

AbingdonNews

September 2011 | No. 27

The Newsletter of the Abingdon Foundation Schools



ON TOP OF THE WORLD



Last term opened with the return of the First Orchestra and Big Band from their triumphant tour to the United States and closed with the 1st VIII winning the prestigious Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. Now comes news of the School's top results from last term's A level and GCSE examinations, all of which leaves Abingdon pupils on top of the world – like the boys above who climbed a 3,723m peak in the Aladaglar Mountains in Turkey over the summer holiday. ■



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Open Days

Saturday 1 October

Abingdon School Open Day – 9.30 – 12.30 pm

Saturday 15 October

Abingdon Preparatory School Open Morning
9.30 – 12.00 noon

Monday 17 October

Sixth Form Open Evening – for prospective parents and sons – 5 – 7 pm

Events

Friday 7 October

Professional Networking Legal Dinner

For everyone in the Abingdon School community with a professional connection to, or interest in, law and the legal services industry, hosted by Sir Vivian Ramsey, OA 1968.

6.30 pm: Sports Centre Entertainment Suite
www.abingdon.org.uk/oa/events

Saturday 12 November

FASBC Curry and Quiz Night

Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club invite supporters to a curry and quiz night.

7.00 pm: School Dining Hall
www.abingdon.org.uk/oa/events

Sunday 13 November

The CCF will take part in the town's annual Service of Remembrance at the war memorial.
10.45 am

Saturday 10 December

Touchliners' Rugby Club Dinner with guest-of-honour Michael Owen, former captain of Wales and British Lions player

7.00 pm – www.abingdon.org.uk/touchliners

Lectures

Tuesday 13 September

Plato on Courage and Heroism – Angie Hobbs, Professor of Philosophy, University of Warwick
12.45 pm: Charles Maude Room

Tuesday 20 September

'Malaria, a fateful scourge?' – Dr Kirk Rockett, MalariaGEN Research Manager of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics at the University of Oxford – 4 pm: Charles Maude Room

Friday 23 September

'Chernobyl' – Hal McKend OA 2005 and Charlie Wilkinson, OA 2005 – 5.30 pm: Amey Theatre

Thursday 29 September

Lewis Carroll in Numberland: his Fantastical Mathematical and Logical Life – Robin Wilson, Professor of Mathematics at the Open University
5.30 pm: Amey Theatre

Tuesday 4 October

'Surface chemistry, designer materials and spin-out – a case study of invention, innovation and commercialisation' – Dr Mark Maloney, Reader in Chemistry, University of Oxford
4 pm: Sports Centre Entertainment Suite

Friday 7 October

Sites of Classical Antiquity in Turkey – Dr John Penney, Lecturer in Classical Philology at the University of Oxford

5.30 pm: Charles Maude Room

Friday 14 October

'The Plundered Planet' – Dr Paul Collier, Professor of Economics at the University of Oxford on why we must – and how we can – manage nature for global prosperity

4 pm: Charles Maude Room

'Medicinal Plants' – Dr Timothy Walker, OA 1976,

Director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden

6.30 pm: Amey Theatre/Dining Hall

Friday 11 November

Nicola Blackwood, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon – 5.30 pm: Amey Theatre

Friday 18 November

'Using Micro-organisms to Rehabilitate Environments' – Professor Chris Howe, Professor of Plant and Microbial Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge

6.30 pm: Amey Theatre/Dining Hall

Tuesday 22 November

'Chemistry of the Rare Earths' – Ian Middleton
4 pm: Room S21

Tuesday 29 November

Conscious Machines – Lionel Tarassenko, Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Oxford
12.45 pm Charles Maude Room

Friday 9 December

'Bomb disposal – the human effects'
Lt Colonel Adam McRae
5.30 pm: Sports Centre

Friday 9 December

'Constructing New Time(table(s)) – a Roman history of time' – Dr Chris Burnand
5.30 pm: Charles Maude Room

Drama

Wednesday 30 November – Friday 9 December Abingdon / St Helen's Drama Festival

Each night up to four short plays will be staged in a variety of venues around the School.

5.30 pm: Amey Theatre, Charles Maude Room, Drama Studio, Ingham Room
Tickets: £5 for each production
01235 849063 - arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk
www.abingdon-booking.info

Wednesday 7 – Friday 9 December

Cabaret! – A Senior Joint Production with St Helen's of this memorable musical set in pre-war Germany
7 & 9 December 7 pm, 8 December 12 noon
Yolande Paterson Hall, St Helen's School
Tickets: St Helen's School Office 01235 520173

Music

Wednesday 5 October

Music Scholars Concert preceded by the Music Society AGM
7 pm: Charles Maude Room
Admission Free

Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 October

Dido and Aeneas – a joint production of Purcell's opera performed by St Helen's and Abingdon fifth- and sixth-formers
7 pm: Drama Studio, St Helen's
Tickets: St Helen's School Office 01235 520173

Thursday 3 November

Strings Masterclass
7 pm: Charles Maude Room
Admission Free

Saturday 12 November

Evensong sung by the Chapel Choir
6.15 pm: New College, Oxford

Saturday 26 November

Verdi Requiem – Joint Choral Society Concert
7 pm Amey Theatre
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family, to include wine

Monday 5 December

Christmas Concert Number 1
7 pm Amey Theatre
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family, to include wine

