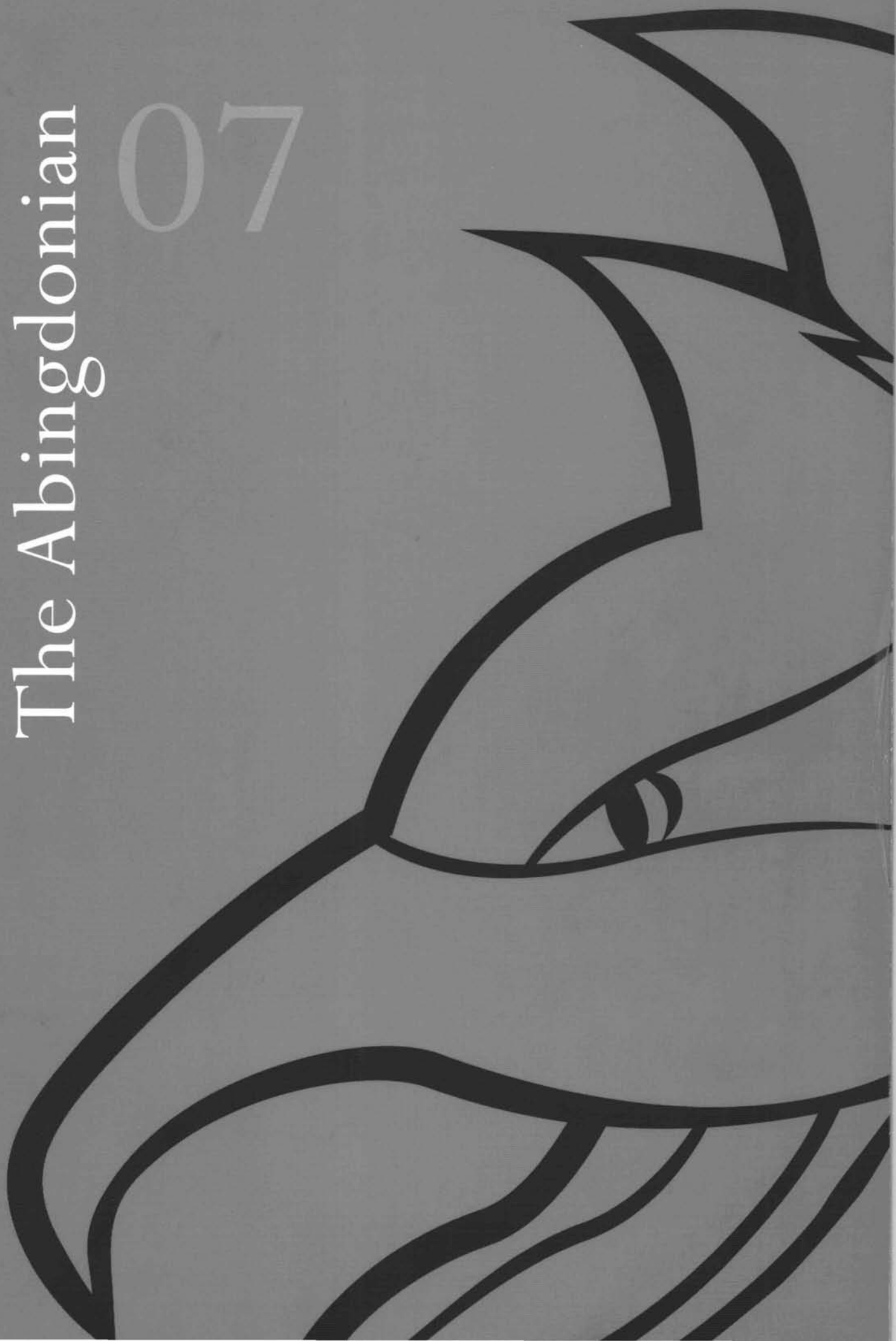
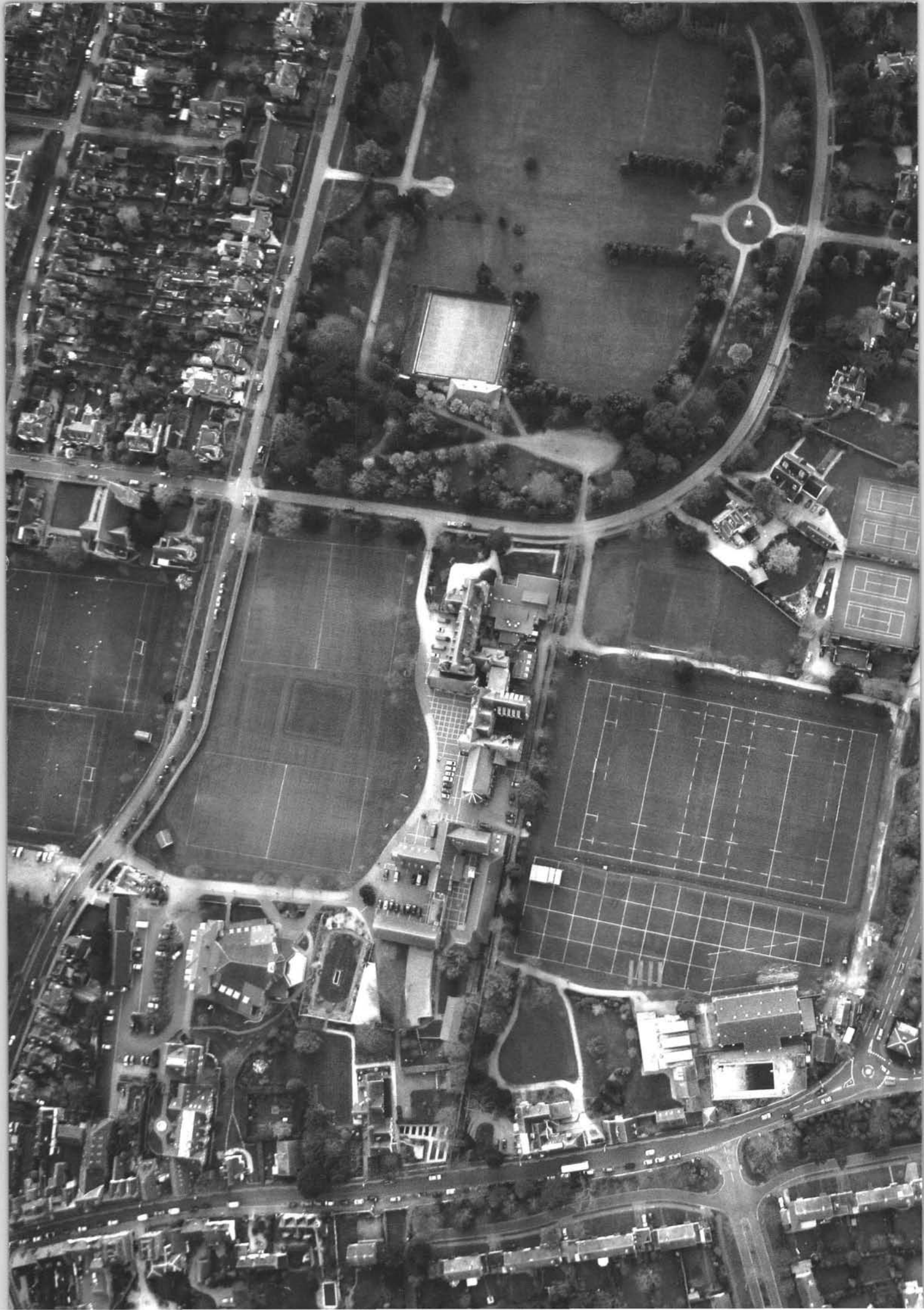


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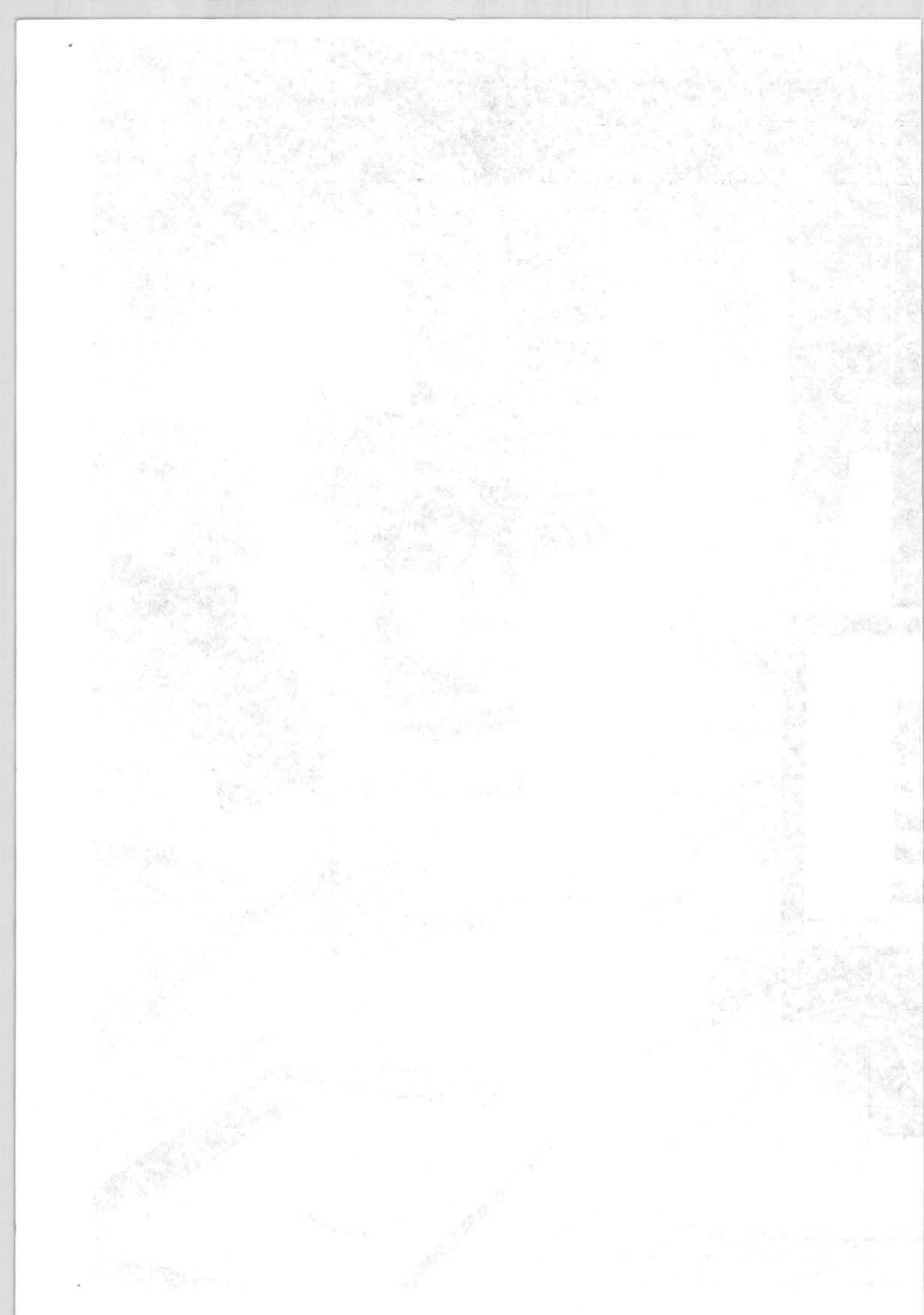
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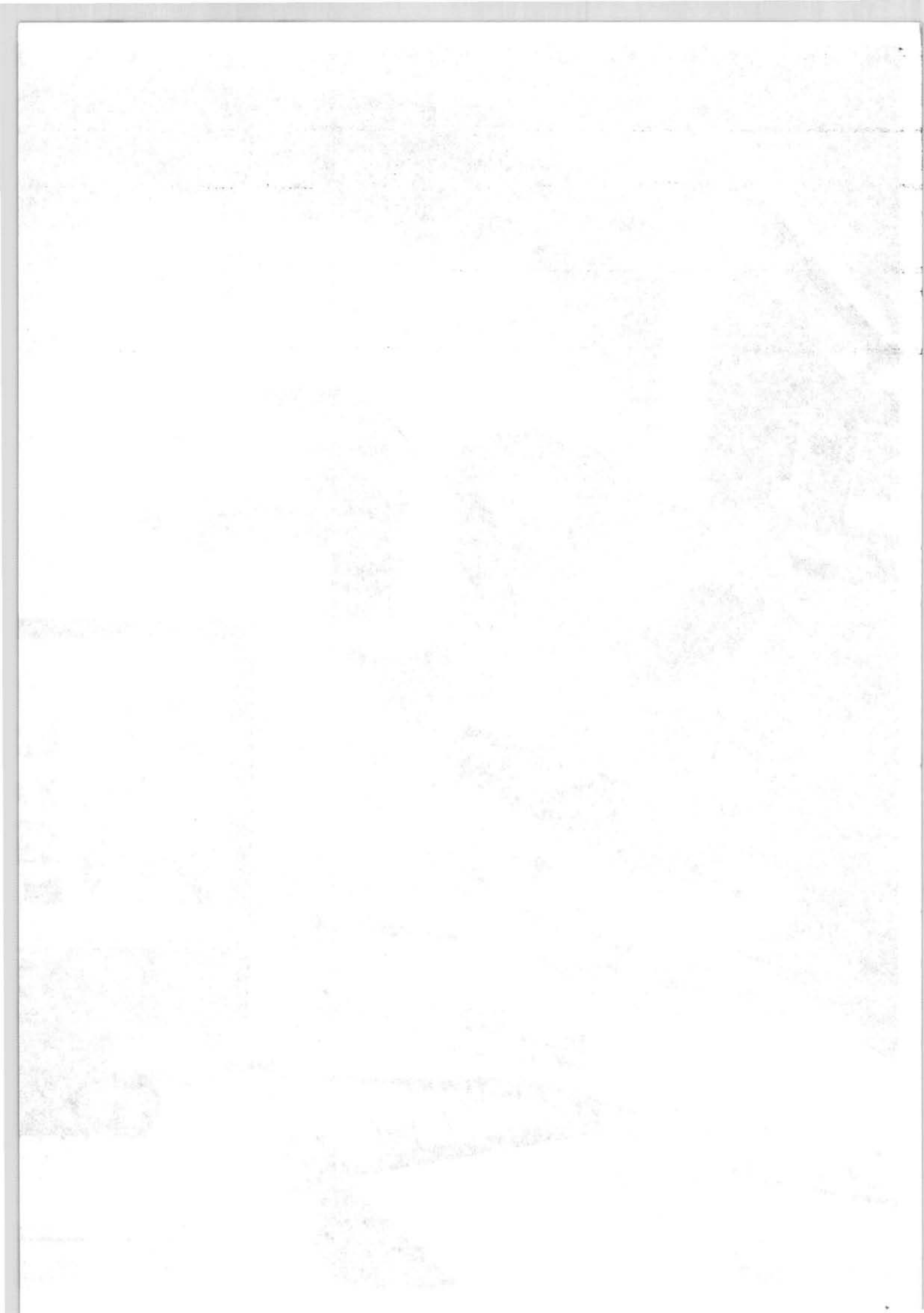


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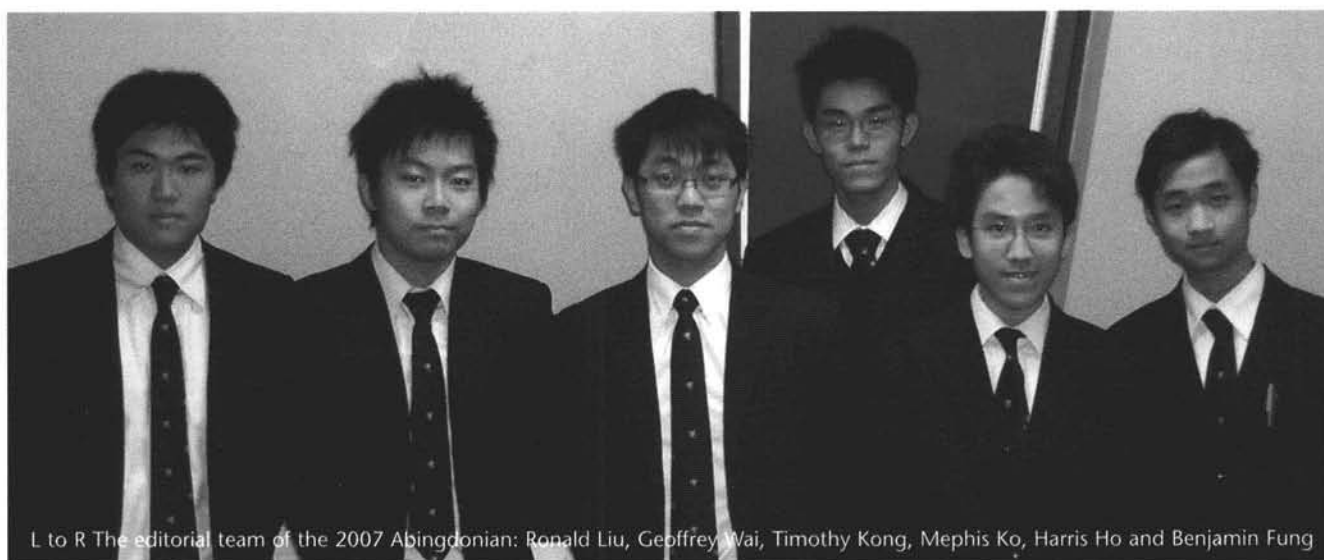


The Abingdonian

2006 – 2007 Volume XXIV No. 2 Issue 311

Contents

Headmaster's Foreword	2	Art	62
Common Room Farewells	3	Drama	70
School	9	Abingdon Film Unit	87
Clubs and Societies	20	Music	93
House Reports	25	Sport	102
Service Activities	38	Leavers	143
Home and Abroad	49		



L to R The editorial team of the 2007 Abingdonian: Ronald Liu, Geoffrey Wai, Timothy Kong, Mephis Ko, Harris Ho and Benjamin Fung

The Abingdonian is sub-edited by a group of boys who work on the copy, putting it into house style and checking facts, names and spellings. This year, English is the second language of every member of the group. They have done an excellent job and I should like to thank them all for their work. I should also like to thank Anne Soper, without whose excellent proof-reading the magazine would be a much less accurate document than it is. Thank you too to everyone who has submitted articles; this annual record of the School is the first draft of its history.

Over the past academic year, I have researched the pages of *The Abingdonian* for a biographer of Nigel Bruce, the OA who played Dr Watson to Basil Rathbone's Sherlock Holmes; for an exhibition at Abingdon Museum on the work of the OA artist, Oswald

Couldrey; for a journalist writing an article on OA Toby Jones' acting career while he was at the School; for family historians wanting information on their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers; and last but by no means least, for my own articles in the *Abingdon News* and for exhibitions in the School Library.

This record of the academic year 2006 – 2007 is rich in detail for future researchers, from the fried spider eaten by Ben Hollins in Cambodia to the gold medal won by George Rossiter as a member of the Coxless IV at the World Junior Rowing Championships in Beijing.

I hope you all enjoy reading it.

Sarah Wearne, Editor

Headmaster's Foreword



Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal turns the first turf for the new sports complex on her visit to the School on 15 September as part of the 750th anniversary celebration

This academic year has seen both the culmination of our 750th anniversary, in which we looked back and re-connected with our origins as an ancient seat of learning, and also the creation of a Development Office, which is encouraging us to look forward and invest in the years to come.

It has been wonderful to see the Sports Development, begun in the Spring, take shape above the hoardings. Over the last few weeks the site has been cleared, the old changing rooms demolished and the swimming pool filled in. As the autumn days have shortened, there appears to have been an acceleration in activity, and the emergence of the steel endo-skeleton has been followed by a frenetic burst in building, giving us a good impression of the scale of the project and of the material improvement that it will bring.

Change has by no means been limited to the main Abingdon School site. On 1 September, in its jubilee year, Abingdon Preparatory School changed its name from Josca's. This was inevitably a bitter-sweet moment as years of tradition gave way to an emphasis on the association within the Foundation that has already yielded significant benefits for both schools. At the same time that Abingdon Preparatory School opened its new Sports Centre and classroom block to record numbers of pupils, it announced the acquisition of the adjacent Beverley House site. This annexation will provide wonderful expansion opportunities and potential for at least the next fifty years.

As if to catch up, the Senior School announced record-breaking results at both GCSE and A Level, and basked momentarily in the transient glory of an exalted League Table position amongst the top six independent boys' schools in the country. With record numbers of boys starting the Michaelmas term, it was a relief to be reminded that there does not have to be a pay-off in the 'quantity/quality' debate.

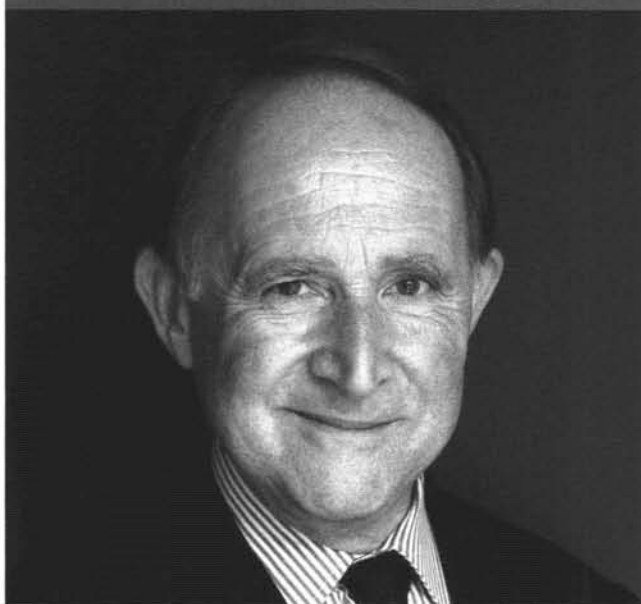
It is not usually my practice to pay tribute here to retiring members of staff – there is ample opportunity for that in later pages. However, I should like to record my personal thanks to **Tom Ayling**. In his thirty-four years at the School, Tom has been a dedicated teacher of chemistry, Head of Science, a member of the Senior Academic Staff and since 1991, Second Master, which in 1997 involved being Acting Head during the Headmaster's, Michael St John Parker's, sabbatical term. In 2002, on my arrival as Headmaster, new to Abingdon's ways, he provided gravitas and wise counsel for which I will be forever grateful.

2006 – 2007 has been a year characterised by success in many areas, together with much forward planning. I thank Sarah Wearne and her team of editors for recording so meticulously the changing seasons of the school year with another splendid edition of *The Abingdonian*, which I trust you will enjoy reading and keep as an archive of memories over the years to come.

Mark Turner

Common Room Farewells

Tom Ayling



In saying goodbye to **Tom Ayling** this year, we were bidding farewell to one of Abingdon's true servants. In his thirty-four years at the School, there can be few in the school community, boys or masters, groundsmen or lab. technicians, secretaries or cooks, who were not in some way touched by his kindly care and concern for their well-being.

After graduating in Chemistry at Christ Church, Oxford, Tom, for what no doubt seemed good enough reasons at the time, started his working career with a firm of patent agents in London. The intricacies of the patent world are undoubtedly fascinating to some, but whatever Tom's role was, he clearly did not find the satisfaction he was seeking, because after two years he left to go into teaching, starting in 1967 with a six-year stint at Emanuel School.

In 1973 he came to Abingdon as Head of Chemistry and his wise counsel held sway over the department for eighteen years; Tom brought it up to date both in its thinking and in its facilities, and when he eventually handed over those particular reins, his successor inherited a department confident in its ability to deliver at all levels and running like clockwork. Tom's own teaching style, paternal yet demanding, organised and humane, enabled countless Abingdonians of all abilities to achieve their full potential, and until the end of his career he always gave complete support to his successors as they coped in their various ways with change after change and inspection after inspection.

While fulfilling the role of Head of Chemistry, Tom was also, from 1977, given the additional responsibility of Head of Science, co-ordinating the work and approach of the three separate departments. It was during Tom's tenure that the Greening Wing was built, providing much-needed extra accommodation for science. While holding these two positions he was, for over five years, Senior Tutor, in charge of what was then UCCA, now UCAS; in those days when a university's position in one's order of preference could make all the difference between a good offer and a flat rejection, Tom's detailed knowledge and understanding of the workings of the system, (not nearly as transparent as it is now), proved a veritable mine of information for those generations of boys who left Abingdon to pursue successful careers at university and beyond.

In 1991, with the departure of Jon Gabitass as Second Master, the Headmaster, Michael St John Parker, rearranged the management of the school and Tom became one of the three members of the Senior Academic Staff. His main areas of responsibility covered what might loosely be termed administration, deputising whenever the Headmaster was away and dealing with a wide range of aspects of school life as diverse as the reporting system, the calendar and ensuring the school bus system worked, and his position was central and pivotal between those of Tim King (Director of Studies) and Nigel Hunter (Senior Housemaster).

In 1997 he became Second Master. When Michael Parker was on sabbatical leave, the school was left in Tom's capable hands and his term as Acting Head is remembered as one of calm efficiency, in which his immaculate diplomacy was called into play on more than one occasion. The role of Second Master is never easy, combining as it does the potentially incompatible tasks of representing the views and wishes of Common Room to the Head, while interpreting the wishes of the Head in such a way as to make them palatable to the staff. We had in Tom a man who could perform this balancing act with consummate ease, and throughout his time under Michael Parker and Mark Turner everyone had good reason to be grateful for his shrewd counsel and tact.

Tom is immensely wise and totally unflappable; his fellow-chemists would say that his equilibrium could never be disturbed. When a crisis loomed Tom could always be relied on to take a detached and logical approach to sort out the problem, often diffusing a potentially difficult situation with his wicked sense of humour. Despite being one of the busiest people on the site, he was very approachable, his time always seemed absolutely limitless, and for those who needed to seek his advice his door was always open. He also has a prodigious memory. He can always place with pinpoint accuracy any boy he has taught over the years, and many he didn't, and can tell you what subjects that boy did in the sixth form, what university he went to and what career he is now engaged in. And more often than not he can tell you what the boy's parents did and where the family lived then and lives now!

For the past thirty years and more, supported by Trish, Tom's life has revolved around the School - he was always in his office till late at night and was never happier than when dealing with

Common Room Farewells

school affairs and attending school functions. For eighteen years he ran the Tennis Club and he nurtured some notable players and successful teams during his time. He loves the School and he has loved his work and one cannot imagine that he won't maintain his connections with the place in some capacity or other in the future. Indeed, his role as Abingdon's roving ambassador in the Far East continues, as he sets up base in Hong Kong and entices the best of China's young brains to come into our sixth form, while Trish thoroughly enjoys meeting the families of present and future pupils there.

Like many chemists (the composer Borodin springs to mind) Tom is a very cultured man: he can converse eruditely on the latest Booker prize-winning novel, recent orchestral performances or theatrical productions and all aspects of the fine arts. In particular, he and Trish enjoy attending a monthly programme of talks on the visual arts, visiting related exhibitions, and sometimes entertaining in East Saint Helen Street the visiting speakers whose subjects range from Petra, 'rose red city half as old as time', to the history of the English cupboard.

Well-earned retirement will give Tom and Trish more time to spend with their family and to indulge their wide-ranging interests and fondness for travel. We know for sure that if we bump into Tom in the street, he will always stop to chat and catch up on news, and will never be in a hurry to get away!

Steven White

Richard Coleman



"It would help if you were prepared to try much harder...": so began Richard's annotation of a Fourth-year boy's exam retake script. In many ways this epitomises Richard's commitment to teaching, nine terms of which were spent at Watford Grammar School, and one hundred and eleven at Abingdon. He has been keen that all boys, whatever their ability or inclination to learn chemistry, should be challenged to give of their best. And he himself has always shown a detailed

concern in all that he has done, exemplified by the pupil's script; a less conscientious teacher might have been tempted to skimp on copious amounts of red ink for a pupil who had, at times, shown less than full enthusiasm.

Having been educated at Gresham's School in Norfolk, Richard won a scholarship to Keble College, Oxford where he read Chemistry and stayed to gain his PGCE. His teaching practice was spent at London's Forest Hill comprehensive, before he moved

to Watford Grammar School, which was at the forefront of the Nuffield revolution in the teaching of science, the aim of which was to encourage active participation in experiments, with pupils deducing scientific principles for themselves.

Richard was one of the last staff to be appointed by Sir James Cobban before he retired as Headmaster in 1970. He arrived as Head of Physical Science, a combined A level course consisting of physics and chemistry. In the days when Sixth-formers read only three subjects, this course was typically taken by boys who also wanted to study mathematics and biology, though it attracted boys wanting other combinations, too.

In 1978 he became one of the first three dayboy housemasters, in the new Jubilee Wing, just off Big School lobby. So began a sequence of distinguished hockey player housemasters (Coleman, Wilmore, Aitken, Older) all with the same houseroom. Richard himself also organised OA hockey.

When Jon Gabitass departed for a headmastership in 1991, Tom Ayling gave up the posts of Head of Science and Head of Chemistry, and Richard took on the responsibilities of science co-ordinator and Head of Lower School Science. Sixteen years later, when his successor was sought, the job description was cut back to three pages of closely-typed script and covered: overall management of laboratory staff, the thirteen laboratories and ancillary rooms; organisation of pupils in GCSE science sets; co-ordination of double award science; and liaison with the heads of biology, chemistry and physics. In all his work, Richard showed his diligence and sharp mind, his attention to detail, his dislike of the sloppy or second-rate, and his concern for individuals.

Richard also combined this post with serving as PSHE co-ordinator, in addition to teaching a full timetable. He spent many hours, particularly over the summer, providing resources and schemes of work for the twenty-seven middle school tutors, as well as writing and giving advice on various School policies.

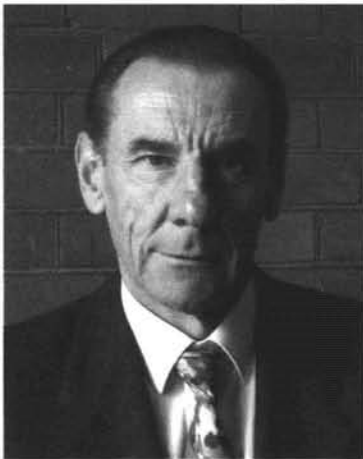
Richard also contributed to life beyond the classroom, not just in his hockey coaching but also in tennis, rugby, mainly with the Junior Colts, and the OA Club's *Griffen* magazine, which helps keep OAs in touch with the School. Himself a fine pianist, he and his wife Rosemary have been great supporters of School music concerts, particularly the Scholars' Concerts. Discussions with colleagues at lunchtime were often peppered with details of the latest porcelain acquisition, bought at auction in some far-off part of the country, with news of the latest development of his graduate sons, or the recent birth of his first grandchild. He will long be remembered as the man who had the temerity to ask Margaret Thatcher, on her visit to the School in 1973, whether she had "any further ambitions for the future".

Richard never just raised a problem, but always sought to find a solution. He was invariably optimistic and utterly reliable, and he worked unstintingly for his pupils. We wish him and Rosemary a long and happy retirement in Abingdon, with time to pursue their interests, including maintaining an immaculate and varied garden.

David Dawswell

Paul Raffell

One of **Paul Raffell's** fellow bridge players has described him as "very careful and thoughtful – not a man to take risks, but highly skilled". This judgement could apply equally well to many aspects of Paul's work at Abingdon School. Paul joined the Mathematics Department in 1991 from St Lawrence School. In the early years he coached junior cricket, where his participation was much valued, and for a while he was in charge of organizing detention. He also met his wife, Antje, at the school, where she was a German language assistant at that time.



Paul always demanded, and almost always achieved, high standards in the classroom. His strictness was legendary, with punctuality a necessity; his pupils were often seen sprinting to class, not wanting to miss a vital second of a lesson. Boys always knew what was expected of them, and were confident that when they carried it out they would learn mathematics thoroughly and achieve high grades. As Paul's Head of Department, I was always assured that

his classroom would be an oasis of quiet in a busy school, and that the required courses would be delivered rigorously, if sometimes idiosyncratically! I have seen eighteen-year-olds in a blind panic when they have been unable to complete a prep that Paul has set, anticipating the horror involved in admitting that they haven't finished the required task.

Over many years Paul was in charge of the Bridge Club and a small but devoted group of boys reported to his classroom many a lunchtime to be initiated into the mysteries of the bidding conventions. For a while he also presided over the Brewing Society, which kept its yeast and demijohns in the basement of Whitefield until it was ejected when the premises became required for other purposes.

Successive examination officers have hugely appreciated Paul's incredible efficiency as internal exams officer and an assistant for the external exams. Examination halls would be set out with an ever-increasing complexity of papers; sometimes there were a dozen different examinations in session simultaneously, but Paul was always an efficient master of ceremonies. His reliability in this area, as in others, will be sorely missed.

Paul has taken early retirement. He and Antje are planning to relocate almost at once to Germany; by the time this Valet is printed they will be gone. So, Paul – Auf Wiedersehen! Viel Glück!

David Forster

Richard Elliott

Richard Elliott's contribution to Abingdon and its music over sixteen years is incalculable but his legacy is visible and audible for anybody who has seen or heard Abingdonians in musical performance.



Richard came to us from Durham University as a newly qualified teacher in September 1991, his music degree having been followed by a PGCE and a MMus in which he had researched Japanese Buddhist chant.

He had been Organ Scholar at Hatfield College and his CV also spoke of "a keen interest in piano accompaniment". As a musician, it was in these two areas that he quickly made his mark, earning the respect of both pupils and colleagues. His outstanding technical ability as a pianist and organist, a wonderful aural facility and a sensitive empathy with pupils combined to make him a superb accompanist, able to work with pupils of all levels of musical accomplishment.

Richard delighted his colleagues and inspired his pupils with an appetite for classroom teaching, where his approach was vigorous, thorough and highly effective. He taught all areas of the music syllabuses, both specialist and generalist, and saw many GCSE and A level specifications come and go. His clear vision of good quality music education made him splendidly dismissive of some of the more doubtful elements. Yet, typically of him, he was always willing to deliver them for the benefit of his pupils. Richard's effectiveness as a teacher was largely responsible for the Department's success in winning the Good Schools' Guide award for the consistently best A level music results from a boys' school. Sharing an office with Richard was a humbling experience, his conscientious lesson planning and preparation equalled only by the quality of his marking.

Upon his arrival, Richard was harnessed immediately as a resident House Tutor in Munna Mitra's Waste Court, where he forged a close relationship with the Housemaster and his wife, Nicola, (now joint Chaplains at Christ's Hospital School) and proved himself to be pastorally committed and gifted. In 1996, after five years, he succeeded Rupert Milner as Master of the Scholars, this post becoming a housemastership in 1998 when a separate Scholars' House was established by Michael St John Parker. In 1997 he ran the Music Department most effectively during Michael Stinton's sabbatical term. Soon after Mark Turner's arrival in 2003, the scholars were re-allocated to through-houses and Richard became

Common Room Farewells

Housemaster of Elliott's. Here, too, he was highly effective and well liked by boys and tutors, who could trust him to be always understanding, supportive, enthusiastic and when occasion demanded it, suitably robust.

Richard's deep Christian faith meant that he always had a special feel for Chapel music and he served that element of his vocation at Abingdon with typical commitment and humility. For many years he ran the Boarders' Choir and played at Thursday evening services. Richard has been organist under three Chapel Choir directors, Charmian Manship, James Millard, and Simon Whalley, as well as directing himself. He has conducted the Choral Society in Bach's B minor Mass. He has also conducted the Second Orchestra and has participated regularly as a violinist in First Orchestra. In addition, he has directed music theatre – Bart's *Oliver* in 1993 with David Taylor. In short, he immersed himself in all aspects of the Department's work with relish and dedication over more than a decade and a half.

As a personality and as a member of the music team, Richard will be much missed for his wise counsel, his great kindness, steadfast loyalty and support in times of need. Over eleven years of regular concert tours, he travelled to Poland, Italy, France, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Greece, Austria, Hong Kong and China – always helpful, dependable and good value. As a community, a department and as individuals, we have all been the better for having had Richard among us for sixteen years.

Richard Elliott combines all the elements that are required of an effective Director of Music: musical, academic, pastoral and administrative; we salute him with immense gratitude and wish him God speed as he moves to the next challenge of his career, as Director of Music at High March School, Beaconsfield.

Michael Stinton

Teresa Silkstone



Teresa ('Tess') Silkstone joined the Modern Languages Department in September 2004. It says much for her enthusiasm and energy that when she left in July it was hard to believe that her stay at Abingdon had lasted only three years. Having lived in Paris for some years, Tess had the ideal opportunity to use and extend the French she had learnt at university, and she was generous in sharing the knowledge and materials she had acquired at this time. Despite her part-time status, she gave readily of her own time to accompany boys on visits, and the biennial visit to Paris benefited greatly from her input.

Tess was an unfailingly good-humoured colleague, and her ability to see the funny side of even the poorest of jokes won her many friends in the Department. All of us were sad that she decided to leave, and the good wishes of the School and of the Modern Languages Department go with her.

Veronica Walker

Andrew Crofton



Andrew joined Abingdon in 2003 and from the very beginning was a lively and entertaining member of staff. He quickly established himself as an invaluable member of Common Room on all matters relating to ICT. Nothing was too much trouble for him and he was always ready to help other members of staff with problems arising from the constantly developing network. Whether it was web design or simpler matters, he was always ready to help.

Prior to joining the School, Andrew had worked in a number of different fields, such as presenting a television show in Italy and, more importantly, developing ToCA Racing, a fact that went down very well with the more computer-savvy pupils. This broad experience prior to joining the School was very helpful in establishing him as so much more than just a teacher. His light-hearted and lively lessons enthused the Lower School and ensured that there were always plenty of pupils in ICT Club in Mercers' Court.

However, he was not just a classroom teacher, but was also a School House boarding tutor and a dynamic sports coach. The 3rd XV enjoyed a run of success under his capable leadership and the Tennis Club benefited from his professionalism and his experience of playing county tennis at youth level.

As a pastoral house tutor, his door was always open and many a down-hearted pupil found themselves cheered by his helpful demeanour and upbeat attitude.

Andrew also took part in a number of school trips. He was an integral part of the Duke of Edinburgh team and also group leader in the First Challenge expedition to Morocco. He was a keen yachtsman and went on trips to Bristol, Southampton and the Greek Islands. He also accompanied language trips to Spain and various skiing trips to the USA. On all of these trips his amiable zest for life transmitted itself to all. In particular, his patience and rapport with all year-groups ensured that his presence on the trip virtually guaranteed maximum enjoyment.

Among Andrew's other skills was his adeptness at World of Warcraft and he was the only member of staff to have completed Level 72, finally achieving Elfish status before he left.

Andrew leaves the School to take up a position as teacher of ICT at Leysin School, Switzerland. Here he will be able to fulfil his main ambition in life by becoming a professional big-air snowboarder.

Andrew Crofton was an old-fashioned teacher who felt above all that the happiness of the students at the school was as important as their academic success. Nothing was too much trouble for him: he was a true all-rounder and Leysin School's gain is undoubtedly our loss.

Steve Brenchley and David McGill

Simon Dickens



Simon Dickens arrived at Abingdon School in September 2004, having completed his PGCE course at Oxford Brookes the previous term, and after a spell of teaching at Magdalen College School. After three years at Abingdon he has now left us to join Trinity School, Croydon.

Throughout his time at Abingdon, Simon was renowned amongst the boys for his fantastic enthusiasm for his subject, English, which never failed to rub off on his students. He was a valuable asset to his Department, especially in his commitment to the production of *AbOriginal*,

the School's literary magazine. Having started out as a low-profile photocopied affair, the quality of the content that Simon managed to gather together deserved better. The volume that was printed just before he moved on was a far more professional affair, which provided a platform for boys to get their work seen by a wide audience and enabled parents to see some of the work that Abingdon boys are capable of producing.

Simon also dedicated himself wholeheartedly to Lower School tutoring. He worked tirelessly with the Lower School rugby players and was always fully behind his team, often raising a few eyebrows on the touchline as he celebrated vociferously every try with his team. His work with Lower School athletes resulted in his squads qualifying for the regional finals in every year since he started, a feat he must now try to emulate at Trinity School. He was always keen to get to know all the boys in Lower School, not only in his own tutor groups, and always volunteered to join them on trips ranging from Fishbourne to Wales and from Osmington Bay to Normandy.

For the production of *Bouncers* at the Edinburgh Fringe, Simon's role as 'producer' was much appreciated by me and the whole cast. I never thought that he would be so dedicated to cooking and cleaning for the four Sixth-formers, in addition to working as sound technician with fine aplomb. When he wasn't in the house or backstage he was up and down the Royal Mile trying to pull in the punters, determined to make sure that the boys' hard work on the stage was appreciated.

What is without doubt is that Simon's fresh and enthusiastic approach has been invaluable to Abingdon School. Staff and pupils alike will certainly not forget him and together we wish him all the best for the future.

Jon Barker

Hugo Besterman



Hugo joined the School in September 2005, having completed a BA at Downing College, Cambridge and a PGCE at Bristol. He very quickly established himself as a member of the Biology Department and of the School as a whole. He cared passionately about his subject and would always try hard to convey this enthusiasm in his lessons. On many occasions his musical talents and the appearance of his pet snakes could be used to liven up lessons. He developed quickly during the two years that he was with us, not only as a classroom teacher

but also in helping with administrative tasks in the Department. Hugo enjoyed the academic stimulation and immersed himself fully in the activities of the Biology Society and the Golgi Body. He organised the Biology Society dinner in his final term, which was a huge success for students, staff and guests.

Outside the classroom, Hugo was involved in a number of activities. He enjoyed surfing and football. Although the opportunities for surfing were limited in the School, he enabled football to develop to a high level during the time that he was here. With a good fixture list, Abingdon could compete with, and usually beat, some very strong opposition on the football field.

Hugo was an excellent boarding house tutor in School House. He had looked after his Sixth-form group as Fifth-formers, and then, unusually, took them on into the Sixth Form; such was their mutual affection and respect that he genuinely regretted not being here to see them through their final year. He was extremely conscientious about doing as much work as he could on their UCAS references in the very busy weeks before his departure and he clearly knew them very well. One of the grand farewell events was a tutor-group outing to Thorpe Park, and his final day here prompted the most moving goodbye speech by a tutee, in front of the whole House, that I have ever heard. Against the advice of Dr Gunn, he regularly and graciously did the unpopular Friday evening duty. He offered boys in all year-groups in the House generous academic and pastoral advice, and contributed hugely to the House tutor meetings, always willing to see the good in his boys at the same time as being shrewd about their weaknesses. Despite his obvious wisdom, he was not too proud to seek and heed advice. In short, he made a big impact on School House in his two years here.

Hugo left us to take on the position of Head of Biology at Clifton College, Bristol, the school where he did his teaching practice during his PGCE course. He made a big impact in the time that he was with us and we wish him and his family every success for the future.

Simon Bliss

Common Room Farewells



Charlène Leroy / Marion Bourdon

This year again our two French assistantes came from the University of Caen where they had done English degrees. They were very quiet at first but progressively adapted to the Abingdon School way of life. The Cross-Country Club was very thankful to **Marion** in particular for helping during the Michaelmas and Lent terms and both also helped Mr Loughie with the Languages Club on Wednesdays throughout the year. We always rely greatly on our assistantes to help prepare our Sixth-formers for their oral exams. This is the biggest part of their responsibilities here and Marion and **Charlène** rose to the challenge well. They are now both back in Normandy, studying to become secondary school teachers in France. We wish them well for the future.

