threat to Britain's biodiversity from the disappearance of what were once thought of as common weeds. ■

Alex Mugnaioni

Alex Mugnaioni, OA 2007, a second year student at Rose Bruford College, has won a prestigious *Laurence Olivier Bursary*, which are awarded by the Society of London Theatre to help the development of future acting talent. ■



Francis Maude

Re-elected as MP for Horsham at the last election, Francis Maude, OA 1971, has been appointed Minister of the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General. As Joint Leader with Danny Alexander of the Efficiency and Reform Group, set up to ensure government departments work together to tackle waste and improve accountability, and a member of the Public Expenditure Committee, which helps determine the allocation of government money to departments, he is expected to play a pivotal role in the attempt to cut Britain's budget deficit. ■

Tom Hollander

Tom Hollander, OA 1984, starred as the Rev. Adam Smallbone, a Church of England vicar newly promoted from a sleepy rural parish to the inner-city world of St Saviour's in East London, in the comedy series *Rev.* which was shown on BBC2 last summer. ■



Mike Bartlett



Earthquakes in London, the latest play from Mike Bartlett, OA 1999, opened in London at the National's Cottesloe Theatre on 4 August. Unlike his earlier plays, which feature a minimal cast and focus intensely on a single issue, *Earthquake* deals with the subject of climate change and global warming in an epic fashion. A cast of 17 actors take on more than 50 roles in a show that reaches from the present day back to 1968 and forward to the year 2025 – no small challenge for the play's director Rupert Goold. *Earthquake* follows a trio of plays at the Royal Court Theatre: *My Child*, *Contractions* and *Cock* which won the 2010 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre. Mike Bartlett's next play, *Love, Love, Love* will run at the Drum Theatre, Plymouth from 7-23 October before touring. ■