Wednesday 7 December

Christmas Concert Number 2
7 pm Amey Theatre
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family, to include wine

Saturday 10 December

Thames Vale Youth Orchestra Concert
7.30 pm: Silk Hall, Radley

ASPA

Friday 14 October

ASPA invite all Third Year parents to a supper
7.30 pm: Sports Centre Entertainment Suite
www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

External Events

Monday 24 – Saturday 29 October

'Hello Dolly' – Abingdon Operatic Society
7.30 pm Amey Hall
Box Office: 01235 843383
www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk

Check details of all these events at
www.abingdon.org.uk

Governor Profile: Sir Vivian Ramsey



Having read Engineering Science and Economics at Oxford, Sir Vivian Ramsey OA 1968, began his career as a Civil Engineer. He later took the Diploma of Law course at City University and then read for the Bar, where he established an expertise in construction and engineering disputes, which took him all over the world. Appointed to the High Court in the Queen's Bench Division in 2005, he is a Judge in the Technology and Construction Court. He received a knighthood in 2007.

Sir Vivian joined the Abingdon Governing Body in 2009 and sits on the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Married with four children, his interests include vineyards and the renovation of buildings. He is the son of the Right Reverend Ian Ramsey onetime Bishop of Durham and the first chairman of TASS – The Abingdon School Society – which was the forerunner of the present ASPA – Abingdon School Parents' Association. ■

Sir Vivian will host the Professional Networking Legal Dinner on Friday 7 October at the School.

Di Bloomfield



Di Bloomfield, who has been a familiar face about the School for thirty-four years, retired at the end of last term. She first started work at Abingdon in 1977, after ten years as a cleaner she was appointed assistant housekeeper, and twelve years later head housekeeper. When asked recently what the job has entailed she laughed and said anything and everything, whatever she's been asked to do.

Things have changed and the School has grown in both numbers and buildings, thirty-four years ago there were six cleaners on the staff, now there are more than forty, including those in the boarding houses. However, Di says that it has always been a happy place to work, helped by having a great team.

Born and brought up in Abingdon, working at the School has been something of a family affair – both Di's mother-in-law and father-in-law worked here, as do two of her brothers.

The mother of two and grandmother of six, Di does not envisage a quiet retirement but she's looking forward to being free to do whatever she wants to do. ■

Exam Results

Despite the trepidation with which they approached their results, Abingdon boys had nothing to fear: 65% of all A levels were at grades A* and A, and 20 boys achieved 3 A*s or more. At GCSE, 81% of all results were at grades A* and A, two boys achieved 12 A*s each and 17 boys 10 A*s or more. The Head, Felicity Lusk, spoke for the whole School when she expressed her pride in their performances and offered her congratulations to the boys, their families and the staff.

Exam statistics and a breakdown of the results can be found at www.abingdon.org.uk



The rugby squad at the Goedgedacht Farm Trust where they spent two days with the children

Remembering War



Fourth-formers at the Thiepval Memorial during their visit to the First World War battlefields over the Easter holiday. The memorial commemorates the missing of the Somme and among the 72,000 names are those of six Abingdonians. ■



A trip to the Normandy battlefields was included among outings to the Bayeux tapestry, Mont St Michel, a fish market and a cheese factory when members of Lower School visited the region in June. ■



It was the Second World War, the Nazi regime and the Cold War that were the focus of the fourth-form historians who visited Berlin in June. Visits included the huge Soviet War Memorial in Treptower Park, Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the Stasi prison and the Holocaust memorial. ■

Heading for the Mountain

Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa at 5,895m above sea level, was the challenge for the party of boys who braved freezing cold nights, altitude sickness and extreme exhaustion to reach the top at the end of a five-day ascent during the ten days they spent in Tanzania in July. ■



Community Service in Moldova

Volleyball in the Carpathian mountains was just one of the many activities laid on by the nine Abingdon boys who accompanied a party of twenty-four Moldovan children to a summer camp in Lacu Rosu in Romania. This is the ninth year of this annual trip, which is organised in association with the charity *Agape*. ■



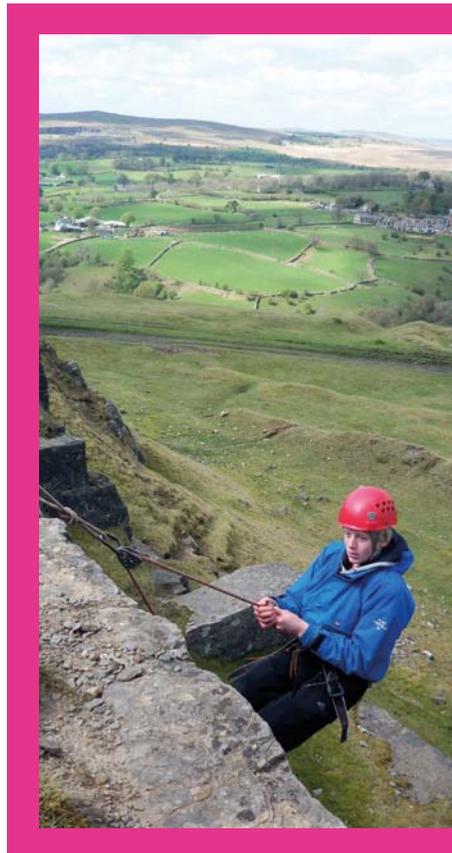
... and in Abingdon

There was much good cheer at the tea party on 28 June when the School entertained members of Abingdon church congregations and residential homes with strawberries, scones, music and a quiz. ■