Estelle Slatford



Marcel Kistler

This year, for the first time, we welcomed an assistant from Switzerland, a country not exactly renowned for the accessibility of its German! Our fears were soon allayed, however, as **Marcel's** brand of the language was familiar to our ears – give or take a few quirky differences in grammar. He quickly established himself as a most competent assistant who took his job very seriously and, true to his Swiss background, his approach was always punctilious, businesslike and thorough, but he also had a dry sense of humour and enjoyed a good laugh.

He was an excellent colleague in the Modern Languages Department, always supportive and more than willing to give up his time to help whenever necessary. The pupils soon appreciated his pleasant manner, good humour and energetic teaching methods, especially those studying at AS and A2 level, whose

creditable marks in the oral components owed much to Marcel's unstinting efforts and enthusiasm in his lessons. He was also quick to find his feet in the boarding community and developed an interest in that most important British cultural institution, the pub quiz!

We wish him every success for his future career in teaching and hope that he will keep in touch. In any case, he will have to return just to remind himself what proper beer tastes like ...

Nick Revill

Sophie Biddell



Sophie came to us from Christ Church, Oxford, where she was completing her D Phil on the music of the contemporary American minimalist composer, Steve Reich. An excellent clarinettist, her passion for singing and for church music was met in the running of the voluntary choir at Christ Church, which sings on Monday evenings when the Cathedral Choir have a rest. She had become indispensable to the organist, Stephen Darlington, and fortunately was able to continue in this capacity whilst at Abingdon.

Although retiring by nature, Sophie soon made many friends in Common Room and made herself useful to the Music Department in a number of key areas, particularly in sustaining the now vital work done in our weekly lunchtime informal concerts, which she presented and accompanied from the piano.

On the practical front, Sophie was also able to help with the Boarders' and Chapel Choirs and First Wind Band, played for morning chapels, accompanied for examinations and at concerts, helped with aural and theory classes and even assisted the Lower School Drama Club. In administration, Sophie helped coordinate the instrumental and Other Half reports and the cataloguing of sheet music.

Always eager to do more teaching than administration, Sophie was delighted to be offered a music teaching post at Taunton School from September, preceded by INSET on teaching the International Baccalaureat in Greece over the summer. We wish her well.

Michael Stinton

The School

The Chapel



The completed Trinity window in the Chapel

The Chapel had a busy year, as befits its place at the heart of the School's spiritual life.

As a result of our close and historical connection with the town churches, three annual School services are held in St Helen's Church. Dr Charles Millar, Rector of Abingdon, preached at the start of the School year; the Reverend Dr Ralph Waller, Principal of Harris Manchester College, preached, and memorably flew aeroplanes from the pulpit in the Commemoration and Passiontide Service, and there was a service of readings and carols for Christmas. The Leavers' Service was held in St Michael's Church. Sister Frances Dominica, who founded Helen and Douglas House, spoke at a School assembly of these hospices for children and young adults, revealing, as she spoke, her faith, love and integrity.

At boarders' worship on Thursday evenings, two of the services were part of our 750th anniversary celebrations. On All Souls' Day, we honoured departed OAs of all generations in a festal Eucharist at St Helen's Church, with School instrumentalists and the Chapel Choir, who gave a liturgical performance of Fauré's *Requiem*. A fortnight later the Benedictine monks of Douai Abbey sang Latin Vespers in St Nicolas' Church which, with our School, was founded by the Benedictine monks of Abingdon Abbey. They later sang Compline in Chapel.

Several priests preached in Chapel on Thursdays:

Dr Andrew Teal, Chaplain of Pembroke College
Dr Robin Gibbons, an Oxford theology lecturer
Tim Mullins, Chaplain of Radley College
The Very Reverend Nicholas Coulton, Sub-Dean of Christ Church Cathedral
Mark Birch, Chaplain of Helen and Douglas House
Paul Thompson, Chaplain of Epsom College
Canon Professor Martin Percy, Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon
Stephen Platt, of the Russian Orthodox Church, Oxford.

Harry Bell, Daniel Boddington, Ben Brazel, Hugo Morrison and (following baptism) **Kroma Wenike-Briggs** were confirmed in Chapel by the Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading. Their preparation included visits to the town churches, Iffley Church, Dorchester Abbey, a Carmelite monastery, and an Oxford pilgrimage to the Cathedral, St Mary's Church and University College.

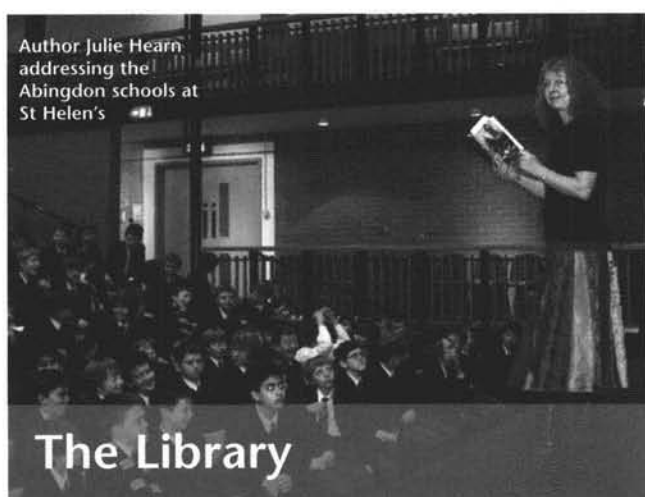
On 14 June the two side windows of the Trinity window were dedicated in memory of Hugh Randolph, a long-serving member of the Masters' Common Room. Nicholas Mynheer, the artist, gave an address.

The School

Holy Communion was celebrated, in Chapel and the boarding houses, on some Thursdays and at lunchtime on saints' days. There was a Boarders' Christmas service and services featuring the Chapel Choir at evensong, Advent and Candlemas.

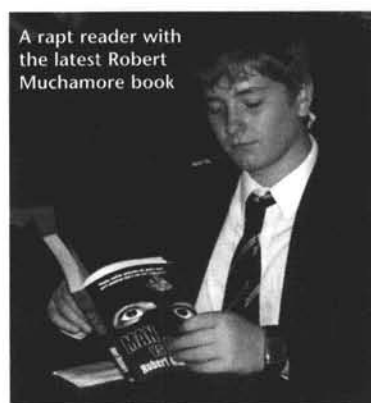
We are most grateful for those who led worship, to the lay assistance of Messrs Dawswell and Aitken, the organists, the Chapel Choir, the service typists, the flower-arranging of the wives of the Headmaster and the boarding Housemasters, and the Chapel cleaners – all of which enhanced the importance of the Chapel in the life of the School.

The Reverend HL Kirk
Chaplain



The Library has had a busy year with its regular events as popular as ever. The Michaelmas term sees the Kids' Lit Quiz, an annual event for First- and Second-year boys, which gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their detailed knowledge of children's literature. After an internal heat, two teams of four were selected to represent Abingdon at the regional heat for Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Several authors supported us, including Mark Robson, Kamar Lathar, Julia Golding and illustrators Helena Pielichaty and Joanna Harrison.

Although the Abingdon team did not progress further at this stage, Oxford was the venue for the World Final of the Quiz later in the year, July 2007. The Oxford team of librarians organised this event, held for the first time outside New Zealand, and hosted seven countries for a week of literary events and visits.



It is always good to welcome an author to speak to Lower School and this year we were fortunate in hosting Robert Muchamore in the week that he published his most recent book, *Man vs Beast*. He has gained in popularity since the visit and is now one of the Library's most borrowed authors.



During the Lent term there is the established annual event of 'Joint Schools' Author', which is organised by the librarians from three schools – Abingdon, Our Lady's Convent Senior School and the School of St Helen and St Katharine. The event offers primary and secondary students from the local area the opportunity to hear a first-class children's author talk about his work. This year St Helen's hosted the event and after being badly let down by our original author, we were very lucky to have local author Julie Hearn speak to the secondary schools in the morning, and the storyteller, Peter Hearn, entertain the primary schools in the afternoon.

A sale of second-hand books marked World Book Day in March this year, raising money for Book Aid, a Charity helping to resource schools in Africa with books. As usual, for the day itself, the Library was a haven of peace and quiet with no computers running, giving the boys the opportunity for some absorbed, personal reading.

The summer term sees the culmination of the library year with 'Shadowing the Carnegie', a national scheme involving over 30,000 school children reading the shortlisted titles of the prestigious award, the Carnegie Medal, which is awarded annually for the best of children's literature.





Another book discussion at John Mason School

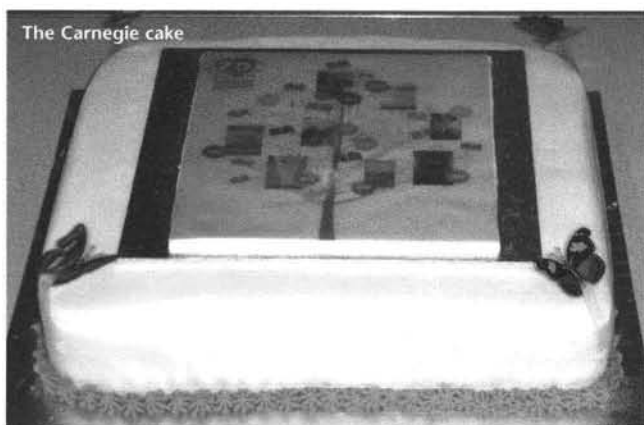
As part of the scheme, shadowers from all six Abingdon secondary schools join to participate in shared events. The first event, the Carnegie tea held at the School of St Helen and St Katharine, provided an opportunity to meet fellow-shadowers and voice opinions of the shortlisted books.

The second event of the Shadowing year was the Carnegie quiz at Abingdon School. The teams are mixed between the schools and it provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of the shortlisted books – they never fail to amaze us!

The final event of the year was the Carnegie Forum, hosted this year by John Mason School. An all-day event devoted to nothing but books! The groups spend time discussing their favourite for the shortlist, making a presentation and voting for the winner. The day is rounded off with the Carnegie cake. This year's winner, as customary, was at variance with the national winner: the Abingdon schools chose *A Swift Pure Cry* by Siobhan Dowd, whereas the national winner was *Just in Case* by Meg Rosoff.

As always, the Library could not run without its very competent team of pupil librarians and thanks are due to the senior librarians this year, **James Lloyd** and **Joe Delo**. This year we have welcomed an addition to the library staff with **Mrs Lynn Mills** as Library Assistant, whilst **Anne Soper** continues to provide invaluable advice and assistance as teacher-librarian.

Gaynor Cooper



The Carnegie cake

Buildings and Maintenance



The kitchens and serving area before, and the serving area after the refurbishment

The year has been one of replacement and the renewal of equipment. Very early in the year it was discovered that the pipework and boilers servicing the Science Block, Biology and Little School areas had failed and were leaking. With the use of some strategically placed electric heaters and thankfully a mild spell of weather, we managed to limp on and then replace the boilers throughout the Christmas closedown period.

The new year brought with it exactly the same problem in Waste Court and the boilers were again replaced in record time during half term.

A re-organisation within the Department led to the appointment of two House caretakers, whose duties are solely to support the boarding community, and the appointment of a joiner to complement our existing skills base.

The Easter break was used to complete preparatory work for the major summer projects as well as to improve the lighting in areas that would be used for examinations for the first time as a consequence of the Sports Hall development.

The summer works were the most comprehensive ever completed at the School and included the installation of new catering facilities, the creation of a temporary dining hall in the CMR for the lets, which then had to be dismantled, as well as phase one of the reorganization of the ground floor of the Design and Technology Department. This work involved the refurbishment of the classroom to improve visibility and the provision of IT, moving the CNC machinery to a separate room and the first phase of creating a new entrance.

Nick Barnard
Buildings Manager



It had seemed like a good idea at the time – a royal visit, just the thing for celebrating a 750th anniversary, especially as the town of Abingdon, celebrating the 450th anniversary of its incorporation as a Borough, also had reason to press for like privilege, so that our invitation might have double the pulling power. And so it proved. When, at the beginning of July, the Princess Royal announced her six-monthly programme for the second half of 2006, a visit to both School and town was fixed for 15 September – and we had just over eight weeks to get everything organised. Actually, we had only four weeks, since the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire's office, who arrange matters with the Princess's office, needed to have the details finalised four weeks before the visit took place – once such arrangements have been agreed with HRH's office there can be absolutely no deviating from the programme: both the Thames Valley police and the royal close-protection squad need to be happy with the plans, after which there can be absolutely no changes at all.

Four weeks should be long enough to arrange a royal visit, except that the announcement came just as everyone broke up for the summer holiday and staff disappeared for the duration. However, come the 12 August we had a programme that the

Lord Lieutenant's office was happy with and so apparently was Buckingham Palace.

One of the most difficult things had been to decide what exactly the Princess Royal should do – or even could do – in the one hour and five minutes allocated to us. Fortunately we had already commissioned a plaque to mark our 750th Anniversary from the Oxfordshire stone-carver, Alec Peever, and although we had originally said we wanted it for November he told us he could have it ready for 15 September, which meant that at least the Princess Royal could unveil that. And then, after much walking up and down with stop watches, it was decided that she would be able get to Waste Court, dig the first turf of the sports complex, return to the Charles Maude Room for a cup of coffee and to meet representatives of various School bodies, before going outside to unveil the plaque in the presence of the whole School, and then depart for the town.

Once term began, the maintenance department and ground staff, who had had their usual busy programme of work to achieve over the summer holidays, had seven days to give the route the Princess was going to walk a final wash and brush up. Alec Peever arrived with the plaque on the Tuesday; on the Wednesday the podium was erected; on the Thursday a timed walk-through was conducted; and then, once the school day ended, the School site was closed down until the visit was over.

Friday dawned dark and cloudy with heavy rain. This had not been in the plan. However, we had been told that Her Royal Highness would bring her own wellington boots and umbrella and carry on whatever the weather. What we hadn't realised was that rain and low cloud would mean that she wouldn't be able to use a helicopter, so my first phone call of the morning was from the close-protection police advising me that it looked as though the royal party would have to come by car, putting the programme back by forty minutes. This wasn't in the plan either and without a tannoy it would be no easy thing to inform the whole School body of the change in timing. Luckily, the cloud lifted enough for the decision to use the helicopter to go ahead.

At 8.40 the police sniffer-dog arrived, chauffeured to the front door in a black van with blacked-out windows. The handler sprang to open the back doors, whereupon out plopped an overweight spaniel who then trotted off, tail wagging, to search the grounds. Somehow I had been expecting something rather more sinister.



By 9 o'clock the Royal Protection Police had arrived – armed, as indicated by the badges they wore on their lapels. I don't know why I was surprised that one of them was a woman but I was.

After this we had only to wait for the ground crew, who would control the helicopter's landing, and the press and television people, before everything was in place for the royal arrival, timed for 10.35/10.40. At just after 10 o'clock there was nothing to do except stand around and wait.

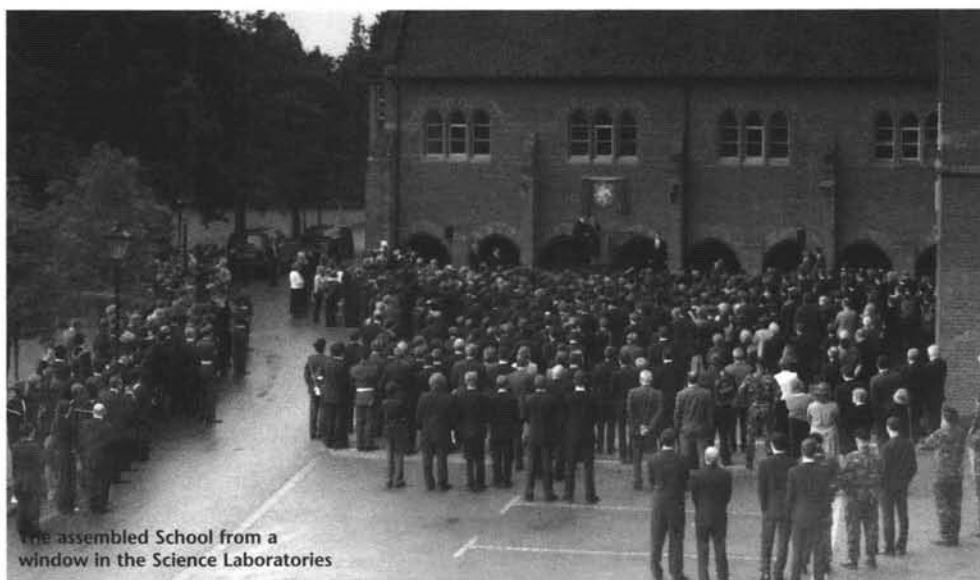
At 10.10 one of the policemen came up to me and said, "I've just been told it's wheels up at Charlbury."

I smiled politely and he obviously realised that I hadn't understood the implications of his message – I wonder if he realised that I had no idea what he was talking about either. "That means they're on their way."

I smiled politely again until he said, "This means they're going to be about 10 minutes early."

This definitely wasn't part of our carefully laid plan: an emergency alert was sent to the Headmaster, having a leisurely cup of coffee with the Lord Lieutenant and the Chairman of the Governors, but no one thought to tell the CCF, who were to form a guard of honour – the first they knew of it was when, in the middle of their final briefing, they heard the helicopter circling overhead and had to run to take up their places.

The photograph of the Princess's helicopter coming in to land shows everyone in their proper positions – if the photograph didn't exist I would be sure that everyone was still running into place as it touched down. It was 10.20 – punctuality might be the politeness of kings but perhaps princesses like to be early – fifteen minutes early. Apparently her first visit of the day, to Charlbury Town Council, had not taken the time expected and rather than hang around in the air the royal party had decided to come straight on. What was so impressive was that the boys, who had not been expected to be around for the arrival, were in the middle of break and behaved immaculately, as though they had been briefed.



The assembled School from a window in the Science Laboratories

It had been decided that during the Princess's visit she should be introduced to representatives from every part of the School community. The Chairman of the Governors, Richard Dick, was part of the reception party; the CCF formed a guard of honour; and at Waste Court she met boys who represent the School at various sports, together with sports staff and ground and maintenance staff. She also turned the first turf of our new sports complex, which is to be ready by late 2008. In the Charles Maude Room, she took coffee with representatives of various parent bodies – TASS, FASBC, the Music Society – and with OAs, housekeeping, teaching, administrative and catering staff, and boys from both Abingdon and the preparatory school. This part of the proceedings had been planned to start at 11.10, but as the guests arrived for 11 o'clock, the Princess was already there, which did mean that she had much longer to talk to people than would have been possible otherwise.

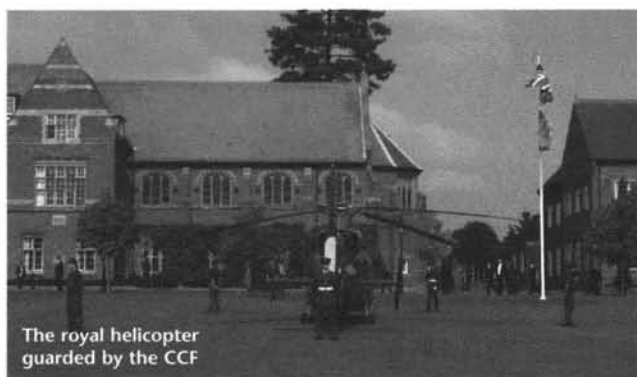
At 11.30 the Headmaster escorted the Princess out onto the podium where she unveiled the plaque, received two 750th Anniversary mugs from **Jared Khangwana**, one of the Heads of School, and a call for three cheers from the other Head, **William Stockdale**.

And then it was all over. The Headmaster and the Chairman of Governors escorted her to her car, and at 11.40 she was on her way into the town. The helicopter meanwhile remained on Upper Field, guarded by members of the CCF, until the royal party returned for take-off at 1.05.

Sarah Wearne



In front of the newly unveiled plaque



The royal helicopter guarded by the CCF

Anthony Chan

With outstanding Advanced Level examination results in physics, chemistry, economics, mathematics, further mathematics, Chinese and accounting, **Anthony Chan**, aged eighteen, has been accepted by Cambridge University, where he will commence a three-year course in Economics in October this year.

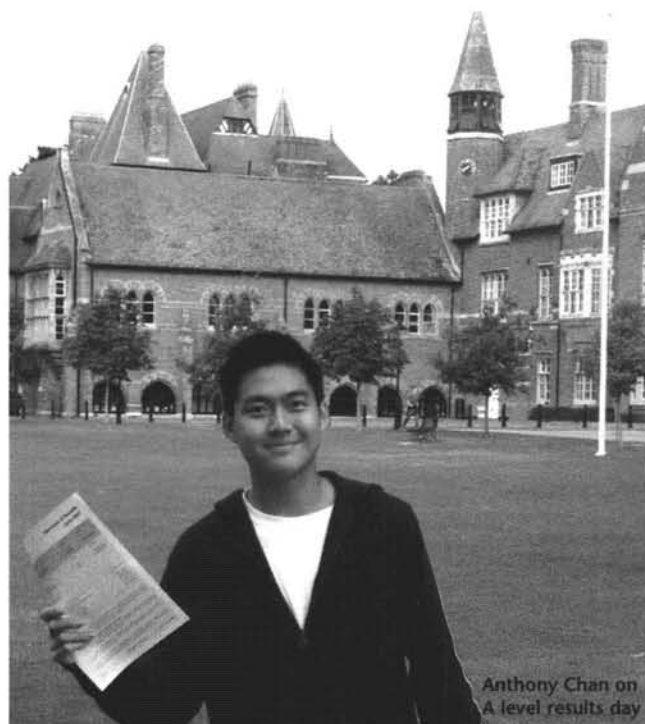
As a result of his seven A grades, **Anthony** has won a scholarship from the University of £6,000 for every year of his degree, a total of £18,000. Moreover, his college, Girton, has awarded him a further £250 a year.

Anthony is reported as saying that although the atmosphere for learning is more relaxed in England than in Hong Kong, the competition is very keen and his advice to students is: "Whatever it is that you do, spare no effort and do your best," together with, "Make good but sensible use of studying and leisure time." These two maxims explain how **Anthony** was able to adapt so quickly to boarding life in England when he arrived, and then how he managed to obtain such admirable examination results five years later.

"I am passionate about each and every subject I chose to study. It is the inexhaustible interest that motivates me to work hard, and hence to achieving the results that I had hoped for." Apart from being a member of a School rowing team, **Anthony** also won a silver medal in the British Physics Olympiad this year, implementing his belief that "the development of different interests is extremely important".

Anthony came to Abingdon at the end of his second year at Kowloon Wah Yan College in Hong Kong. He hopes that when he completes his studies at Cambridge he may be on the way to accomplishing his ambition of becoming involved in decision-making in governmental policies.

Translated and adapted by Benjamin Fung 6 MAO from an article in the *Sing Tao Daily*, Hong Kong



FxP² – Finlay Taylor, Paddy Gervers, Patrick Appleton

(The interview answers have been freely adapted from the joint responses of the three interviewees.)

Q. This was your second comedy review at School – how did it differ from the first one?

- Well, the venue made quite a difference to the show – in 2005 it was in the Charles Maude Room, which gave it the atmosphere of a comedy club, whereas this time round, in the Amey Theatre, we felt there was more scope for satire on a wider scale – we wanted to reach more people than just Abingdon pupils.

Q. How long was the second show in preparation and rehearsal?

- It was actually shorter to prepare and write than the first show, which took about a year and a half – this one was probably about ten weeks to four months to get ready. First we got a framework together for each item, then we got together to 'workshop' it – things were improvised a lot in rehearsal, which gave us all the chance to have an input into it. We think this worked better than the first show, in which a lot more was scripted.

Q. Would you admit to any material being ad-libbed on the night?

- Well, yes – Mr. Gervers added some stuff in Emo 1 and 2 – it's one of his strengths, and sometimes we write into the script 'Improv. here'. All the big 'character' parts allow for this. Anyway, it's mainly just the occasional line – the audience warms up and it's good to be able to feed them something extra. You see how the audience react, and modify your lines accordingly. When you're doing comedy you can also cover up really easily for technical problems by stepping out of character to apologize for them.

Q. What kinds of comedy or performers have had an influence on you?

- We don't model ourselves very consciously on particular performers, but our biggest influences are probably *Family Guy*, which is such a funny show, and *Monty Python*. The three of us all like different styles, so we arrive at an amalgam – we're trying to do modern stuff that people can relate to. *The Office* is another favourite of ours.

Q. Quite apart from the show, do you have any comedy heroes?

- Ross Noble is brilliant – I've seen him live, and Marcus Brigstock too, and Richard Prior – may he rest in peace. Two weeks after the show, we went to see Mitchell (OA) and Webb live, and found that we all appreciated different parts of their show.

Q. How would you answer the criticism that some of the show resorts to 'lavatory jokes' and rather hackneyed 'teenage humour'?

- Well, we are all teenagers, so it's a bit inevitable, I think! Anyhow, that's probably a part of all comedy. Our drama teacher thought the show was going to be very much like that, but when he came to see it he was surprised that it turned out to be more mature than his expectations. Obviously if we'd been performing in front of an audience of old people, we'd have had to completely re-script the show!

Q. Could you not have made better use of the girls in the show? They seemed to have a very minor part to play in the sketches they appeared in.

- Well, it's a massive logistical exercise to put on a show like this and girls are a bit dappy, you know? Seriously, the two girls we had with us are actually very good actresses. True, they didn't have much to do in some sketches, but then the show is about us principally because we write the parts for ourselves ... having said that, the girls do slot in brilliantly when we need an extra character. We try to strike a balance, so they don't have to commit to it to the same degree as we do in terms of rehearsal time – that way we feel we're not putting too much of a burden on them.

Q. Will there definitely be a third FxP² event this coming autumn?

- That's what we are hoping and planning to do. We're looking at sitcoms at the moment, and we've got Paul Mayhew-Archer coming in, we hope, to do some workshops with the A level drama people. We have experience to draw on from our involvement with the Film Unit too.

Q. Yes, I must say the video elements of the show were screamingly funny and I thought personally they were the best part of the whole thing ...

- With a video, you have the time and capability to edit until you get it exactly as you want it to produce maximum comic effect – we're definitely going to use video again this year. Sometimes it's a cut or an edit which makes it so funny. Sometimes ideas work better on film or video than on stage.

Q. Are you trying to write separate roles for the three of you?

- You do play to each other's strengths (as you observe them to be) when you write material, certainly. We tried to do lots of different styles each, particularly in the first show; it's more fun for us that way ... why does Patrick end up getting picked on as a victim in the final scene? Well, to start with he was smaller than us two and he looked more vulnerable ... or is it just because he's got a rubber face and can do that 'feeling sorry for myself' look so well?

- Well, thanks to the three of you for giving us an insight into your methods and motivation, and we look forward eagerly to the next show in the Upper Sixth!

Peter Willerton



An overhead view from an east – west axis showing the whole School site

Abingdon may not be the centre of the universe but these aerial photographs, taken on 12 March 2007, certainly put us in our place.



Looking north across the A34 towards Wootton and Boers Hill



Looking south to Didcot power station



Looking east towards Nuneham Courtenay



Christopher David Barton Milton 1923-2007

David Milton, back row centre, and the 1957 Common Room

David Milton, who joined the School in January 1956, was one of a number of young sparks to be recruited to the Abingdon Common Room by James Cobban in the years after the Second World War.

He was born in 1923, the son of an Anglican clergyman and his French-Canadian wife, and grew up speaking French as fluently as English. The famous organist of the Temple Church in London, Sir Henry Walford Davies, was a frequent visitor to the parish church at Headstone, Harrow, where Milton senior was vicar, and David became his pupil; the boy showed such precocious talent that he qualified as a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists before he had left school, and was encouraged to entertain hopes of an organ scholarship at King's, Cambridge. But the war disrupted any dreams of a career in the world of church music, and the French side of his upbringing came into the ascendant, in more than one way. An acquaintance of his mother had introduced him to Sir Alan Cobham's 'flying circus', which operated from Ascot in those days, and the young Milton was already an accomplished pilot by the time he left University College School to join the RAF. Like many of his generation, he was reticent in later years about his wartime experiences, but they left a heavy mark on him. He was shot down over the Channel and rescued, wounded in the hands, after what must have been a grim time on a life-raft; he trained a number of the foreign pilots who made notable contributions to the achievements of Fighter Command; and his knowledge of French apparently

recommended him to SOE, for he operated for a period in Vichy France, assisting escaped POWs and downed RAF flyers en route back to England from the area of the Massif Central.

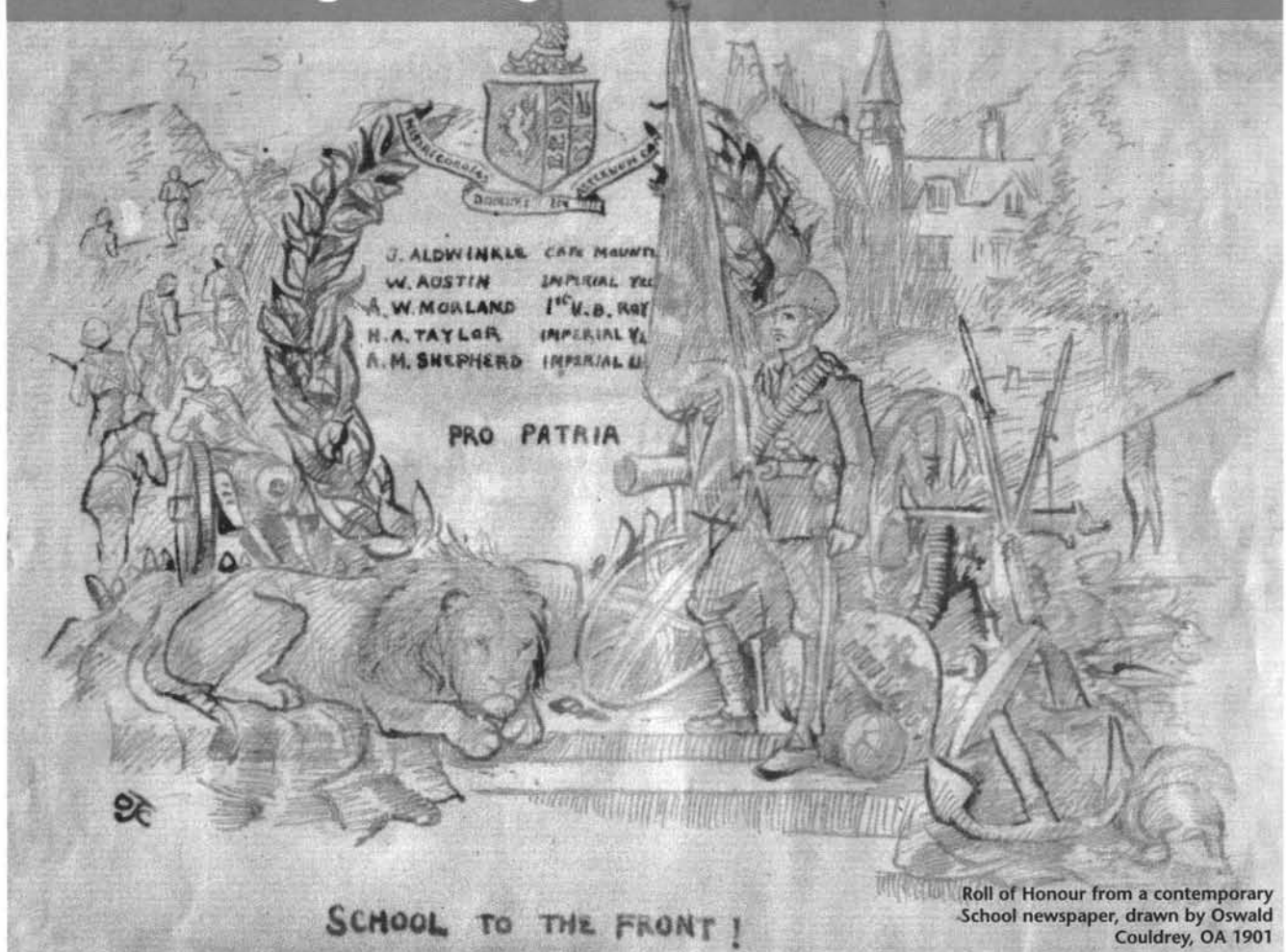
The damage to his hands having destroyed any chance of a Cambridge organ scholarship, or a musical career, David started afresh after the war and read for a BSc (Econ) at London University. Armed with this qualification, he secured a teaching post at Langley Park School, Norwich, where he met the Headmaster's daughter, Judith Travers, whom he subsequently married. Then, in 1955, the tragic accidental death of a mathematics master at Abingdon created a vacancy there which David was appointed to fill, in the first case for two terms only – but "It very soon became clear that he was too good a man, too good a schoolmaster, to lose" (JMC, writing in 1988). He taught economics as well as mathematics, in a style that could veer disconcertingly between the vivacious, the distracted and the peppery (particularly in later years, when a wartime legacy of tinnitus made noise almost unbearable for him at times); took a variety of games, with more goodwill than expertise; and shouldered a ragbag of chores in the manner accepted as normal in those days. But it was as an administrator, planner and eventually Director of Studies that he really made a niche for himself.

His temperament was at once logical and intuitive, apt with facts but addicted to concepts – a musician's mind, perhaps, with an economist's training super-added. Easily bored, he sometimes neglected the

mundane details of his role, and eventually there came one disastrous September when the School had to operate for the first week of the new year without any teaching timetable other than that which had been in force the previous July; but David did not seem greatly perturbed, remarking that it made little difference to what was actually taught. On the other hand, he was a brilliant source of ideas for successive Headmasters. A survey of the School's position, potential and prospects which he wrote for James Cobban in 1967/8, and which survives in the archives, bears witness to a magisterial grasp of realities and a breadth of strategic vision which might have brought him high distinction if chance had offered him the appropriate opportunity at an earlier stage. A man of cultivated tastes and wide accomplishments, David greatly treasured his home life with Judith and their sons at the Mill House in Cothill. But tragic ill-fortune stalked him throughout his life: his eldest son, a brilliant young man of rare promise, was killed in an horrific road accident; his wife, Judith, fell victim to multiple sclerosis and died after a painful decline; and David's own health, damaged by his wartime injuries, deteriorated sadly early. He retired from the School in 1986 and happily, a second marriage, to Hazel Northridge in 1988, brought him a whole fresh lease of life, and he left the neighbourhood of Abingdon to spend a fulfilled retirement in the West Country. He died at Sidmouth on 13 March 2007.

Michael St John Parker

Remembering the Forgotten War 1899 - 1902



Some thirty-seven Old Abingdonians served in the Second Boer War, with three fatalities. Little substantial material was recorded in the 'Abingdonian'. Nothing, subsequently, has been written about these men or their experiences in South Africa: young men, self-evidently of great character, sense of adventure and courage. In 1901 it was proposed that upon completion of the School chapel, a window should be erected to commemorate the services rendered by Old Abingdonians during the war: this proposal, made by the Revd Thomas Layng (Headmaster 1893-1913), did not come to fruition.

Arthur Ormond (1863-1900) was the first casualty. Serving with 1st Imperial Light Horse, he was killed in action, 3 January 1900, at Naauwpoort. The son of William Ormond (1826-1908), a solicitor in Swindon, Arthur had been a medical student, residing in 1881 at his parents' home at Devizes Road, Swindon, and he sailed for South Africa in 1897. His father had previously been a solicitor in East St Helen Street, Abingdon (1853). Arthur is commemorated in the parish church in Wantage, where other members of this Old Abingdonian family dwelt. His memorial reads: 'Lieutenant Arthur Ormond, Imperial Light Horse, killed in action, Naawpoort 1900 aged 37'.

Walter Murray Austin (1878-1900), son of Archdeacon Francis Austin, was the second

casualty. Serving in the Berkshire Imperial Yeomanry, he died from enteric fever at Bothaville, and is commemorated in St Helen's Church.

John Yeoman Aldwinckle (1882-1901) was the third casualty, a farmer's son from Shippon Manor and member of a considerable family of Old Abingdonians. He went out to South Africa in 1899, joined the Natal Police, served with the Cape Mounted Rifles, survived the conflict for eighteen months but died from serious wounds in April 1901; he is commemorated in Shippon Church and Framlingham College Chapel, to which school he transferred from Abingdon.

The brothers Arthur, David and Oliver Davis

emigrated to South Africa from the East St Helen Street family home of their father, Gabriel Davis. Arthur Davis (1850-1928) joined the Frontier Mounted Police; he served in the Morosi Rebellion (1877-78), the Zulu War (1879) and the First Boer War (1880-1881). Arthur then joined the Orange Free State Civil Service as a customs officer. In the Second Boer War Davis was a guide and intelligence officer. This old warrior went on to active service in the Great War at the advanced age of sixty. He dyed his hair, assumed the military age of forty, passed all medical tests and served in General Botha's invasion that took German South-West Africa (1914).

Arthur's younger brother, Oliver Davis (1866-1927), an accomplished equestrian, also emigrated to South Africa (1880), and served in both Boer wars. He became



John Aldwinkle,
OA 1897. Died of
wounds 1901

secretary of the Orange Free State Turf Club (1891) and was a champion amateur jockey and secretary of Durban Turf Club (1925). He was killed in an aeroplane accident at Dundee near Durban two years later.

A middle brother, David Davis (b.1857), surgeon, pursued a medical career primarily in London but also in Edinburgh, after which he too went out to South Africa (1900) and died there.

Two sons of Archdeacon Francis Austin (Archdeacon of Demerara 1884-90), Wentworth Murray Austin (1880-1954) and Walter Murray Austin (1878-1900), served with the Berkshire Imperial Yeomanry. Wentworth Murray Austin was later ordained at Lichfield (1904) and became chaplain to the South African Church Railway Mission, Bloemfontein (1911-14) and rector of Harrismith, Orange Free State (1919-22). He served with the Hampshire Yeomanry (1914-15) and the Wiltshire Regiment (1915-19) in the Great War, won a Military Cross in 1916 and was taken prisoner in 1918. Relatives reported that he "wore 'loud' coloured shirts, had a booming voice and told outrageous stories." The eldest brother, Walter Murray Austin, died of enteric fever at Bothaville. A memorial in the School chapel above the return stalls commemorates the third and youngest brother, Alan Murray Austin (1884-1914), lost with 525 officers and men while serving as commissioned paymaster on HMS Hawke, when it was torpedoed by German submarine U-9 off Peterhead.

It was while serving with the Durban Light Infantry that Alfred Styles Townsend (b.1869), from Park Crescent, was: "taken prisoner with Mr Winston Churchill on the destruction of the armoured train at Chieveley, near Estcourt in Natal, November 15 1899". This reconnaissance train had been derailed and ambushed by the Boers between Colenso and Estcourt.

Alfred Tom Pritchard (b.1857) enlisted in January 1900, having stated his age as thirty-six years when in fact he was ten years older; he was discharged in June 1901. His wife had died in 1899, leaving him to care for five children between the ages of five and sixteen. Family descendants suggest Alfred was unable to cope and 'ran away to the Boer War'. On his discharge papers it is indicated that his intended place of residence was to be the Queen's Hotel, Abingdon, but he never arrived there: that was the last news the Pritchard family heard of him.

The Shepherd cousins, Algernon Mutrie Shepherd (1871-1938) and Arthur Mutrie Shepherd (b.1865) both served in the war, the former as Captain in the Imperial Light Horse and as regimental signalling officer in the Rand Rifles, and the latter in the Imperial Light Horse and as Captain in the Rand Rifles (1901).

Algernon Shepherd, the son of Edward Leader Shepherd, grew up at The Lindens, Park Crescent (now Cobban House). After the war he joined the South African Civil Service as an inspector of explosives in the mines department, Johannesburg. He kept a diary covering his voyage out to the war, posting it home to his mother from Madeira and Cape Town. RMSS Briton left sight of the Needles on 7 November 1899. Table Mountain came into view on 20 November. By a great co-incidence: "almost the first person I saw after I landed was an Old Abingdonian, driving a cab down to the docks. He has got a splendid turn-out which is recognised to be the best in Cape Town. I spoke to him; he says he is doing well and is very happy.

The Docks are like an ant hill, nothing but men in khaki, and kaffirs running about all over the place. We have to wash seven or eight times a day to make any pretence of being clean, and even then we are dirty. I do not think much of Cape Town; the place is horribly dirty. We have just finished landing the six million rounds of Lee-Metford ammunition and the hundred tons of Lyddite shell ... they have been using five donkey engines all the time getting it up ... and the guns as well."

Arthur Mutrie Shepherd, son of G W Shepherd, carpet manufacturer, of Ladygrove House, Abingdon, and later, Glyndwr, Park Crescent, served in the Imperial Light Horse and by 1901 was promoted Captain in the Rand Rifles as signalling officer. In 1908 he lived at White Lodge, Foxcombe Hill. He later saw military service in the Great War, as Major, Royal Engineers, attached to the Scottish Signalling Service.

Nigel Hammond OA 1957
MCR 1967 - 1993

Roll of Service

ALLNUTT, Ernest Augustus (1864-1943). AS 1874-80. Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars. Sergeant (7926), 40th Company, 10th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry.

AUSTIN, Wentworth Murray (1880-1954). AS 1895-99. Berkshire Imperial Yeomanry. Private (6002), 39th Company, 10th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Action in Cape Colony and Orange Free State. Commemorated, Boer War tablet, St Helen's Church.

BAKER, Charles Talbot (1879-1918). AS 1894-97. Went to South Africa. Served, WW1. Canadian Contingent (Alberta Regiment). Killed.

BLOOR, Herbert Thomas (1869-1929). AS 1880-81. Regiment not known.

BROOKS, Reginald Frank (b.1882). AS 1898-99. Regiment not known.

BROWN, John Ranby (1880-1915). AS 1889-92. Lance Corporal (6002), 39th Company, 10th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Served, WW1. Canadian Infantry, Central Ontario Regiment. Killed.

CARTER, E F A. Major, King's Own Lancashire Regiment (formerly 4th Regiment of Foot).

CHALLENGER, Leslie Arthur (b.1880). AS 1894-97. Left for South Africa (1897). Transport agent.

COLLINS, Thomas Stanley (b.1879). AS 1893-? Private (6031), 60th Company, 31st Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Berkshire Imperial Yeomanry.

D'ALMAINE, Herman Arthur Abingdon (1870-1960). AS 1881-86. Emigrated to South Africa (1896). Natal Field Artillery. Served WW1. Major, South African Field Artillery. Captain, Royal Horse Artillery.

DAVIS, Arthur (1850-1928). AS 1861-? Guide and intelligence officer (1899). Served, WW1.

DAVIS, Oliver (1865-1927). AS 1875-80. Served, First Boer War (1881). Served, Second Boer War. Regiment not known, but probably cavalry.

DAVIS, David D (b.1857). AS 1868-71. Went to South Africa (1900). Regiment not known. A qualified surgeon.

HARRISS, George Charles Singleton (b.1883). AS 1895-96. Private (36527), 42nd Company, 12th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry.

HUMFREY, Edgar (b.1870). AS 1880-85. Served, Boer War. Regiment not known.

MILLER, G S. AS 1880s. Lieutenant, 21st Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Invalided (1901).

MILLER, Richard George Skillets (b.1869). AS 1880-85. Lieutenant, 83rd Company, 21st Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Captain, Witwatersrand Rifles.



MORLAND, Alec Walters (1878-1943). AS 1888-96. Royal Berkshire Volunteers. Wounded. Served, WW1. Lieutenant, Royal Berkshire Regiment. Commemorated, Boer War tablet, St Helen's Church.