News from Aix

A boat trip to Chateau d'Iff, the setting for Dumas' *The Man in the Iron Mask* was one of the many visits that French linguists made on their sixth annual visit to Abingdon's exchange school in Aix en Provence. Travelling by Eurostar and high-speed train, the boys spent a profitable and enjoyable few days immersing themselves in French language and culture. ■



The High Life

Members of the First and Second years experienced the high life on their respective adventure trips in Wales during the Easter holidays. Among a whole range of challenging activities, abseiling was on the agenda for second-formers who went to Plas Pencelli, whilst first-formers tested themselves on the high ropes at Llanwrtyd Wells. ■

Shadowing the Carnegie

Of the six books shortlisted for this year's Carnegie medal, the six Abingdon schools were unanimous in their choice of *Out of the Shadows* by Jason Wallace. The judges' choice was *Monsters of Men* by Patrick Ness. The Lower School pupils who participate in the 'Shadowing' find it not only an enjoyable experience but also one that enhances their critical skills. ■



24-hour Sportathon raises £6,000

Tutor Group 2M took part in 24 sports over a 24-hour period to raise over £6,000 for *Felix Fund*, the new charity that aims to support British Army bomb disposal experts and their families. Sleep was snatched between bouts of archery, badminton, swimming and the twenty-one other activities! ■



Ovations in the US

Abingdon's First Orchestra and Big Band spent ten days in America over the Easter holidays performing in four East Coast cities – Boston, Worcester, New York and Washington. The tour culminated in a huge concert in Washington National Cathedral joining with musicians from St Alban's, the Washington National Cathedral School and two other visiting schools from Manhattan. Charlie Hall played Bruch's *Violin Concerto*, Osman Tack Saint-Saëns *Piano Concerto* and Humphrey Thompson sang Mozart's *Non Plu Andrai*. For the finale a massed chorus of 250 voices sang the two national anthems, Parry's *I was Glad*, *Jerusalem* and Patrick Doyle's *Non Nobis Domine* – a thrilling finale to an exciting tour that earned the musicians several standing ovations. ■

End Game



Members of the Lower Sixth returning from study leave last term had three weeks to produce Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*, which they performed during the last week of term. The production provoked both sadness and laughter as it examined what Beckett described as the fun of unhappiness. ■

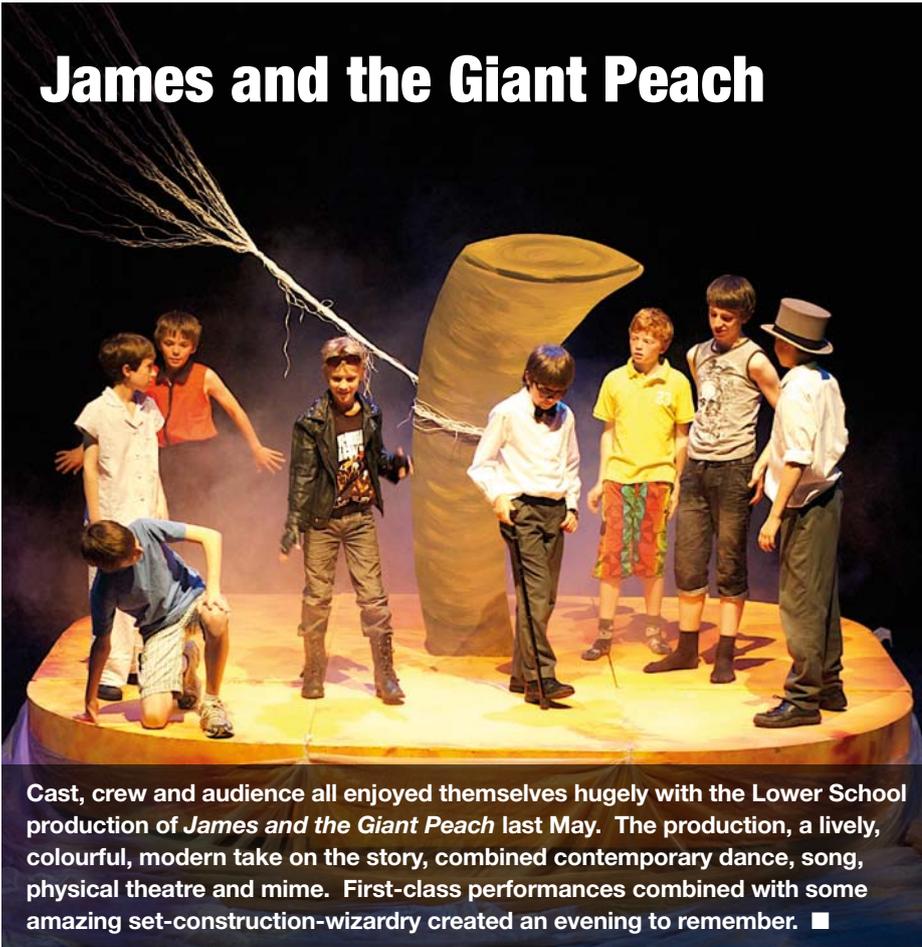


Overtures and Finales

The Summer Bands Concert is always a nostalgic affair since for many of the musicians it is their last concert at School. It was therefore an inspired idea to have the First and Second Wind Band share a musical number at the beginning of the concert, not only did it give Lower School musicians a chance to perform with the leavers but it also allowed the audience to see the exciting talent that still remains at the School as the Upper Sixth-formers played their farewells. ■



James and the Giant Peach



Cast, crew and audience all enjoyed themselves hugely with the Lower School production of *James and the Giant Peach* last May. The production, a lively, colourful, modern take on the story, combined contemporary dance, song, physical theatre and mime. First-class performances combined with some amazing set-construction-wizardry created an evening to remember. ■



Young Musicians

The Lower School Gala Concert on 29 June was an opportunity to showcase the talent of the youngest musicians at the School. Several of the soloists performed twice, each time on a different instrument: Anthony Bracey played Chopin's piano *Nocturne in B Minor*, and Bizet's cello *Entr'acte* from *Carmen*; Alex Reynolds played Nielson's piano piece *Mignon* and Squire's *Dance Rustique* for the cello, whilst Leon Wu played the piano and the violin – Liszt's *Liebstraum No 3* and Dvorak's *Sonatina*. ■

Summer Art Exhibition

A-level and GCSE artists showed their examination work at a private view in the Arts Centre on the evening of 26 May. All those who saw the show appreciated the variety and ambition of the students' work. ■

Royal Academy of Arts A-level Summer Exhibition Online

Out of 900 submissions, the Royal Academy shortlists 100 entries for their on-line A-level exhibition and among these 100 were Abingdon artists Jack Oliver, Nicholas Topping and Ben Westcott. Jack Oliver's *No Entry* made it through to the final 40 and can be seen at www.royalacademy.org.uk ■



No Entry – Jack Oliver



Twisted – Ben Westcott

Red Kite – Nicholas Topping



Awesome Oarsmen



It was silver Saturday at the National Schools' Championships in May when silver medals went to the J14As in the Octuples, the J16A VIII - beaten by just 0.19 seconds – the J16 coxless IV and the 1st and 2nd VIIIs. The gold medals came on Sunday when the coxless pair won the Committee's Cup and the coxless IV – in the premier event of the day – won the Royal Engineers' Cup. In the run-up to Henley, the 1st VIII won the Foster Cup at the Metropolitan Regatta and then the Grand Challenge Cup at Reading Regatta. At Henley the crew put in spectacular performances to beat St Edward's in the quarter-final, Radley in the semi-final and St Andrew's School USA in the final of the Princess Elizabeth Cup, the premier rowing award for boys' schools, which Abingdon last won in 2002. ■

Watch a video of the races at www.abingdon.org.uk/henley_2011_video



Representing GB

Abingdon rowers have been representing GB at a number of international events over the summer. There were four Abingdonians in GB crews at the Munich International Junior Regatta where Jamie Copus and Felix Newman achieved a magnificent second place in their pairs event, as did the GB VIII with two Abingdonians in the crew – Will Davey and Vassilis Ragoussis. Abingdon's J16A coxed IV, rowing for GB, achieved a clear win over the French crew at the annual GB v France match. At the Coup de la Jeunesse in July, Will Davey rowed in the coxless IV, winning silver on the Saturday and gold on the Sunday, and Neil McKenzie coxed both the coxed IV and the VIII, winning silver and bronze on the Saturday and gold and gold on the Sunday. ■

For all last term's sports results www.abingdon.org.uk/sports_results_summer_2011

Mercers' Schools Football Tournament

Although knocked out of the main competition, the seven Abingdon First Years who took part in the Mercers' Schools five-a-side football tournament last term emerged as plate champions ahead of Walsall Academy and Madeley Academy. ■



Karate Grading

The fourteen members of the Karate Club received their final grading of the year from Sensei Bob Rhodes (7th Dan). This term the Club will be taken by Sensei Ben Richardson (3rd Dan), a member of the England Shotokan Karate team, following the departure of Sensei Joss Williams, the founder of the Club. ■



During their two-week visit to South Africa in July, the Abingdon rugby squad played eight matches in four locations with the U16s winning two and losing two and the U17s winning all four.

South African Rugby Tour



Table Mountain, Robben Island and the Kariega Nature Reserve were included in the itinerary but the highlight for many was the visit to the Goedgedacht Farm Trust and the Path Out of Poverty Centres. ■

Tennis

The Abingdon 1st tennis team won Group 2 in the Independent Schools' Tennis League last term ahead of Cranleigh, Hampton, Charterhouse, Radley, KCS Wimbledon and Eton. The Abingdon 1st pair, Giles Waterson and Joel Morris, had a particularly good season not losing a set. The two of them met in the final of the Buckley Cup, the School's own internal championships, which Giles won 7-6, 6-3. ■



Giles, last year's finalist in the *HSBC Road to Wimbledon 14 and Under National Challenge*, is currently the Oxfordshire U14 champion and in July was selected for the Independent Schools' Tennis Association team to play against the All England Club at Wimbledon