ORPWOOD, Harry Charles, the Revd (1877-1939). Acting Chaplain to the Forces, appointed by the War Office. Returned to Southampton on board Tintagel Castle (1902).

POWELL, Claude Reginald (1878-1932). AS 1890-94. Private (10577), 58th Company, 15th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Berkshire Imperial Yeomanry. Rifleman, 1st South African Mounted Riflemen.

PRITCHARD, Alfred Tom (b.1857). AS 1867-70. Corporal (6090), 39th Company, 10th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Imperial Light Horse (1901). Commemorated, Boer War tablet, St Helen's Church.

ROBERTON, Herbert James E. AS 1894-? Private (8117), 59th Company, 15th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Oxfordshire Imperial Yeomanry.

ROBERTON, James (Bertie) Bertram (b.1879). AS 1894-? Lieutenant, 56th Company, 16th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Oxfordshire Imperial Yeomanry.

SELLS, Archibald Jenner (1882-1916). AS 1898-1900. Natal Mounted Police. Served, WW1. Lieutenant, The Queen's Regiment and Royal West Surrey Regiment. Killed.

SHEPHERD, Algernon Mutrie (1871-1938). AS 1882-? Captain, Imperial Light Horse. Rand Rifles, signalling officer. Served, WW1. Major, Royal Engineers.

SHEPHERD, Arthur Mutrie (b.1865). AS 1875-82. Imperial Light Horse. Captain, Rand Rifles (724), 1st ORC Imperial Light Horse. Served, WW1. Royal Engineers.

SHOPLAND, Bernard (b.1880). AS 1897. Baden Powell's Police.

TAYLOR, Frederick Ernest (b.1864). AS 1877-80. Served, Boer War. Major, Royal Engineers. Mentioned in Kitchener's despatches. Served, WW1. Colonel, Royal Engineers. DSO.

TAYLOR, Harry Armitage (b.1881). AS 1893-98. Served, Boer War. Lance Corporal (6106), 39th Company, 10th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Berkshire Imperial Yeomanry. Served, WW1. Lieutenant, Natal Border Mounted Rifles.

TOWNSEND, Alfred Styles (b.1869). AS 1879-83. Private (805), Durban Light Infantry. Taken prisoner at Estcourt.

TOWNSEND, William Charles (b.1882). AS 1895-96. Served, Boer War. Regiment not known.

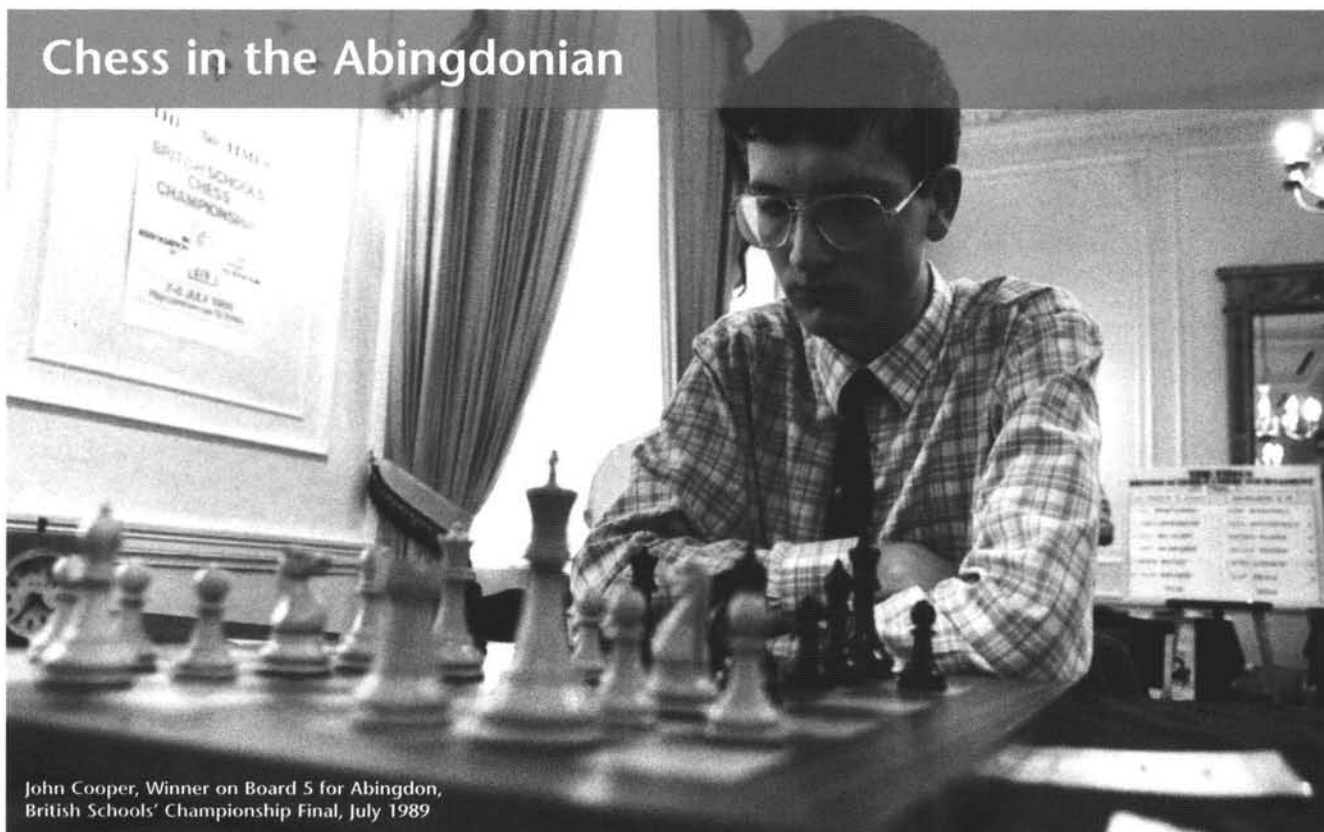
WARD, Archibald Patrick (b.1880). AS 1895-97. Trooper (21652), 80th Company, 21st Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. Sharpshooters' Corps.

WITTY, Herbert Frank (b.1880). AS 1895-97. Natal Mounted Police. Trooper (3219), 1st Imperial Light Horse.

WITTY, Horace Charles (b.1885). AS 1897. Natal Mounted Police. Trooper (41740), 1st Imperial Light Horse.

Clubs and Societies

Chess in the Abingdonian



John Cooper, Winner on Board 5 for Abingdon, British Schools' Championship Final, July 1989

What is the story of chess at Abingdon School? Who were the Stuart Robertsons of the past? Abingdon is by tradition one of the eight earliest rowing schools, and the history of the Boat Club has been recorded by R G Mortimer, so we can read about the boys who went on to row for Oxford or Cambridge and who represented their country in competition. But who were the chess players?

Shelved in the gallery of the Grundy Library are bound copies of *The Abingdonian* dating back to the first issue of 1890. The earliest mention of chess I could find is in the December 1922 'Oxford Letter'. An anonymous OA writes, "Yet two more have come from 'alma mater' to swell our numbers at THE University, but only one of these has gone to that College with which we are all familiar – and he plays chess." The college mentioned is, of course, Pembroke or 'Pemmy' as it was then affectionately known.

William Grundy, who was Headmaster at Abingdon for a period encompassing both World Wars, also played chess at Oxford University and encouraged boys to play at School. JW Rayson recalls that during night air raid alerts in 1940, when boarders slept in the gymnasium on straw mattresses, Grundy, "to take our minds off the War, would line up about twelve boys at desks, each with a chess set, and would walk down the line playing each

boy in turn. It was amazing that when the all-clear sounded he immediately went down the line and would checkmate each one."

An official chess club was formed in the Michaelmas term of 1947, with senior classicist GF Duxbury in charge.

CHESS CLUB

It was decided during the second half of the term to form a School Chess Club:

Mr GF Duxbury was unanimously elected chairman.

IH McNaughton was appointed Hon. Secretary and

MJ Alpin Hon. Treasurer.

Next term we are hoping to arrange fixtures with other schools, and we have already had one fixture offered to us.

The Abingdonian, Michaelmas 1947

Grundy, who had just retired as Headmaster, is not mentioned here, but it is clear from subsequent *Abingdonian* reports that he remained a key influence. It is reported that in the Lent term of 1948 "a team of five visited the Oratory School, Reading, to play a chess match which was lost 3½ games to 1½." Mr Grundy, we are told, "has been coaching some of the more senior members."

An enthusiastic membership continued to benefit from Mr Grundy's coaching, and by April 1951 it could be reported that the Club had enjoyed "a very satisfactory Lent Term." The new Secretary and author of the *Abingdonian* entry was a boy named PW Fay. He names the first Club Captain as BWT Leech. Meetings were held on Fridays and on some Saturday evenings, and a match against Newbury Grammar School was played in Lacies Court, resulting in a 3-3 draw. The first recorded knockout tournament took place in the Michaelmas term of 1951, with PSG Stevens emerging as victor.

After the hard-working Fay's departure, little is then reported in *The Abingdonian* until the issue of January 1954, in which 'PS-V' writes: "Chess has now gained so much popularity, that it was not unusual to see enthusiasts squeezing a game into the lunch-hour." And in January 1955, he reports: "The main feature of a quiet term was a match against Newbury Grammar School, when our VI lost by the smallest possible margin 3½-2½, in a most enjoyable and exciting game."

By the Michaelmas term of 1956, chess could be described as "the principal pastime of the sixth form," and the highlight of this term was the first recorded simultaneous display at the Club. Mr Grundy "took on four of our best players and beat three, the fourth, NJH Grant, managing to hold his opponent to a draw." In the Lent term of 1957, the Secretary records that "Mr Grundy visited us every week through thick and thin, proving that there are no obstacles insurmountable to him and his motor car ... and retained his supremacy in chess right up to the last meeting of term when he inadvertently gave his queen to HC Bowen who followed up well to win a hard-earned shilling." In this term the Club also records its first victory: two boys were entertained from Boxhill School "who played and were defeated by Goodman and CM Davis."

But clearly the Club suffered, as all clubs do, from other calls on members' time, and hopes to play more fixtures were commonly thwarted. "I will express no hopes for the future this time," wrote RS Green in September 1957, "as they always seem to offer overmuch temptation to Providence, and I see that for generations secretaries have been adding the same appendages with the same futile results."

No further reports on the Chess Club appear in the *Abingdonian* for a few years, but in the 'Oxford Letter' of January 1958 we read: "Bryan Kibble is at Jesus, and turns to chess for relaxation from his diligent labours in the Physics Labs."

After this quiet period, the Club entered a new phase. In January 1961, Secretary JB Goodman wrote: "The arrival this term of Mr JV Tyson, who represented Cambridgeshire at Chess in 1958, has been followed by a complete renaissance of the Club." Mr John Tyson, mathematics master, had obviously made a considerable impact the preceding Michaelmas term, and besides inter-form competitions we hear about the first recorded contest between the 1st VI and a VI drawn from the Masters' Common Room, "which the School won 4-1, one match not being played."

In the Michaelmas term of 1961, Abingdon took part for the first time in the National Schools' Chess Tournament, sponsored by the *Sunday Times*, and the Club recorded its first significant victories. Stewartby Grammar School and Bicester Grammar School were both defeated on the way to the zone semi-final, in which the 1st VI lost to Bedford Modern. The *Sunday Times* Tournament was entered again the following year, and the 1st VI again reached the zone semi-final, defeating Carmel College and Sir William Borlase School on the way. But in the zone semi-final, Abingdon again lost, this time to Magdalen College School, in what was the two schools' first recorded encounter. For the rest of the century, and beyond, MCS would remain Abingdon's chief rival over the chequered board.

Also significant in 1962 was the victory of TJ King in the School's senior tournament, defeating Club Secretary AE Medland in the final. Timothy King repeated this triumph as Captain in 1964 before going up to read biology at Pembroke. Mr Tyson, expressing gratitude for his considerable services as Captain, described King as "a tower of strength." He would ultimately return to Abingdon as Dr TJ King, Director of Studies and Master in charge of Chess.

The Abingdon 1st VI included another noteworthy individual in the early 1960s: TD Harding. The Club owns a copy of Harding's book *Better Chess for Average Players*, which can still be recommended, and I discovered that he writes a chess column, *The Kibitzer*, which can be perused at www.chesscafe.com. Harding's fiftieth column looks back over a "four-decade love-hate relationship with the game of chess." He writes, "I do remember thinking that I would definitely start playing chess at grammar school, which I started at the age of ten and a half. However, the chess club was moribund and the timing of its meetings was geared to older boys not the juniors. Instead I acquired a couple of chess books and studied them."

Things improved suddenly in my third year at the secondary school with the appointment of a new enthusiastic mathematics master named J V Tyson, fresh from Cambridge University."

Harding also recalls his first tournament, an Oxfordshire U15 Jamboree held at the Dragon School, "where I was paired with a young chap called M N Crombie who spent most of our game doing his Latin homework. Consequently I managed to draw from a lost position. Years later, his father was my supervisor for postgraduate philosophy."

Harding remembers playing in the *Sunday Times* tournament as well. Early in 1965, Abingdon was drawn at home against Eton and managed a narrow victory, "a win of great prestige for the chess club in the eyes of the Headmaster." Harding soon followed King up to Pembroke, joining him in a very strong College team that included two International Masters. He recalls visiting the Hastings Tournament with friends and a visit to Oxford by former World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik, who defeated him during a simultaneous display. Harding later went on to write books on opening theory and became an expert in correspondence chess. The Club still owns a copy of *The Games of the World Correspondence Chess Championships*, which he edited.

The win against Eton in 1965 was in fact the third successive victory against that school, and in the same year Abingdon's 1st VI also defeated MCS. Several players were now playing for county teams, and Abingdon finally joined the Oxfordshire Schools' League. The first Chess Club ties were awarded to Giddings, Harding and Medland, because they had "consistently distinguished themselves in school matches."

In the Lent term of 1966, Mr Tyson also inaugurated a knockout competition run on a House basis, so when classics master Mr Martin Woodgett took over the Club in the autumn, it can safely be said that the core pattern of tournaments and fixtures familiar to the Club today had already been established. It only remained for Mr Woodgett to introduce the first Lightning Tournament - and it is also worth mentioning that a 6-0 drubbing of Radley occurred early in his second year.

Subsequently, the history of the Club seems increasingly tied to the fortunes of its star players. In the *Abingdonian* of January 1968, we first read of one G D Pearce, "a new boy in the Fourth form of undoubted class." By May, Mr Woodgett could write: "Pearce must be almost unique in rising to first board (in the frequent absence of our captain, who rows) in his first year in the school."

Clubs and Societies

Despite the bracketed qualification, Pearce's achievement was indeed remarkable, and he would go from strength to strength at Abingdon. He helped the 1st VI win the Berkshire League at their first attempt in 1969, achieved an individual third place in the British U16 Championship the following academic year, and in 1971 he led the 1st VI to victory for the first time in the zone final of the *Sunday Times* tournament. The other players were: CJ Marley, HJ Manning, JSP Mushens, TB Niblett, and on different occasions either M Ormerod or PH Evans. For this victory the School won its first trophy chess clock, a splendid item that is still owned by the Club – and still works.

The 1st VI's victory extended the 1971 season into the summer term, when holders of the *Sunday Times* trophy, Dulwich College, were beaten 3-3 on board count. But in the quarter-finals Abingdon's successful run came to an end when they were narrowly defeated by Ilford High School, 2½-3½. Consolation was to be found in the 1st VI's third successive victory in the Berkshire League, and for Gareth Pearce, now Welsh Open Champion, in his Captaincy of the Welsh team in the British Open Championship.

With Pearce going up to Balliol College to read English, the Chess Club endured a few relatively undistinguished seasons, but in 1975 the 1st VI surprised itself by again reaching the zone final of the *Sunday Times* tournament, there losing to Bedford Modern.

In the Lent term of 1975, Richard Baker, son of physics master Mr RH Baker, won "the new and attractive cup presented for first-year Chess by the parents of Mark Venning, one of our most promising Juniors, who died shortly after winning his important match against the Dragon School." Mark Venning's father was a mathematics master at John Mason High School. The Club still possesses the Venning Cup, last awarded in 1991, and a wooden memorial trophy inscribed "MV", which has recently been restored.

The Club enjoyed some very good years in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1977, the Seniors, U15s and U13s all won Berkshire League titles and the U13s also won the Oxfordshire League title. The only matches lost that year, in both the *Sunday Times* tournament and the Oxfordshire League, were to "our present bogey", Magdalen College School. But that bogey was laid the following year when the U13s and U15s both defeated MCS on their way to winning Oxfordshire League titles. In 1979, MCS were again defeated, this time in the zone semi-final of the *Sunday Times* tournament. The 1st VI went on to win the zone final for only the second time, defeating White Cross School, Lydney, 3-3 on board count. The team was JP Davies, RW Baker, WJ Passmore, AJ Perry, GD Brown and CC Shuttleworth. The zone final of the *Times* Tournament, as it had been renamed, was won again in 1981. And in 1982, with First-former MJ Nightall in the team, Abingdon reached the last sixteen nationally. The zone final had thus been won in three out of four consecutive years. RW Baker seems to have been a key figure during this successful period. In 1983, Mr Woodgett lamented that: "Since the departure of Richard Baker, whose outstanding loyalty and quality I omitted to acknowledge in my last report, the priorities of many seniors have been elsewhere."



William Grundy,
Headmaster 1913 – 1947

When Mr Woodgett left Abingdon, after nineteen years of dedicated service to the Club, it was Mr Mearns from the English Department who briefly donned the mantle of master in charge of Chess. This was in the interregnum prior to the arrival of Dr King from MCS. Mr Mearns' sole Chess Club report significantly devotes an entire column to the "remarkable achievements" of one Nicholas Jakubovics, a Third-former who, among his many other successes, was winner of the Oxfordshire U13 title, joint winner of Berks and Bucks U18 Open Championship, and was second in the U13 section of the British Championships. One of his games in the British Championships, played in Edinburgh, was published in *Chess* magazine. Like Pearce before him, Jakubovics was to have a considerable impact at Abingdon. In 1987, in only his second season at the School, "the old enemy" MCS was defeated and the Oxfordshire League title was at last won by the senior team.

In 1988, the considerable efforts of Grundy, Duxbury, Tyson, Woodgett and generations of Abingdon boys finally came to fruition, when Dr King took the 1st VI up to Charing Cross Hotel, London, to compete in the quarter-finals of the British Schools' Chess Championship, the hotel bill for three days and nights being paid for by *The Times*. The zone final had been won with the loss of only one game in four matches, and in the inter-zonal phase, Abingdon had so far swept aside RGS High Wycombe, before narrowly defeating King Edward's, Birmingham, the brilliant play of Jakubovics clinching a 4-2 victory. In London, the team defeated Irish champions Antrim Grammar School in the semi-final, MJ Nightall winning a five-hour game against a much higher rated opponent to secure the 4-2 result. In the final, the team lost 2-4 to a very strong St Paul's VI. This national runners-up position remains Abingdon School Chess Club's finest achievement. The team was MJ Nightall, NS Jakubovics, MDH Clark, PJ Saxon, JRCoooper and TS Price. Top board Mark Nightall went up to Brasenose College to read PPE and became Captain of the Oxford team. He has continued to play chess in the Oxford and District League.

The following year, 1989, the 1st VI won its third successive victory in the Oxfordshire Schools' League, and again succeeded in reaching the last eight of the *Times* tournament. But on this occasion, having travelled to Plymouth for the contest, Abingdon immediately came up against a Truro team that could sport not only the British U16 Champion, but also Michael Adams, Britain's youngest Grandmaster. Still, Abingdon lost by just 2½-3½.

With Jakubovics having gone up to Girton College, Cambridge to read biochemistry, the early 1990s were a period of relative mediocrity, when Dr King complained that our chess teams "performed more like our rugby teams!" The School was strengthened in 1994 by the arrival from Germany of Felix Findeisen, "who set the county alight on board one," and in 1995 by the arrival in the Lower School of England Junior Stephen Bough. But in 1996 Jakubovics, now a Cambridge half-blue, could return and demolish the Club 15½-½ in a simultaneous display.

By this time, *Abingdonian* reports were again being written by Club officials, as they had been in the earliest days, and this worked well until after 1997, when the Club record becomes patchy. In 1998,

when I joined the School, I remember being curious about the Chess Club and playing a friendly game against Steven Bough. But my involvement in the Boat Club has so far precluded a significant contribution to chess. My overriding impression of recent years is that we have had some talented boys, particularly Graham Morris and Stuart Robertson, both England players, and a remarkable succession of chess-playing brothers, the Neatherways, Morgans and Kibbles, but that these boys have not always succeeded in coming together as a strongly competitive 1st VI. The *Abingdonian* of 2002, for example, records a by then rare victory against Magdalen 1st VI but in the same season lists some surprising losses, and in the last published report of 2004, though Morris and Robertson were individually "outstanding", Dr King adds that as a whole it has been "our most disappointing season for ages."

In June this year, I managed to watch Graham Morris, currently reading mathematics at Balliol, win a game against International Master Harriet Hunt during a local blitz competition. With Stuart Robertson, another mathematician, heading for Trinity College, Cambridge, it is just possible that our two most recent stars could face each other from the dark and light blue corners in the Varsity Match. That would be a wonderful contest to record in the Club's 60th Anniversary Year.

But whatever the selectors decide, I hope that with Grandmaster Peter Wells joining the coaching team in October 2007, the Club can begin to sharpen its competitive edge and once again aspire to face "the old enemy" on equal terms.

Andrew English

The Edmund Society

The Society enjoyed a variety of visiting lectures in the areas of philosophy and theology:

Dr Tim Mawson, St Peter's College, Oxford, on 'The Objectivity of Morality'

Dr John Cottingham, Professor of Philosophy, University of Reading, on 'Religious Belief'

Father Leo Chamberlain, OSB, Master of St Benet's Hall, Oxford, and erstwhile Headmaster of Ampleforth College, on 'Faith Schools'

Paul Hobbs, artist, on his sacred art, which he exhibited for a week in the CMR

Canon Trevor Williams, Trinity College, Oxford, on 'The Devil'

Ian Boxall, Senior Tutor at St Stephen's House, Oxford, on 'The Apocalypse'

Dr John Taylor, Head of Physics, Rugby School, on 'Mind, Brain and Soul'.

The 'A' level Religious Studies students benefited from tutorials by Marianne Talbot, an Oxford philosophy lecturer.

The Society was well served by **Ibrahim Qasim**, Secretary, and the Orator, **Timur Rytkin**, whose vote of thanks often challenged the lecturer's confidence.

Henry Kirk

History Society

In the summer term, the History Society was fortunate enough to be able to secure the services of Tim Gardam, Principal of St. Anne's College, to give a talk on 'The Making of History Programmes for Television'. Tim Gardam is a highly regarded journalist and educator with a distinguished record. Educated at Westminster School, he went on to gain a double first in English from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and began his career as a journalist at the BBC, during which time he founded the history programme *Timewatch* and served as editor of *Panorama* and of *Newsnight*. Between 1993 and 1996 Tim Gardam was Head of Current Affairs for BBC television and radio and went on to become Controller of News and Documentaries at Channel Five, being a founding member of the editorial team. He then moved across to Channel 4 where he worked for five years as Director of Television and Director of Programmes, before being appointed by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to lead a review of digital television in Britain. He was elected as the first male principal of St. Anne's College, Oxford in September 2004.

What was most striking about Mr. Gardam's talk to the Society was not just his evident experience in making a range of fascinating programmes for television, but also his ability to communicate his understanding of how best to translate ideas and information into effective documentaries. Using a wide variety of video clips, Mr Gardam not only shared insights into the programmes he had been involved in making himself, but also gave the boys glimpses of high quality programmes made by other directors, both in England and elsewhere in the world. He analysed the characteristics of good programme-making, challenged the boys to consider the effective targeting of different audiences, and encouraged them to consider the thorny question of how best to convey the central elements of controversial historical issues in an accessible form. The talk was both entertaining and informative, and the lively question and answer session that followed further demonstrated the depth and range of Mr Gardam's expertise. In informal conversation over the buffet that followed the talk, Mr. Gardam kindly spared the time to chat to boys about Oxbridge applications and interviews, offering helpful advice and words of encouragement. We very much hope that Mr. Gardam will return to the Society in future years, perhaps most especially since past questions on the History Advanced Extension Award paper have focused on precisely the sort of material he covered in such a masterful fashion!

Carolyn May

Lower School History Club

The Lower School History Club had another busy year. This popular club, run by **Dr May**, meets on Tuesdays after school for an hour in M101 and M102. Membership has risen to thirty-four, currently seventeen First-years and seventeen Second-years, and the boys continue to be very enthusiastic about the variety of activities on offer. Traditionally the year starts with a tour of Abingdon town, which provides an opportunity to reflect on the growth of settlement along the rivers, and the vital role of the church and the market in shaping development, as well as offering insights into the importance attached to the town charter and the ferocious past rivalry between Abingdon and Reading over county town and court status.

Each new generation of boys embarks on the making of helmets and swords, which are subsequently used in role-play and re-enactments in a variety of History lessons from First Form to even, on occasion, Sixth Form and to the construction of battlefield scenes and models. Grappling with a variety of materials presents its challenges and, despite a huge supply of



overalls, boys often seem to return home a little be-splattered, having worked with wallpaper paste, papier maché, innumerable rolls of mod roc, different types of clay and modelling materials and industrial quantities of metallic paint. It has to be said that their ingenuity in wrestling with the balloons, hardboard, chicken wire and jelly-bean-filled plastic tubes that provide the first stage of the structures is impressive!

There is no doubt that battles seem to hold a certain fascination and this year proved to be no exception. The 17th century provided the focus this year, with boys investigating the breaking of the royal military machine at the battle of Naseby during the Civil War, and preparing displays and collecting information about pikemen in order to be able to reconstruct battle tactics, including the 'hedgehog' formation, on Upper Field. Last, but by no means least, the boys have a chance to choose films to watch, and through their viewing, and from Dr May's occasional explanatory comments, have learned something of historical events outside the confines of the syllabus, such as the American War of Independence, the battle for Stalingrad, the Gunpowder Plot or even the identity of the 'real' Dracula. Enthusiasts of the Hollywood element of the Club often subsequently choose to join the Middle School History Film Club, which has met on Thursday lunchtimes in M101 for the past three years. Of course, no account of any event in M101 would be complete without a mention of the famous 'History' chocolate biscuits, which are consumed in astonishing quantities by club devotees, as well as a word of thanks to the Mercers' Court cleaners, who tolerate Dr. May's somewhat unorthodox activities with remarkable forbearance.

Carolyn May



Debating Society

The last year of the Debating Society has been one of successes at school and outside it. With a highly successful entry into the final of the European Youth Parliament, the society began a year of moving from strength to strength in competitions. The European Youth Parliament gave the opportunity for some of the fresher Sixth-form debaters to sharpen their teeth: **Alan Beaumont, Robert Marsh, Jimmy Wallis, Jason Davison and David Rawcliffe**. The society also competed in the Observer Mace, a prestigious debating competition, which we took through to the third round before being knocked out. The society was less successful but vehemently represented at the Oxford Union Debating Competition and the local Rotary Club's public-speaking competition. The inter-house public-speaking competition also saw some excellent new talent represented in the younger years as well as solid returning performances from **Jason Davison** and **Finlay Taylor**.

The last year in debating has been characterised not just by the successes of the Upper School but also by the extraordinary development of the Lower and Middle School debaters. Particularly **Tom Finch, Jasper Marlow and Alex Anderson** who have all challenged the laurels of the Sixth-form debaters.

A vast range of motions were settled this year, ranging from the comic to the serious with perhaps an unusually strong emphasis, this year, on the latter. Speakers ranged from the first-time speaker from the Lower School to the Headmaster and members of his staff. However, balloon debates struck back with their characteristic blend of off-the-cuff banter and just plain stand-up. A debating workshop ensured that no man entered the chamber without an understanding of presentation and argument.

This year's committee has been highly active. **Anthony Preston** provided a weekly dose of off-the-wall humour in his capacity as the poster secretary. **Stuart Robertson** spent the year dealing with the vast quantity of paperwork for the competitions and ensured that illprepared rivals were exposed. **Alex Hyde**, as well as filling the role of Social Secretary, also represented the School at many competitions, often with great success. As co-Chairman of the society, **Timur Ryvkin** has guided and encouraged new speakers with his wonderful mix of warmth and enormous experience, as well as presiding over debates with characteristic skill. **William Hall**, the other co-Chairman, has represented the School at competitions as well as encouraging a strong Sixth-form base.

Utterly essential to the year's success were **Mr Boyd** and **Mr Crook**, who have driven, watched and given up great chunks of their time for us over the last year. Many thanks also for their tutelage and advice.

Best of luck to next year's committee (**Oliver Aiken, Paddy Appleton, Finlay Taylor and Max Kibbe**), who look set for a fantastic year.

William Hall 6 NAFP

House Reports

Phelps'



Clive So playing the Chapel organ



Finlay Taylor and Patrick Appleton

Phelps' House, residing in the beautiful building of Waste Court, has seen its fair share of builders recently, with the archaeological dig during the summer, the neighbouring sports hall being re-developed, and the completion of the internal re-vamping of Big Dorm and the old showers. Phelps' was certainly a re-vitalised house at the beginning of the year, with both boarders and dayboys quickly able to enjoy the results of the extensive building work, and from the success enjoyed by the House this year it would appear that it certainly put a spring in the step of the majority of boys. Even the Upper Sixth were keen to spend time in the House and enjoy that new paint smell.

Sadly, the new room, Creemer-Clarke, was not open in time for rehearsals in aid of the House Singing Competition, and the Phelps's entry undoubtedly suffered as a result. However, it still provided an excellent opportunity for the new boys to become a part of the thriving community that is Waste Court, which this year welcomed two new tutors in **Miss Man** and **Mr Davies**, both of whom have already become assets to the House. They were even thrown in at the deep end towards Christmas, covering **Mr Phelps'** responsibilities while he looked after his wife and newly born daughter.

It would be impossible to do justice to the depth of talent present in Waste Court across all year-groups but certain individuals deserve a mention in recognition of their achievements. In particular, **Anthony Chan**, **Clive So** and **Guy Lomax** have all won places at Oxbridge this year, which is impressive by any standards. **Paddy Vickers** was awarded the school prize for Design and Technology

in recognition of his generous use of A level coursework to give **Mr Mansfield** some air conditioning in his van. **Clive So** deserves special mention for achieving a distinction in the Maths Olympiad as well as receiving an Organ Scholarship to Selwyn College, Cambridge. Clearly, Cambridge personnel have been attending our chapel services, astounded at Clive's ability to put a smile on schoolboy faces early on a Saturday morning. This year also saw **Tristan Mitchard** gain another Grade 8 distinction (this time in violin), making a total of five to his name.

After the House Singing, **Patrick Appleton** and **Finlay Taylor** felt the need to get back on the Amey Theatre stage for the sequel to their hilariously funny **FxP2**, which surpassed all expectations in producing another superb evening of pure comic genius whilst raising £1,500 for Cancer Research. Their charitable efforts were followed by **Johnny Bayfield** (next year's Head of House) who set up a school-wide collection of sports equipment in aid of an orphanage in Sierra Leone.

Although the House Public-Speaking Competition comes late in the school year, weariness was nowhere to be found amongst Phelps' entries. Such is the strength of the Sixth Form that **Timur Ryvkin**, who has chaired the Debating Society this year, was 'benched', leaving **Patrick Appleton**, **Finlay Taylor** and **Thomas Metcalf** to chalk up their third victory in as many years. Not to be outdone, the Fourth Form came runners-up and the Third-form team won their competition in convincing style. It was excellent to see everyone getting so involved.



Jasper Cooper (left)

The Other Half commitment remains a strength of the House. **Harry Wimborne** was awarded colours for his dedication to community service and **Jasper Cooper** for his part in the dominance of the Cross-Country Club. Other members of the House have reached the pinnacle of their sport, with **Adam Paxton** playing 1st XI hockey and 1st XV rugby, the latter alongside **Johnny Bayfield**. Within the Boat Club **Luke Titley** was selected for the 1st VIII, whilst **Paddy Vickers** represented Great Britain at the Junior World Championships during the summer holiday.

Such a snapshot cannot do justice to the 'remarkable men', to quote Mr Phelps, who make up the House and contribute to the whole House community. It would be wrong to miss an opportunity to thank all of the tutors and the housekeeping staff, especially **Mrs Carol Webb**, who make the House function regardless of what the boys manage to challenge them with, and who do not receive enough thanks for doing so.

The House is constantly evolving, with new boys arriving and old boys leaving, but the success it achieves remains thanks to the careful leadership of Mr Phelps, whose enthusiasm for each and every member of the House is the driving-force behind all our achievements.

James Wallis 6 DRM
Head of House

James Wallis and his team of dedicated and determined Sixth-formers have been fantastic leaders all year. I am grateful to them all and wish them all the best in their chosen university careers. A final tribute to my talented House was to win the Sixth Form Quiz – the team of **Sam Dent**, **Finlay Taylor**, **John Morgan**, **Harry Desmond** and **Alec Plint** were unbeatable, and this victory clearly shows that Abingdonians can neatly combine the talents of impressive intellect and athletic agility.

William Phelps



Phelps', conducted by Finlay Taylor, at the House Singing Competition



School House

Every confident community should be able to make the most of any change at the same time as holding on to its good qualities, to the end of enhancing its essential character rather than allowing this to be destroyed. School House, just like its close (we like to think slightly less illustrious) neighbour Crescent House, had two big changes to deal with this year. Firstly, we welcomed eight Third-form dayboys into what had been an exclusively boarding house, and secondly, the evening routine for boarders was fundamentally changed. Unusually, most of the dyed-in-the-wool conservatives were to be found amongst the boys, several of whose concerns were expressed intelligently and clearly. The view, "But sir, they will trash the games room!" was however offered with a hint of irony, I am sure. That particular House duty was already in safe hands, after all. One year on, everything that was good about School House remains so, and the community is now a stronger one, in my view.

That strength is as ever to a significant extent due to the senior boys in the House. A small group of Upper Sixth-formers did a good job of ensuring that everybody, including their Housemaster and tutor, was on task. **Harry Richards** led the way as Head of House, a job he performed with charm, sensitivity and a well-disguised steeliness. **David Ridley** and **Timothy Chu** both gained huge respect through their musical and sporting prowess, as well as being fine role models in many other ways. **Young Rok Kim** and **Max Ling**, busy though they both always were, gave much support to younger boys in the House, and **Bhavesh Amin** and **Gor Mouradian** should consider setting up a security firm together, such was their efficiency and effectiveness on duty nights. We wish them all well, and thank them for all they have done for School House, under the continued guidance of their tutor, **Peter Willis**.



Timothy Chu



David Ridley conducts the House in the Singing Competition



David Ridley

The Lower Sixth was reinforced by the arrival of eight new boys, most of whom settled very quickly, and all of whom made their mark one way or another. Indeed one of those new boys, **Gus Bartholomew**, made such an impression that he will be **Harry's** successor as Head of House. He will be assisted by one of the old guard, **Michael Chan**, as prefect in charge of full boarders, and nine other prefect members of this energetic, hard-working tutor group. Indeed their positive contributions are too numerous to list here, so I will just mention the most recent, obvious example of **James Cookson** becoming the Sixth Form Victor Ludorum in the House Athletics Competition. That I am so optimistic that they will also perform academically is down in large part to the excellent pastoral work of their outgoing tutor, **Hugo Besterman**, whom we all wish well in his new post at Clifton College.

Andrew Halls boys, now Fifth-formers, made as big an impact as ever with their work ethic as GCSEs approached, almost matching the sporting achievements of many of the group. **Parathan Rabindran** joined the House at the beginning of the year, adding huge style to the mix, and **Andrew Partridge**, yet another outstanding sportsman, was also with us, unfortunately just for two terms. We all very much enjoyed the end-of-year celebration at the *Rose and Crown* in Oxford, even if the two definite leavers, **Timothy Meats** and **James Wilkins**, were unable to attend. We have since learned that **Michael Shaughnessy** will also be leaving. Good luck to all of them for next year, whether they are still at Abingdon or studying elsewhere.

The Fourth-formers in School House, having spent much of their time in the Third Year not getting on with each other, took on the challenges of the year much more as a team. As well as benefiting again from having **Dan Smith** as their tutor, with all his customary energy, good humour and sense of proportion, there was more than the usual mutual respect, affection, and thus support. **John Bartlett** made

a big contribution in a variety of sports, particularly cricket; **Dan Boddington** and **Max Makarov** responded well to initial disappointment in their main sports; and **Jonathan Ient** really looked like a hockey goalkeeper. Perhaps one of their finest hours was when they battled against all the odds on Sports Day – they might have come last, but they did so with huge style and heart! End-of-year exam results suggest that they can all set about their GCSE year with great optimism, even if they will be without the calming influence of **Ali Ibrahim** in the evenings.

The new Third-formers, including the dayboys, were not going to let too much bother them, very much like their tutor, **Andrew Crofton**. As a group they made a great contribution to many areas of Abingdon life, in various musical ensembles, sports teams, in academic endeavours, and they are bound to go on making a positive mark here. The journey through School life was not always smooth, however, and even though they recorded an impressive tally of commendations, it was only just ahead of the figure for copies and other sanctions.

Despite that, there were too many individual achievements to mention here, and I will just mention the two leavers by name to exemplify these. **David (Sun Jin) Lee** has decided to return to Korea after just one year here, but his approach to his academic work was exemplary, and we shall also miss his quiet charm and good manners. **Marc Woolley**, who is to be a dayboy next year, has shown himself to be a first-rate sportsman, as well as a great devotee of after-lights-out debating. And

of course the group will be sad to see Mr Crofton leave, and not just because they will no longer have their tutor periods in the ICT lab.

So essentially we are taking things very much in our stride, and look forward to what the new School year has to bring us. **Diane Faulkes**, our matron, continues to give us short shrift when we deserve it, only to go all soft over a sentimental Christmas card from the boys. Thank you to her, and to the other ladies who look after us so well. We, more than most, are grateful to the catering staff and also to the maintenance team, particularly to our very own trouble-shooter, **Ratko**. We also plan to work more closely with the ICT Department next year than we have done occasionally this time round. Finally, I am very grateful for the support of my family, and of the excellent tutors in School House, but it is the boys who make this the community it is – a community I am proud to be associated with.

Douglas Aitken



Face in the crowd - Harry Richards, centre

The Cook brothers crossing the English Channel



Crescent House

Being a member of Crescent House you are all too easily swept along by the pace of life around you. But if you look back down the vista of years, you will find the astounding span and depth of the accomplishments achieved by the boys in the House.

Members of Crescent House are renowned for their excellent participation in all aspects of the School and this year was no exception. There were Crescent House members in every rugby team in the School. **Thomas Rutland** and **Jared Kangwana** set the pitch alight with their blistering attacks into the heart of opposing schools' 1st XVs. **Peter Ryan**, **Edward Howe** and **James Cook** were part of the victorious B team and **Benjamin Kemp** left his mark on many an opposite number for the Colts A. Regarding badminton, **Tobi Ojo** was selected to play for Oxfordshire, together with **Nicholas Acutt**, who showed that he was truly a conjuror with the racket despite only being in the Third Form. **Nicholas** was chosen to partner **Tobi** in the 1st squad. On the hockey pitches, **Matthew Roberts** and **Christopher Moore** shone in the U14 As. Whilst **Oliver Verdon** and **Harry Porter**

were prominent players in the hockey teams, the House runners – **Michael Nagi**, **Luke Powell** and **Freddie Howe** – all competed for the Cross-Country Club.

Kristian Schneider and **Nicolai Jurgens** were indispensable members of the highly competitive and spirited Boat Club. The former, alongside **Oliver Cook**, represented the House and the School at Henley Royal Regatta. **Nicolai** was selected for the German U23 squad and was also part of one of the School's finest Second Vllls of all time, as he and **Michael Nagi** were too old to row for the 1st VIII in competitions. **Nicholas Acutt** and **Charlie Uden** won silver medals at the National Championships. **Jamie Cook** and **Andrew Nagi**

made up the spine of the U15 A VIII. The Karate Club – founded this year by our Housemaster – produced five yellow belts: **Oliver Verdon**, **Jamie Cook**, **Peter Ryan**, **Edward Howe** and **Nicholas Acutt**. The comparatively unknown Abingdon School Football Club included within its ranks Crescent boys **Alex Lewington**, **Harry Lee**, **Sam Kim** and **Charles Lam**.

In music, the House celebrated its great triumph when **Adrian Lo** gained his professional diploma in performance for violin from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, having already achieved Grade 8 distinctions in piano, violin and viola. Additionally, there were members of the House partaking in every musical ensemble this year.

Apropos academic success, Crescent proved its capability in the summer examinations. **Jonathan Lau** and **Howard Loh** both gained five A grades at AS level, **Benjamin Kemp** obtained eight A*s and two As at GCSE, whilst **Adrian Lo** gained four A* grades at GCSE a year early.

On the service front, Crescent boys were, yet again, leading lights: **Shashank Tandon** and **Peter Nikitin** have been awarded full School colours for their service to the community. **Benjamin Kemp** excelled at a Combined Cadet Force Leadership Course and **Andrew La Forte** was at the core of the CCF RAF unit.

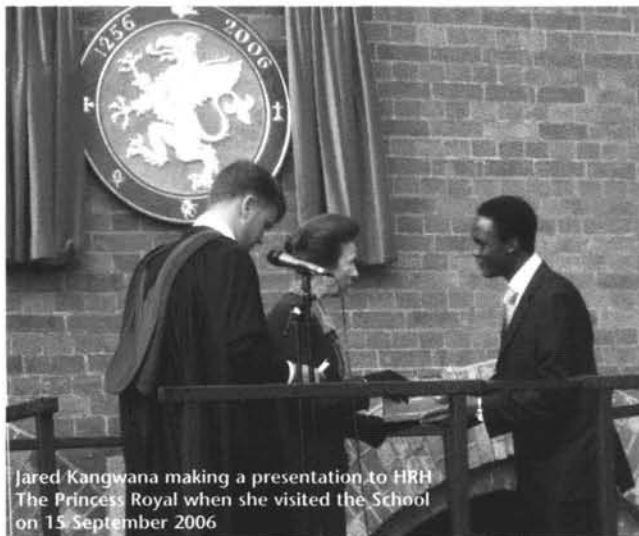
Crescent also broke a Guinness World Record this year when **James Cook**, with help from his brother **Oliver Cook** and **Kristian**



Kristian Schneider at the inter-house athletics competition



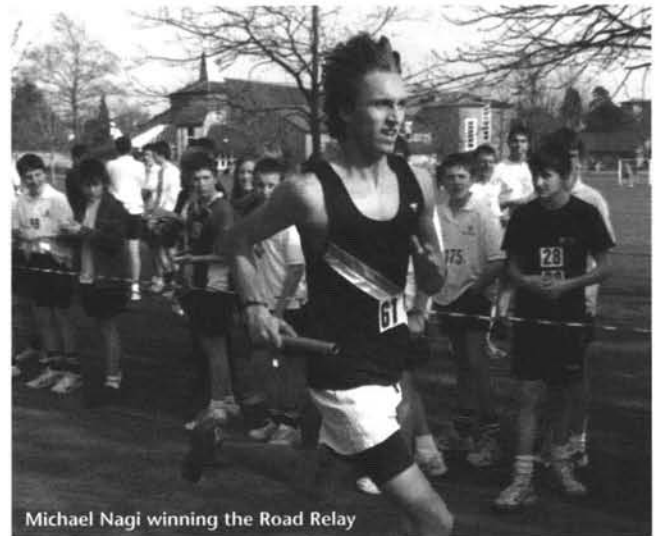
Kit Williams (son of Housemaster) and Crescent House boys prepare for grading under the direction of Sensei Ben Richardson



Jared Kangwana making a presentation to HRH The Princess Royal when she visited the School on 15 September 2006

Schneider, became the youngest person to row across the English Channel, raising six thousand pounds for research into motor neurone disease, for which feat they were awarded the School's John Roysse Memorial Lodge Prize for charitable enterprise.