Athletics

In an amazing result at the Radley Medley Relays on 3 May, Abingdon tied for first place with Harrow, both teams achieving a time of 3.51. Two days later at the Achilles Relays the 4 x 800m team led throughout the race to cross the line nearly 10 seconds ahead of the team in second place. At the Oxfordshire County Athletics Championships Peter Barnshaw won the 400m and 110m hurdles and came second in the 100m, 200m, and 400m. Later in the term Peter won the Midland Counties Under 18 Decathlon Championships. ■

County Cricket Champions

Two Abingdon teams became county cricket champions this summer. The U15s beat Bartholomew School comfortably to win the title, having already defeated Lord William's School, Thame and Magdalen College School on their way to the final. The U14s met Lord William's in the final of the Lord's Taverners' Cricket Colts Trophy. Abingdon were 199 for 5 from their 30 overs, Lord William's were all out for 124. ■

For the season's full cricket statistics see: www.abingdon.org.uk/cricket_statistics_2011



Blenheim Triathlon

The Triathlon Club made its debut at the Blenheim Triathlon on 4 June. Guy Giles, Matt Landells and Luke Terry finished in a fantastic time of 1:12:10 putting them 5th out of the 350 teams. Guy Giles' swimming time, 9:17, was the second fastest out of the 4,000 competitors.

Later the same day Guy achieved a new course record of 47:49 and was 200m clear of the rest of the field in the open water race on the river Arun. ■





Message from the Head

At the end of my first term as Head of Abingdon Prep I can reflect on a very enjoyable and rewarding three months at the helm. On a personal note, I am very grateful for the exceptionally warm welcome my wife and I have received from pupils, parents and staff across the Abingdon Foundation. It has been a year of tremendous success for our boys and term has ended on a characteristically high note, with a total of 5 Academic Scholarships being awarded and all of our Common Entrance candidates being successful in securing places with their senior schools of choice.

A particularly memorable highlight this term was the visit of two teachers, James and Joyce, from our Kenyan partner school Jimba Gede. Our pupils were fascinated to hear about school life in Kenya, embracing an African theme in many areas, from the art room to the dining hall. The Pre-prep also hosted a very successful Father's Day breakfast, incorporating bacon 'butties' and a range of DIY activities. During our inaugural Grandparents' morning, we were treated to and indeed joined in with, an encore performance of songs from the Year 5 musical production of 'The Victorians'.

In the 'Other Half' of the curriculum, our boys have enjoyed a wide range of activities including golf, chess, music technology and sailing, with some excellent individual successes in music, fencing and cricket. Despite a few light showers, our Sports Day was an excellent opportunity for the whole school community to get together and the event saw the setting of a new school athletics track record.

I now look forward with excitement and a great sense of opportunity to the new academic year. ■



Summer Sporting highlights

Abingdon Prep has had a full programme of cricket matches this term plus tennis and athletics fixtures. Notable successes include Jack Tomes (Year 7) who was selected to represent Oxfordshire County Cricket and ten other boys all played for their respective districts. Despite the weather, this year's Inter-House Athletics Day was a great success. The highlight of the event was Henry Insley (Year 4) 'smashing' the long-standing 800m record. Victor Ludorum winners were: Robbie Dadomo-Edgington, Jonathan Dawson, Ben Ling & Joe Hornblow and Henry Insley. An exciting final 4 x 100m relay narrowly secured the House Sports Day Cup for Unicorn. ■



James and Joyce, teachers from our link school Jimba Gede in Kenya, visited Abingdon Prep for two weeks during the summer term.

Abingdon Prep Open Morning

Saturday 15 October

09.30 am - 12.00 pm

Headmaster's Address 10.30 pm



Year 8 visit Normandy

On Sunday afternoon an excited group of boys gathered at school to start their journey to Normandy and a tired bunch of boys got off the boat at the other end next morning. However, they were soon awake as we visited Monsieur Martin's goat farm; goats were stroked and brushed, cheese was tasted and then bought and even a goat was milked. The farmer makes this a really amusing visit, especially when he squirts goats' milk at the boys! The trip included visits to William the Conqueror's Castle, the D-Day landing sites, the Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral and a British War Cemetery. We also had time to relax on the beach, in the pool and at the residential centre's disco. A good time was had by all! ■

Celebrating Fathers' Day

Dads, and in some cases mums, had an ideal start to Fathers' day when they were invited to join their children at school to share a 'bacon butty breakfast and challenge'. The sports hall was set up with a vast array of equipment including skipping ropes, washing lines, bean bags, dice and Connect 4. Amid much laughter, banter and rivalry, the children timed themselves and their parents in each of the challenges before enjoying a very well-deserved breakfast. ■



A Warm Welcome for Grandparents

On 27 May Grandparents and other 'special guests' were invited to view and share the work, achievements and pleasures of the children at school. Many guests went to great lengths, rearranging commitments and travelling from far afield to attend this memorable day. Some enjoyed watching and participating in the Year 1 Pre-prep assembly in the hall, before being escorted to their grandson's or granddaughter's classroom. The Pre-prep children, in particular, delighted in showing their work, proudly explaining in detail every page and activity! ■