However, it is in the inter-house competitions that Crescent has stood above the rest this year. For the first year, Crescent competed as an individual house, instead of as boarders (joined with School House and Waste Court), at the inter-house athletics day – where they were triumphant. Significant performances included those of **Stanley Ng** and **Bobby Aigbogun** in the 100m, **Peter Nikitin** and **Roman Jadanov** in the shot-put and an epic race in the Sixth-form 1500 metres, which resulted in first and second place for Crescent House by **Kristian Schneider** and **Michael Nagi**, where they were joined by **Oliver Cook** and **Luke Powell** and their champion road-relay team. Crescent was also triumphant in the inter-house pool and table tennis matches as well as in the inter-house cricket tournament. The Crescent House public-speaking



Michael Nagi winning the Road Relay

team (**Michael Nagi**, **Oliver Cook** and **Luke Powell**) reached the School final which they lost by one point, leading the Headmaster to describe it as one of the most closely contested competitions he had ever judged.

Indubitably, the House spirit has made this year a special one for Crescent. Fondly nostalgic reminiscences include **Nicolai Jurgens**, who is six foot six inches tall, at the notorious Crescent House Christmas Games, where he bent down and bit a cereal box that was reduced to an inch, or when numerous members of the House were wholly swathed in albumen during the Crescent House Egg-Throwing Contest at Easter. All of the Upper Sixth will be missed, as their vitality and enthusiasm around the House were second to none. I sincerely hope that they will visit their alma mater in the near future.

Oliver Cook 6 HFCP



Boyd's at the House Singing Competition

Boyd's

As we reflect upon the preceding academic year and consider the vast number of successes that our House has achieved, we feel overwhelmed with elation. Boyd's has risen from strength to strength as the new influx of Third-formers entered the House, already demonstrating confidence and social skills, especially during breaks and lunchtimes in the houseroom. **Mr Boyd** managed to avoid the dreaded 'second season syndrome', and the houseroom remains an enjoyable and vivacious place to work, relax, and amuse ourselves.

On the academic side of things, it has been an inordinately triumphant year for Boyd's, and we are now seen as one of the strongest academic houses. GCSEs were, as ever, spectacular; special mention must go to **Timothy Deeks**, who obtained 11A*s and a grade A at AS level, and **Mark Heffernan**, with 10 A*s. Furthermore, we were flabbergasted at how **Timothy Deeks** could find time for his studies, when he also managed to spend a week of work experience with a famous cricketing magazine, during which, he witnessed one of his articles being sent to print.

House Reports

We also had numerous Oxbridge candidates, including **Graham Forrest** (5 As at A level) and **Jason Mann**, who have both gone to Cambridge to read Engineering and Natural Sciences respectively, whilst **David Rawcliffe** (5 As at A level and a grade A at AS level) gained a place at Oxford University to read PPE.

Regrettably, our triumphs were not repeated on Sports Day, where we won the much-coveted wooden spoon in several events. Nevertheless, we made considerable contributions in other areas of sporting achievement: we were represented by **Nick Li**, who played for 1st XV rugby, 2nd XI hockey, and as captain of 3rd XI cricket led his team through an unbeaten season. Another noteworthy sportsman among our ranks was **Richard Parker**, a zealous hockey player, who played in the same team as Nick Li, as did **Harry Hole**. Many boys played for senior rugby teams, with notable contributions from **Kenny Cruickshank**, **Nick Li**, **Joe Buckley** and **Jonathan Warlow**, while **Mr Schofield**, our Lower Sixth tutor, coached **Ben Allen**, **Robert Haley**, **Luke Himpson**, and **Kroma Wenike-Briggs** in the 3rd XV.

Joe Buckley in The Taming of the Shrew



One sphere in which Boyd's House does have a proud history is debating, which continued with success in both the Third and the Fifth Forms, as demonstrated by their triumph in the Public-Speaking Competition. This perpetuated the tradition established by the fervent **Alexander Hyde**, a prominent member of the Debating Society.

Communally, Boyd's has burgeoned. For example, we are the first dayboy House to have a Christmas tree, decorated by the boys themselves

– much to the amusement of the tutors, and we have recently become an international House, with two new boys, **Kroma Wenike-Briggs** from Nigeria and **Timothy Kong** from Hong Kong, who are boarding in Waste Court.

Additionally, we have become a notably altruistic House, having raised £200 for the Moldova project from a House social event. This is in addition to all the work done by **Mrs Payne** (whom we thank unequivocally), who devotes a great deal of time to organising numerous events to raise money for charities.

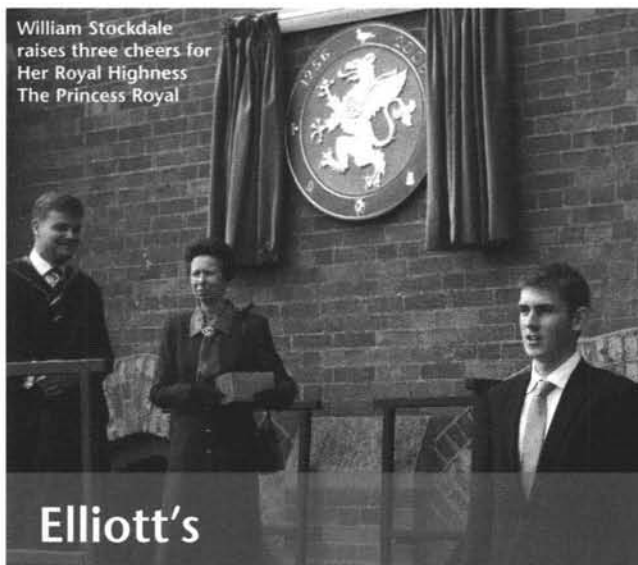
Last, but definitely not least, we would like to mention **Peter Wood**, who has displayed remarkable fortitude in the face of a serious medical condition, which did not prevent him from returning to School after surgery to sit his GCSE exams. At Prize-Giving, Peter's courage and tenacity were recognised by the award of the Richard Turner Memorial Prize.

We say farewell to **Mr Evans**, who has ended his long reign as a Sixth Form tutor for Boyd's, and we thank him along with **Mr Schofield**, **Miss Henderson**, **Dr May**, and **Mrs Payne**, who have cared for their tutees with devotion above the call of duty.

Overall, then, this has been a very good year for the House, as we continue to thrive under the relatively new and decidedly benevolent 'Boyd regime'. We encourage everyone to contribute to the best of their ability in every aspect of House life, and more often than not, this leads to a great House spirit as well as admirable results.

Harry Hole and Jonathan Warlow 6 MS

William Stockdale raises three cheers for Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal



It has been another bustling year in the life of Elliott's House. With our newly upholstered furniture and re-covered pool tables to enjoy (thank you, Bursar), we all felt eager and ready after the summer break to embrace afresh the exigencies of school life. The new Third-year contingent settled in well under the careful guidance of **Mr Whalley** and they quickly subsumed the House spirit, with large numbers of them fully involved in almost every corner of School Other Half life. Excitement was particularly rife amongst the Fourth-formers, though, as news came in of **Abigail Slatford's** arrival. Both the boys and I are very grateful for all the assiduous work that **Mrs Wright** did during the first half of the year when she looked after the tutor group in **Mrs Slatford's** absence. Also during the year, **Dr Gunn** took a well-earned sabbatical and **Mr Grills**, likewise, did a superb job of guiding the Upper Sixth towards academic success in their final stretch.



As ever at the beginning of the School year, preparations for the House Singing Competition got underway swiftly. After many helpful suggestions and much debate it was decided that the 1960's hit, *Daydream Believer*, by The Monkees would provide the best platform for our talents. And so it was; in an exciting and close-run event, once again we swept to victory, ably accompanied by our talented, Lower Sixth-dominated backing group. Whilst not so uniformly musical, the Upper Sixth – who were the last Drummond-Hay intake led by our illustrious Head of House, **Christopher Halford**, gave the younger boys in the House much to look up to.

Elliott's winning performance of Daydream Believer





Ryan Bucke

I am grateful to **Christopher** for all his leadership, but in particular his work with the House committee that brought forward some fresh ideas for both the House and for the School; these were acted upon where possible. It is always difficult to highlight individuals in a report such as this, as notable success came to so many of the Upper Sixth in so many different spheres. One should, however, mention Messrs **Watkins**, **Stockdale**, **Halford** and **Fletcher** as leading rugby players in the School, **Ryan Bucke** and **Will Stockdale** as top-class rowers, **Max Roberts** as our leading and talented thespian, as well as **Oliver Minton** and **Stuart Robertson** as Oxbridge successes. Boys further down the House were also prominent in School life. As will be seen elsewhere, Elliott's House dominated the running of this year's fine production of *The Magic Flute*, with **Tom Bennett**, **Tim West**, **Guy Cutting** and **Otta Jones** all taking leading rôles. Lower Sixth Elliott's-based *Funk Lore*, the School's senior jazz group, also excited its audiences inside and outside of School during the year. In sporting spheres we were all proud of **Nathaniel Watkins** and **Joshua Smith** in the Fourth Year, who represented the School in 1st XI cricket. **Tom Foxon**, our hugely talented runner, also achieved notable success at national level.

As ever, there was a steady round of social events during the course of the year. The Lower Sixth enjoyed more than one restaurant meal in the company of their excellent tutor **Miss Donovan**, and the ever-energetic **Dr Gunn** similarly entertained his troops (and his housemaster) at Fordwells in memorable fashion. The year ended, as always, with a very agreeable House social evening. This year it was tinged with slight sadness on my part, not just because it was the first year that I can remember that we were unable to be outside, but also that it was, de facto, my farewell to the House. Long convinced that I have the best house in the School, I am struck more than ever by a huge sense of privilege to have been part of it. Nothing in the last four years would have been possible without the help and support of the excellent tutors in the House and I am deeply grateful for all that they have done and indeed for all the support and encouragement I have received from the boys and their parents. I leave though, happy that the House is in the safe hands of **Mr O'Doherty**, under whom I know it will flourish. I wish everyone well therein.

Richard Elliott



Philip Hatzis playing the bagpipes at the Remembrance Day service

Head of House for the year was **Henry Freeland** who was supported by House Prefects **Philip Hatzis**, **Alex Freeland**, **Jonny Hughes**, **Sam Barton** and **David Spencer**. All did a great job, contributing their many talents with unfailing energy and good humour. I particularly appreciated their willingness to spend time in the houseroom, making sure that order prevailed in a friendly atmosphere.

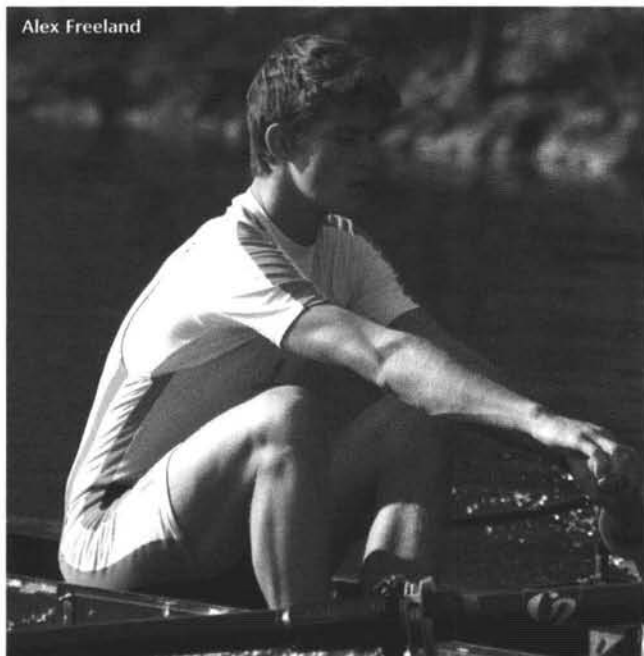
The year began with the special challenge presented by the House Singing Competition. **Alex Mugnaioni** was our flamboyant conductor, assisted by the unflappable **Peter Stradling** at the piano. A Chinese proverb says that a journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. The Proclaimers' *Five Hundred Miles* appropriately began with half a step, and lurched on into a drunken rhythm which eventually got us over the finishing line, exhausted, traumatised, but, in the spirit of Dunkirk, proud.

How different was the glory to come. The Franklin's House Panto rose like a phoenix from the ashes, written by the mercurial genius of **Henry Freeland**, with **Philip** and **Alex** indefatigably assisting as co-producers and directors. **Ed Hallett** contributed a valuable advisory role, as well as playing the sardonic narrator so stylishly. I was hugely impressed by the combination of enthusiasm and expertise shown by all the boys involved, not to mention the inimitable **Pritchard** the Dragon. (He certainly did teach us a lesson.) It was a superb production, greatly enjoyed by the large audience, and we raised a very healthy sum for charity.

The House Public-Speaking Competition was soon upon us, and a wealth of talent was again on display. **Will Hall** shone as brilliantly as ever, combining sharp wit with bravura confidence, and he set a great example to his juniors and peers. **Pip Probert**, **Dan Harris** and **Joe Ridley** also stood out in the performances I enjoyed. We were terribly unlucky not to win, but I was very proud of our standard and spirit.

House Reports

Alex Freeland



The Road Relay is one of the great events in the Abingdon year, and Franklin's House has a great record. **Philip Hatzis** was an outstanding runner throughout his time at Abingdon, and he ran a superb race as ever, producing one of the fastest times in the School. Our brilliant duo of **Alex Muir** and **Tom Watkins** led our Fourth-year team with their usual talent and commitment, and we again dominated the year-group. There is every chance that the two of them will continue to set records for every age-group as they move on up. The only question is which of the two will win any given race!

Battles were fought in a number of arenas, and one was entirely internal. The prefects organised a House pool competition, and the standard was very high. **Freddie Cleworth** eventually triumphed as House champion, and he went on to thrash his Housemaster to make the point. Can he retain his trophy next year? Only time will tell...

The inter-house cricket was another very enjoyable competition. We had many fine players, and were unlucky to lose out to a strong Elliott's team. Nonetheless we rallied with great spirit to reach and win the final of the plate competition. **Robbie Winearls**, **Joel Collins**, **Alex Veale**, **Tom Watkins**, **Sam Clarke-Warry** and **David Grant** all put in some fine performances, and **Josh Bull**'s bowling was outstandingly effective and exciting.

The House Athletics Competition had some complicated rules which did not always maximise our talents, but there were some excellent performances here too. **Tom Watkins** was fast as ever, **Harry Dennis** won two events, and **Alex Muir** won by an impressive margin in the 1500 metres.

Many individuals distinguished themselves over the year. **Alex Freeland** played some excellent rugby, and then went on to show his truly special talent on the river. His national gold in the IV was a brilliant achievement to crown his successes for Abingdon in the past. **Andrew Hatzis** and **Rex Carter** will be encouraged by him to aim very high in their already distinguished rowing careers. **Alex Mugnaioni** acted in extraordinary numbers of productions with dazzling talent, and we look forward to seeing him on the big screen in *Harry Potter*. **Chris Newman** continued to shine as god of hockey, while somehow retaining his modesty. **Tom Clee** showed great talent in rugby, always leading by example, and is a fine prospect for next year. **Alex Muir** and **Tom Watkins** have competed successfully at county level both in cross-country

Alex Mugnaioni at the Edinburgh Fringe



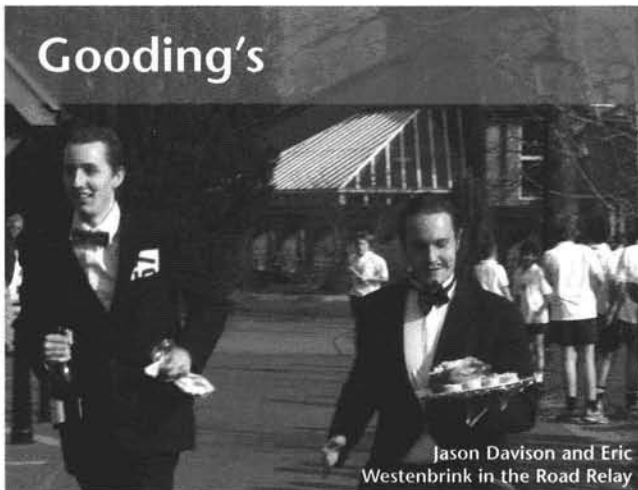
and on the athletics track, and have a very exciting future ahead of them. **Robbie Winearls** has been developing as a rugby player and cricketer, and underpins every team he plays in with commitment and good humour as well as ability. **Joel Collins** has caught the eye with his rugby talent, and is clearly a fine prospect. **Clym Buxton** and **David Mears** continue to shine in their musical accomplishments, and **David**'s academic progress has been stunning; he seemed to have commendations every day. **Joe McDonagh** was selected from a fine group to be a Lower School Assistant, and he began to win respect from the start with his excellent attitude to the job.

Perhaps most importantly of all, the atmosphere in the house has been friendly and positive. Even though restrained by a rather small space, boys have been able to work, play and generally relax in a comfortable environment, and I am heartened by their attitude. This spirit would not have been attainable without the endless work of the tutors, and I am greatly indebted to them. This report culminates with heartfelt thanks to **Mr Pritchard**, who is leaving the House after many years of intelligent and friendly tutorship. The boys in his last tutor group made it clear to me how much they had appreciated his guidance through UCAS and the Sixth Form in general, and I have been very grateful for his tactful assistance and kindness.



David Mears at Prize-Giving

David Franklin



Gooding's House has gone from strength to strength over the past year. During this period **Mr Gooding** has introduced an innovative 'buddy system' that sees each Third-year boy being linked with a boy from the Upper Sixth in an attempt to ease their transition into Middle School life as well as to provide greater vertical integration within the House. I feel that this has been very successful, at least from my point of view, as it provides each boy with someone whom they perhaps consider to be more approachable than a teacher in the first instance, and I have enjoyed seeing my 'buddy' at various points around School. The main House event of the year is the annual House Singing Competition and, although rehearsals are always difficult to organise, everything seemed to run very smoothly. All members of the House enjoyed the competition and we finished a very commendable joint third – which is the highest position the House has achieved since the competition began! Our song was I'm a Believer (The Monkees) and special mention should go to **Jason Davison** for conducting and helping to guide us to relative glory, **Ben Cooke** for stepping into **Jason's** role when he could not attend a rehearsal, **Mr Whalley** for his invaluable encouragement and technical advice, and of course to all the musicians in the House who played the backing music.

Jason has also left a legacy with regard to another inter-house competition: the debating contest, in which he led the House to another semi-final appearance with his unique comic style and superb use of props. Furthermore, he was our in-house resident magician who also performed at the Griffen Ball, wowing audiences with various tricks.

Sporting mentions should go to several members of the House: both **Gregory Salmon** and **David Mills** represented the 1st team for football, contributing to a magnificent season in which they were unbeaten with **Gregory** captaining the side. **William Clegg** obtained full colours for his contribution to the success of the 1st XV and **Charles Quarterman** was recognised for the part he played in the rugby squad. **Charlie Tucker** was also awarded full colours for cross-country, which has seen something of a resurgence over recent years under the guidance of **Mr Christodoulou**. In 1st XI cricket, **James Manasseh** recently took 4 for 23 in the 20-20 festival at Stowe, despite only being in the Fifth Year, which bodes well for the future. There was also a strong showing by the House in many areas of the Other Half, such as the CCF, where **Charles Quarterman** and **Ben Cooke** were heavily involved in their roles as NCOs in the CCF. Meanwhile, **Timothy Barrow**, an outstanding musician, was a key member of the Griffen String Quartet, playing at various events throughout the year.

Tass Tappins Travel Awards were given to three members of the Upper Sixth: **Ben Cooke** for charity work in France, **Charlie Tucker** for a conservation project in the Philippines and **Jack Hammett** for working in a South African orphanage. **Jack** also won the

end-of-year Geography prize and **Charlie Tucker** managed to obtain a Gap year scholarship with Deloitte.

The road relay is a great School event that helps bring houses and the School in general together, even if it often brings with it significant pain for the participants. This year members of Gooding's had some inspired and quite unconventional running gear, such as **Ben Cooke's** full-face helmet and body armour – goodness knows how he made it round the 2 km course in the sweltering heat! Then there were **Jason Davison** and **Eric Westenbrink** who went round dressed as formal waiters in black and white, carrying amongst other things a whole chicken and a bottle of wine. Finally there were **Greg** and **David** who kicked a football all the way around, as well as the numerous other conventional teams the House entered from all year-groups.

Mention should also go to the two winners of our own House competitions, **James Manasseh** for winning the House pool competition and **David Mills** for not only organising but then going on to win the table tennis competition.

May 2007 saw a dinner hosted at Pembroke College, Oxford for all the Upper Sixth leavers, maintaining Mr Gooding's links with his old college. A fun evening was had by all, with excellent food complemented by the odd glass of wine. I would like to thank **Mr Nairne** for his speech as well as for his three years of tutoring our year during Middle School. The dinner is a tradition that Mr Gooding seeks to maintain for future years and it provides an excellent opportunity for leavers to say goodbye, not only to the other members of their tutor group, but also to the pastoral staff in the House who have brought them through the whole process of life at Abingdon.

Overall, the time I have spent in Gooding's House, which was previously Fishpool's, has been an amazing experience. It is such a friendly House with strong social and pastoral support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the House tutors and Mr Gooding for their continued contributions to the House. Looking down the years at the people coming through, I see much potential, which should stand the House in good stead for the future.

Charles Tucker 6 ATH
Head of House



House Reports



Older's at the House Singing Competition

Older's

Another year has passed and I am once again confronted by the fearful blank document that is the House report. It is fearful not because I don't know what to write but rather that I will miss one or more of the myriad achievements that are part of the boys' successes in this school year. It remains a privilege to play some part in the School career of so many talented, intelligent, amusing, frustrating, irritating, friendly young men. And whilst some of those adjectives may seem out of place in what is meant to be a celebration of achievement, it is important to remember what makes the House such a vibrant entity; life at School would not be nearly as interesting without the odd frustration and irritation.

It is often the extremes of the School that set the tone for the House and this year we were lucky to have an exceptional Sixth Form and a Third Year that seemed to settle with more ease than ever. A clutch of five prefects, **Christopher Checkley**, **Max Hutchinson**, **Huw Parmenter**, **Anthony Preston**, and **Max Wood**, must be approaching a record, and there could very easily have been more; in many ways it seems strange to be singling out five from what was an impressively tight-knit group.

The year began with the excitement of the House Singing Competition and I was immensely proud of the performance of *Accidentally in Love*. It was a real House effort and a fitting end to **Henry Scarlett's** reign as our resident musical director, although I know that he was not satisfied with second place! Indeed the high standards set by him, his fellow Head of House **William Stephenson** and the other Sixth-formers, have helped to impress all the boys.



Richard Worth

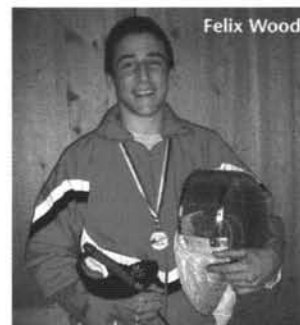
The House has been lucky to include two dramatic powerhouses in **Huw Parmenter** and **Max Hutchinson**, whose hugely successful Fringe production of *Bouncers* was followed by major roles in the senior drama production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. The summer of 2007 will be marked with another trip to Edinburgh, with other Sixth-formers, in their self-penned comedy, *Covered in Love: That's What She Said!* **Paddy Gervers** once again showed his potential as a comic writer and performer in the second *FxP2*, and all three boys were major contributors to the *Lyric Theatre* extravaganza along with other representatives from the House.



Henry Scarlett (right) at the Christmas Concert

In other artistic fields the House maintained its strong showing of the last few years. We are lucky to have truly exceptional musicians of every age, playing an impressive array of instruments. Whilst the contributions of **Henry Scarlett**, **Sahaj Sethi**, **Will Stephenson** and **Max Wood** will be missed, it is encouraging to note the arrival of the likes of **John Carter**, **William Davey** and others in the Third Year. In the fine arts, **Richard Worth's** A level work warrants special mention: the intricacies of his glow-stick installation will live long in my memory. And whilst this year's public-speaking competition did not match the last in terms of success, **Anthony Preston's** absence will certainly be felt by the Debating Society.

As ever there were impressive contributions to School sport across the board with almost every boy being involved in some team or other. We had a strong showing in 1st XV rugby with a number of the Upper Sixth involved and **Sebastien Wilson** representing the Lower Sixth, an achievement which he repeated in the Lent term by playing for the 1st XI hockey team as well. **Max Wood** matched last year's double of playing in the 1st XV and rowing in the 1st XIII, and was joined in the boat by **Gus Raftery**. In the summer term **David Fry** came into his own as part of the 1st pair in tennis whilst **Faraz Naqvi** and **Sahaj Sethi** brought flair and big-hitting excitement to the cricket field. In the minority sports, **Tom Phillips' long-standing involvement** in School kayaking should be mentioned and **Felix Wood** continues to have success on the international fencing scene. The influence of **David Bickerton** is evident in the House's involvement in the Sailing Club where **Thomas Altmann** was made Club captain. **Alex Hamilton** and **Christopher Checkley** deserve a mention for their contributions to a range of sports over a prolonged period.



Felix Wood

I hope that I have at least touched upon the successes of the boys this year, allowing for an inevitable bias to those at the top end of the House. However, it really is the contributions of all the boys that make the House what it is and it is the sum of these parts that should be celebrated.

Those leaving at the end of 2007 were: **Christopher Checkley**, **David Fry**, **Alex Hamilton**, **Max Hutchinson**, **Faraz Naqvi**, **Huw Parmenter**, **Thomas Phillips**, **Anthony Preston**, **Henry Scarlett**, **Sahaj Sethi**, **William Stephenson**, **Max Wood**, **Richard Worth**, **Hee-Won Yang**, **Charles Crook**, **Henry Holdsworth** and **Sam Jeffery**. We wish them every success for the future and hope that they will keep in touch in the years ahead.

Jamie Older

Matthew Rossiter, stroke,
Tim Gower No 2



The 2007 leavers were an eclectic mix of individuals, each with his own strengths: **Kemble Woodley**, **Chris Kerr**, **Charlie Lester**, **Arjun Kingdon**, **Ed Perou**, **Ed Caird**, **Robbie Marsh**, **Alan Beaumont**, **Aidan Tierney**, **Greg Palmer**, **Tom Chambers**, **Ryan Liu** and **Dan Buttar**.

Musically the House was blessed since a number of the group were not only able to play musical instruments but were extremely good. They included **Arjun**, both **Eds**, and **Aidan** together with **Ryan**, who all deserve thanks for their help with the House Singing Competition, which rounded off the first half of term. In the end they managed to mould the House into a respectable-sounding group, although the title, *Don't Worry, Be Happy*, did not always show on their faces.

Another memory I have of this group of leavers is how they seemed to take over and inhabit the art area. I wanted to find **Kemble** for something and from his timetable saw he had art. I found him in his home-from-home along with **Tom**, **Chris** and **Ed P**, with cups of tea flowing and packs of Munchies all around the place. I am not sure what they had put in the tea because I couldn't tell which way up their artwork was supposed to be – maybe it was post-modernism! And mentioning **Chris**, I must thank him for being a really good Head of House.

A few notable performances on the sports pitches deserve a mention: first, **Charlie** (Fish – I still don't know where he got that name) who was certainly better at playing hockey than he was at organising table tennis tournaments and secondly, **Greg**, who fitted very comfortably into the Sixth Form and strengthened the rugby squad.

I have probably used enough space on the Upper Sixth but I haven't mentioned **Robbie**, **Alan** or **Dan**. **Robbie** – Mr Sensible in the group, School prefect and good all-rounder and a real strength in the 2nd VIII. **Alan** – well Alan is Alan and he has shown resolve

and strength of character and perseverance this year, and **Dan** – what can I say but just that he is very slick.

At the end of the year, after a long period that has focused on exams, the School goes into an odd phase when the place seems to be running on half an engine with the Fifth Form and Upper Sixth having left, and for a period the Lower Sixth are away as well. After this phase the School seems to restart in summer mode with lots more trips out and various end-of-year events. To me the exam period seems like a memory barrier and it is easy to forget what went on in the hurly-burly that went before it in the months from September to May. It is only after sitting for a moment that I can turn my memory back nine months and realize just how much the members of the House have achieved. Since I moved to Abingdon I have often been amazed at just how much some of the pupils manage to fit into their time, and this is one of those times.

The year began with the House Singing Competition that I mentioned earlier, but as is normal at Abingdon there was so much going on that not everybody could be there and unfortunately a few of the elders of the House missed the occasion, and for a good reason as they were on the plane to Boston, Massachusetts.

Four of the Sixth Form (**Robbie Marsh**, **Matt Rossiter**, **Tim Gower** and **Adam Fogg**) enjoyed the rowing and hospitality of Worcester School on Lake Quinsigamond, Worcester, just inland from Boston, and then raced up the River Charles in the annual Head of the Charles race. **Matt** went from strength to strength during the year and finished the season rowing at the Junior World Championships in Beijing, where he won a gold medal (there aren't many people who have done that!).

During the half term up to Christmas the main activity outside of the classroom took place on the rugby pitches, and on Saturday afternoons it was great to see so many of the House getting stuck in. The Fourth-formers in particular got involved and seemed to form the backbone of the B team.

The variety of events and activities in which the boys participated can be shown by the jump from rowing and rugby, to a Film Unit trip to Cambodia. **Ben Hollins** was to the fore of this small group who, as well as working hard making a film to highlight the plight of people affected by landmines in Cambodia, and no doubt learning another language, found time to try the local delicacies – including fried spider.



House Reports



Fergus McIntosh in
The Magic Flute

At this time of the school year the Drama Department always seems to be at full flow and the quantity and quality of productions is always staggering, and last year was no exception. The House had several boys involved, either on stage or off, and a couple who had particularly large roles and deserve mention here are **James Harrison** for his tireless work for the Amey Theatre technical crew and, on stage, **Fergus McIntosh** in *The Magic Flute*. This is only one term's worth of events and I'm sure I've left lots out.

The Lent term was similarly busy, but for the top three year-groups the focus turned towards the external exams and to their credit, on the whole, they buckled down

and worked hard. Of course it was not all classwork and there were still other events going on, including the Schools' Head of the River, and the same Fourth-formers who made up the rugby team were together in the J15 2nd VIII, with over half the crew being from the House. They braved the elements and tide on the Thames and battled the 4 ¼ miles down the river (and the 4 ¼ back against the stream).

The summer term, after the exams, has a much lighter feel and there are trips and sporting events happening almost on a weekly basis. Athletics takes off in earnest with the inter-house competition and there were lots of inter-school events, at which the House was represented by a good number of the competitors with **Tim Gladstone** being a regular member of the squad. Of course, the summer term would not be complete without the sound of cricket around the School. The House has several keen cricketers, and again they seem to be mainly in the Fourth Form, with **James Edwards**, **George Rossiter**, **Chris Burgess**, **Michel Baumgart** and **Jack Metcalfe** being the main forces. These were joined by others from the tutor group – **Will Sensecall**, **Ben Stockwell**, **Mark Francis**, **Harry Granger**, **Sanchit Turaga** – and others from the Third Form to play in the Third- and Fourth-year inter-house cricket tournament. The boys did the House proud, and despite losing some of the players to the School's first and second teams, they made it to the final where they were beaten by a combined boarders' team.

This is really only a glimpse at what the boys have achieved and I apologise to those whom I have not mentioned for their commendable efforts during the year.

I wish the best of luck to the leavers, and for those who are still at School – keep working and playing to the full.

Mike Webb



Tim Gladstone running
at Harrow



Meeting Her Royal
Highness The Princess
Royal, 15 September 2006

First Year

September saw sixty First-formers begin their time at Abingdon with the usual mixture of excitement and trepidation. The jump to secondary school is a huge one and much of the focus for the three tutors and me for the first few weeks was on helping the boys settle in as quickly as possible and take on board all the new information they needed to know, from timetable arrangements to the location of the tuck shop (not that they needed much help finding that!). Crucial too during this settling-in period was the support of the fifteen Lower School Assistants – these Fifth-form boys, as well as handling the demands of GCSE courses, have given up huge amounts of their time this year arranging activities for the younger boys and generally being friendly faces around the school. In addition, this year a very successful team-building session was run for the three tutor groups by senior members of the CCF. Challenges were set that needed a combination of brain power and team work – and three members of 1L had the additional challenge of remembering how to address HRH The Princess Royal when she came to watch the activities as part of her visit to the School. The charity walk in September provided another chance for the boys to get to know each other as they walked the ten miles along the Thames from Dorchester. As ever, the Lower School raised a staggering amount of money for this event with nearly £2,500 coming from the First Year alone. As the Michaelmas term drew to its close, a highlight for members of the Junior Drama Club was the chance to perform *Dracula Spectacular* at the *Lyric Theatre* in London as part of the School's 750th celebrations – surely very few Abingdonians can claim to have performed in the West End during their first term at the School!

Routines had been firmly established by the start of the Lent term and considerable progress was made academically as the boys became more aware of what was expected of them and continued to take on board advice from teachers; even those who had found the jump to secondary school very daunting at first, now seemed very much at home. The rugby season continued until half term and, although the First-year teams did not perhaps have the best of seasons, there is plenty of talent that can be further realised



First-formers on their
first day at school

next year. The annual five-a-side charity football tournament was again a hotly contested affair with the First-year champions, Oxfordshire United, narrowly being defeated by the Second-year champs in the final. Over £240 was raised for Meningitis Research. Following an internal competition, **Omri Faraggi** (1M) was selected to join the four-man team sent to represent the School at the regional finals of the Team Maths Challenge in Oxford. The team won this event convincingly and went on to do well in the national finals in London in the summer. The resurgence of Lower School cross-country running continued with a team of First-formers winning the Year 7 County Championships at Cokethorpe for the second year in succession and 1D being the fastest First-year team in the Road Relay.

During the Easter holidays fifty-three of the boys travelled with five members of staff to the Osmington Bay PGL Centre near Weymouth. Here they enjoyed five days of adventure activities such as abseiling, climbing, tunnel trail and zip wire. The boys were clearly very tired by what they got up to during the day as, despite their Housemaster's best efforts, none of them was caught talking after lights-out so they must have been fast asleep – or possibly they had a more effective early warning system than in previous years and always managed to shut up in time! As always, the trip served its main purpose of helping the boys get to know each other better and learn how to work together more effectively. The PGL staff were all very impressed with their behaviour – although were a little taken aback when *Jerusalem* was the first choice of song for singing round the campfire.

The summer term was short but very hectic with much of the initial focus being on exam preparation. The exams came round quickly but were handled well with the minimum of stress – particular mention should go to **Fraser Capill** (1D), **Joseph Ereaut** (1L) and **Omri Faraggi** (1M) for coming top of their tutor group and thus winning the form prize.



The U12 cricket team

The post-exam period was a blur of trips and events, with visits to Fishbourne Roman palace, an inaugural Lower School Modern Languages trip to Normandy, a drama revue and the Lower School Concert. Particular mention should perhaps be made of Sports Day when, for the first time, the Lower School joined the older boys at Tilsley Park and so had the opportunity to watch them competing and also to be cheered on by the whole School. 1D, led by the hyper-competitive **Mr Dickens**, were the First-year winners. The U12A cricketers had a successful season under the strong captaincy of **Charlie Roberts** (1D), with the devious spin bowling of **Sasha Barras** (1D) fooling many batsmen and leading to a five-wicket haul against New College School. For the second year in a row, the team won through to the final of the Oxon Cup where, despite a valiant 48 n.o. by **Luke Carter** (1M), they were beaten by Henry Box School in a rain-affected game.

At the end of the year, Lower School said goodbye to one of its most enthusiastic tutors as, after three years at Abingdon, Mr Dickens moved on to another job in Croydon. His energy in the

classroom and dedication to the boys he has tutored will be much missed – as will his rather exuberant touchline celebrations. We all wish him well.

By the time this article is read, the First-formers will be well into their second year at Abingdon – there will be many challenges ahead but I have no doubt they will take them all in their stride and go on to achieve great things as they progress through the School.

Adam Jenkins



Osmington Bay - The Trapeze

I sat there engulfed in my own thoughts. I was sick with worry as it was my turn to jump off a 25 ft high, unstable piece of wood with only a bit of rope to support me. The last person to jump off came down shaking and pale, touched the ground and stumbled over and collapsed. I got up reluctantly and walked over to the instructor; I could see the carabiners hanging from his hand like hooks of death. As I stood there my mind kept out all sounds except for the click of the carabiners being buckled on to my harness. Then I heard the fatal words "Off you go". I cautiously walked over to the ladder, my stomach squirming violently as my hands gripped the cold, hard, steel bars of the ladder – a shiver went down my spine but I continued on. I eventually reached the top of the ladder, but that wasn't the end – I had to climb vertically up a log with flimsy stumps of wood as handles. As I climbed higher and higher I thought "One slip of my foot and I'll fall". It felt as if I was climbing for hours when suddenly there were no more stumps of wood, only space and the light breeze whipping against my hand. I tried to drag myself onto the top but the pole was violently wobbling. I thought the log was going to fall and crush me. I lifted my right leg up first and now I was balancing with both hands holding onto the top with my left leg dangling in the air. I then encountered another problem: the area at the top of the pole was small and I had my right leg in the middle so there wasn't any room for my left to be placed down, so I tapped my left leg against my right, pushing it across to make room for my left, after which I was able to stand up. I looked ahead and there was a great orange buoy suspended from wires that stretched between two telegraph poles. I could hear the distant voices cheering me on and then I made the fatal mistake of looking down. Suddenly I felt sick and disorientated. I started to sway and all I could hear was my heart hammering against my chest as if it was trying to break through. And then without knowing what I was doing, I jumped and kicked the buoy. Then I was falling and falling for what seemed forever when there was a sudden jolt and the rope that held me suspended tightened and I was lowered slowly to the ground.

Alex Hewetson-Smith 1D

Service Activities

The Moldovan group in national dress



The Moldova Project 2007

Every year since 2003 a group of Sixth-formers from Abingdon has travelled to Moldova, the poorest country in Europe, to work with the charity *Agape* in organising and funding summer camps for disadvantaged young people. Abingdon's link with *Agape* goes back to 2000 when we first started raising money to help with a variety of their projects and, since then, we have raised over £25,000.

The link was made even stronger when it was agreed that a group of twenty Moldovans would visit Abingdon, stay in School accommodation, and use our facilities during a week-long educational trip, partly funded through some of the proceeds of September's charity walk. Not only was this the first such trip to Abingdon by a group of Moldovan children, but it was also the first by a group of such a size to anywhere in the UK – a fact which meant that it was no easy feat to secure their passage out of Moldova, so it was with considerable relief that the news reached Abingdon that the necessary visas had been granted a few weeks before they were due to travel.

The group that arrived at Heathrow on 9 July was made up of fourteen young Moldovans aged between 13 and 18 together with six adults, some of them *Agape* workers and some teachers. Some of the students were taught at No 4 School in Ialoveni, which Abingdon has been linked with since it started supporting *Agape*,

while others attended *Agape*'s Young Entrepreneurs Club, which aims to teach ethical business practice. For all the young people this was their first trip on a plane and many of them had left their own country for the first time. On arrival at Abingdon the group moved into the boarding accommodation of Waste Court and, after a late dinner, quickly fell asleep after their long day of travel.

Over the next week the programme included several lessons with members of Abingdon staff, all of which were greatly enjoyed, not least because the practical hands-on approach to learning was very different from the didactic style of their education back home. A GCSE chemistry practical was performed with near-perfect results; key rings were designed on computers and then made; an online simulation was used to monitor the economics of farm management; and biographical writing was discussed. One of the most successful projects was that put in place by members of the Film Unit: a disposable camera was given to a pair of Moldovans who then had a morning to photograph their impressions of Abingdon. It was fascinating to see what the visitors found interesting about our own town and culture, from the School clock, which represented the English obsession with timekeeping (time being a very vague notion out in Moldova), to the buskers dressed as Red Indians in the town centre, who stood for the openness and inclusiveness of our society.



Outside Buckingham Palace
on the visit to London

The group was also joined on various day trips by Abingdon pupils (including some OAs who had visited Moldova on past trips and were keen to be involved again) and some girls from Our Lady's Convent Senior School. A visit to the White Horse Hill gave a good impression of the English countryside, while trips to a dairy farm in Marcham and an organic farm near Reading gave some insights into British business practice: at the latter, the Consul from the Moldovan Embassy in London met the group and discussed his political role.

In Oxford the extraordinary range of exhibits in the Pitt Rivers Museum and the wonderful architecture of Christ Church Cathedral delighted in equal measure, but the highlight for many of the group was undoubtedly the trip to London on the final day where they watched the Changing of the Guard, experienced a flight on the London Eye, and cruised down the Thames just in time to see London Bridge opening!

Another key event was the Moldovan Evening put on by the group in the Amey Theatre. *Agape* supporters from around the UK joined members of the School to be told more about the work of *Agape* by its head, Nicu, and also to be treated to performances of Moldovan



At the Pitt Rivers Museum

dancing, complete with traditional costume and even a comedy sketch involving both the visitors and Abingdon pupils. Afterwards Moldovan food was available in the foyer and Moldovan champagne was raffled, leading to a donation of over £300 for *Agape*.

What was very noticeable at this event was the natural manner of the young people from Moldova, who played the part of hosts to perfection and charmed everybody they talked to. Indeed this was commented on throughout the week as they were polite and open with everybody they met – not necessarily something

that can always be said about young people in this country! Also apparent were the sheer enjoyment and pleasure they took from things that we take for granted far too often and their determination to make the most of every single opportunity offered. As I remember thinking after my first visit to Moldova in 2003, this link is not a one-way street: Abingdonians have just as much to learn from the young people of Moldova as they do from us.

Moldova has little concept of community service and one of the aims of this trip was to encourage

and inspire the young Moldovans to feel that they can make a positive difference to their local communities; if the comments made by some of them after their return

home and printed below are anything to go by, this aim has certainly been achieved. It remains for me to thank all those colleagues who so generously gave of their summer holidays to spend time with the group, and all those boys and parents who have helped raise funds for *Agape* over the last year – plans for summer 2008 are already well under way!

Adam Jenkins



I understood that all that counts is how you are really inside – it does not matter what you are wearing or how much money you have, it matters how you trust people, respect people, love people, and try to make a difference in their lives. In our community this kind of stuff doesn't exist and so the most important thing is to try to look at the thing from another angle and to begin the transformation not at the highest level. We must start from ourselves, our family, our friends... and so create links that maybe will change our old-fashioned minds.

Alex Lebedev – aged 18

The UK is a society which in my opinion, once opened for you, gives you the opportunity to express yourself in different ways, to feel comfortable in your own skin, without being judged by the clothes you are wearing and the perfume you've used in the morning. For the first time in my life I felt free to express myself in a way I could never have even imagined and in this trip, I gained a vision, a life perspective, and even the answers to lots of my questions. When I came back home, I realized I was a different person, a person who is now ready to work as much as possible to accomplish the greatest and the craziest of her dreams, I understood that God works through me and for the first time, I really felt it, so now I know that I have to focus more on helping others, and the experience that I now have makes me feel strong enough to try.

Doina Colac – aged 15

For me the whole week spent in Abingdon was a unique chance to understand English culture. The lessons and trips helped me to enlarge my horizon of knowledge.

I felt the difference between the British educational system and the Moldovan. The method used by the English teachers is to put in the centre the student's personality.

These important things I found out discussing with people and visiting new places. This experience had an unbelievable impact in my life and led to me discovering new qualities of self-confidence and motivation.

**NOW MY HIGHLIGHT IS:
BRING HOPE IN MOLDOVA!**

Thank you very much indeed!

Nadia Ionesco – aged 17



Sponsored Walk

The biennial School sponsored walk took place on Wednesday 20 September with the aim of raising as much money as possible and getting the year's charity fund-raising off to an excellent start.

On the day, all pupils and staff were ferried out to Dorchester through the generous support of Tappins Coaches. They then all walked (or ran) the 10 miles back along the Thames Path to Abingdon. A mammoth packed lunch depot was set up at Clifton Hampden and further refreshments were available at Culham. The weather was kind and everybody made it back to School before the end of the school day.

Sponsor money was then collected in and, with the inclusion of gift-aided donations, a grand total of £23,590 was raised – a new record by a considerable margin. Special mention should go to 1 AJL, 3 SAP, and 6 FAD for raising the most money in Lower, Middle, and Upper School respectively, and to **Sam Fletcher** 6 FAD who, thanks to the wonders of electronic communication, raised a superb £600 and was therefore the highest-earning pupil!

The proceeds from the walk were split between three charities:

Agape works with young people in Moldova, the poorest country in Europe. Abingdon School has been working with this charity since 2000. For the last four years Sixth-formers from Abingdon have helped to run summer camps for poor children in Moldova.

Helen and Douglas House, based in Oxford, offers respite and end-of-life care for children and young adults, as well as support for their families. The School was very fortunate to hear from the inspirational founder of this charity, Sister Frances, at a School assembly later in the year.

Landmine Disability Support addresses the needs of disabled people in situations of post-conflict in less economically developed countries such as Cambodia. Abingdon's Film Unit has recently made a promotional documentary to support the work of this charity.

All those who took part in the walk deserve huge congratulation for a stunning fund-raising effort.

Adam Jenkins



Charities

The fundraising year got off to an incredible start with the biennial School sponsored walk in September, which raised a staggering £23,590 for *Agape*, *Landmine Disability Support* and Helen and Douglas House.

The next charitable event of the year was the immensely enjoyable *FxP²* Comedy Revue, organized, written and performed by **Paddy Appleton**, **Paddy Gervers** and **Finlay Taylor**, which raised a fantastic £1,474.50 for *Cancer Research*.



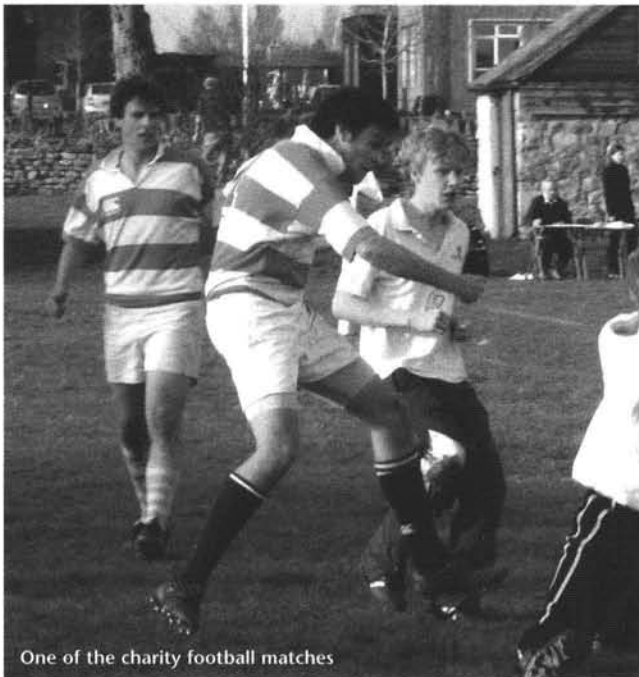
The Third Year gave up countless break times over the term to sell doughnuts, raising £117.75 for *Macmillan Cancer Support* and £90 for the *Clive Project*, a charity which helps people who are suffering from the early onset of dementia. They also promoted *Christmas Child*, a charity which sends gift boxes to impoverished children, principally orphans, in less economically developed countries. As a result of their promotional work in Lower School, they

managed to collect twenty-five boxes that were sent off to an orphanage in the Ukraine in time for Christmas. Finally, they ran a stall at the end of term, selling jokes and Christmas cards, managing to raise £43 for the *NSPCC* and *Cancer Research*.

Two staff raffles took place in the Michaelmas term with the cleaners raising £300 for *Macmillan Cancer Relief*, *Guide Dogs for the Blind* and the *Coronary Care Unit* at the JR; while Common Room raised £90 for the Oxford-based charity for the homeless, *Gatehouse*.

As ever, people were extremely generous in giving money to collections. The Christmas Concert collection raised £685.14, which was split between *Oxfordshire Mind* and *Cancer Research*. The Christmas Service collection raised £152.60 for the *British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association* and the New Year's Concert in January raised £190.70 for the Oxford Children's Hospital.

The Lent term also saw the annual own-clothes day, which fell this year on a day of deep snow, but still managed to raise £1,243.47 for *Light for the Blind*, an Indian charity for the blind and destitute, which the School has been supporting for some years. As a result of the charity's work, thousands of people have been able to have free cataract operations, which has given them back their sight.



One of the charity football matches

The Lower and Middle School Charity Football Competitions were back in force in March, raising a total of £711 for the *Meningitis Research Foundation*, with the refreshments stall raising £60 for the *Downs Syndrome Association*.

On World Book Day in March, the Librarian, **Gaynor Cooper**, ran a book sale for *Book Aid International*. Many boys sold unwanted books and bought new ones, raising £160 for this very worthwhile charity, which promotes literacy in developing countries by creating reading and learning opportunities for disadvantaged people.

The Third-form disco also took place in the Lent term, with £600 being raised for the *NSPCC*. **Lina Man's** baking-for-charity group also raised £31.78 for *Cancer Research*, while the Third-form Charities Group collected more than sixty T-shirts for *Helping Hands for Uganda*, and hundreds of milk carton lids for the *Alzheimers Association*. Over the course of the year, thousands of supermarket vouchers were also collected, which were divided between the Kingfisher School and Abingdon College. Finally, another collection after the Commemoration Service raised £87.15 for the *Stroke Association*.

The summer term was quieter in terms of fund-raising. The cleaners continued with their raffles, raising a further £300 for the Intensive Care Unit at the JR, the Oxford Childrens' Hospital and the Jane Ashley Unit. **Finola Donovan** organised a collection after the Lower School Drama production of Alan Ayckbourne's *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* and songs from *Oliver*, which raised £100 for the *Sobell House* hospice in Oxford; and the Leavers' Service collection raised over £100 for *Oxfam*.

All in all, the School managed to raise just over £30,000 over the course of the year, not including the many thousands of pounds raised for *Landmine Disability Support*, which enabled the Film Unit to go to Cambodia and film the victims' stories.

This fantastic total is thanks to the efforts of many boys and staff, but special credit must go to **Ben Allen** and **Edward Hallett** and to the Third-form charity groups for their consistent hard work.

Sophie Payne

Community Service

Tea Parties



Everyone was enjoying the tea party with Shashank Tandon kindly providing help

The Abingdon School Community Service group organises tea parties at the end of every term for some of the older residents of the town. Guests are invited to join us for an enjoyable and pleasant afternoon when the Catering Department serves tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes, all of which are very much appreciated and enjoyed. The parties are mainly hosted by members of the Sixth Form and consist of a variety of activities such as quizzes, magic tricks, raffles and musical entertainment.



Peter Nikitin serving the guests and our schoolmates

The tea party is an event that unites all the various community groups visited by Abingdonians during the year and it gives them an opportunity to interact. They are an unforgettable experience for the boys and we believe our guests enjoy them too.

Peter Nikitin and Shashank Tandon 6 HFCEP

Hospital Visiting



I have been visiting Abingdon Community Hospital on Wednesday afternoons (during the School term) for two years, ever since I was sixteen. I spend the majority of my time chatting with patients on the ward and occasionally playing a game of cards or enjoying a book with them. From a prospective medical student's point of view, the experience has given me an excellent insight into the running of a hospital ward and a chance to improve my communication skills with people who are of a different age-group, both of which will, I hope, help me realise my ambition to study medicine.

However, hospital visiting is also extremely rewarding from a non-medical aspect. Even knowing that I might have brightened up one person's day during the hour I am there is enough to get a great sense of satisfaction and achievement. In addition, the conversations can be interesting since the patients have had long and varied lives. Many of the patients I talk to are very knowledgeable and thoroughly enjoy talking about their experiences.

A highlight for me last year was being able to organise a Christmas carol concert for the patients of the ward. It is amazing the wonderful atmosphere that mince pies and a few songs played by a small band can create! Over the year I have enjoyed my time at Abingdon Hospital and I look forward to another year.

Joseph Delo 6 ESD

St Nicolas Primary School

From November to May, **Tom Clee** and I participated in Community Service, offering support at St Nicolas Primary School in Abingdon. Every Tuesday, between 4 and 5 o' clock, we would visit the after-school club, spending time with the children and giving help to the staff.

During the time we spent at the after-school club we took part in a variety of activities, ranging from painting to football. In such a busy school, where there are so many pressures, it was nice to relax and have fun in a productive fashion.

William Stockwell 6 ADC

Old Station House Residential Home



'Many thanks for a wonderful afternoon of high standard music. The pianist especially was outstanding! All your pupils are a credit to the school and teachers. Tom Chambers is a special example.'

Extract from a letter of thanks sent by Mrs Simmons, a resident of Old Station House, following a visit by the Music in the Community group

Victoria Hicks

The students too benefit hugely from their contributions to the School's community service programme, perhaps especially the Third-formers who on Tuesday afternoons participate in a rich range of activities under the auspices of the Service and Citizenship scheme. A very big "Thank you" is owed to the dedicated members of staff who deliver the group activities; here are just three tributes among many more: *'I have thoroughly enjoyed Citizenship this term. I have learnt the differences between the beliefs of political parties and how the voting system works. I have particularly enjoyed the section on espionage, on the truths and myths of the Secret Service, and have cleared up the mystery of Mr Crook working with MI6. It has been great.'*

'Tech Crew is an awesome Tuesday afternoon treat. I especially like Mr Biggs and his ways of wisdom. In this excellent club I have learnt an extremely large amount of information: the stage lights, the stage acts and a cool idea for the future.'

'It took a long term and a lot of effort to put on a play for the elderly people, and I very much enjoyed it. The drama performance was very funny and enjoyable, and it gave me the experience of helping the elderly and my community.'

Anne Soper



Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Basecamp near Kinlochewe with Slioch in the background



Midgehats at the ready

Gold Qualifying Expedition to Letterewe

The location for this year's expedition was the area known to walkers as 'The Great Wilderness', an area of over one hundred square miles of uninhabited country in the north-west highlands of Scotland. This beautiful area of rugged mountains, varied lochs and mile after mile of bog was chosen as a perfect area to really challenge the skills of the participants. Add to this the swarms of midges and the legendary Scottish weather, and Letterewe would certainly have the ability to make or break the teams.

The qualifying expedition is a four days and three nights venture in wild country with no external assistance. The boys arrived at their start point in Kinlochewe after a plane flight to Inverness and a drive across the central highlands.

All the boys successfully completed the expedition and thereby passed the Expedition Section of the Gold Award. The assessor was very impressed with the general attitude and competence of the boys and extended a warm invitation to future expeditions from Abingdon School on behalf of the Highland Wild Country Panel.

Alastair Summers



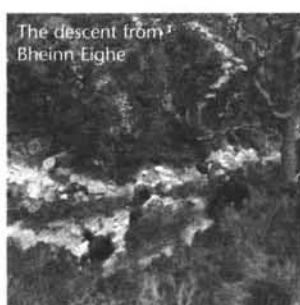
Bheinn Eighe: Our target for the acclimatisation day



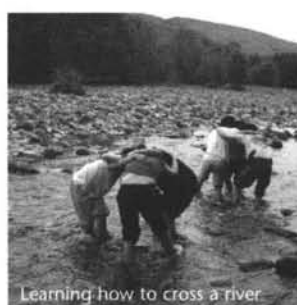
Approaching the summit of Creag Dubh on Bheinn Eighe



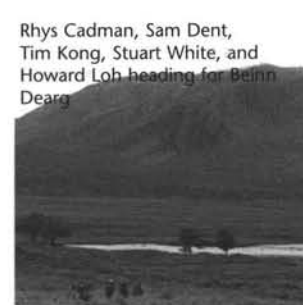
Ben Prior and Tim West looking a bit precarious



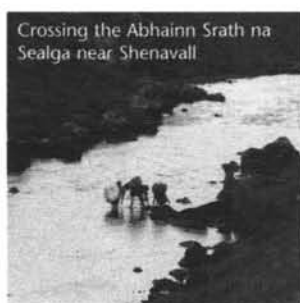
The descent from Bheinn Eighe



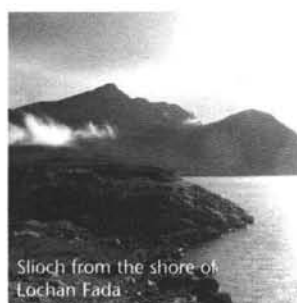
Learning how to cross a river



Rhys Cadman, Sam Dent, Tim Kong, Stuart White, and Howard Loh heading for Bheinn Dearg



Crossing the Abhainn Srath na Sealga near Shenavall



Slioch from the shore of Lochan Fada



Sunset over A'Mhaighdean

Participants:

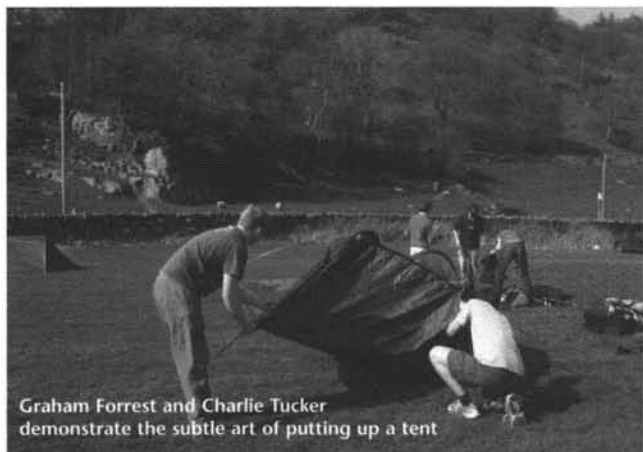
Group 1: Tim Middleton, Joseph Delo, Sam Welch, Matt Halls, Mephis Ko and Jonathan Lau

Group 2: Rhys Cadman, Sam Dent, Tim Kong, Stuart White, Howard Loh, James Moulds

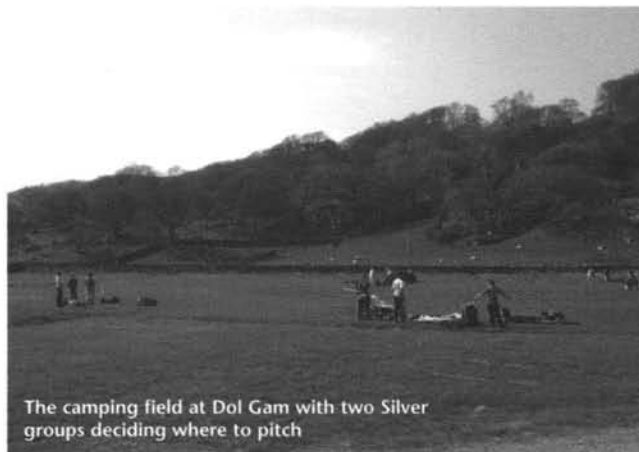
Group 3: Jamie Soames, Ben Prior, Tim West, Tom Durrands, Kroma Wenike-Briggs, Michael Coldwell

Snowdonia Expedition Easter 2007

Base Camp near Betws-y-coed

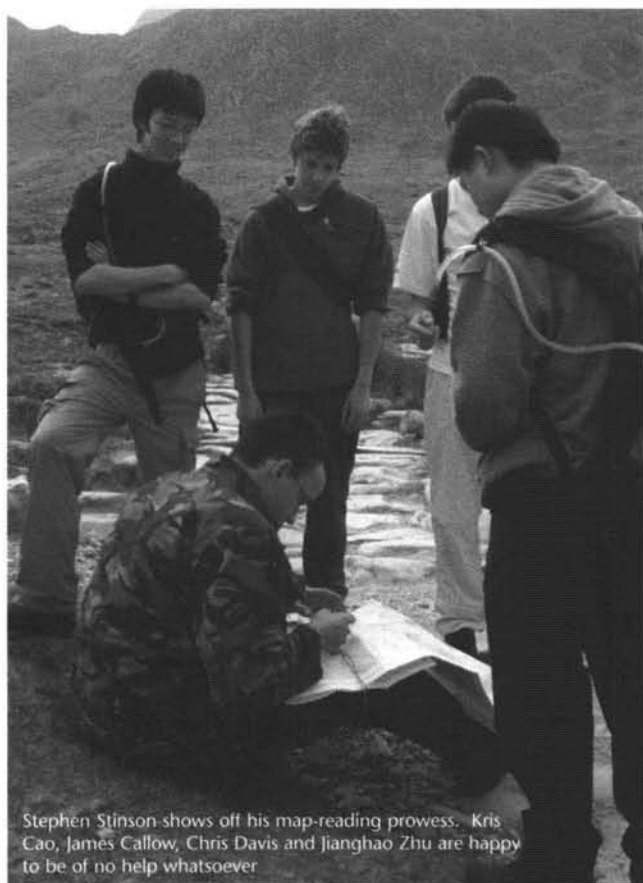


Graham Forrest and Charlie Tucker demonstrate the subtle art of putting up a tent



The camping field at Dol Gam with two Silver groups deciding where to pitch

Devil's Kitchen



Stephen Stinson shows off his map-reading prowess. Kris Cao, James Callow, Chris Davis and Jianghao Zhu are happy to be of no help whatsoever



The view across to the Devil's Kitchen
— pretty but steep!



Snowdon seen from the Pyg Track in glorious sunshine

With both A level and GCSE examinations looming large, it was a real pleasure to see so many boys taking part on this expedition. Pleasingly for those boys who did take a break from their revision, the whole trip was blessed with excellent weather, which meant the participants were able to take on some challenging routes amongst some of the UK's finest mountain scenery. Altogether twenty-nine boys took part with six completing their Gold Assessment, five completing a Gold Practice, fifteen completing their Silver Assessment and four completing a Silver Practice.

James, Chris B, Chris D, Kris, Jianghao and Stephen at the top of Glyder Fawr



The ascent of Snowdon (Yr Wyffda)

Tom Davey and Alex Kempell discuss who was supposed to have carried the lunch up to the summit. Alex Baboolal, who has already found his lunch, remains coolly indifferent to their plight



Admiring the view westward from the summit of Snowdon



Silver Birches Campsite



Mephis Ko, Tim Kong and Joe Delo putting the finishing touches to another Trangia masterpiece

Jack Ambler, Graham Forrest, Adam Withnall, Charlie Lester, Charlie Tucker and Bruce Christiansen passed their Gold Assessment with flying colours. Both **Charlies**, **Bruce** and **Graham** have gone on to successfully complete their Gold Awards, with **Adam** and **Jack** set to join them after completing residentials in the summer holidays.

Rex Carter, Jonathan Bucke, Will Shrier, Oliver Boddie, Alex Baboolal, Alex Kempell, Tom Davey, Chris Davis, Kris Cao, Chris Brash, Stephen Stinson, Jianghao Zhu, James Callow, Tom McKenna and Tom Ryan successfully completed their Silver Assessments. The GCSE exams unsurprisingly got in the way of them finishing off the other aspects of Silver level but I look forward to receiving their completed record books after the summer holiday.

Alastair Summers
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Leader
Summer 2007

Survival Exercise 9 – 11 February 2007



Back at School at the end of the exercise

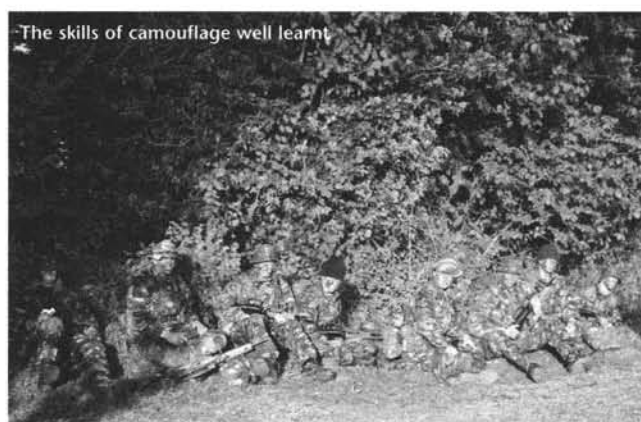
The Abingdon School CCF, Fourth-form and above, took part in the annual survival exercise with the aim of teaching the Fourth-form cadets valuable survival skills in a hostile environment, which they could then use on other exercises, in particular the forthcoming Advanced Infantry Cadre during the Easter holidays. The exercise also provided a leadership opportunity for the new Fifth-form NCOs.

The scenario was that a British peacekeeping force (comprised of the Fourth-form cadets) had been attacked and captured by the followers of a vicious dictator (the Upper Sixth, who had confiscated the Fourth Form's equipment and imprisoned the cadets for the night).

On the second day of captivity, the cadets were force-marched to another location. En route, friendly partisan forces (the Fifth-form NCOs) staged an ambush freeing the prisoners. Deep within enemy territory, the Fourth-formers were led to a rendezvous where they were supplied with essential survival equipment: water, compass, and a map of the surrounding area. Each map identified the location of various checkpoints that had to be reached before the final rendezvous. The escaped cadets were split into groups of three or four and each group, assisted by a Partisan, made their way to the checkpoints. Hostile forces were still operating in the area and had been tasked to seek and recapture the cadets, who employed all their collective skills of field-craft and camouflage to avoid detection.

Lower-sixth NCOs met the cadets at each of the four checkpoints and gave them tuition on aspects of tactical behaviour. The first checkpoint taught camouflage which, without the luxury of cam cream, included the smearing of mud on faces and the use of available foliage to adorn clothing and equipment. At the next checkpoint, cadets were taught how to light a fire and prepare a meal from ingredients found in the surrounding fields. It was interesting to discover how appetising carrots and boiled turnips could be when cadets hadn't eaten for nearly twenty-four hours. At the third checkpoint cadets were taught the basics of trapping animals with the well known (and descriptive) techniques of mangle, strangle, dangle and tangle. (No animals were harmed during the teaching of these skills!) Finally, cadets were taught the rudiments of constructing improvised shelters both for cover and for concealment.

On average it took nine hours for each group to navigate around the four checkpoints. Once all checkpoints had been successfully reached, the final task of the day was to proceed to the final rendezvous where each cadet was reunited with his equipment (and his rations!). After a well-deserved meal, the cadets settled into a harbour area and, after getting under shelter, were finally able to get some proper sleep.



The skills of camouflage well learnt

By first light the cadets had been roused from their sleep and had packed their equipment in anticipation of an early morning patrol but just before leaving the harbour area they were unexpectedly attacked. Without the support of weapons, they were forced to beat a hasty withdrawal to a canal some distance away from the harbour area. Ultimately, the only option was to learn water-crossing techniques very quickly, courtesy of **Captain Williams**. But in the event, they were able to use a bridge to get to British-held territory on the other side of the canal, which marked the end of another successful survival exercise.

Many thanks to all the officers for giving up their weekend, and especially to the OC, **Major Carson**, for allowing us to use his family farm in Wiltshire once again.

Lance-Corporal James Fergusson 5 PEH

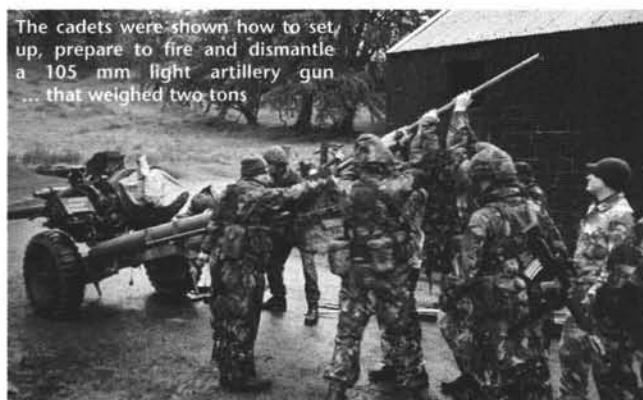
Summer Camp 2007



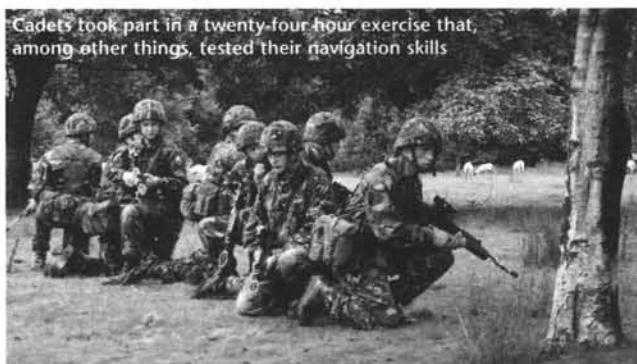
L to R - Cadet Hogan, Flt Sgt Christiansen, Captain Gooding, Cpl Walton, Cpl Kemp, Cpl Long

This year's Summer Camp was again shared with the University of Oxford's Officer Training Corps under the auspices of their Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel N Channer RRS. The cadets spent a week at Sennybridge in Wales, where it rained all the time.

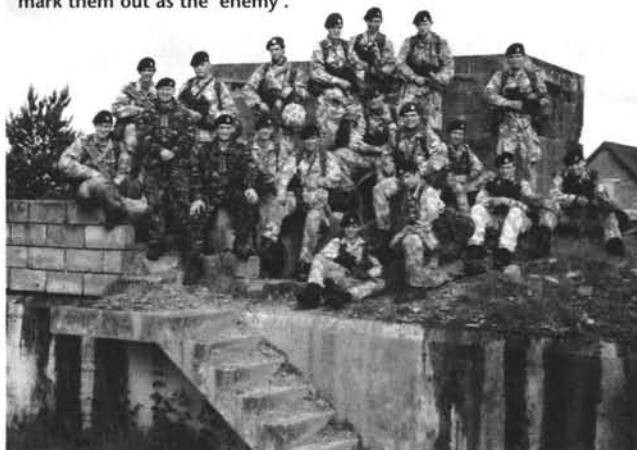
The cadets were shown how to set up, prepare to fire and dismantle a 105 mm light artillery gun ... that weighed two tons



Cadets took part in a twenty-four hour exercise that, among other things, tested their navigation skills



Abingdon cadets wearing desert combats to mark them out as the 'enemy'.



Snatching some rest ... or trying to



Farewell Parade

Ready for inspection in the centre of Abingdon



On Thursday 12 October, the Army section of the CCF was asked to parade with the Royal Gloucester, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry Regiment (RGBWLI) as part of their farewell parade before becoming 1 Rifles in February 2007. This was a great honour for the CCF as we were the only Cadet Force who paraded with our parent Battalion. After some much-needed drill practice on the previous Tuesday, we were ready.

On Thursday morning, the first cadets to arrive were rewarded with some tea and chocolate from the regular soldiers and also got to meet the Regimental Sergeant-Major and the Commanding Officer of 1 RGBWLI. After more drill practice for both the Officers and Cadets, we set off from the School to parade through the town – the marching being helped by the rhythm of the band.

In the centre of town, the Mayor made a speech concerning the Regiment and its amalgamation as 1 Rifles and spoke of his hopes that the links between the Regiment and the town would be maintained. He then inspected the Parade and we subsequently moved on to the Guildhall for a reception where we were given refreshments. The Parade went very smoothly and the CCF were praised for their high standard of drill. Our thanks must go to **Captain Williams** and **2nd Lt McGill**, who paraded with us, and to **Major Carson**, who organised the liaison between the School and the Battalion.

Cadet Matthew Winters 4 PEH

Lining up ready to parade from the Lower Field car park



Marching down Park Road



The parade halts in the High Street

Home and Abroad

The Battlefields of the Great War

At the start of the Easter holidays, forty members of the Third Form and four members of the History Department departed for the annual trip to the battlefields of the Ypres Salient and the Somme. *Anglia Battlefields Tours* once again provided outstanding guides to accompany us and, as ever, their encyclopaedic knowledge of the war in all its manifestations and their command of a range of exciting and moving personal anecdotes not only gave a more human dimension to the enormity of the subject-matter, but also greatly enhanced the understanding and involvement of all.

A host of memorable sites were visited, but perhaps it is interesting to mention a few of the most striking. Discussions about the difference between being the victor or the defeated in war were provoked after observing the contrast between the starkness of the German cemetery at Langemarck, (where large numbers of bodies were buried together in graves marked by dark stones inlaid into the ground) compared to the haunting beauty of the white rows of individual, vertical gravestones and crosses seen in the British and Commonwealth cemeteries. A visit to the advanced dressing station at Essex Farm and the memorial to John McCrae (Canadian Army Medical Corps), who wrote the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*, together with one to Vancouver Corner, which marked the first use of gas on the Western Front, reminded boys of the impact of the development of new weapons not only in terms of casualty rates but also in terms of individual suffering. The size of the mine crater at Lochnagar never ceases to astonish each generation of visitors, and the guides brought an extra dimension to the tragic vastness of Tyne Cot cemetery with their accounts of desperate individual acts of bravery and triumph against the odds during the controversial battle of Passchendaele (3rd Ypres). Boys also developed a better understanding of the nature of fighting in the trenches both by their visit to the preserved trench system at Bayernwald and by experiencing the amplified battle sounds and claustrophobic confines of the underground bunkers in the Passchendaele museum. A wreath was laid during the Menin Gate ceremony in memory of those members of Abingdon School who died during the Great War, and boys were also encouraged to



The German cemetery at Langemarck



One of the many Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries on the Western Front

remember the shell-shocked and battle-traumatised men who faced the firing squad at Poperinghe.

Some light-hearted moments were also managed, with a brain-teasing **Mr Hofton**-style quiz on one of the evenings in the hotel, challenging the boys' knowledge of the war and the history of football in equal measure, and an indulgent spending spree in the chocolate shops of Ypres, which provoked a new enthusiasm to proceedings as the boys sought out the best bargains.

There are many who would argue that a trip to the battlefields of the Great War should perhaps be a compulsory element of the education of any modern teenager, since there is no doubt that the experience completely alters one's understanding of the nature of conflict and its impact. I think it would be fair to say that yet another generation of Abingdonians found that their experiences during these few days both deepened their knowledge and heightened their empathetic awareness of the sufferings of a generation of their ancestors, and also gave much cause for reflection.

Carolyn May



The mine crater at Lochnagar

Classics Department Visit to Italy 2006



The whole group at the Roman baths at Caracalla

Seventy-two boys and eight members of staff set off for Rome, assembling early on 19 October in the coach park in what are by now traditionally rainy conditions. There was some trepidation about taking such a large number of boys, and much excitement at the promise of seeing a large number of sites both in Rome and in the Bay of Naples. In Italy we divided into two coaches by age, but we stayed in the same hotels each night. The Ryanair flight to Rome mercifully passed without hiccoughs, but we were to pay for this on our return!

On arrival in Rome, we immediately embarked on our coaches for the transfer to the Hotel Oriente in Vico Equense, which was to be our base for the Bay of Naples. This was a step-up in quality from the usual school trip fare, although it had a slight air of faded grandeur about it, with its rather incongruous collection of eastern antiques. Even more incongruous was the wedding reception that was held there on one night of our stay, where the boys certainly learned some of the cultural differences between Italian and British weddings, which lie not least in the raciness of the bridal photographs.



House of the Marine Venus, Pompeii

The boys also became acquainted with more ancient culture, with visits to the Roman sites preserved by the eruption of Vesuvius at Pompeii, Herculaneum and Oplontis, as well as the rich artistic finds on display in the rather haphazard Naples Museum. For myself, however, the highlight of this area was the visit to the Greek foundation of Paestum. To get there we had driven down the spectacular Amalfi Coast, which claimed one more victim to add to its reputation for causing coach sickness. Amalfi itself was a delight, although the boys took particular pleasure in trying to eat as much pizza and ice-cream as they could in the shortest possible time, and Paestum with its incredibly well preserved temples provided some Greek relief amidst the domination of Roman remains.



The Via dell'Abbondanza, Pompeii



The forum on the
Capitoline Hill

On our way to Rome we visited the impressively extensive villa of Hadrian at Tivoli, where we narrowly missed our planned rendezvous with the Winchester trip, which was being led by my predecessor at Abingdon, Shaun Hullis. As we neared Rome, our anxiety about taking such a big group around the city grew. However, the anxiety of our hotel at the prospect of a party of eighty was understandably even greater. In the event they were – like all others whom we encountered – bowled over by the immaculate manners and courtesy of the boys.



The Trevi Fountain in Rome



Visiting the
Colosseum



The Temple of Neptune
at Campania

The boys also showed impressive stamina as we tried to pack as much as possible into our time in the capital: we visited all the major sites, including the Colosseum, the various Fora, the harbour at Ostia, the baths of Caracalla (made famous more recently for being the location of the first Three Tenors concert), as well as the Capitoline and Termini Museums. Those of us who have been visiting Rome for a while were particularly excited by having the chance to visit the new Ara Pacis museum, a millennium project which had lived up to the national stereotype by opening six years late. This is now the model of a modern museum and the boys were able to get up close to a gem of Augustan art, although it was rumoured that some of them were even more impressed by normally grumpy teachers in an unusually joyful state.

Everything had gone incredibly smoothly: nemesis was bound to strike and it did so in the guise of Ryanair. As we stood in the queue to check in for our homeward journey, our flight changed from being registered as 'on time' to being four hours late. Rome's Ciampino airport is not the best-equipped place for such a delay with seventy-two boys, but some Abingdonians demonstrated typical resourcefulness by busking with no little success. Ryanair's customer services proved non-existent, but I will remain eternally grateful for all the work the various secretaries (Caralyn Chick, Rosie Cassar and Shirley Kerby) did back at School in contacting the large numbers of parents to warn them of our late arrival. I would also like to thank the staff who gave up their own half terms to make the trip possible, many of them not even classicists (Adam Jenkins, Jenny Fishpool, Hugh Price, David Boyd, Jamie Older, Alf Mansfield and Gaynor Cooper). The potential burden of a trip of such a size was, however, much reduced by the high immaculate behaviour of the boys – they really were a pleasure to take.

Chris Burnand

A Cruise in the Aegean



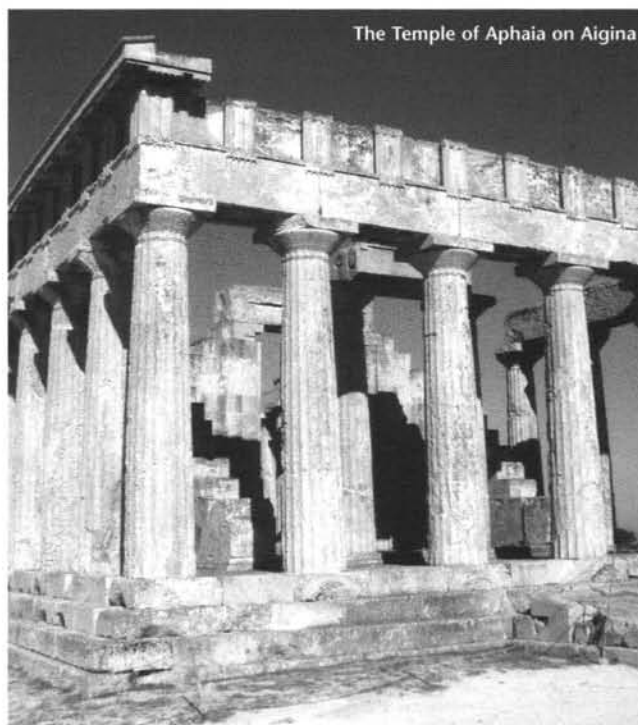
Richard Brown at the helm of one of the yachts

During the summer holidays a small crew of boys, ably led by **Mr Bickerton**, travelled to Athens for a sea voyage comparable to that of Odysseus himself. With **Dr Burnand** as our loyal guide, and **Mr Crofton** as powder monkey, we collected our fine pair of 50ft yachts from Kalamaki Marina and after gathering together provisions of great variety (they would have consisted only of bread and honey had Dr Burnand had his way) we checked our bearings and set sail to the south-west for Aegina. This leg of the journey was particularly pleasant, with very light winds, a beautiful sunset and a striking view of Salamis to the north.

The theatre at Epidaurus



After anchoring here we had a swim and went ashore to suss out the locals and have our evening meal in a taverna. A particular highlight for us all was seeing Dr Burnand's outboard motor run out of fuel while ferrying us from ship to land. The next day, after our first sleep at sea, we went ashore again and climbed the hill overlooking our bay to the Temple of Aphaia, where we enjoyed magnificent views over the whole of the Aegean Sea, named after King Aegeus of Athens (the ill-fated father of Theseus).



The Temple of Aphaia on Aegina

Our next waypoint was Epidaurus on the east coast of the Peloponnese. Along this route we got our first taste of the helmsmanship of Messrs **Coleby** and **Hatzis**, whose styles were equally terrifying. We believe that this was all intentional in the case of **Philip**, the co-skipper of our yacht (named the *Iolkos*), but not in the case of **John**, though some might say that his sinister smile throughout the experience suggested otherwise. Upon arrival, **Philip**, our indigenous translator, went on a mission to find transport to convey twenty sailors from the port to the archaeological site. He returned with two Mercedes, having made friends with their drivers and with most of the village, who all seemed to be related to one another. So, in two shuttles, we went to the Sanctuary of Asclepius at Epidaurus, which boasts a theatre that would feature in my top three theatres of the ancient world (a great achievement indeed). As well as this great theatre, the acoustics of which remain outstanding, there was a stadium, Roman baths and plenty of amusing Greek inscriptions written by healed clients of the sanctuary, who wished to praise the god for restoring their health. We returned to the village and after supper with one of **Philip's** new-made pals we got some rest in preparation for the sail to Kea (to the east), our furthest voyage yet.

This leg had many highlights: first, our propeller got caught on a loose bit of rope, so Messrs **Hatzis** and **yours truly** heroically dived into the deep to rescue the yacht from certain peril, going again and again underneath the boat to unwind the cord from the propeller. We returned to our ship safely and successfully, despite nearly getting carried off to the open sea. Next, a cry of "Dolphins!" went up from the bow, so skipper and crew ran to all sides of the ship to watch the sea mammals swimming with the yacht. Unfortunately, I was asleep in my cabin but thanks must go to **Freddie** for his initiative in using my camera to capture some snaps. Undoubtedly, however, the performance that surpassed these incredible events was the show put on by our illustrious Dr Burnand who, presumably suffering from sea-sickness, gave us a superb visual account of the catastrophic eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. He displayed great stamina and perseverance throughout the performance. We rested and ate at Kea and sailed the next day for Mikinos, which was to act as base camp for our expedition the following day to Delos.

During the sail to Mikinos, we passed 'Philip's island', Siros, and heard many tales from him of life on the rocky isle. Most importantly, however, Dr Burnand's ailments relented and he was able to enjoy our company to the full. We anchored at Mikinos in the shadow of a massive British ship, so all slept well that night.



The next was arguably the big day in terms of the classical side of the trip. Delos, located in the centre of the Cyclades, was the treasury of the Greek alliance during the war with the Persians. We enjoyed superb views of the whole of the Cyclades from the top of a hill on the island and saw the famous Lions' Terrace.

The last destination in our island-hopping was Naxos, to the south of Delos, to which we sailed straight after lunch and arrived just before dinner. Unfortunately, we received reports of Force 8 gales arriving on the next day, so the decision was made to do a night sail to Sounion (on the tip of Attica) in order to avoid sailing in strong winds for a whole day. So, with most of the crew asleep and skippers taking it in turns to man the helm, we switched on our navigation lights and headed north for Sounion, doing our best to avoid oil tankers as we crossed major shipping lines. We arrived in Sounion just before breakfast the next day and went ashore to climb up the hill to the Temple of Poseidon. This temple was an essential stopping-place for Athenian sailors on their way north to the Black Sea for the transportation of grain home to Athens, and one could see it from miles away as a result of its commanding position. After this we had a day of 'R and R' before returning to Kalamaki Marina in Athens to return the yachts.



Our last day was set aside for Athenian sightseeing and travelling back to the UK, so we got the tram into Athens and headed up to the Acropolis. Unfortunately, the Greek museum workers had gone on strike that day and despite **Philip's** best skills at

grovelling and persuasion, and even with badges from Oxford University supplied by Dr Burnand's wife, we failed to gain admittance onto the Acropolis. Fortunately, everywhere else was open and so we visited the Agora and went to the Pnyx. After lunch we gathered together our luggage and tried to get the right bus to the airport.

The trip was most certainly the best way to appreciate the classical sites and was definitely the most enjoyable way of getting between them. Many thanks must go to those who looked after us and led us at sea without complaints or moans but with smiles, anecdotes, and unrivalled wit: Mr Bickerton and his merry band of sailors – **Alastair Blackmore** (OA 2005), and Sam. And we must thank Dr Burnand, Mr Crofton and Katherine for putting up with us at sea and guiding us through the sites

with great humour and knowledge. As far as I know, all the sailors returned, unlike Odysseus' crew, so may this be the first of many classical sailing trips!

Henry Scarlett 6 SAE





Economics and Business Studies visit to Poland 11 – 16 February 2007

In February, twenty-nine Lower Sixth pupils studying A level economics or business studies had the opportunity to visit one of Eastern Europe's most successful transition economies, Poland.

The group visited the two largest cities, Krakow and Warsaw, going to sites of historic interest as well as to a variety of Polish companies. In Krakow, students explored the Dobczyckie Hydroelectric Power plant, which provides an alternative source

of electricity in an attempt to reduce the harmful effects of coal burning. The group then visited the *Zywiec* brewery where a very popular Polish beer is made. The brewery has adopted a high level of technology, which helps the beer to maintain its competitiveness and the success of the brand, even in a free market. The group also went to the Wieliczka salt mine, where visitors can see an underground square and a beautiful chapel made from different types of salt.



The group under the statue of Poland's most famous composer, Chopin.

In Warsaw, the capital city of Poland, there was a chance to visit the premises of *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the leading broadsheet paper, which is now free from censorship and promotes freedom of speech. It disseminates news and information and is very significant for the development of the country. Poland is a typical example of a transition economy, from communism to a free market, whilst Warsaw is one of the key financial centres in Eastern Europe. Visiting both the Warsaw Stock Exchange and the Polish Central Bank gives pupils the idea of how the financial system works in such an unusual economy. The last but not the least

of the group's visits was to the *Koneser* Vodka factory, a very good example of how a previously government-owned firm has adapted to the free market economy.

The visit gave pupils the chance to see the extent to which Polish companies had been successful (or not) in making the transition to a free market economy. On a couple of evenings, teacher-led seminars sought to place what students had seen during their visits into perspective, given the momentous changes that have occurred in the Polish economy over the past two decades. The trip was led by **Dean Evans**, accompanied by **Simon Grills** and **Alf Mansfield**.