Music Making

This has been a busy and successful term musically. Year 5 performed 'The Victorians' musical, which ended with a rousing medley of Music Hall songs, in which the audience also participated. More and more boys are taking Associated Board and Trinity/Guildhall music exams, and we continue to gain 100% pass rate with several distinctions. The Pre-prep gave a delightful concert, with each year group singing, interspersed with solos and all three years coming together to perform 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World'. The term ended with a fabulous concert from Years 3-8 in the Amey Theatre. This included all our instrumental ensembles and choirs as well as year group singing and even a staff choir. ■

Artistic Talents

In June, the Prep School hosted an Art Evening with 24 of the School's best artists exhibiting their work to a very appreciative audience. The Year 8 art scholars took centre stage, showcasing impressive portfolios. The exhibition was accompanied by wine, strawberries and musical entertainment. ■



Skittle Night

Some sixty fifth-formers and family members enjoyed the ASPA Summer Night Out on Saturday 11 June in the garden outside the dining room. A variety of pub and table games, including table skittles, shove ha'penny, table football and bagatelle were available and the level of competition increased as the afternoon progressed – particularly among the parents. The 40-foot skittle alley also proved popular with some interesting techniques being demonstrated. All present enjoyed a barbecue provided by the school caterers before the rain showers predicted for the day finally arrived just after 7pm. At that point the event moved into the dining room where the games continued – somewhat to the consternation of the boarders who were enjoying their own supper. ■

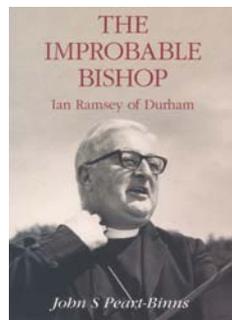
Cruising Along!

Parents of Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth-formers braved the not so summery weather to board a *Salters Steamers'* boat at the Nags Head in Abingdon.

Cruising up to Dry Sandford and back whilst listening to music varying from *Abba* to *The Stranglers* and *Take That* to *Motorhead*, we were able to stay on deck until it became too chilly when we moved inside to the cosy lounge area. The buffet food and well-stocked bar were very well received! Despite the weather not being too kind to us, a very enjoyable evening was had by all. ■

Note from the Chair

ASPAs are run by parents for parents and among the many events held this year have been the popular year group get-togethers and a boat trip, which, notwithstanding the weather, was enjoyed by all. We are proud to have contributed to the Chapel window scheme, to have presented the Library with a biography of the Right Reverend Ian Ramsey, the first



Chair of TASS, the forerunner to ASPA, and, under the auspices of the ASPA-Paul Tappin Memorial Fund, to have been able to award money to boys undertaking trips generally in their Gap year.

ASPAs are also responsible for running the Second-hand Uniform Shop (SUS) and a Car Share Scheme.

For the start of the new term we have many exciting events planned but we are always very keen to receive ideas from parents to help us achieve our objective of providing you all with opportunities to socialise and network. If you would like to suggest an event please email: aspa@abingdon.org.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout last year, and to offer a warm welcome to new parents to the School.

Margot Scholey, Chair ASPA ■

Events

Friday 14 October

ASPAs invite all Third Year parents to a supper – 7.30 pm

[Sports Centre Entertainment Suite](#)

Check website for details

www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

SUS

The Second-hand Uniform Shop (SUS) continues to thrive and be a popular facility with parents. It provides a means for parents to buy good condition second-hand Abingdon School uniform, which has either been outgrown or unclaimed from lost property. It is really worth taking the time to go and look at what they may have: shirts, shoes, phones and all manner of items! Open most Saturdays (11.30 - 12.30 pm) and Wednesdays (12.15pm - 1.15 pm) during term time – please check: for current opening times ■ www.abingdon.org/sus

Michaelmas Opening Times:

Saturday 11.30 – 12.30 pm

Sept 10	Oct 15	Nov 12	Dec 10
Oct 1	Nov 5	Nov 26	

Wednesday 12.15 – 1.15 pm

Sept 28	Nov 9	Nov 30
Oct 5	Nov 16	Dec 7

Annual Fund Achieves Record Income

This year's annual fund has exceeded all expectations raising over £90,000 by the end of the Summer term. This is the highest total achieved since the inception of the fund four years ago and is a wonderful testament to the generosity of the School's close-knit community who, even in these less than certain economic times, have shown amazing support.

40% of the funds raised were in support of the Chapel window scheme and we are now very close to our appeal total. 20% of the funds were donated to the School to use them where it needs them most (unrestricted funds) and other areas supported included boarding, the archives, biology, bursaries, CCF, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, ICT, music, careers, rowing and sport.

The funds donated to specific areas will be allocated to the appropriate departments at the end of the School's financial year in August and we will report on how those have been spent at a later date. Unrestricted funds are now allocated by a Development Fund Committee, which considers requests from all areas of the School based on the criteria that they will provide exceptional added value to the boys and that the items cannot be funded from within existing departmental budgets.



The approved requests included:

- CCF and Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme – a trailer for kit ensuring double the number of boys can travel on trips
- Chinese – a high-definition multimedia document camera
- Classics - an Oxford Latin Dictionary and Greek Lexicon
- Economics – a high definition webcam
- Modern Foreign Languages – digital video recorders for motivating boys to develop oral work
- Physics – a high-resolution digital spectrometer to enhance teaching and learning about spectroscopy
- Shooting – electronic targets and scopes allowing more time for activity
- Rugby – a match scoreboard and a squat rack for training (also benefits other sports)
- Art – a tabletop potters' wheel
- English – funding for visiting speakers and a writer-in-residence
- Grounds – wooden benches for the Jekyll garden providing quiet areas for boys. ■



The Return of Football

Football will return this term as a full sports option after an absence of 83 years. The game was being played at the School in 1890 when the first edition of *The Abingdonian* was published, but in 1922 it was replaced by hockey in the Lent term, and in 1928 by rugby in the Michaelmas term. In the early days, reports in *The Abingdonian* were much blunter than we would expect to see today: of a goalkeeper, "it would be better if he were taller and not so self-confident", and of a back that he was "too small to occupy the post with any great success." There were constant references to the old-fashioned quality 'pluck', mixed with such timeless advice as "a match is never over until time is called". The footballers wore cerise shirts with white sleeves and the caps were half cerise and half white – the rugby players originally wore yellow and black. ■



1894 1st XI with printed fixtures' programme

100 Years Ago – plus ça change?

The minute book of the Abingdon School Literary, Scientific and Debating Society has recently come to light recording the first ever meeting of the Society on 10 November 1904 when the motion, 'In the opinion of this House the adoption of conscription would be advantageous to this country', was lost by 10 votes to 20. Seven years later the motion 'In the opinion of this House compulsory military training should be adopted in England' was carried by 15 votes to 8. Other 1911 motions included, 'This House would welcome the complete success of the rebellion in China', carried by 15 votes to 7; 'In the opinion of this House Old Age Pensions in their present form are a source of evil', lost by 13 to 8, and 'In the opinion of this House the Government should prevent by legislation the possible recurrence of such strikes as those of this summer,' which was carried by 10 votes to 9. ■

Dr Hubert Zawadzki, for many years master-in-charge of the Debating Society, will chair a Dinner Debate for both OAs and current members of the School on Friday 18 November 2011. The motion will be, 'This House believes that your school days are the best days of your life'.



The minute book together with the heavy brass stamp used to emboss the cover.

Miss Florey

Anne Florey, an Australian, was the School matron from 1922 until her retirement in 1947. A qualified nurse she had served in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia during the First World War with the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service. To many OAs of that era, Miss Florey with her little dog and her emphasis on good manners, together with Mr Grundy the Headmaster, epitomised the School. OAs report that she often talked about her brother and the important work that he was doing in Oxford, but no one thought anything of it until the day in 1945 when Mr Grundy announced that there would be a half-holiday in honour of Miss Florey's brother who had just been awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine. Her brother was of course Howard Florey, the man whose pioneering work on the medical use of penicillin transformed medicine. ■





We had another fantastic turnout at this year's OA Golf Day at Frilford Heath (Tuesday 10 May 2011). The OA Club would like to say a big thank you to Jack Trenaman (1958) for all his hard work since 1993 when he took over the co-ordination of this fixture, which was first established in the mid-eighties by his brother, Ian (1956). Jack passes on the baton of organisation to David Blomley (1976), who is already looking forward to seeing plenty of friendly faces return next year and welcoming some new ones too. All ages and abilities welcome – for details please see the OA Club website. ■

Cricket Tournament

On Sunday 26 June 2011 a record number of players and spectators attended the third annual Gerald Smithson Memorial Tournament. The OAs, captained by Graham Scott (1987), acquitted themselves admirably against the fiercely well-organised parents' team, captained by Doug Terry. However, during what quickly became an incredibly hot afternoon, the 'School' team, captained by Josh Bull (2011 leaver), pulled ahead to take home the trophy. Many thanks to the umpires, Rodney Pitt (1961) and David Scott (former parent); Anne Smithson for presenting the trophy; and Andrew Hall and Andrew Broadbent (Sports Department). OA players: 1981 Graham Scott (captain), 1986 Jason Haynes, 1992 Joe Gold, Scott Milne, 1994 Guy Horton, 2004 Alexander Nash, 2005 Adam Hall, Tom Swarbrick, 2009 Jonny Bucke, George Dugdale, Julian Thorn, 2010 James Edwards, Jasper Marlow. ■



Geography Reunion

Ian Fishpool (Head of Geography) hosted an event for Abingdon Geographers (past and present) on Friday 24 June 2011. Guests enjoyed a talk, entitled "Are environmentalists really helping the planet?" given by Mark Lynas, followed by drinks and dinner. Although plans for a BBQ were foiled by wet weather, the rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who returned to School for this event. Photographs available online. ■