Geoffrey Wai 6 ESD



The Koneser Vodka factory in Warsaw



The group visiting the hydroelectric plant



Inside the brewery museum



CCF Ski Trip to Wengen

On 9 February seven cadets from the CCF accompanied by Captain Gooding and Captain Williams set out to take part in the Bedford School CCF ski trip to Wengen in Switzerland. We met the Bedford coach and then took an overnight ferry to Calais, finally reaching our accommodation at noon on Saturday, after eighteen hours of travelling!

On the Sunday we were all separated into groups of ability and then we hit the slopes. In the evening we all settled down to some

poker and friends were quickly made with the Bedford cadets, who were not as scary as they had said they intended to be!

Throughout the week all the groups became more competent and confident skiers, thanks to the instructors from the Swiss ski school, so much so that by the end of the week all the groups, including the beginners, were skiing on the black runs. All the groups challenged themselves throughout the week yet always did so with a smile on their faces – especially when another member of the group had just fallen over.

Particular mention should go to Captain Williams' group, who called themselves 'Team Extreme!'; whenever they passed another group on the slopes (whether they were halfway through a turn on a black run or doing a speed trial on the World Cup run) they would raise their poles above their heads and make roughly the same noise as a giant lobster!

Then it was time to go home and retrace the gruelling journey we had made a week before. We got back to Abingdon at about nine in the morning on the 17th. Everyone had had a great time; there were no major injuries though one person did have a serious black eye.

We would like to thank Captains Gooding and Williams for giving up their holiday to help out and also for all the hard work and effort they put into planning and organizing the event. It was fantastic fun and we can't wait for next year!

Cadet James Ridgley 4 EMTS

History Department Visit to Paris

At the end of the Easter holidays twelve members of the Lower Sixth and two members of staff spent three days in Paris visiting sites connected with the French Revolution and Napoleon I, to enhance their understanding of elements of their AS course and to develop an insight into material connected with their A2 course. A strong impression was made on the boys by the viewing of the stark primitiveness of the central 'cave' of La Conciergerie – the former royal palace, which housed the Revolutionary Tribunal as well as over one thousand male and female prisoners during the bloodiest phase of the French Revolution. This vividly brought to life the fate of the 2,600 prisoners sent to the guillotine between 1793 and 1795, and experiencing the gloom of the small number of tiny individual cells enabled the boys to imagine the final days of the famous figures of Queen Marie Antoinette, Charlotte Corday (who assassinated Marat), Georges Danton and ultimately Robespierre himself, who all passed through the executioner's gate.

A visit to the Louvre gave the boys an opportunity to view some of the great paintings of the era, many of which were important in building the grand ideological myth of the revolution itself, whereas some, like those by Gros and David, were influential in developing the political propaganda that was the life-blood of the Napoleonic legend.

The Napoleonic theme was developed further by a visit to the complex of buildings at the Musée de l'Armée to study the weapons, armour, artillery and uniforms of the period, and to Les Invalides where boys took photos of the series of carved stone friezes and grand statues surrounding the vast, carved, red porphyry tomb of Napoleon, which gives a fascinating insight into how France chose to remember its controversial ruler. The trip also gave an opportunity to see Paris from a boat on the Seine during a balmy evening and to marvel at the fantastic views from the Eiffel tower, including the impressive Arc de Triomphe, which was commissioned by Napoleon in 1806 after the victory at Austerlitz, his imperial zenith.

It was felt that an opportunity to visit the impressive Gothic cathedral of Notre Dame (one of the first to use flying buttresses) could not be missed and boys were reminded that during the revolutionary period the cathedral had been dedicated first to the Cult of Reason and then to the Cult of the Supreme Being before, ultimately, the interior was used as a warehouse for the storage of forage and food. It was interesting to recall that many of the treasures of the cathedral were either destroyed or plundered during that time when, for example, the statues of biblical kings of Judea (erroneously thought to be kings of France) were beheaded.

The group also enjoyed a late afternoon climb up the hill to the awe-inspiring Basilique du Sacré-Cœur, (the original idea for the constructing of this extraordinary church came from ultra-catholics and legitimist royalists in the aftermath of the Revolution), and a photo-opportunity outside the Moulin Rouge before spending a relaxed evening in Montmartre, previously home to the likes of Monet, Picasso and van Gogh.

All in all a splendid three days passed quickly, with something of the flavour of modern Paris being experienced, and with a host of revolutionary episodes being brought to mind in a manner which, hopefully, will aid revision and recall when under the pressure of public exams.

Carolyn May

The Spanish Exchange

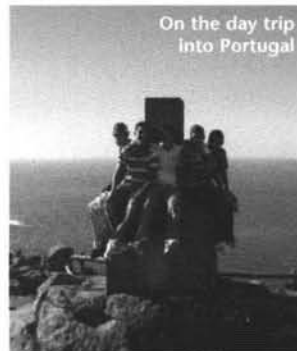
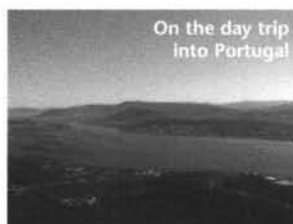
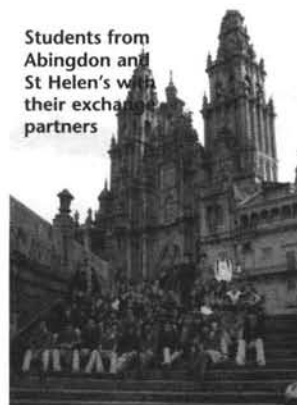


This year, we organised the first Abingdon School Spanish Exchange. We were delighted to be invited to join the well-established exchange between the School of St Helen and St Katharine and the Colegio Manuel Peleteiro in the beautiful city of Santiago de Compostela in the north-west of Spain. A group of thirty Fifth-year pupils from both schools travelled to Spain at the start of the Michaelmas half-term holiday and stayed with their host families for ten days, during which time they were all able to practise and improve their command of the language.

We also had the opportunity to visit the famous cathedral in Santiago, the football stadium of Deportivo la Coruña and had a day trip over the border into Portugal. Unfortunately the weather was far from favourable (almost ten days of heavy rain) but nonetheless we all had a good time. The Spanish students then returned the visit in March, visiting Oxford, London and Windsor Castle. We are looking forward to a successful future for the exchange programme.

Patricia Henderson

Students from Abingdon and St Helen's with their exchange partners





Bielefeld Exchange

I think that it was only when we arrived at the airport and then hopped on the bus for the short journey to Bielefeld, that we realised that we were actually going to have to speak German for the next ten days. But we hardly had time to mull this over before we were met by our exchange partners and said our final goodbyes and good lucks to each other before heading off our separate ways to different houses all over Bielefeld.

The first day was spent mainly in the German school and around the town, getting to know our way around and doing a town trial where we luckily found a McDonalds and got our first sample of real German food.

Over the next few days we visited the VW factory in Wolfsburg, where you could see the cars being constructed and also do some ice-skating and plant your own bio-oil seed! The following day we visited the traditional town of Münster where we saw the famous Church with its astronomical clock. However, the main focus of our day became the snowball fights that were possible following the snowstorms that had swept Europe. On the Wednesday I had been invited to my exchange partner's grandmother's house, which was a very interesting experience as I got my first taste of 'sauerkraut', very nice

if you like vinegar and cabbage, together. But I managed to eat most of it, which seemed to please her, so I came out feeling quite proud of myself, though I wouldn't recommend it.

Then of course came the annual football games between the Germans and the English, which we lost, fairly convincingly, so we were forced to fall back on reminding them of England's 5-1 thrashing of their national side six years ago. So, having restored some of our pride, we were again beaten by the German team at the bowling alley.

Over the weekend, our exchange partners' families took three of us to Berlin for two days. Although it was bitterly cold, we got a chance to visit some of the most famous sights in Germany, such as where Berlin Wall had once been, now marked by a huge line of paving stones, and the Reichstag, where the German parliament meets.

On the penultimate day we went to the town of 'Hameln' (Hamlyn) and the Pied Piper Museum, before we got ready to head back to England. So, ten days after leaving we arrived back at St Helen's to be met by our 'regular speaking' families.

Rob Fife 4 JPN



Snowball fights



The Hermannsdenkmal, commemorating Arminius's victory over the Romans in 9 AD



University of Münster



Volkswagen factory, Wolfsburg

French Exchange, Easter 2007



The Roman arena in Arles



Les Calanques

The second leg of the French exchange took place this year between 29 March and 5 April. A party of thirty-one boys from the Fourth, Fifth and Lower Sixth years, accompanied by **Mrs Walker, Miss Hicks and Mr Willerton**, spent the week with the families of pupils at La Nativité, a private school in Aix en Provence. As well as spending time with their exchange partners, the boys visited Arles, Marseille and Aix. It was a very positive experience for all involved, as the comments below indicate.

"Had a lot more fun in France rather than England, maybe because we did not have much free time in England, whereas in France we had half days and no Saturday school for example." [redacted]

"I thought that the trip was near enough to perfect, with enjoyable trips and plenty of free time to ourselves to explore the beautiful towns of Provence. I think that the interaction between teachers and boys was excellent.... The matching of exchange partners was perfect." **Charlie Redman**

"I thought the exchange was fun – it was good that we were given a lot of free time and didn't spend the whole week together as one big group getting dragged around 'places of interest'."

Tom Bateman



The group finding their way in Arles



Le Café la Nuit, made famous by Van Gogh

"I really enjoyed the trip, and would definitely like to go on it again next year. I liked going to see different places." **Anthony Grieveson**

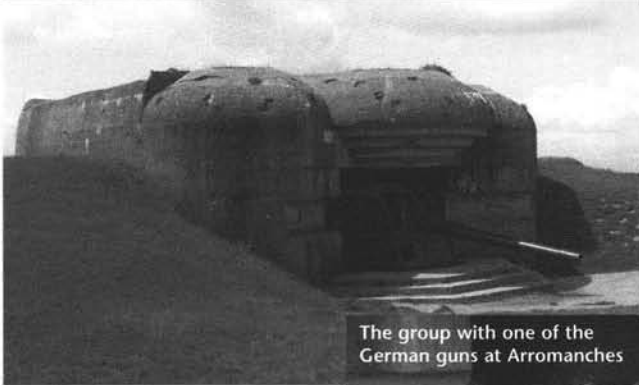
"The French exchange was a real eye-opener for me... It was very interesting applying what I had learnt in my lessons to the real world. There was a really strong group dynamic both amongst the English and also with our exchange partners as a larger group." **Tom Finch**

"The French exchange was a good opportunity for me to practise my French in greater depth...." **Michel Baumgart**

"The exchange with La Nativité was an excellent experience and I recommend it for anyone who is about to sit a public exam. As well as extending my vocabulary and giving me more confidence with speaking French, the trip was a great opportunity to visit fascinating and intellectually stimulating attractions in one of my favourite regions of France." **James Rhodes**

Veronica Walker

Lower School visit to Normandy 21 – 24 June



The group with one of the German guns at Arromanches

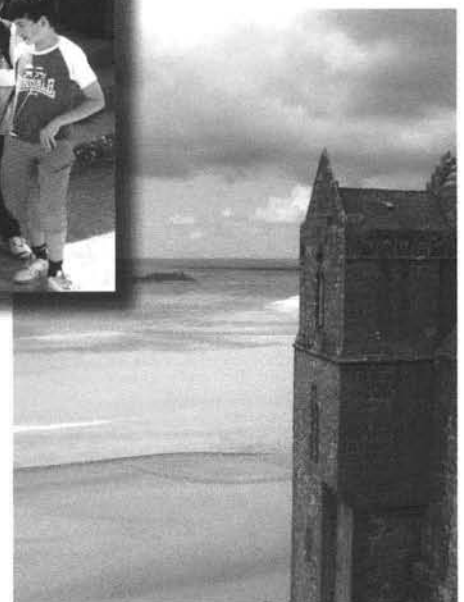


(above) Mont St Michel
... looking up

(below) ... looking down

Forty-five First- and Second-year boys and six members of staff spent an excellent long weekend in Normandy, which provided them with a chance for some light cultural relief after their hectic summer exams. The busy itinerary saw the group visit the Château de Breuil cider and calvados distillery, the famous Mont St Michel, Bayeux with its beautiful cathedral and tapestry, the D-Day beaches of Arromanches and the enchanting city of Caen with its Sunday market. The group travelled by coach and ferry and stayed at the *Hotel du Roi* in Port-en-Bessin, enjoying traditional French breakfasts and dinners. Those who currently learn French at School had ample opportunity to practise, and those who currently learn German had ample opportunity to learn! This trip, organised by the Modern Languages Department, was the first overseas visit made by Lower School boys for a number of years and, despite the somewhat damp weather, it was an enjoyable and valuable experience for everyone. A similar weekend in the Rhineland is planned for 2008.

Andy Loughe



Visiting the cider and calvados distillery



Port-en-Bessin

A Visit to the Site of the 2012 Olympics



Looking at the future Olympic sites from the top of a car park, the Stratford DLR station is in the foreground while the Stratford Rail Terminus and what will become the Olympic sites are in the background

As part of their A2 syllabus (Managing Cities), the upper-sixth geographers went to the east end of London on Thursday 26 April. Accompanied by **Nick O'Doherty, Jon Barker and Ian Fishpool**, they visited Newham Borough to see some of the designated sites for the London 2012 Olympics. The main aim of the day was to give first-hand experience of two major urban regeneration schemes at very different stages in their evolution and give detailed case study material for use in the A2 synoptic paper.

The key questions considered in the Stratford area of Newham were:

- Will the proposed regeneration schemes, focused on the Olympics, prove to be sustainable?
- What will the legacy of the Olympics Games be for this part of London?

Beside the 'Green Way' are industries, in this case a car-recycling depot. These industries may have to move to make way for the regeneration of the Green Way and the Olympics



- Can sport / recreation-driven regeneration work?

A comparison was made with nearby Canning Town, the Excel Centre and the Royal Victoria Dock. These areas, which began to be regenerated in the 1980s, give an insight into the legacy of earlier expensive regeneration programmes, which in these cases were funded by government and the private sector.

Questions considered here included:

- Has regeneration worked in these areas?
- What has been the benefit to local communities twenty-five years on?
- Are these areas sustainable today?

Walking along what is now the 'Green Way'. The 'Green Way' will become one of the main projects for the 2012 Olympics. It will provide a green and pleasant environment for visitors and tourists to enjoy



By walking the ground or using public transport throughout the day, including the Docklands Light Railway, an intimate view of these complex areas was obtained by everyone. The compulsory purchase orders on lamp posts in Stratford, the busy Marshgate Lane Industrial Estate – soon to be cleared – gave a very stark impression of how this whole area and community are going to be changed over the next four years in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Our day concluded with a visit to the excellent Museum of the Docklands, with special emphasis on the in-depth history of the decline and regeneration of the Docklands.

The photographs offer a flavour of life today in the Stratford area and show the extensive site soon to become the Olympic Stadium. Other photographs show areas soon to be cleared and transformed beyond all recognition.

Ian Fishpool



A contrast between the new, designer flats on the left and the old, dilapidated flats on the right. In the foreground on the left is the river, which will be part of the 'green' regeneration of the area

A Visit to Warwick Castle



Birds of prey at Warwick Castle

On Saturday 19 May, forty-five members of the First Form had a fantastic day at Warwick Castle – a trip that has become a real favourite with the History Department. Each generation of boys has enormous fun and learns a great deal as they plan their attack on the castle, climb the old motte and the battlements, observe the longbowman in action, watch in fascination as the trebuchet team propel a missile high into the air to land some three hundred yards away and marvel at the flight demonstrations of the birds of prey. Once again this year the 'Ghost Alive' experience sent shivers down spines, and the newly developed, short 'Dream of Battle' films gave a real taste of what it might have felt like to be a twelve-year-old page facing a roaring mass of metal-clad knights in the 15th century. Occasional showers failed to spoil the day, which was crowned by fruitful visits to numerous souvenir shops.



A trebuchet

Carolyn May

The London Dungeons

The nerves of the Second-year boys were perhaps shaken rather more seriously by their experience at the London Dungeons on Thursday 28 June. The gorier side of the capital in past centuries was vividly brought to life as boys experienced the grim realities of the sixteenth-century torture chamber, the horrors of the Great Plague, where they were 'sneezed upon' by a plague victim and observed an 'autopsy', and the terror of the Great Fire of London, which included negotiating a 'burning' bridge. They also learned about the five gruesome Jack the Ripper killings and the possible suspects, discovered the gory antics of the mythical *Sweeney Todd* and subjected themselves to the Traitor Boat Ride to Hell and the 'long drop' from the scaffold! Although a great deal of interesting historical information had been absorbed during the day, it is perhaps no great surprise that the highpoints recalled on the coach journey home tended to be primarily of the gripping and the gruesome!

Carolyn May



Inside the dungeons



a



b

ART AND DESIGN

The following pages show a selection of the art and design shown in the summer exhibitions of 2007.

Further work can be seen at www.abingdon.org.uk/go/gallery.

All sizes are approximate.



c

A2 ART

a	Portrait Head	36"x 40"
b	Siren	A1
c	Head Studies	A4, A3
d	Figure I	36"x12"x12"
e	Head	30" x 40"
f	Head Study	A1
g	Untitled	each 10"x8"x8"
h	Garden View	40" x 48"
i	Across the Field	A1
j	Zig Zag	30" x 40"
k	Garden III	30" x 40"
l	Landscape Studies	each A3
m	Three Landscapes	each 30" x 40"

Oil on shaped canvas
Charcoal and chalk
Oil on board
Plaster cast
Acrylic and oil on canvas
Charcoal
Glazed ceramic
Acrylic on canvas
Charcoal
Oil on canvas
Oil on canvas
Oil on canvas
Oil on canvas

Edmund Perou
James Garrard
Chris Kerr
Richard Worth
James Garrard
Richard Worth
Philip Probert
Kemble Woodley
Tom Chambers
Kemble Woodley
Tom Chambers
Tom Chambers
Philip Probert

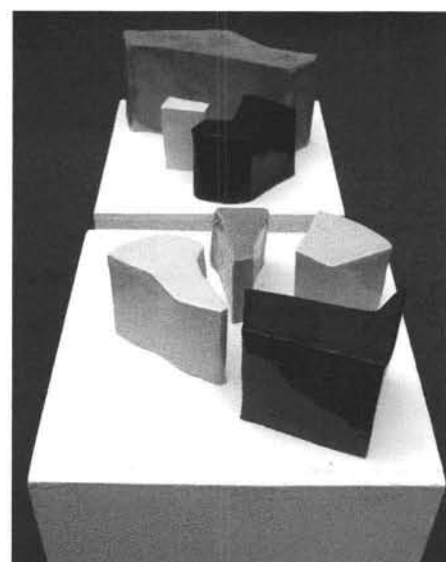
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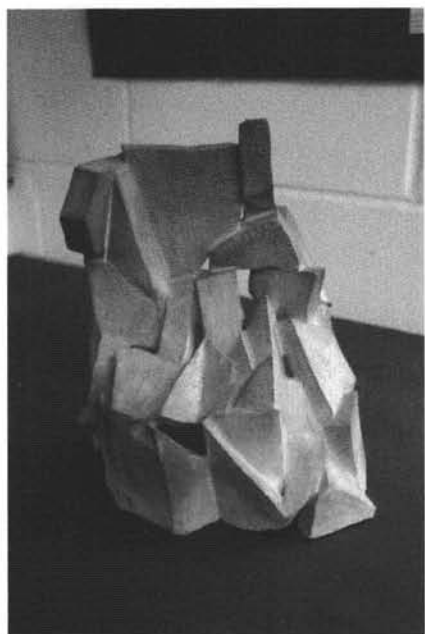




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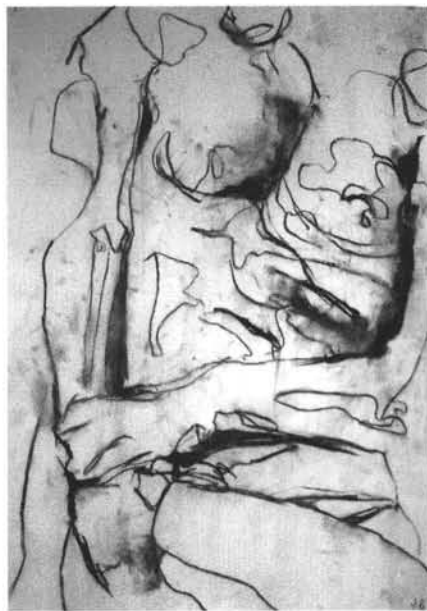
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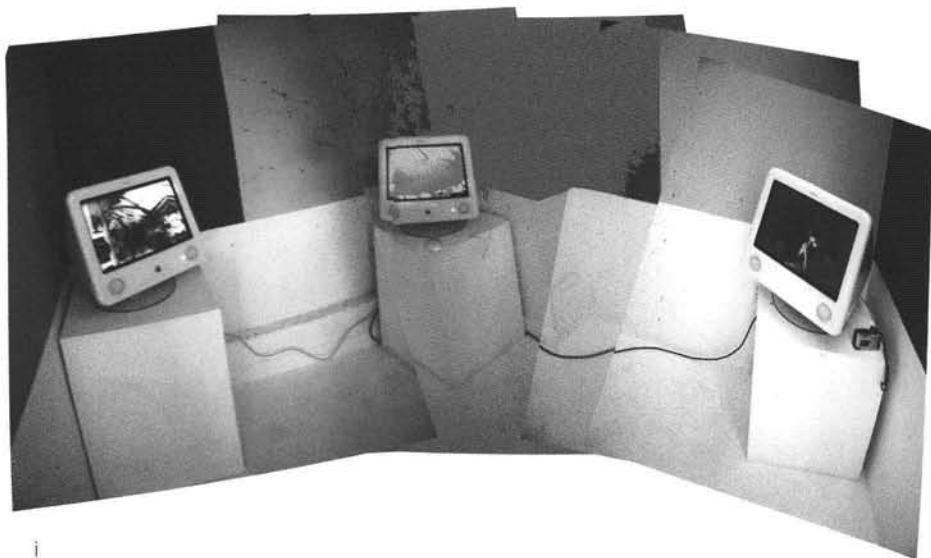
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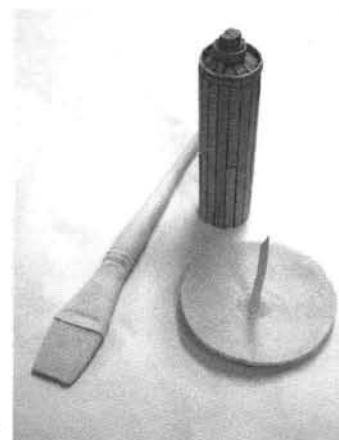


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A2 ART

a	Friends Together	each 20" x 48	Oil on board	Edmund Perou
b	Back	24" x 36"	Oil on board	Edmund Perou
c	Torso	18" x 10" x 15"	Ceramic	Richard Worth
d	Portrait	30" x 42"	Oil on board	Edmund Perou
e	Life Drawing	A1	Charcoal and acrylic	Kemble Woodley
f	Life Drawing	A1	Charcoal and chalk	Chris Kerr
g	Life Drawing	A1	Charcoal	James Garrard
h	Life Drawing	A1	Charcoal and chalk	Tom Chambers
i	Soundscape	Installation	Computers, paint	James Garrard
j	Boxes	Installation	Light boxes	Philip Probert
k	Mugs	Installation	Timber, light cable, steel	Chris Kerr
l	Prisoner	Installation	Fishing wire, glow sticks, steel	Richard Worth
m	Siren I	40" x 30"	Oil on canvas	James Garrard
n	Figure Landscape	40" x 30"	Oil on canvas	Kemble Woodley
o	Brush, Can, Pin	12" x 12"	Ceramic, lolly sticks	Chris Kerr



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b



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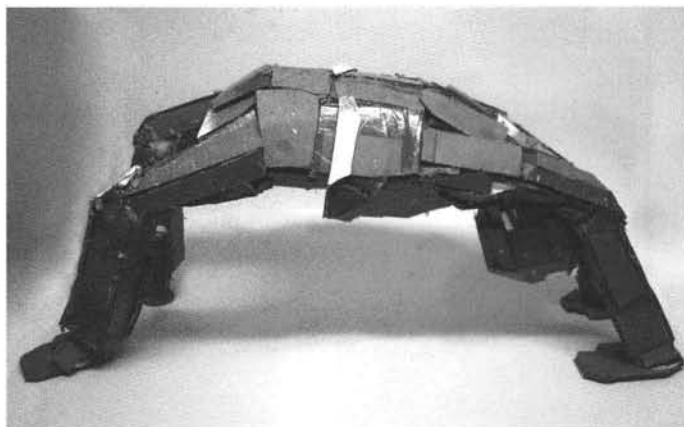
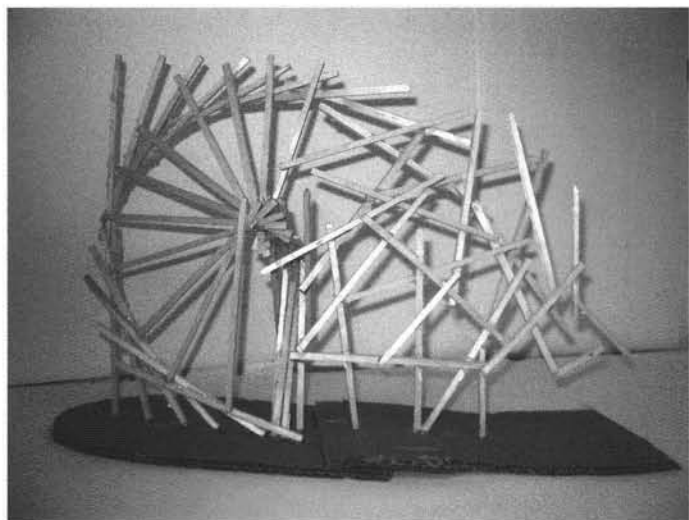
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AS ART

a	Still-life	A1	Charcoal and collage	Gus Raftery
b	Still-life	A2	Oil on board	Josh Ogle
c	Still-life	A1	Oil on board	Young Sang Lee
d	Life Drawing	A1	Charcoal	Young Sang Lee
e	Still-life	15" x 8" x 8"	Ceramic	Edward Barrett
f	Seated Figure	3' x 3' x 2'	Plaster, mod roc	Gus Raftery
g	Moving Figures	A3	Screen print	Edward Barrett
h	Figures Sleeping	A3	Screen print	Gus Raftery
i	Self Portrait	A2	Screen print	Matthew Halls



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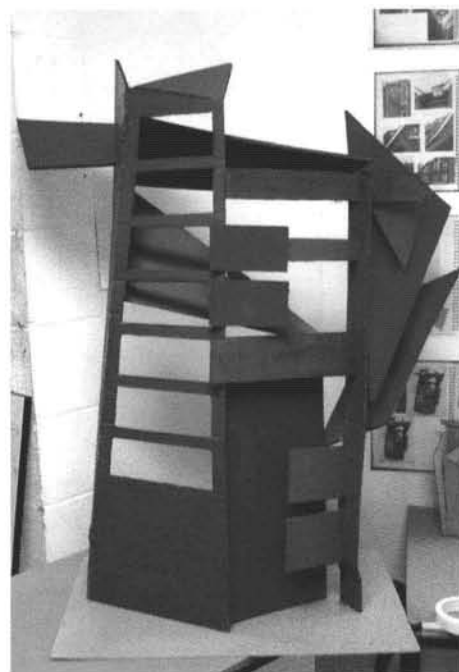
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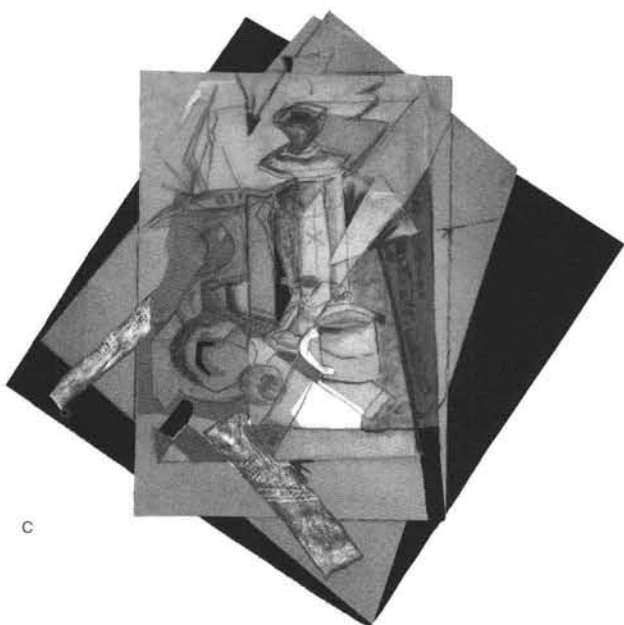
j	Movement Sculpture	24" x 30" x 5"	Balsa wood maquette	Matthew Halls
k	Arched Figure	36" x 24" x 24"	Card maquette	Matthew Halls
l	Idols	A2	Screen print	Josh Ogle
m	Idols	6' x 5' x 4'	Plywood	Josh Ogle
n	Architekture	5' x 3' x 2'	Painted card	Edward Barrett
o	Didcot Landscape	48' x 34"	Oil on canvas	Gus Raftery
p	Church in Light	48" x 34"	Oil on canvas	Young Sang Lee



a



b



c



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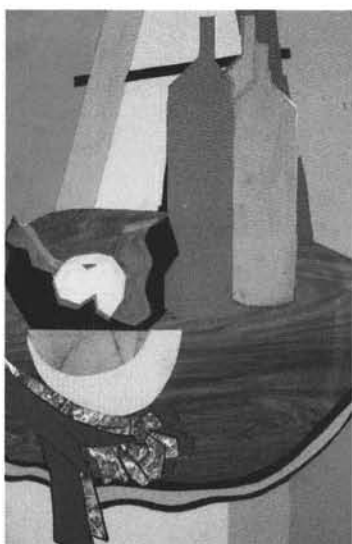
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GCSE ART AND DESIGN

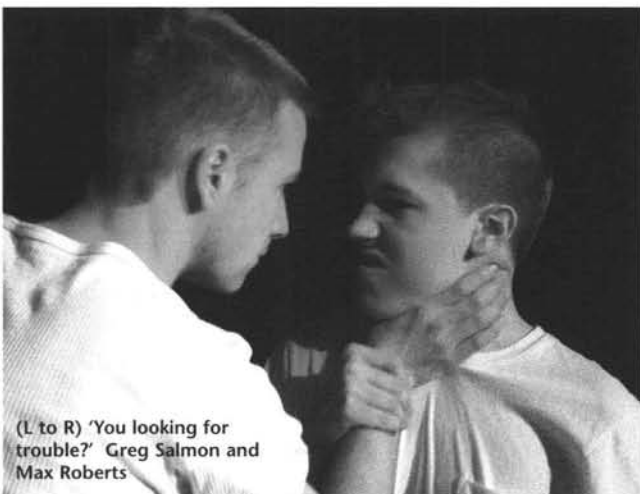
a	Self-portrait	A1	Charcoal	Peter Wood
b	Clowns Diptych	each 30"x 30"	Acrylic on board	Russell Gordon-Jones
c	Cubist Still-life	A1	Mixed - media	Ben Vaux
d	Abingdon View	A1	Acrylic on shaped board	Dan Harris
e	Self-portrait	A4	mono-print	Oliver Verdon
f	Still-life	A4	mixed media	Alexander Smith
g	Still-life after Morandi	A2	Acrylic on board	Ted Stansfield
h	Portrait Maquette	12" x 12" x 36"	Card	Eric Choi
i	Still-life	A1	Acrylic on board	John Davies
j	Still-life	A1	Collage	Jamie Brown
k	Baked Beans	A1	Acrylic on board	Charlie Barber
l	Walking with Sledge	A3	Digital illustration	Sam Walton
m	Natural World Poster	A3	Digital print	Alastair Hughes
n	Self Illustration	A3	Photoshop	James Harrison
o	Climate Change Poster	A3	Digital print	Jack Trotman
p	"Invisible Man" Book Cover	A3	Digital print	Oliver Mumby
q	"Exotic" Shampoo Packaging	A3	Digital print	Jamie Wilder
r	Hot Landscape	A1	Acrylic on board	Jeremy Stockdale
s	Untitled	A1	Mixed media	George Bone
t	Parrot	A1	Mixed media	James Fergusson
u	Musical Abstract	A1	Acrylic on board	David Wood



Drama

A2 Devised Work

(L to R) 'Where's the money?' Max Roberts and Zhongjie Dong

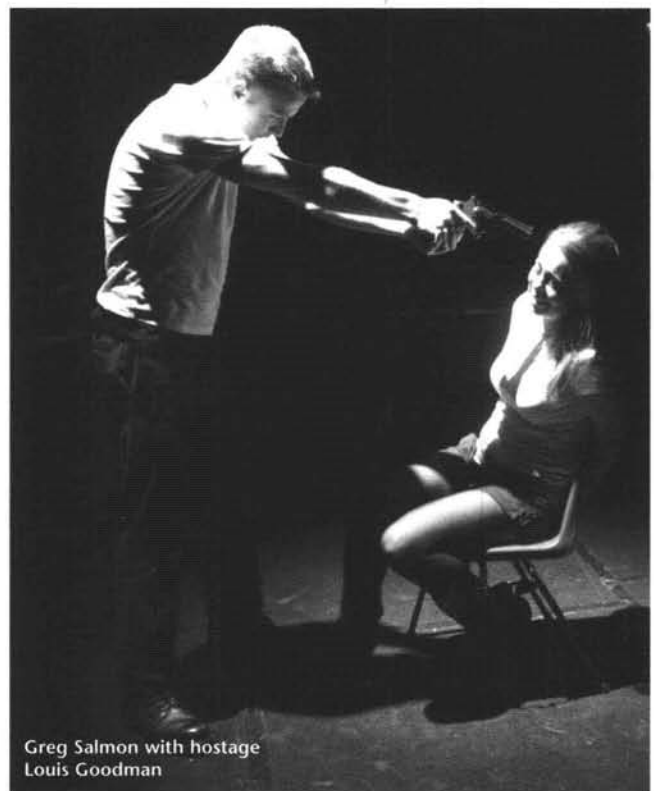


(L to R) 'You looking for trouble?' Greg Salmon and Max Roberts

Heist

A chillingly real depiction of the terrors facing the modern world, *Heist* provides a deep insight into the workings of the minds of both terrorists and hostages. 'Tense' is a one-word summary of this play, with the violence and non-violence equally threatening and truly enhancing the drama. *Heist* portrays human nature, weaknesses and strengths alike: the greed of the robbers and also the compassion of the hostages. Sophie Durham plays 'the boss' and perfectly lives up to the stereotype of the 'femme fatale'. She is stunning, not only in her appearance but also in her total domination over the situation. **Gregory Salmon**, as Sophie's very aggressive subordinate, leaves you shaking in your seat, but his will wavers. Rosie Glass plays the serene yet feisty female robber, calm and collected, but limits can be breached. **Max Roberts** plays the temperamental technician but don't be fooled by his size – his attitude more than makes up for it. Louise Goodman plays a very distressed hostage, desperate to escape alive. Lynette Hussey has a very interesting role: having experienced terror before she is not about to give into it without a fight. **Zhongjie Dong**, as the bank manager, retains control throughout and is nothing if not resilient, but everyone has his limits ...

Zhongjie Dong 7 DRM

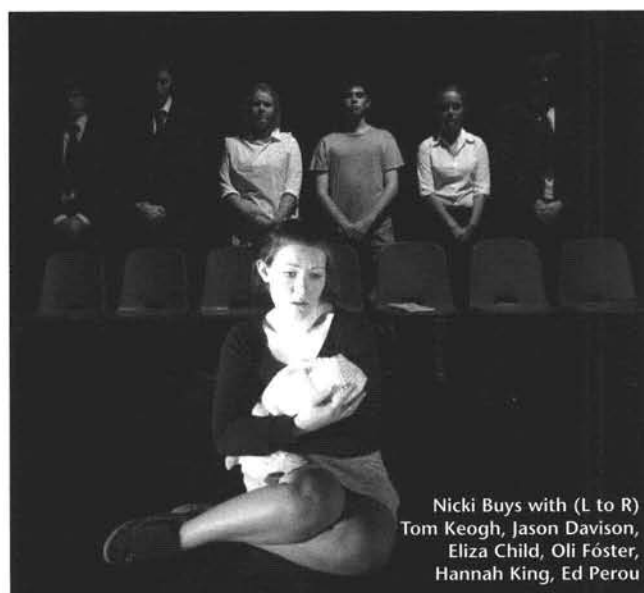


Greg Salmon with hostage Louise Goodman

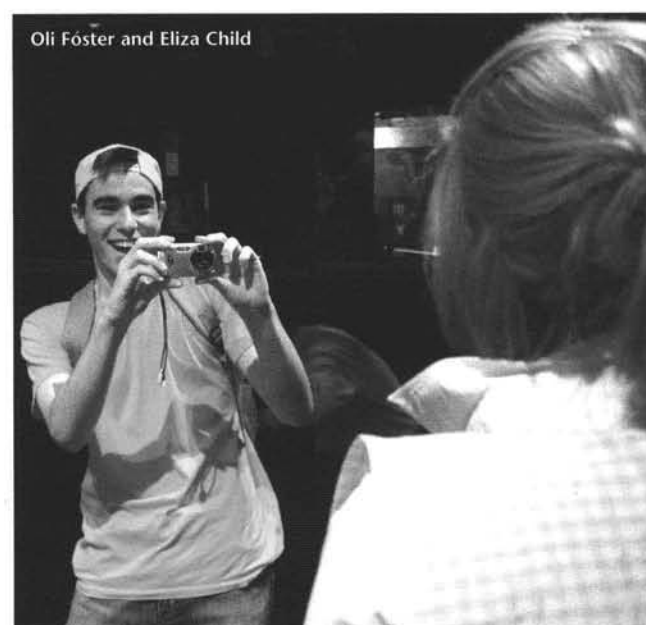
Why do I still do this Everyday?

The inspiration for this piece was the graffiti emblazoned across a lengthy section of the M 40 on the way into London – designed to catch a weary commuter's eye, it also caught the imagination of Oli Fóster, Ed Perou, Jason Davison, Tom Keogh, Hannah King, Eliza Childs and Nicki Buys. The piece explored the routines that enmesh a variety of characters as they navigate their way through their working lives and relationships. All have one common point – they start their daily journey from the same bleak train station. As the piece unravels, the truths about each characters slowly emerge, from the newly redundant 'businessman' who tries to keep up appearances even though he has no job to go to, to the American tourist so anxious to trace his English family. In the process of facing themselves, and each other, tentative friendships are formed and each character is transformed.

Finola Donovan



Nicki Buys with (L to R)
Tom Keogh, Jason Davison,
Eliza Child, Oli Fóster,
Hannah King, Ed Perou



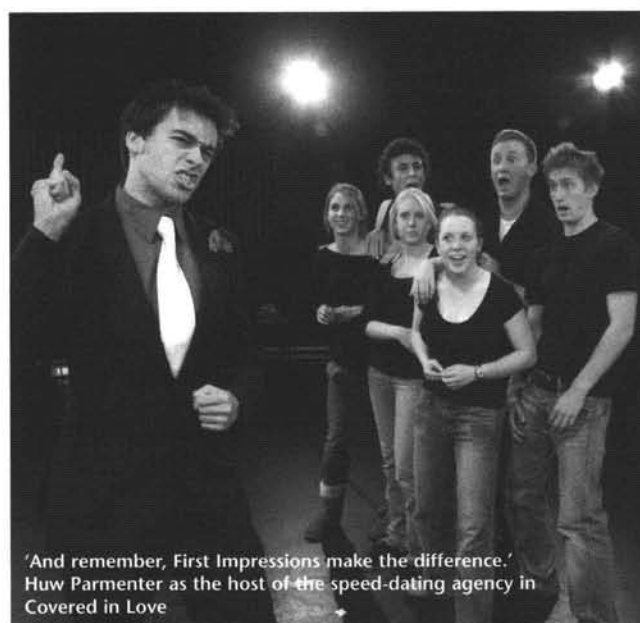
Oli Fóster and Eliza Child

Everybody-dance-now-itis:
Alex Mugnaioni embraces
his 'disability' in the last
scene of Covered in Love



Covered In Love

In the Michaelmas term, the Upper Sixth drama groups were set the exam board challenge of devising their own thirty-minute plays. After toying with many different ideas, each of varying amounts of seriousness, our group decided to stick to something light-hearted. None of us had any real desire to reduce an audience to puddles of tears and so we embarked on a farcical look at modern relationships and the history of dating. We were particularly interested in the effect of technology on relationships nowadays. The stories of couples meeting on the internet, the seediness of chat rooms and the memories of breaking up with partners via text messages filled our minds during the devising process. As we delved further and further into the piece, creating precious minute after minute, it occurred to us how sad the whole situation is – how reliant we appear to be on technology these days and how it controls our ability to communicate. What did people do before there was MSN messenger? How did people talk before mobile phones? Come to think of that, how did we manage to take photos, send pictures, make films, plan our day, time things or play little games involving a black snake eating bits of food before we had mobile phones? Incredible.



'And remember, First Impressions make the difference.'
Huw Parmenter as the host of the speed-dating agency in
Covered in Love



'That means tonight, you have a three in seventy-four chance of finding the love of your life.'
(L to R) Kim Croasdale, Alexander Mugnaioni, Anna Wright, Max Hutchinson, Katie Prior and Adam Paxton in *Covered in Love*

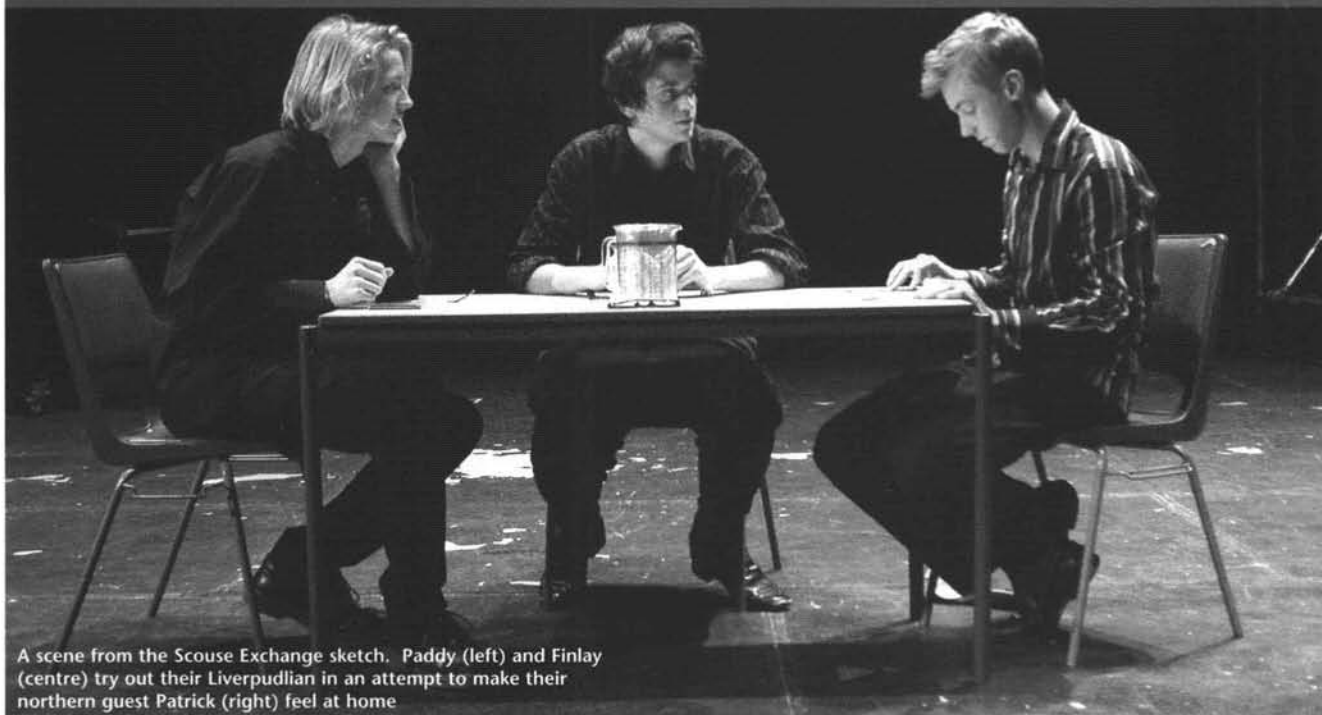
We felt compelled to make a startling (and possibly irrational) link between the amount of people meeting through technological means and the high rate of divorce in today's society. We came to the conclusion that technology is seriously hindering our ability to communicate face to face. Starting off in the setting of a 'speed-dating' meeting, our bizarre set of characters, including an Emo, a wheel-chair user and a Scot suffering from 'everybody-dance-now-itis', went through an embarrassing set of exchanges as they changed conversation partners – "So ... I see you're disabled".