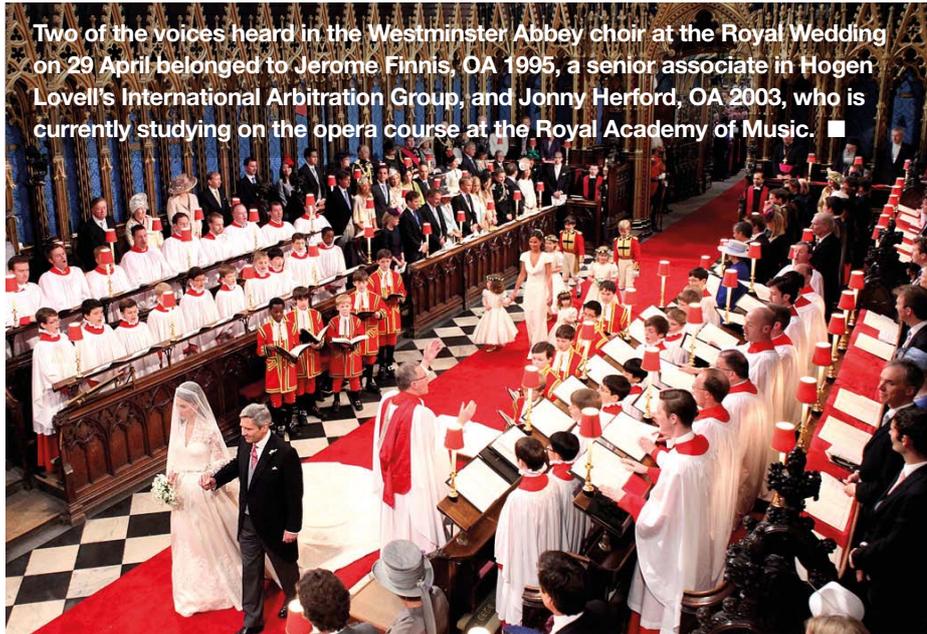
Coming up in Michaelmas Term 2011...

Saturday 10 September	1991 20th Anniversary Reunion	School
Tuesday 27 September	Hong Kong Reception	The Excelsior, Hong Kong
Tuesday 4 October	OA Antipodean Reunion: Dinner at the Sky Tower	Auckland, NZ
Friday 7 October	Professional Dinner: Law	School
Saturday 15 October	OA Open Afternoon and Annual Dinner	School
Friday 4 November (tbc)	City Lunch	London (tbc)
Friday 18 November	Debating Society Dinner	School

Jon Gabitass (former Second Master & Rugby Coach 1973-1991) will be 'MC' at the OA Club's Annual Dinner on Saturday 15 October – the day of the Abingdon 1st XV fixture against Radley College. Jon is looking forward to catching up with many OAs during the course of the day.

Why not get your old XV together for a mini-reunion?

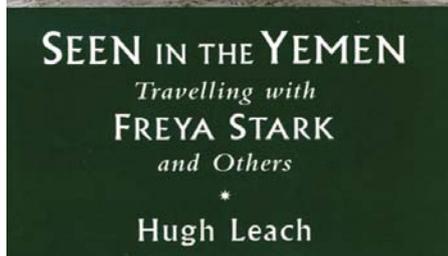
The OA Office can provide help in contacting former members of your team. oaclub@abingdon.org.uk



Two of the voices heard in the Westminster Abbey choir at the Royal Wedding on 29 April belonged to Jerome Finnis, OA 1995, a senior associate in Hogen Lovell's International Arbitration Group, and Jonny Herford, OA 2003, who is currently studying on the opera course at the Royal Academy of Music. ■

Seen in the Yemen: Travelling with Freya Stark and Others

Hugh Leach, OA 1953, gave a talk on 18 May at the Royal Society for Asian Affairs about his travels in the northern Yemen in the early 1970s, both on his own and in the company of such distinguished travellers as Dame Freya Stark, Wilfred Thesiger and Dame Violet Dickson. The talk accompanied the launch of a book of the same title, copiously illustrated with beautiful black-and-white photographs taken on his two 1930s screw-thread Leica cameras, which evocatively record what seemed to be an unchanging way of life. ■



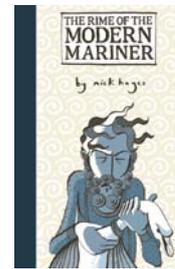
Botany: A Blooming History

Tim Walker, OA 1976, Director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden, presented BBC4's fascinating and authoritative three-part series *Botany: A Blooming History*, the story of how botanists, in trying to answer the question what makes plants grow, uncovered the secret to life on the planet and came to understand the natural order of the plant world. ■

Dr Walker will give a lecture at the School to the Biology Society on 14 October



Rime of the Modern Mariner



The Rime of the Modern Mariner, published by Jonathan Cape last April, is a graphic novel by Nick Hayes, OA 2000, political cartoonist on the Guardian. Described as a beautiful morality tale for our times, the book

is an update of Coleridge's epic poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. Maintaining the rhythm and beat of the original, together with its haunting atmosphere, the new version focuses on the North Pacific Gyre where a slow-moving whirlpool gradually masticates the world's plastic rubbish, said to cover an area twice the size of Texas and to be 9 kilometres deep. ■

Greek Rugby Internationals

Twin brothers Mark and William Martin, OAs 2001, whose mother is Greek, have recently been capped for the Greek national rugby team, playing international matches against Finland, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Israel. Mark, a Maritime Business graduate of Southampton Solent University, is a shipbroker in Athens whilst William has just graduated in Politics and Economics from Bath University. ■



OAs at the Oxford Playhouse

Full Circle – an evening of conversation, debate and laughter in the company of Tom Hollander, OA 1984, David Mitchell, OA 1992 and Sister Frances Dominica in aid of *Helen and Douglas House*. 6.30 pm Sunday 2 October

Earthquakes in London by Mike Bartlett, OA 1999, comes to Oxford in October following last year's premier at the National Theatre and the Senior Drama Production in the Amey Theatre in December. Tuesday 1 – Saturday 5 October