Huw Parmenter, controlling all the action as the host of the speed-dating agency, sent all the social misfits to the beginning of time to start an extremely abbreviated journey through history looking at dating throughout the centuries. Along the way we came across a whole host of characters – from hippies to God himself, from a snake to a man running into a wall, from David Attenborough to a cow-loving Shakespeare fan. Among all this stupidity, however, we tried to stay loyal to our serious message – that technology is ruining our communication skills.

We all had a brilliant time creating this piece. The freedom to experiment, to have a laugh and generally make idiots of ourselves really helped us to create something that we are very proud of. For that, we have to thank our teachers – **Mr Taylor** and **Ms Watt**. We all hope that we have not performed this play for the last time and are keeping our fingers crossed for a trip to Edinburgh in the summer.

Max Hutchinson 7 JEJO

FxP²: The Sequel



A scene from the Scouse Exchange sketch. Paddy (left) and Finlay (centre) try out their Liverpudlian in an attempt to make their northern guest Patrick (right) feel at home

It's odd how things run in cycles. A decade ago, for example, every year threw up a few more Abingdonians intent on following in the footsteps of rock giants *Radiohead*. The tremors **Thom Yorke** and his pals triggered here are still being felt, of course; new Oxford group *The Fools*, fronted by **Walter Gervers** (OA 2002), are the latest band with an Abingdon connection to be tipped as 'the next big thing'.

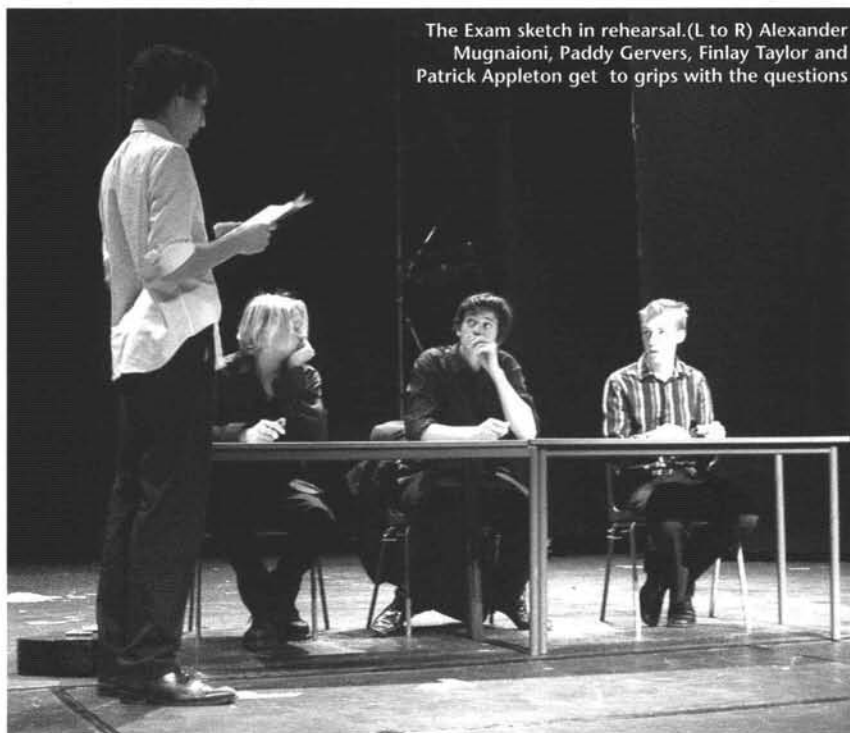
These days, however, it seems comedy is the new rock 'n roll. Just as *Radiohead* inspired the last generation of Abingdon boys to take up their guitars and walk, now it's the ubiquitous **David Mitchell** who is lodestar to an increasing number of new kids on the block.

Paul Mayhew-Archer, parent of **Simon** (OA 2004) and one half of the writing duo behind *The Vicar of Dibley*, believes Abingdon has a well-established comic tradition. There's Mitchell, of course, who left school in the early 1990s and is now riding high on radio, television, cinema screen and stage. **Steve Dawson** followed a few years later; he now writes comedy shows for Channel 4, amongst others. Then came **Jonathan Donahoe** and **Dan Benoliel**, today working in tandem to produce gags for BBC Radio. More recently, **Alex Nash** and **Tom Swarbrick** carried the torch at Cambridge as part of the famous *Footlights* troupe, and in the last few months, **Tim Dawson** has created

a stir by winning a commission from the BBC for a six-part TV sitcom almost before the ink on his A Level certificate was dry.

So in a sense, it's nothing new to be reporting on another successful team of Abingdon comedians. It's just that, like

tennis players, they seem to get younger and ever more assured. The current set – **Finlay Taylor**, **Patrick Appleton** and **Paddy Gervers** – were just fifteen when they took their first comic steps as *FxP²* in 2005. A year later, expectations were high



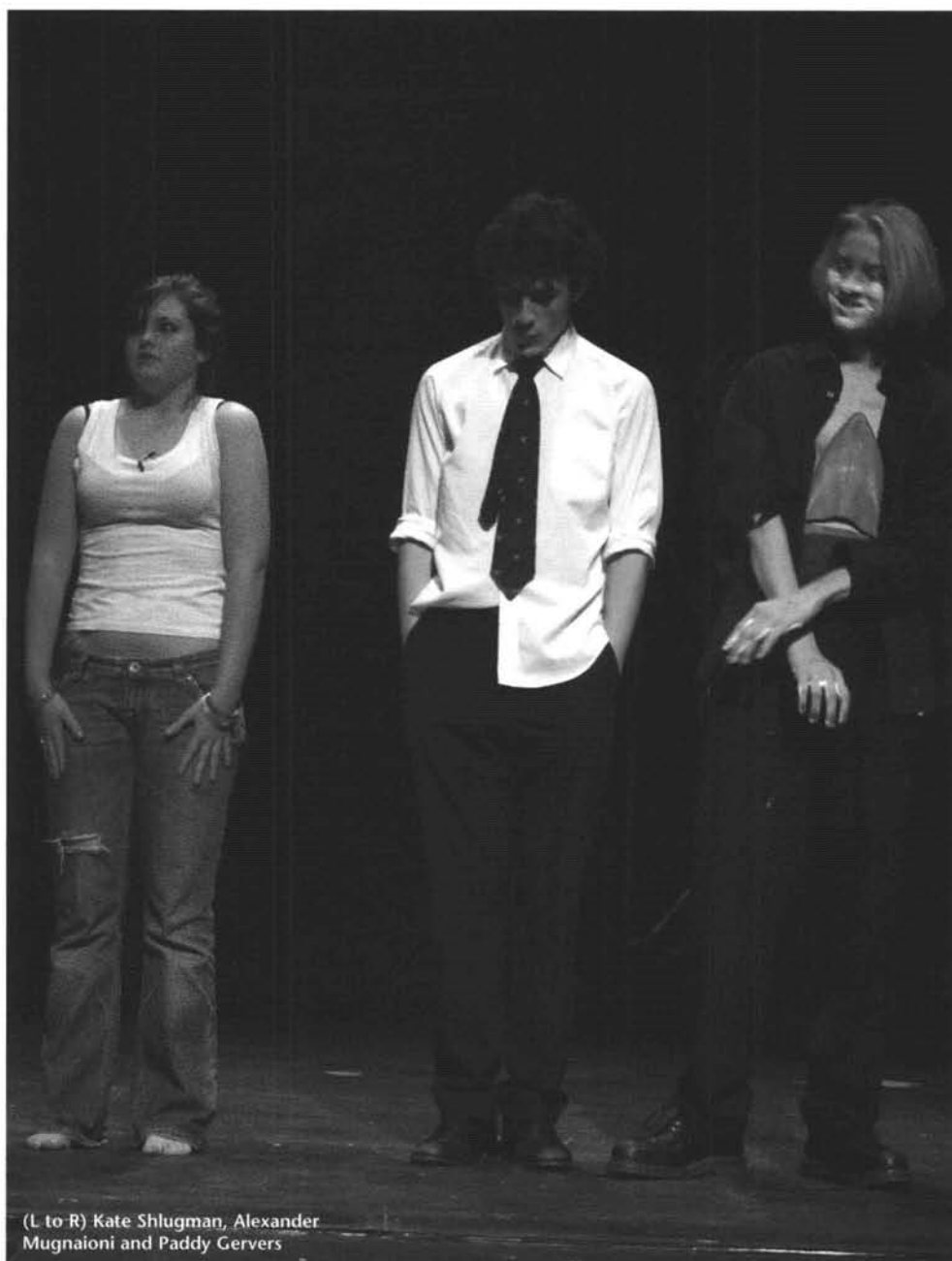
The Exam sketch in rehearsal. (L to R) Alexander Mugnaioni, Paddy Gervers, Finlay Taylor and Patrick Appleton get to grips with the questions

as *FxP2: The Sequel* took to the stage of the Amey Theatre in November 2006. Happily, the capacity audience was not disappointed.

From the start, the group broke new ground by opening the show with some cleverly filmed footage that led us to believe two-thirds of the trio had got the venue wrong and were marooned in the empty YPH auditorium at St Helen's. Their ensuing on-screen race to get back to Abingdon raised gales of knowing laughter as Rita Gunn's start-of-year warning to the Sixth Form about the dangers of the Harding Road was recalled, and a running gag developed involving **Fin** crashing into a conscientious-looking Kate Schlugman and sending her books flying. By the time the real-life **Finlay Taylor** and **Paddy Appleton** entered the Amey Theatre, dancing down the aisle in a mock swordfight, it seemed they had the audience at their mercy.

The bold use of the big screen may have hinted at the group's televisual ambitions, but the essence of the show was the success of its live onstage sketches, in which the three performers presented an array of different comic characters, ably supported in many of the sketches by Lynette Hussey and Kate Schlugman from St Helen's, and **Alexander Mugnaioni** from Abingdon.

There were many highlights, and an impressive feature of the material was the way it not only exploited familiar school situations (such as the PE Department's core stability tests, or the Headmaster's annual round of interviews for new staff), but also explored subjects that worked for a wider public. There was the sketch about the suicide bomber looking for love in the lonely hearts column of a newspaper, for example: "Radical Muslim cleric seeks gorgeous air hostess for transatlantic Boeing 747 flight blueprints, maybe more." Or the excellent send-up of over-enthusiastic TV presenters everywhere in the *Time Team* sketch. Other examples included *Scouse Exchange*, and the excellent musical finale in which the over-blown emotion of contemporary pop ballads was gloriously mocked.



(L to R) Kate Shlugman, Alexander Mugnaioni and Paddy Gervers

Each performer brought something distinctive to the mix. **Finlay Taylor** cornered a lot of the essential straight man roles but had more than a touch of the zany psychopath about him when required. **Paddy Gervers** explored the surreal in everything he did: the moment he turned his hands into a pair of glove puppets during his job interview with the Headmaster was a particularly wonderful case in point. In terms of sheer acting range, **Patrick Appleton** showed an impressive ability to mould himself into different shapes and accents, ranging from the exam swot to the strangely familiar South African fitness fanatic - even a bewildered man dressed as a potato in another of the on-screen interludes.

In short, it was a tremendous evening. The three young comedians, who deserve praise for their enterprise, organisation and creativity, created all of the material. The Amey Theatre Technical Crew provided excellent sound and lighting, as always, and the large audience applauded to the rafters at the end. Their enthusiastic support enabled the event to raise £1500 for the Institute of Cancer Research, a contribution that was presented to Mr Philip Black of the Institute at a Sixth-form assembly some months later, and very gratefully received.

Jeremy Taylor

Abingdon at the West End



David Mitchell on screen at the Lyric

A Celebration of Theatre and Performance The Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, 3 December 2006

To mark the 750th anniversary of the School, the Drama Department decided to stage a special performance in a London West End theatre. Most theatres are 'dark' on Sunday evenings, yet without the invaluable help of OA President and theatre producer **Julius Green** (OA 1982), it is unlikely we would have succeeded in booking the *Lyric* on Shaftesbury Avenue for the evening of Sunday 3 December. Very special thanks go to Julius, therefore, and also to the Old Abingdonian Club, whose generous financial support helped to cover some of the costs of the event.

There were two main objectives for the evening. First and foremost was the desire to celebrate the School's reputation for performing arts with a night to remember. This meant creating performing opportunities for as many current pupils as possible, but also involving Old Abingdonians who have built reputations as actors, playwrights, directors, impresarios or musicians. The second purpose was to raise funds for the Film Unit's expedition to Cambodia to make a film in support of disabled landmine victims. Such was the enthusiasm of the School community for the event that both goals were achieved in some style. The show involved so many performers that it lasted a marathon four hours, but the film crew departed for Phnom Penh the very next morning, secure in the knowledge that funds for their trip had been considerably augmented by the near-capacity audience.

The evening began with filmed interviews featuring OAs and former staff involved in the performing arts. These had been recorded by the cameraman for the Cambodia trip, **Tom Wakeling**

(OA 2006). We heard playwright and actor **Tom Kempinski** (OA 1956) recall his first impressions of the School and its post-war Headmaster, James Cobham. Jon Gabitass, formerly Head of English, Second Master and later Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, spoke of the energy and talent of the boys he encountered at Abingdon as a director of plays in the pre-Amey Theatre days. **Don Greig** (OA 1978), singer and founder member of the *Tallis Scholars* and *Orlando Consort*, remembered the warm, family environment he encountered in the Eric Anderson era, whilst actor **Nick Rawlinson** (OA 1982) described the avuncular welcome he received from the English Department when he arrived in Michael St John Parker's time as Headmaster. Finally, comedian **David Mitchell**, another product of the MStJP years, offered his view on what made Abingdon such a fertile ground for performers, and particularly comics like him. It was not a place, he said, in which there was the most conspicuous wealth or privilege, nor the extremes of suffering associated with real deprivation. Instead, it was "sort of in-between".

The comedy writers **Dan Benoliel** (OA 2000) and **Jonathan Donahoe** (OA 2001) appeared next as the excellent compères for the evening, and introduced an item written by **Tim Dawson** (OA 2006), the most recent OA to make his mark in comedy. *Creatio Ex Nihilo* was a monologue performed by **Tom Swarbrick** (OA 2005) that amusingly charted the founding of the School in the style of the Book of Genesis, and set a tone of schoolboy irreverence that was to return at various points throughout the show.

A large cast of current Lower Sixth students appeared next in a home-spun adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's classic satire of public school life, *Decline and Fall*, featuring **Max Gander** as Dr Fagan and **Joe Buckley** as Paul Pennyfeather.

Having established that Abingdon was a place that could laugh at itself, the action turned to Shakespeare, whose work has, of course, been a staple of school drama for many of our 750 years. The first of three extracts from his plays was part of Nigel Brown's 1980s production of *The Merchant of Venice*. This was one of the first plays to be presented in the Amey Theatre and it was a real delight to see OAs Nick Rawlinson and Julius Green reprising their original roles as Antonio and Shylock respectively, with support from another 1980s Abingdonian and professional actor, **Ralf Collie** (OA 1989), who played Bassanio.

This was followed by an act that showed the diversity of Abingdon's performing arts alumni. **Martin Burton** (OA 1972), better known as Zippo the Clown, introduced an item from his famous circus called *Fantasy in Silk*, performed above the stage with breath-taking skill by Ina the acrobat.

Some of Abingdon's younger performers appeared next in scenes from *Dracula Spectacular* (the first show to be presented in the Amey Theatre), performed here by the Lower School Drama Club, and *Bugsy Malone*, presented by **Alison Quick's** Fourth-form GCSE drama class.

Another film clip reminded us that James Cobban's decision to buy a movie camera for the School's photographic society in the 1950s was to have far-reaching consequences for the range of Abingdon's future artistic activity. The extract from **Michael Grigsby's** youthful film *No Tumbled House* showed the CCF on parade in front of Big School over fifty years ago, and introduced a series of items exploring military themes. *On Parade* was another comic sketch by Tim Dawson, featuring recent OAs **Eddie Wilson**, **Francis Gater**, **Ben Lawson** and brothers **Tom** and **Jo Swarbrick**. Its ribald humour was contrasted by the urgent drama of the "Once more unto the breach" scene from the 2001 Amey Theatre production of *Henry V*, in which OAs **Conrad Mason** (Chorus) and **Simon Evans** (Henry) returned, impressively backed by a motley army of conscripts from current Fifth and Lower Sixth drama classes and a hail of thunderous gunfire. This segued into the last item in the first half, an extract from *Oh What a Lovely War* that featured Third-year drama students, and a particularly affecting rendition of *Stille Nacht* by **Ben Haveron**.

A final explosion marked the demise of the onstage soldiers, and ushered in a moving slideshow of photos from **Sarah Wearne's** superb School archive that showed some of the Abingdonians who lost their lives in one or other of the World Wars, and was accompanied by the bitter-sweet strains of the song *Goodbye*.

The second half began with an atmospheric piece from the 2003 production of *Ines de Castro*, one of the growing number of School shows to travel to the Edinburgh Fringe in recent years. It was a pleasure to welcome back OAs **Jon Donnelly**, **James Mugnaioni**, **Alex Nash** and **George Potter**, and former St Helen's students **Sasha Brown** and **Holly Thame**. Another St Helen's alumna, singer **Sarah Hoblyn**, took to the stage next, accompanied by **Mike**

Chilcott (OA 2004) on bass, and honorary Abingdonian **Alex Hawkins** on piano, for two haunting ballads, *Balm of Gilead* and *When I Fall in Love*.

St Helen's girls have been an integral part of Abingdon's theatrical tradition for many years, and the next item paid tribute to the strength of their contribution as a vast company of young maidens in gymslips took to the stage for an entertaining extract from *Daisy Pulls It Off*. Beforehand, Nick Rawlinson recalled on film how intimidating his generation of Abingdonians had found the immaculately behaved and word-perfect St Helen's girls at play rehearsals.

Next came an extract from one of the most recent fruits of the entente cordiale between the two schools, *Covered in Love*, devised only a few weeks earlier by **Alex Mugnaioni**, **Max Hutchinson**, **Huw Parmenter**, **Adam Paxton**, **Kim Croasdale**,

Katie Prior and **Anna Wright** as part of their A Level Theatre Studies course. Set in a speed-dating agency, and exploring the questionable state of our ability to form relationships, this was a fast, physical and funny piece that, like *Ines de Castro*, would eventually take the high road to the Edinburgh Fringe.

It's probably fair to say that the physicality of all British theatre has developed in the last few years as the influence of actors like **Toby Jones** (OA 1985), who trained in Paris with the legendary French mime artist Jacques Lecoq, has spread. This has had its impact on school theatre, too, and the opening dance sequence from **Alison Quick's** new production of *The Taming of the Shrew* was an example of the exciting power of theatre in which performers' bodies tell the story just as much as the spoken dialogue.





This was equally true of the piece from **Jon Barker's** excellent 2006 production of *Bouncers* that followed. Featuring OAs **Francis Gater** and **Eddie Wilson**, alongside Upper Sixth heavyweights **Max Hutchinson** and **Huw Parmenter**, this was the most recent example of an Abingdon show to win rave reviews in Edinburgh.

The evening's historical focus was addressed next, in an original comedy sketch called *Time Team*, written and performed by the Lower Sixth trio known as FxP² – **Finlay Taylor**, **Paddy Gervers** and **Patrick Appleton**. Their delicious send-up of TV presenters' practice of 'handing over' from one to another was made even funnier by the way the performers kept appearing in unexpected corners of the theatre, putting the hard-pressed follow-spot operators on their mettle. At one point, **Patrick** clambered over the punters in the first ten rows of the stalls, losing a shoe in the process.

History was prominent in the next piece, too. Alan Bennett's *History Boys* could have been made for an evening such as this. Its story of eccentric teachers, different approaches to education and clever and irreverent pupils is one that strikes a chord with many who know Abingdon well. In this extract, OA **Ralf Collie** returned to the stage in the guise of **Hector**, the brilliant but unorthodox teacher whose General Studies lesson on the use of the French subjunctive with a group of Sixth-formers is being acted out in a brothel when the Headmaster (**Max Hutchinson**) enters the room with a new supply teacher (**Adam Paxton**). The cast of eight real-life Sixth-formers played their parts with gusto, headed by **Alex Mugnaioni**, **Huw Parmenter**, **Oliver Föster** and **Max Roberts**.

The strength of Abingdon's music is universally acknowledged, as is its contribution to the success of School theatre productions too. This was amply demonstrated by **Tom Bennett**, of the Lower Sixth, whose performance of an aria from the current production by **Jon Barker** and **Simon Whalley** of *The Magic Flute* was excellent, as was **George Potter's** soulful rendition of the jazz ballad, *Georgia on my Mind*.

No doubt many in the audience were flagging by this stage, and the chances of getting a post-show drink in the theatre bar before the 10.30 pm deadline were looking decidedly thin. They vanished entirely after **Simon Evans's** epic feast of magic, but such

was **Simon's** energy and rabble-rousing charisma that I suspect most punters will have happily foregone their reviving glass. As part of the act, the **Headmaster** gamely took to the stage to endure the indignity of having pointed sticks thrust through him by a disturbingly enthusiastic bunch of Third-formers, one of whom drove home his weapon with the words, "That's for all the times you made assembly over-run". Released from his imprisonment in a cardboard box, HM eventually emerged wearing a rather fetching wig and floral patterned dress, the fastenings of which, alas, the magic had omitted to secure. The final blackout could not come fast enough.

And so to the final act: **Sondheim's Sweeney Todd** was, so far as we know, the first Abingdon show to visit the Fringe, in 2000. The cast of that show were among the very best actors and singers that Abingdon and St Helen's have produced in the last ten years and it was a very special pleasure to see nearly all of them back together again for a hastily rehearsed, yet powerful performance of three numbers from the gruesome story of a London barber. OAs **Jo Kennedy** and **Mark Iles** fronted the songs, along with SHSK old girl **Josie Pearson**; former member of staff **James Millard** provided expert musical accompaniment.

Before the audience filed out onto the damp streets of Soho, new OA President **David Brice** delivered a stylish vote of thanks in verse form. My own thanks must echo his in more prosaic but no less ardent terms, and cover the enormous number of people who helped to make the event possible, especially **Julius Green**, whose energetic support and advice marked every stage of the planning; **Charmian Hart**, who managed the complicated box office and travel arrangements with unflappable calm and good humour; OA **Ash Verjee**, who masterminded the very demanding technical elements of the show with apparent ease; **Chris Biggs**, **Alison Quick** and the members of the Amey Theatre technical crew who served as 'traffic cops' in the wings to ensure the large numbers of performers got on and off stage as quickly as possible and at the right times; fellow-directors **Jon Barker**, **Finola Donovan**, **Alison Quick**, **Jo Watt** and **Oliver Hogben** as well as the many members of staff who accompanied the army of performers on the coaches to and from London.

Jeremy Taylor

The Taming of the Shrew



Ollie Cook surrounded by the girls

The senior School production, directed by **Alison Quick**, took place just before the Lent half-term break instead of at the end of the Christmas term, a change in scheduling necessitated by the preparations for the *Celebration of Theatre at the Lyric Theatre* in Shaftesbury Avenue on 3 December, which tied up actors, directors and rehearsal space in the crucial last weeks of the term. We started rehearsals in September and finally reached the stage at the beginning of February. Our goal was to produce a hard-

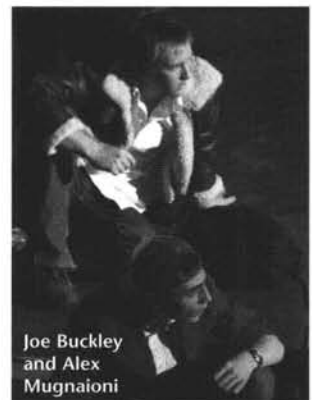
hitting, up-to-the-minute version of one of Shakespeare's most contentious plays, setting it in a kind of industrial warehouse/night club and costuming it in the sort of clothes that can be seen around now. The audience entered the club when they entered the auditorium, with moving lights tracing patterns on the walls and music pulsating from the speakers. Eighteen Abingdon boys and twenty St Helen's girls milled around, dancing and chatting and finally, just as the performance was about to begin, performing



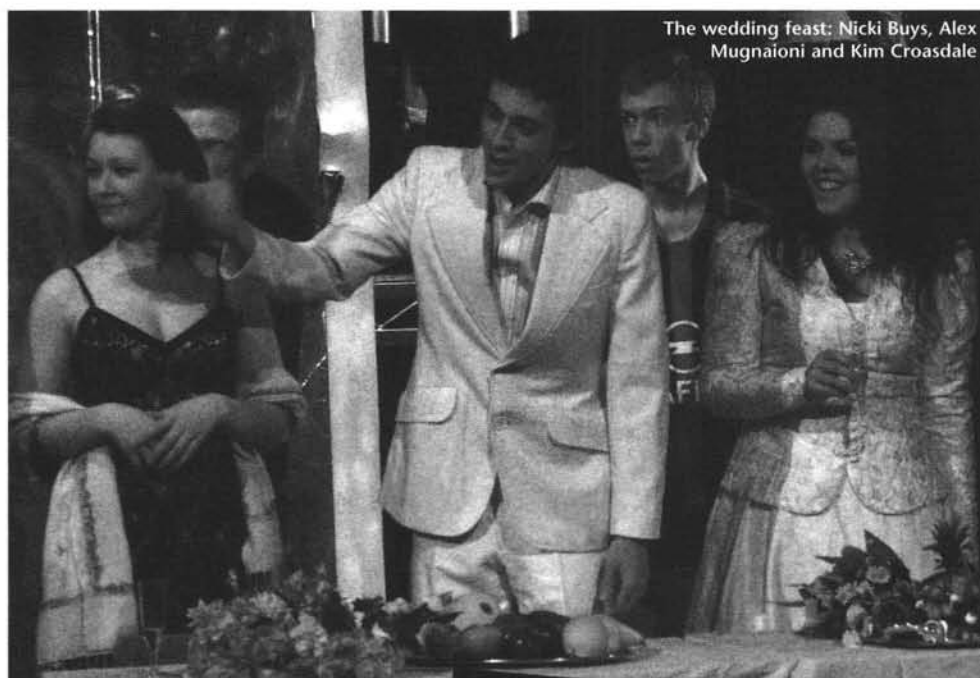
Finlay Taylor as Gremio



Oli Föster and Jason Davison



Joe Buckley and Alex Mugnaioni



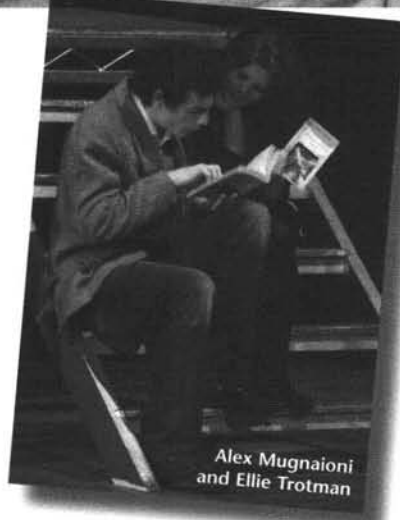
The wedding feast: Nicki Buys, Alex Mugnaioni and Kim Croasdale



Max Hutchinson as Petruchio

Bianca, presented as a giggling capricious flirt by Ellie Trotman, were played with gusto and panache by **Huw Parmenter** as Hortensio, a hapless comic for whom not much ever went right; **Finlay Taylor** as Gremio, an eccentric golfer with a stammer and **Alexander**

a slick, exciting 'dance-off', reflecting the theme of conflict between men and women that runs throughout the play. Kate Shlugman and Lynette Hussey, pupils from St Helen's, were the inspired choreographers behind the dances. The other dancers and later, wedding guests and servants, were Kasia Kirkland, Anna Wright, Hannah King, Rebecca Stewart, Camilla Spence, Katie Prior, Lucy Stewart, Hannah Wilson, Ella Blazowicz, Emma Nairne, Alice Carr, Rosie Glass, Nicola Williams, Daniella Welch, Rosalind Chomacki, Elizabeth Napper and Katie Cook from St Helen's, and from Abingdon, **Tom Keogh**, **Edmund Perou**, **Henry Locatelli-Malacrida**, **Simon Edwards**, **Tian Ji**, **Freddie Barber**, **Matthew Copson**, **Peter Statham**, **Aidan Tierney**, **James Cook** and **Oliver Raban**. We worked on the idea that the 'trick' that the girls in the club play on Sly, who was ably played by **Oliver Cook**, was in retaliation for his obnoxious behaviour during the evening.



Alex Mugnaioni and Ellie Trotman

Mugnaioni as Lucentio, a blithely impetuous, somewhat naïve, but charming student. Looking after these characters was Grumio, Petruchio's servant, played with rough good humour and energy by **Hugh Graham**, Biondello, Lucentio's second servant, played as a fast-talking smart Alick, by **Patrick Appleton**, and Tranio, Lucentio's servant, who masterminds the complex sub-plot of disguise and deception, played with assurance and style by **Joseph Buckley**. **Zhongjie Dong** and **Max Gander** played, respectively, the unfortunate Vincentio and his impersonator, the Pedant, both of them giving finely-timed comic performances. Adding to the comedy were the two tailors, played with outrageous French accents by **Jason Davison** and **Oliver Föster** and **Max Roberts** as the harassed Curtis, Petruchio's head servant.

All of this hugely entertaining activity on-stage was ably supported by a dynamic and dedicated backstage technical team: **Josh Wilkins**, the tireless stage

manager, oversaw backstage arrangements, while **James Harrison**, **Richard Oastler** and **William Otterburn** were the technical wizards and indefatigable lead crew members who worked into the small hours to get everything ready, competently assisted by **Mark Scott** (sound), **James Ridgley**, **Anthony Grieveson**, **Alex Iley**, **Alex Stuart-Kregor**, **Sam Delo**, **Iain Galpin** and **Andrew Phillips**. The tech crew worked under the careful and professional guidance of **Chris Biggs**, Amey Theatre Administrator, and the Head of Art, **James Nairne**, produced the eye-catching poster; administrative hitches were ironed out by **Jeremy Taylor**, who lent generous and unstinting support in every area of the production.

Alison Quick



Kim Croasdale as Katerina

Once we entered the world of the Inner Play (the story of Katerina and Petruchio with which many people are more familiar) we were lucky to have **Max Hutchinson** giving a virtuoso performance as the tempestuous Petruchio with **Kim Croasdale** as a subtle, charismatic Katerina. Continuing our liberties with the text, we changed Baptista Minola, the father of Katerina and Bianca in Shakespeare's text, into their mother, played here with steely, aristocratic poise by **Nicki Buys**. The three suitors of



Max Gander as the Pedant

AS Productions



Joshua Turrill as Bassanio and Rebecca Stewart as Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*

The Merchant of Venice kicked off the performances with a visually arresting set of glass cabinets and glazed swing doors. **Max Gander** gave a fine performance as Shylock, part stock villain, part vulnerable human being. Rebecca Stewart produced a feisty, but controlled Portia and Kate Hawkins gave a poignant performance as the lonely Antonio. Kate Rogers, Tiffany Wilcox and **Josh Turrill** took on multiple personae with zest and assurance, creating the fragile world of 1930s Germany with confidence.



An ironic toast? **Max Gander's** entrance as Shylock

This year all four hour-long performances took place in the Studio Theatre at St. Helen's. On offer was a cleverly adapted version of *The Merchant of Venice* by **Jeremy Taylor**; an interesting exploration of youthful preoccupations and age-old dilemmas as seen in Sharman Macdonald's play *After Juliet*, directed by Jo Watt from St Helen's; a late Victorian melodrama, *The Bells*, made famous by the great actor Henry Irving, directed by **Alison Quick**, and a powerful production of Steven Berkoff's *The Messiah: scenes from a crucifixion*, directed by Olly Hogben, again from St Helen's. All productions had high-quality technical support from technical expert **Ash Verjee** at St Helen's.



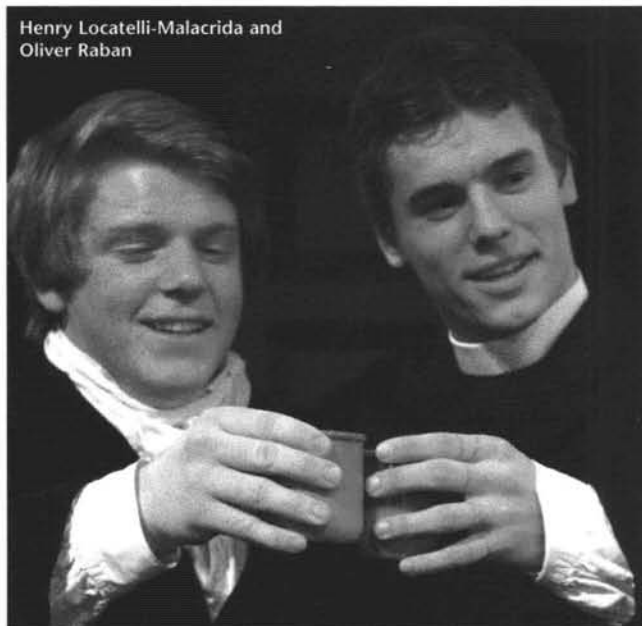
'Up for a fight': Patrick Appleton (Benvolio) and Hugh Graham (Valentine)

After Juliet brought us back into the 21st century with a bang – literally, with **Simon Edwards** playing the Drummer with a sinister confidence. **Hugh Graham** played the unpredictable Valentine with panache, while **Patrick Appleton** gave Benvolio, in love with Rosaline, a youthful sincerity and a touch of incomprehension that he should have fallen for a Capulet. Rosaline was played by Kate Shlugman in fine storming fashion, while Beth Carter, Eavan Porter, Lucy Stewart and Kate Harrison all gave strong and intriguing performances as Juliet's other cousins.



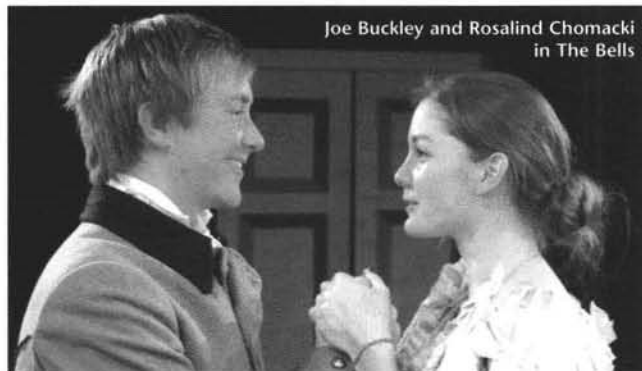
Kate Shlugman as Rosaline

Henry Locatelli-Malacrida and Oliver Raban

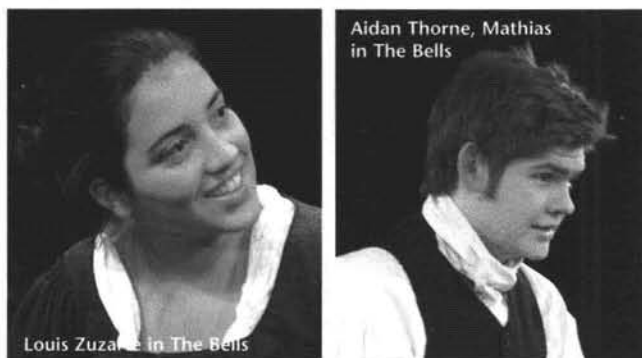


Next on the list was *The Bells*, an atmospheric 'play with music' that deals with mental breakdown, murder and guilt. The protagonist, Mathias, was played with splendid guile and great emotional openness, by **Aidan Thorne**, supported in his terrifying journey into mental disintegration by his two alter egos, Louise Zuzarte, providing the sinister embodiment of his greed in Act 2, and Kasia Kirkland, providing the emotional catharsis of his confession in Act 3. Creating the outward show of normality, and of a friendly village community, Elizabeth Napper and Rosalind Chomacki were both convincing and engaging as Mathias' wife and daughter. **Joe Buckley** played the dashing young hero with swagger, while **Henry Locatelli-Malacrida** and **Oliver Raban** gave fine performances as the down-to-earth, life-and-soul-of-the-party friends of the family. Daniella Welch was an arresting mesmerist in the final act and the no-nonsense Dr Zimmer in the rest of the play.

Joe Buckley and Rosalind Chomacki in *The Bells*



Aidan Thorne, Mathias in *The Bells*



Louise Zuzarte in *The Bells*

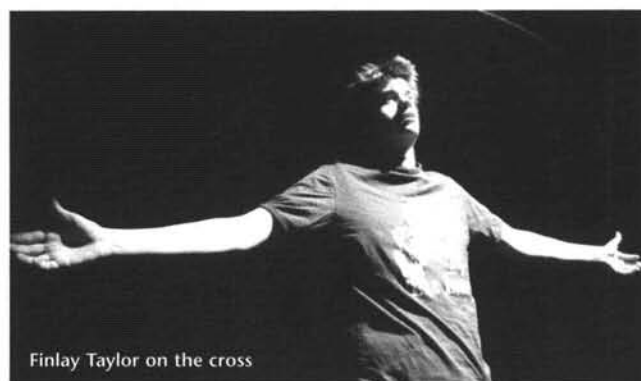


Richard Moore addresses his disciples



The final production was *The Messiah: scenes from a crucifixion*, by turns shocking and comic, which the strong ensemble coped with, with confidence. **Finlay Taylor** showed his versatility playing with conviction Jesus dying in agony on the cross in an emotionally demanding scene and then switching to a lighter mode for more comic interludes; **Paddy Gervers** was a compelling Judas and **Richard Moore** a confident, slick cult leader; Camilla Spence gave a moving performance as Mary; and Nicola Williams performed strongly as both Jesus and one of the soldiers. Katie Cook's uncompromising performance as one of the soldiers was chilling, while Emma Nairne and Harriet Davis were both insinuating and coaxing as Satan.

Alison Quick



Finlay Taylor on the cross

A2 Productions

Lysistrata

In one sense it's sad that Aristophanes' ancient Greek comedy, in which the women of Athens deny men their favours in protest at the long-drawn-out war with Sparta, has been so frequently performed in recent years, since it shows modern generations have repeatedly had to remind themselves of the play's funny but ultimately sober message about our obsession with war.

However, none will have felt the need to forgive **Max Roberts**, Sophie Durham, Rosie Glass and Anna Wright their choice of play for the final A Level Theatre Studies productions in April. To start with, their decision to avoid obvious parallels with Iraq or Afghanistan and set the action in the troubled South American Republic of Colombia delivered a degree of sultry Latin joie de vivre that was guaranteed to produce delight as well as instruction.

The simple set of a sun-baked ochre back wall, complete with spray-painted graffiti and a poster of Russell Crowe in *Gladiator*, at once hinted at the modern setting. Upbeat contemporary Colombian music and excited fiesta sounds took us to the heart of the new location, before warm orange lighting and the insistent sound of crickets gave a sense of a new day starting in this exotic environment.



(L to R) Sophie Durham, Max Roberts, Anna Wright and Rosie Glass

The actors' much-edited version of the play began with Sophie Durham as Lysistrata attempting to drum up support among the women for her campaign to end the fighting by urging them to go on a 'sex-strike'. She appeared in a flurry of red lipstick, bare arms and broad estuary vowels that would have persuaded even the most faint-hearted to join her crusade. Rosie Glass (Cleonice) and Anna Wright (Myrrhine) were initially reluctant converts to the cause, but soon entered into the spirit with gusto, shaking their Carmen-rolled curls provocatively in all directions. It fell to medallion man, **Max Roberts** (Cinesias), to stand up – if that expression can be allowed – for the men in the audience, although most of the time, of course, he seemed more inclined to take things lying down. As he stripped down to his boxer shorts, ready – so he thought – for action with his wife Myrrhine, it was one of many delights to see him retain his socks. Mattress, pillows and blankets duly appeared, along with essential oils and all manner of other provocative delaying devices that heightened the tension and increased the mirth no end. Poor old Cinesias never got what he wanted, but then neither do most of those caught up in wars. This production conveyed its message so powerfully because it made us laugh in equal measure.

Jeremy Taylor

The Birthday Party

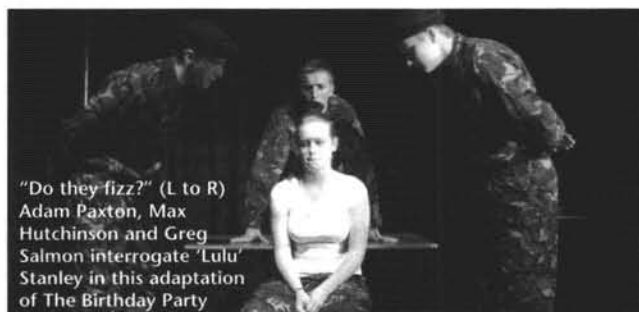
From the beginning of the editing process our group had a strong desire to create something both personal and relevant to us as young individuals. We did not want to abbreviate a major work simply because it happened to have the right number of characters in it or because we had seen an effective interpretation of it elsewhere.



(L to R) Happy birthday? Louis Goodman as Lulu and Katie Prior as Meg in *The Birthday Party*

The topic we chose to explore was something that we all felt we had been subjected to at some point during our growing up: the attempt of others to make us conform in some way or another – whether by being made to go to church, or forced to wear a school uniform or by being pressured to alter ourselves so as to fit in – we all felt we could connect with this ugly external pressure. What then ensued was a frantic attempt to recollect any plays that we had seen or read that would adept well to this theme. Having dismissed suggestions ranging from *Death of a Salesman* to *Spamalot* we decided upon *The Birthday Party*. A couple of us who had read the play or knew Pinter's style well, agreed that his ambiguity would lend itself well to interpretation and alteration.

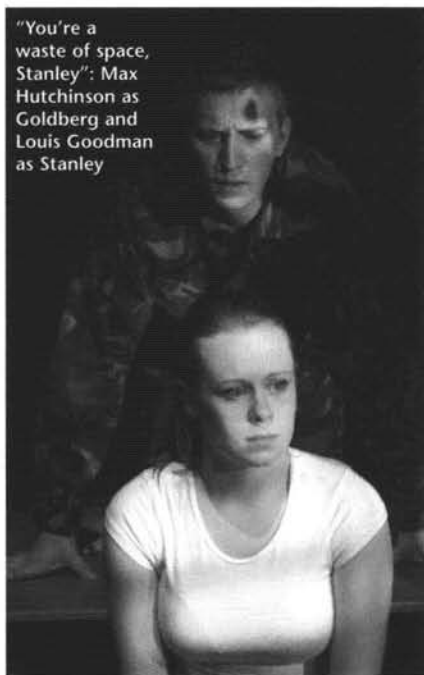
Looking at the script of *The Birthday Party*, one challenge that we knew we would have to overcome was to take the action from the sheltered microcosm of a seaside bed and breakfast and place it in a wider context in order to make it more relevant for us, as performers. We thought of setting it in a school or a hospital or an office but none of these settings seemed appropriate. Then we hit upon the idea of a military setting, which we thought was perfect for a story about forced conformity and the removal of identity. Immediately the idea of Deepcut Barracks came to mind as this seemed to be the most extreme example of the horrific consequences of bullying and indoctrination. Also, there was the fact that the victims of the mysterious deaths, labelled 'suicides', were of very similar ages to ourselves, all of which made it more relevant to us and made our complaints of being forced to wear school uniform look depressingly petty.



"Do they fizz?" (L to R) Adam Paxton, Max Hutchinson and Greg Salmon interrogate 'Lulu' Stanley in this adaptation of *The Birthday Party*

We had to make major changes to Pinter's original script: re-allocating lines, relationships and even names. However, we attempted to retain as much of the high-paced, ambiguous and often darkly humorous dialogue as possible. 'Stanley' became the surname of a young female recruit who suffers at the hands of three army officials as they attempt to remove her individuality and stamp out her rebellious nature. The change of Stanley's gender in this manner was a conscious decision and was a direct allusion to Private Cheryll James, one of Deepcut's young victims. The character of Meg became Stanley's mother. Here, we attempted to keep much of Pinter's repetitious language. As a desperately 'clingy' single mother, 'Meg' keeps to the same routine day in, day out and this infuriates the fiery Stanley (first name, Lulu), eventually forcing her to leave. However, as we switched between the two environments, and mixed the time sequences, we attempted to show that although Stanley had escaped one excruciatingly routine attack on her personality she had entered another that was not entirely dissimilar. Goldberg and McCann became nameless, in a subtle attempt to show the mystery surrounding the Deepcut deaths where no blame appears to have been placed anywhere and few names have been punished. We

"You're a waste of space, Stanley": Max Hutchinson as Goldberg and Louis Goodman as Stanley



felt it necessary to introduce a third 'interrogator', to work as kind of 'double act' with McCann. Goldberg then became the most senior officer, with the other two working together in their dominantly male environment to break Stanley down both physically and mentally, using their sharp, instinctive dialogue wherever possible. What resulted was a barrage of questions, insults and mind games as each male character attempted to intimidate, test or even confuse the lone female recruit.

We used a 'traverse' style of staging in order to create a strong sense of the conflict within the play. The two environments, although separated by a clear line, were almost mirrored: another way of suggesting the similarities between the two routines and a clear illustration that Stanley had no way of escape. With the audience so close to the action, this helped to emphasise the claustrophobic atmosphere and the sense of inevitability. The chalk outline of a body between the two settings was a faint allusion to Greek tragedy, making the audience aware of what was going to happen but hopefully interesting them in how it happened. A large influence, and help in our rehearsal process, was the film *Full Metal Jacket*. We tried to pay homage to this in the episodic feel of the piece, frequently changing the action from one setting to another, moving back and forth through time and making the acting quite still, almost cinematic, in order to complement the proximity of the audience.

Max Hutchinson 6 SAE and Adam Paxton 6 DRM

East

Steven Berkoff's *East*, a send-up of the working class population of London written in 1975, is often performed simply as a comic slice-of-life of what it's really like in the East End. Essentially there is no plot – it is more an insight into the psyches of the characters: Mum, Dad, their son Mike, his girlfriend Sylv, and his best friend Les. The characters each give monologues on their dull existence and the often hilarious events that occur. We, sitting in middle-class Oxfordshire, are able to improve our lives as we see fit: we go to good schools, we have privileges we take for granted, and we all too easily look down on those who are not as fortunate as we are. In reading *East* we looked at the idea that behind the comical misfortunes and hopeless dreams of the characters, there is an underlying anger, hatred and resentment for the middle-class audience. The East-enders are not resentful for what we have; rather they are resentful that we are not grateful for what we have.

We didn't make *East* any the less comical, but we did make the acting style more angry, vicious and physical than is usual. We broke the fourth wall, sneering at the audience and picking on certain members in order to make them feel awkward, guilty and tense, just as the characters often feel in their own everyday lives. Our cast consisted of **Jason Davison** as Mike, **Oli Fóster** as Les, with Sylv's part being split between Nicki Buys and Eliza Childs, for whom we created another character, Vix, Sylv's friend. We adapted the play by focusing on all the parts of the text that dealt with the characters' memories of their past lives, their frustrations and what they want to happen to make their lives more meaningful, and for this reason we eliminated the 'Mum' and 'Dad' characters. In order to emphasise the theme

The lads: 'Les', Jason Davison (L) and 'Mike', Oli Fóster



'Dahn the pictures' (L to R) Oli Fóster, Eliza Childs, Nicki Buys and Jason Davison

of escapism, we added two scenes of non-dialogue – one a comically provocative and threatening tango scene and the other a suggestive 'first date' to the cinema. Both these scenes were challenging for us as actors, not only because we had to write in keeping with the concept of anger, but also because the acting's extreme physicality was somewhat tiring.

The whole rehearsal process and performances of *East* were very rewarding for us. Nicki Buys had never had the chance to do comedy before and so it gave her a good opportunity to explore this genre. She also found, as we all did, a greater understanding of the characters' circumstances, especially from the female perspective for, as Nicki commented, "the fear and insecurity

visible in Sylv's character are inherent in almost every woman in a society which constantly pushes us to become something we are not". Eliza, Oli and Jason had done comedy many times before and *East* was a good opportunity for them to delve into a more serious and dramatic style of acting. However, they were allowed to relax into the comic moments of the affectionately dubbed 'Cinema Scene', which, as Jason commented, was "a revolutionary piece of devised drama"(!). In all, the cast developed a genuine passion for the play that ultimately made us laugh, made us cry, and left us walking away with a desire to understand more about people whose existence we barely acknowledge in our everyday lives.

Oli Föster VI DE

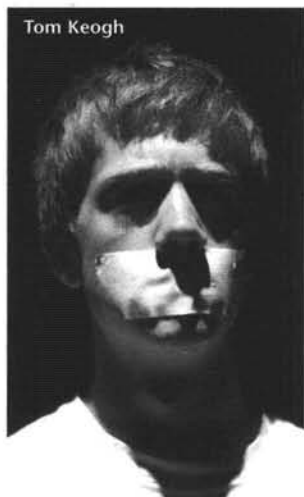
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Being in the smallest group in the year, consisting of only three people: Tom Keogh, Hannah King and myself (Edmund Perou), we had the challenge of producing a fifteen-minute piece of theatre, which would showcase a range of vocal and physical variations and dynamics. We decided to tackle Dale Wasserman's play, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, which deals with the concept of Scientology, a religion that was started by American businessman L (Ron) Hubbard. We researched the subject and found documents from former scientologists allowing us to understand the true nature of how, in certain rehabilitation centres, patients are beaten, starved and in some cases even die as a result of the process of auditing, which is designed to destroy unwanted thoughts by asking unanswerable questions such as 'What is time?' over and over again, grinding patients down mentally as well as physically. In our short fifteen minutes we wanted to allow our audience to care about our characters and change their judgement between the beginning of the play and the end. From the outset, the audience looked down on Harding. He was the first to be seen tied up and beaten and he only gained sympathy when they saw McMurphy suffer the same punishment as him, transforming him from an obnoxious womaniser into a frightened wreck and allowing the audience to appreciate that Harding had once been a very different person. Within the first moments of the play, Hannah's Nurse Ratched changes from being kind and welcoming to maliciously controlling before getting pushed around by the arrogant McMurphy. However, she gets her revenge on him in the end, which gives the piece variation and tone and manages to keep the audience's attention throughout the course of the play.

Hannah King and Ed Perou



Tom Keogh



Edmund Perou 6 IM

Kvetch by Berkoff

The perfect couple? Huw Parmenter and Kim Croasdale



Kvetch is a Yiddish word that means 'a constant complainer'. It is also the title of Stephen Berkoff's 1986 ensemble play, described by the playwright as 'an American play about anxiety'. A painfully funny look at the hypocrisies and desires that lurk behind salesman Frank and his wife Donna's failing marriage, it shows what happens when Frank's mother-in-law and his friend Hal join them round their miserable dinner table. The comedy comes from

interspersing the main dialogue with 'asides' to the audience by each character, in which they reveal what they really think and feel. The characters can get rid of their 'kvetch' by following their own desires. At one point, for example, Hal suddenly appears from beneath the sheets while Frank and Donna are in bed: 'But I am your fantasy ... relax, don't fight it'.

In this production, the action was transposed to these shores and the character of the mother-in-law was replaced by a female embodiment of 'kvetch' in the form of the scarlet-clad Lynette Hussey, who moved round the table like a seductress, whispering the subversive thoughts of their 'kvetches' in each character's ear.

The setting was a pristine dining table, covered with crisp white tablecloth and lovingly prepared plates of food and wine. The main characters, played with aplomb by Kim Croasdale, Huw Parmenter, Alex Mugnaioni and Zhongjie Dong, began in uniform black and white costumes, but with heavy make-up and hair gel, as if to emphasise the layers of fiction and self-delusion we apply to our everyday lives. As the action of the dinner party wore on, these characters' make-up, costumes and the table-cloth were all smeared with food and wine by the Kvetch character, to convey how the pressure of hidden desires breaks through to disrupt the immaculate surface appearance of things.

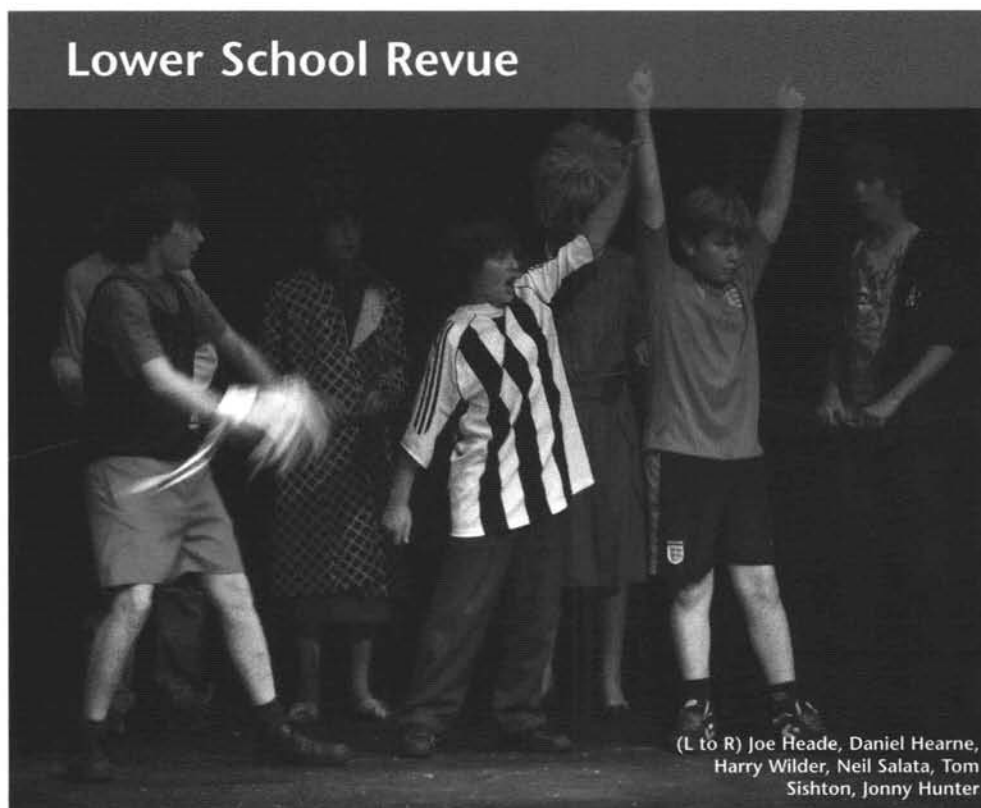
"Isn't that why people go to the theatre?" says Berkoff. "To see passions safely liberated which in life must be choked up and released only on golf courses?" I don't know which golf course Berkoff frequents, but if the spectacle there is as lively as it was in this production, I for one would gladly become a member.

Jeremy Taylor

Lynette Hussey, a worrying presence



Lower School Revue



(L to R) Joe Heade, Daniel Hearne, Harry Wilder, Neil Salata, Tom Sishton, Jonny Hunter



Harry Wilder



Jack May

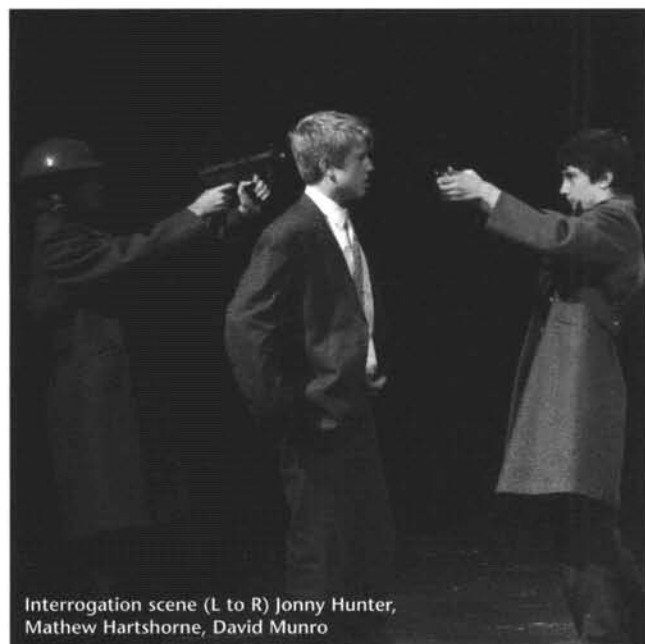
Ernie's Incredible Illucinations

The Lower School drama production takes place over two nights at the beginning of every July. This year the Club performed the bizarre play, *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations*, which follows a boy called Ernie through a series of strange hallucinations, whilst he sits in a doctor's surgery trying to explain them to a bemused doctor.

During the play, the audience travel back in time with Ernie to when his home was invaded by German soldiers; when his Aunt May fought the hated Kid Saracen in a boxing ring; and when



(L to R) Finlay Curran, Nick Krol, Mathew Hartshorne



Interrogation scene (L to R) Jonny Hunter, Mathew Hartshorne, David Munro

a brave mountain rescue took place in his local library – each scene equally hilarious and imaginative and with very believable characters – some of whom were in drag!

Nicholas Krol played Ernie; **Finlay Curran** played Mum, Mathew Hartshorne played Dad, **Toby Ross** played The Doctor and **Charlie Bateman** played Aunt May. The talented cast deserve great recognition for all of their efforts, each of them adding realistic atmosphere to all the scenes.

The recurrent laughter and spontaneous applause was evidence of the great reception that the audience gave the production, which flowed seamlessly from real life to each hallucination. Congratulations to everyone involved for such a professional play produced in such a small rehearsal time.

Nicholas Krol 2 AS

A performance



Covered in Love at the Edinburgh Fringe

I remember thinking, when I first visited Edinburgh as an eighteen year old, that there was nothing one could not learn at the Fringe Festival about life, love or theatre; the fact that this still holds true a decade later hopefully says more about the Fringe as an environment perpetually rich in educational creativity, than of my inability to grow up.



The cast being interviewed for the Richard Jordan Show on Festival FM

It is with a joyous heart then that, after taking up our own production of *Covered In Love (That's What She Said)*, a devised piece by **Alex Mugnaioni**, **Adam Paxton**, **Kim Croasdale**, **Katie Prior**, **Huw Parmenter**, **Anna Wright**, **Max Hutchinson** and **Louise Goodman**, one comes away with such wonderful lessons learnt and experiences shared.

As the years have gone by, Festival venues have spilt over into many of Edinburgh's numerous nooks and crannies, but this year we were able to secure a performance space with C venues, one of the perceived 'super-venues' and host to *Abingdon 750's* sell-out *Bouncers* last year.

The Royal Mile on Edinburgh's High Street once more proved to be fertile ground for meeting all the weird and wonderful (and not so wonderful) characters of the Festival, some attired in the garb of their particular show, some hauling what looked like most of their set around, most of them exciting and dynamic people to talk to, and all of them ultimately desperate to flog you a ticket. Our cast bravely set to work using their wiles to entice members of the public. **Alex**, armed with guitar, cannily targeted the waiting queues at the Fringe Box Office with serenades and puppy-dog eyes. Elsewhere, **Max** was seen trying a more cerebral tack, explaining plot and meaning. **Kim**, **Louise** and **Katie** (and later **Anna**) ensnared punters with graceful allure, and **Huw** and **Adam** used their roguish charm on many a doe-eyed female.

Over sixteen consecutive performances, the cast 'comedied', strummed and improvised their way through the show, learning on their way how to deal with 'dead' audiences, forgotten essential props (sorry), audience participation of mixed enthusiasm, and a venue that was hotter than the sun. Our stay was facilitated by **Hannah**, our Belfastian front-of-house manager and possessor of the most dulcet of accents, and **Tom**, our long-haired, headphoned technician – the epitome of welcoming courtesy.

During one rather surreal lunchtime, there we were sitting in the *Manoir aux Quat' Saisons* of Scotland with **Victor Spinetti** in our *Covered In Love* hoodies (lovingly crafted by **James Nairne**) and the great actor began to lecture us on the woes of modern theatre, saying, and I paraphrase, "All these young actors going off to America to do movies, I don't understand it at all..." Someone suggested it might be about money. "That's never interested me ... I have a small flat with everything I need ... the real riches come from playing a scene that you've been playing for months of a run and all of a sudden on stage one night, you deliver a line in front of your audience and in your mind you think, 'THAT'S how to say that line!' ... I'm a millionaire right there..." It was wonderful to look down the table and see everyone taking it all in. OK, it sounds a bit *Dawson's Creek* to sit here and describe it, but it felt like what the Fringe should be all about: the transient nature of art – art as a gift, the passing down of teachings from one generation to the next.

In the end, the facts and figures – the 63% average capacity, the great reviews, the otherworldly appearance on *Lunch with the Hamiltons* – all ended up playing second fiddle to experience. To walk up to a complete stranger, get them to listen to your pitch for a show they've never heard of, for them to decide they want to see it and then actually buy a ticket, and then actually turn up and then comment afterwards to us how much they enjoyed it

was indeed an amazing thing. I certainly feel that it gave the cast hope that a future in the arts was not only possible, but fruitful – if not financially, then certainly spiritually, and as a director, to see all the work of Abingdon's and St. Helen's Drama Departments pay dividends in such a talented troupe of actors as they performed day after day, truly gladdened one's soul.

Ash Verjee



Drawing the crowds on the Royal Mile

Abingdon Film Unit

The AFU Year



Screening at BFI Southbank
(National Film Theatre), 2 July 2007

By any standards, 2006/7 was a momentous year for the Abingdon Film Unit.

Here are some of the highlights:

- In September, the AFU helped to establish a sister Unit at St Marylebone Girls' School in London, and shared with them a screening of new work at the National Film Theatre in July at the invitation of the BFI's Head of Education, Mark Reid, who described the AFU's films as "stunning".
- In October, two AFU films were screened at the Dinard Film Festival in France and one more won 'Best Documentary' at the *New Shoots* Festival at Wheatley Park School.
- In November, renowned animator Geoff Dunbar presented a memorable evening of his favourite animations, alongside examples of his own work, including some of his collaborations with Sir Paul McCartney. The event raised over £1,000 towards the AFU expedition to Cambodia.
- In December, with further help from the School, the OA Club and the wider community, a four-man crew travelled to Cambodia and shot 16 hours of footage for a documentary about the challenges faced by disabled and impoverished Cambodians in the wake of their country's thirty-year war.
- In January, articles about the Unit were published in *Vertigo* magazine and the leading French Film magazine *Cahiers du Cinema*.
- In March, the Swedish Film Institute invited AFU tutors to present a seminar on the Unit to teachers and film professionals in Malmö.
- The AFU set up two new websites (www.abingdonfilmunit.com and www.reelspaces.com) and established the *Reel Spaces* project to connect with young film-makers in other countries.
- A 1970s Bolex camera was purchased to make the first AFU 16mm film, in a return to the technology Michael Grigsby used when he made his first films at Abingdon in the 1950s.
- Fiction and situation comedy were successfully explored for the first time.
- Geoff Dunbar (animation) and Paul Mayhew-Archer (*Vicar of Dibley* comedy writer) joined the AFU tutorial team.
- The Unit went "co-ed" for the first time as two senior pupils from St Helen's joined.
- The Unit gained its first credit on a feature-length film as extracts from Grigsby's 1955 film *No Tumbled House* were used in Julien Temple's recently released documentary about Joe Strummer, *The Future is Unwritten* (Nitrate Films). The fee for the footage went towards the costs of making the Cambodia film.

Above all, the 27 students who were members of the Unit during the year worked incredibly hard to make the 16 films that were presented in the Amey Theatre at the Annual Festival of New Work on May 16th. What occupied the audience for a few minutes at a time took each director and crew nine months to create, in what was a deliberately slow and careful process. They could probably have made life easier for themselves, but the "hand-made" element of the animations and the "slow-roasted" feel of many of the documentaries were conscious stylistic choices which drew inspiration from the past in order to learn again skills and values that in some cases have died out.

Film Unit

The films were presented in the following order:



Letters (documentary)

by **William McDowell** (director), **James Yan** (camera), **Joe Ridley** (sound)

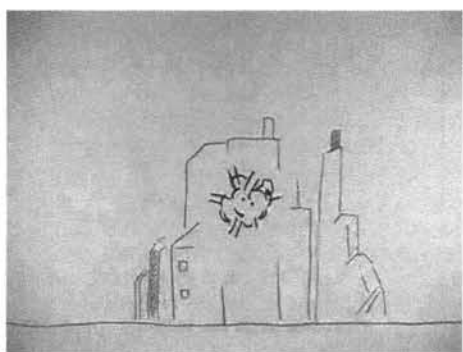
The camera follows the journey of a letter from post box to front door.



The Underground Village (documentary)

by **Matthew Copson** (director), **Patrick Reece** (camera), **Ben Hollins** and **Katie Prior** (sound)

Three ex-coalminers recall life in the Nottinghamshire pits and the devastation of the Annesley community in the wake of the pit closures after the 1984 strike.



Regeneration (hand-drawn animation, pencil on paper)

by **Freddie Barber**

This beautifully simple short film shows the life cycle of the world in a minute.



A New Kind of Lemonade (claymation & live action)

by **Pierre Leveque**, **Jack Rayner**, **Joseph Brown**

The quest for a tastier soft drink leads to some strange, hallucinogenic experiences.

Director's Cut (cut-out & live action animation)

by **Aidan Robertson**, **Evan Westenbrink**

A boy longs to make live action films but is condemned to make cut-out animations until he takes advantage of a very special offer.



Heavenly Voices (documentary)

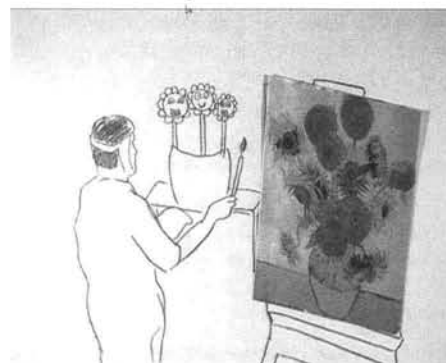
by **Tom Bennett** (director), **Lynette Hussey** (camera), **Edmund Perou** (sound)

A portrait of the working lives of the choristers of Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford.

The Sunflower (hand-drawn animation, pencil on paper)

by **Edmund Perou**

The story behind Van Gogh's famous painting



Anti-Clockwise (16mm fiction)

by **Ben Hollins** (writer/director), **Matthew Copson** (camera), **Forrest Radford** (sound)

What happens when the clocks go back each year? This film explores one magical possibility.



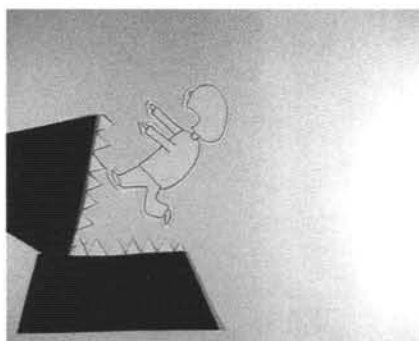
Clowning Around (situation comedy)
written and directed by **Patrick Appleton, Paddy Gervers and Finlay Taylor**,
Alex Mugnaioni (camera), **Max Hutchinson** (sound)

Two aspiring comedians, a newly

ordained priest with special powers and an asthmatic child's birthday party. Result? Disaster.

Machine (pixilation & hand-drawn animation)
by **Tian Ji**

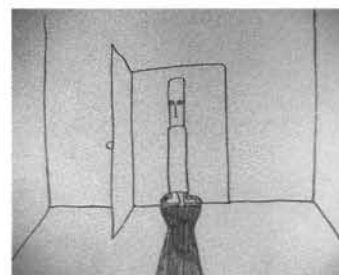
The machine looks entertaining and exciting at first, but conceals a deadly secret.



Dear Mum (pixilation & live action animation)

by **James Boreham and Charle Beirouti**

This started life as an ironic take on Lou Reed's song Perfect Day but changed along the way into the story of how one young man ended up in prison.



Milk (live action & hand-drawn pencil on paper animation)
by **Bill Dagul**

A man runs out of milk and heads for the shops, but his journey takes him further than anyone expected.



Nino's War (documentary)

by **Alexander Mugnaioni** (director), **Max Hutchinson** (camera), **Max Roberts** (sound)

A spirited octogenarian from the west of Scotland remembers how a change of schools resulted in her internment as an enemy alien in Italy during the Second World War.



A Short preview of 'Gravel and Stones', the Cambodia documentary (to be premiered at the NFT in November 2007)

Dance with Stacey (documentary)
by **James Yan** (director), **William McDowell** (camera), **Joe Ridley** (sound & editing)

The story of a gifted and dedicated young woman who acquires confidence and a means of self-expression through dance.



Zukunft Sports Centre (claymation)
by **Henry Dunbar and Christopher Hyde**

A cast of weird and wonderful characters haunt this state-of-the-art sports centre.



by **Ed Hofman and Ben Hollins** (directors), **Tom Wakeling** (camera), **Andrew McGrath** (sound)

Once again, we were fortunate to enjoy the dedicated teaching of a formidable team of professional tutors, headed by documentarist and SOMETHING AMISS HERE Michael Grigsby (OA 1956), with support from Jonas Mortensen (cinematography) Mikkel Eriksen (sound), Arvid Eriksson (editing), Joanna Harrison and Geoff Dunbar (animation) and Paul Mayhew-Archer (comedy). **James Nairne** and **Andrew Swarbrick** also offered invaluable assistance to the young film-makers. To them, and all the others - actors, parents, friends and organisations - who assisted by appearing in, supervising or otherwise enabling the films to be made, we extend our warmest thanks.

Jeremy Taylor



Mrs Sokhat, who stepped on a landmine in the fight against the Khmer Rouge, with her son Mai Soupen.

Mr Chiang Yin, a subsistence farmer and fisherman, who was injured whilst serving in the army



A Diary of the Film Unit's Trip to Cambodia, December 2006

*In December, Film Unit members, directors **Ed Hofman** and **Ben Hollins**, **Tom Wakeling** (camera) and **Andrew McGrath** (sound), travelled to Cambodia to make a film about people struggling to cope with disability in the aftermath of Cambodia's turbulent past. They were accompanied by Film Unit tutor Jonas Mortensen and two members of staff, **Rodney Mearns** and **Jeremy Taylor**, whose record of the expedition this is.*

Tuesday 5 December

10.50 pm, local time, Kampong Chhnang. Well, we made it out here, but not without mishaps, and as I prepare to turn in, it is with a sense that this trip may have some challenges ahead. First, this morning, I awake at the Heathrow Premier Travel Inn after only four hours' sleep, still exhausted by the exertions of the day before and the *Lyric Theatre* extravaganza. In my forgetful state, I leave the new LaCie hard drive in the hotel room, and have to make a hasty call from the airport to ask Andy to collect it when he heads out here after his Oxford interview next Sunday. Then, at Bangkok airport, I contrive to leave another small bag of my belongings behind. One's mind seems to be in revolt, and incapable of remembering things. Finally, at the end of the day, poor Tom slips and falls on the lethal wet tiles in front of the hotel entrance, and smacks the back of his head on the pavement. The resulting gash requires six stitches at the local hospital, the last of which is administered by the light of Jonas's mobile phone during a power cut. Rodney, Jonas and Dara, our translator, return from

the hospital with what seems reassurance, both on Tom's condition and the competence of the doctors. Nevertheless, Rodney decides he will take Tom back to Phnom Penh tomorrow to have him checked by a European doctor. I slip into an exhausted sleep after 11pm local time, plagued by dreams of disaster.

Wednesday 6 December

Wake around 6 am to the sound of Khmer wedding (or is it funeral?) music. Enjoy lying awake, comfortable in the knowledge I will not have to move for an hour or so, since we have decided to meet at 8.30 am after the rigours of the long journey the day before. Morning brings the familiar blast of heat; the ablutions are fairly quickly rendered useless. Tom departs with Rodney at 7 am and I stir to talk with him beforehand. It is encouraging to see him in fairly good form after a sound night's sleep. Afterwards, Ed, Ben, Jonas and I strike out for the Vietnamese café and soon we are tucking into a Kampong Chhnang breakfast: half-pint glasses of black coffee with French bread, followed by pork ribs and rice.

Over breakfast, we discuss the questions to ask Rottana when we meet up with him later in the day. We want the film to admit all kinds of disability rather than just the kind caused by landmines. We walk on to LMDS headquarters, past the primary schools now stocked with smart young children who wave and shout "Hello!" with brilliant, beaming smiles, followed by "What's your name?" This is their universal response to Europeans, or "the Barrang".

Saturday 9 December

As I partly expected, the pace of life has been such that almost a week has gone by since our arrival and I have failed to document a good part of it. Thus, then, in brief:

Wednesday afternoon took us out to the Tuok Phos sub-office and a re-union (for Jonas and me) with Rottana, our guide and translator. It was wonderful to see him again. Thursday: first day of filming – a day of landscapes and cutaways. See a dead dog being skinned at the roadside and prepared for the pot. Friday: all day at the Provincial Hall in Kampong Chhnang for the convention of disabled people's self-help groups. The extreme heat and tedium of the formal speeches is balanced by the efficiency with which we are able to set up preliminary meetings with Mr Luch Nean (carpenter, landmine victim), Mr Chok Him (farmer, double landmine victim), Mr Chiang Yin (farmer, double landmine victim), Mrs Sokhat (farmer, landmine victim), Sopha (bone TB) and Kosal (polio). Am struck by how patiently the Cambodians sit and listen to the endless speeches, yet also by the wonderfully anarchic moments when everyone seems to chatter at once, regardless of the official speaker's voice blaring over the tannoy. Saturday: we drive a great distance but meet Chok Him, Luch Nean, Wang Ny and Sokhat in a tiring but productive day. The lads are doing well - Ed has really got the bit between his teeth, Tom is as steady as a rock and Ben is growing in confidence. The insects have been nibbling my right arm vigorously. I also saw my first snake today as we approached Mrs Wang Ny's house. I was just about to tread on a small blue thing when it seemed to float away from us, its front half easily a few inches off the ground. "Harmless," said Rottana. A good night's sleep last night. It's very nice going to bed at 9 pm!

Sunday 10 December

A bumper day of research interviews: Kosal, Sopha, Bora's mother, Mr Chiang Yin, Mr Choom Noon and an abortive stop at Sok Sreay Leak's restaurant – she has already left for Phnom Penh. Kosal is not only 'a natural' as a subject – he also lives in the most vibrant and striking part of Kampong Chhnang. By the time we reach the lunch stop in Tuok Phos, the lads are agreed on the four LMDS clients they want the film to focus on: Kosal, Chiang Yin, Luch Nean and Sokhat. One of these may have to go in the final film. However, it feels a good selection: a child with polio, two male and one female landmine victims. All three of the adults have children, so the impact of their parents' disability on them can be reflected, too. Tomorrow is, in effect, a day off in Phnom Penh after we have collected Andy from the airport. However, we calculate that once he has joined us, we will have only nine days in which to shoot the film.

Suon Rottana, the group's guide and translator, with his LMDS motorbike on the 'lorry'



Monday 11 December

An early start for the journey to Phnom Penh. After meeting Andy, (complete with my forgotten hard drive!), we go to the British Embassy to see the Ambassador, David Reader. As we sit in his comfortable residence, the heat and sunshine of the day pouring in through the windows, it seems strange to be surrounded by Christmas trees, seasonal cards with snow scenes, and plates of miniature mince pies. It also feels a million miles from the ramshackle huts of the people we have been meeting in the countryside.

Tuesday 12 December

Real shooting begins. Kosal, the 14-year-old polio victim, is first before the camera. The viewing of the rushes in the evening is greatly encouraging.

Sunday 17 December

There have been some tremendous experiences. The trip to Chiang Yin's house on Friday is very special. In the afternoon, we travel with him to a river to film him hunting with his bow and arrow. The spectacle of this wonderful man swimming across the river and tossing onto the bank an arrow with a fish speared on its end is unforgettable.

Yesterday another rollercoaster day. Jonas, Rottana and I set off on the mopeds to meet two new LMDS clients, a woman and her sister-in-law who were both injured by landmines on the same day. Apparently, one of the women heard the sound of the explosion that maimed the other, and immediately ran towards it to help, only to become a victim of another mine herself. Meanwhile, the other crew take the local 'lorry' – a rickety bamboo contraption that travels along the railway line – in an effort to get a long tracking shot of the Cambodian countryside. When they meet an oncoming train, the driver of the lorry instructs everyone to get off and help lift the device off the rails. Once the train has passed, they lift it back onto the track and set off again. However, in all the excitement, the camera bag is left behind. Amazingly, we manage to retrieve it. After lunch, we film a powerful interview with Mrs

Film Unit

Wang Ny, a blind lady who belongs to a group known as the Cham, the Muslim section of Cambodia's population. She tearfully recalls how she lost her sight through illness and overwork in the wake of her husband's assassination by hostile locals.

Now, as I write this, we are on the verge of our last week in Cambodia. After today, there are only three days of filming left! We all worry about whether we will have all the footage we need or not.

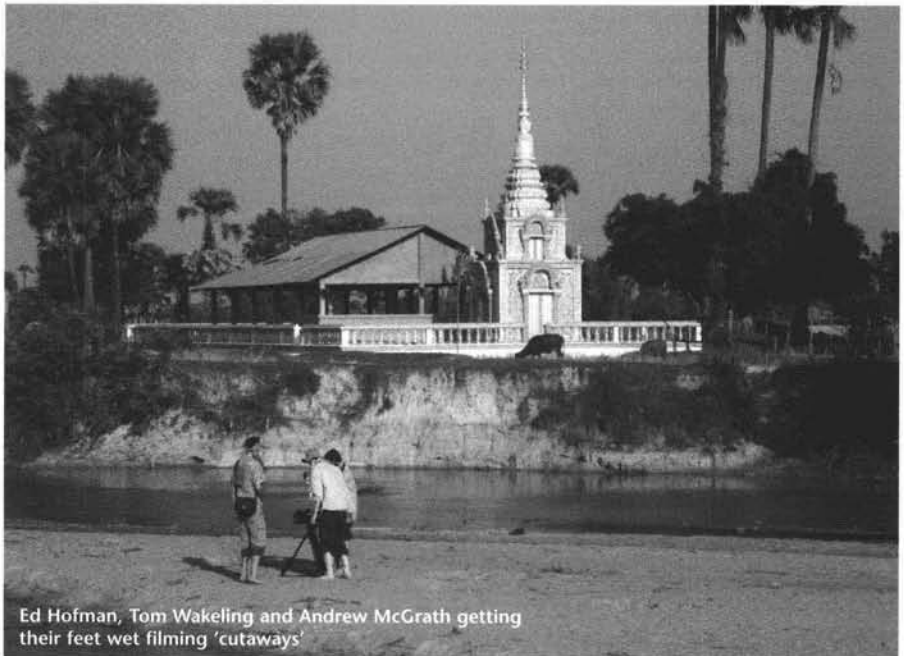
Monday 18 December

Yesterday afternoon and evening went really well. We complete filming at Mrs Sokhat's house in only a fraction of the time we thought we would need. The real challenge is trying to make Mrs Sokhat's disability absolutely clear on film as she wears long trousers that conceal her tin leg. While we are discussing with Rottana whether we can ask Mrs Sokhat to remove the artificial leg so we can film her putting it on again, Tom quietly tells us to watch her fanning out piles of rice on a number of bamboo mats on the ground. She uses her hands and feet for this operation, and by focusing the camera on her feet, Tom is able to make pretty clear what is going on.

Today, the boys set off at 7 am to film more of Kampong Chhnang's noisy 'bustle'. Jonas and I join them at 8.30 am for breakfast at the Phnom Meas, but the splendidly named 'cow curry' is nearly all chunks of beef fat, so I stick to the French bread. Ed goes to LMDS headquarters for a day of logging and translating footage, while the others go in search of more shots of general life in the town.

Thursday 21 December

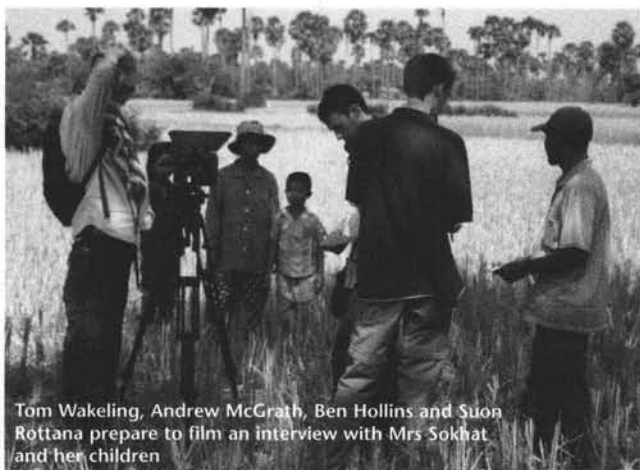
After formal speeches and lunch with the LMDS staff, we say some difficult farewells. Rottana, in particular, is close to tears. He has been amazing – we could not have done a thing without his help. It is very hard to leave people who have so little. But at least Dara is coming with us to Phnom Penh; a long night of translation lies in store for him at the hotel if we are to leave with all the interviews rendered into English. When we reach Phnom Penh, we hurry to the central market to fit in some last-minute Christmas shopping



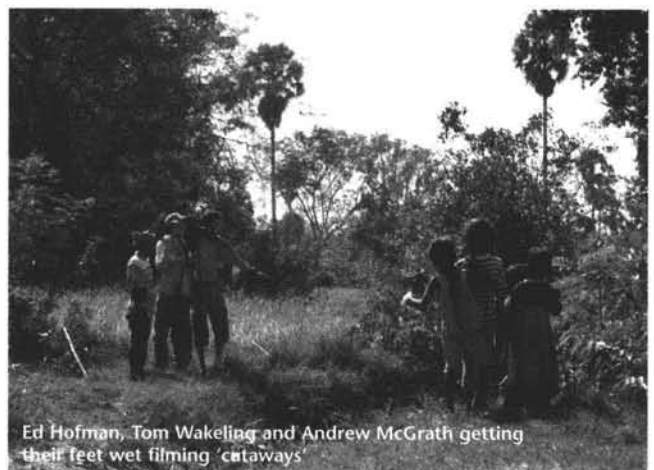
Ed Hofman, Tom Wakeling and Andrew McGrath getting their feet wet filming 'cutaways'

before the stalls close for the day, and Ben throws caution to the winds to make good his earlier promise to eat some fried spiders. The film crew thoughtfully present me with a T-shirt bearing the legend "I survived in Cambodia", but with reports of freezing fog and the ensuing chaos at Heathrow, I begin to wonder whether the sentiment is both misplaced and a trifle premature. In the event, we touch down after the 6,500-mile journey only five minutes later than advertised, although it is a further hour before they let us off the plane. After collecting our bags and negotiating customs, we hug each other and say goodbye, secure in the knowledge that the people we have met and the things they have told us will stay with us forever. We also realize our job is only half done. The months of editing to make the finished film will start soon, but first it's Christmas, and already the heat of Cambodia seems a long way away.

Jeremy Taylor



Tom Wakeling, Andrew McGrath, Ben Hollins and Suon Rottana prepare to film an interview with Mrs Sokhat and her children



Ed Hofman, Tom Wakeling and Andrew McGrath getting their feet wet filming 'cutaways'

Music

An eye cast over the music calendars of the last academic year quickly puts to rest any suggestion that the Music Department enjoyed a quieter year after their epic orchestral tour to China in the summer of 2006.

Whilst the leavers of 2006 included many fine musicians – **Henry Carter, David Emerson, Neil Houlby, Matthew Smith** and **Sam Wylie**, to name but five – it was the leavers of 2007 (see Abingdon Music Society Orchestral Concert review footnote) who have formed the backbone of Abingdon's music in recent years. Consequently, as expected, the last academic year produced some marvellous results and wonderful music-making.

So, what were the highlights? As usual, the structure of the musical year is dominated by the big concerts and productions that occur towards the end of each term, except for the summer, where Thames Vale Youth Orchestra, orchestral and band concerts crowd the period before examination leave. In the Michaelmas term, there was Mozart's *Magic Flute*, directed with charismatic aplomb by **Simon Whalley** in late November, which was quickly followed by the two Christmas Concerts, the second providing a finale for Abingdon's 750th anniversary celebrations. In the Lent term, there were peaks at the start, middle and end of term with the New Year Concert on 19 January, Chamber Festival Day on 28 February and the Joint Choral Concert on Saturday 3 March, followed by Singers' Platform on 21 March, now an annual event, which this year consisted of a concert performance, in chronological sequence, of highlights from *Le Nozze di Figaro* – or *Figaro's Wedding* – directed from the piano by Abingdon's singing teacher, **Andrew Yeats**.

However, if the structure of the year's music is articulated by the big concerts, then it is the texture and the rhythm of the School's music that is provided by the smaller events, such as the informal, weekly lunchtime concerts and the scholars' concerts that give such a wealth of essential performing experience to the young musicians who are making their way steadily forward. The coordinator of the informal, weekly concerts was this year's music assistant, **Sophie Biddell**, who occupied the residential position whilst completing her DPhil at Christ Church, Oxford on the music of Steve Reich, an American minimalist.

The new academic year got underway in confident style on 29 September with a *750th Anniversary Chamber Concert* in the



Singers' Platform: *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Unicorn Theatre, one of the few remaining buildings, formerly a barn, dating from the medieval period of Abingdon Abbey's Benedictine past. This concert provided a varied menu of music: solo, trio, quartet, quintet and close harmony genres featured alongside the Chamber Orchestra, the concert opening with

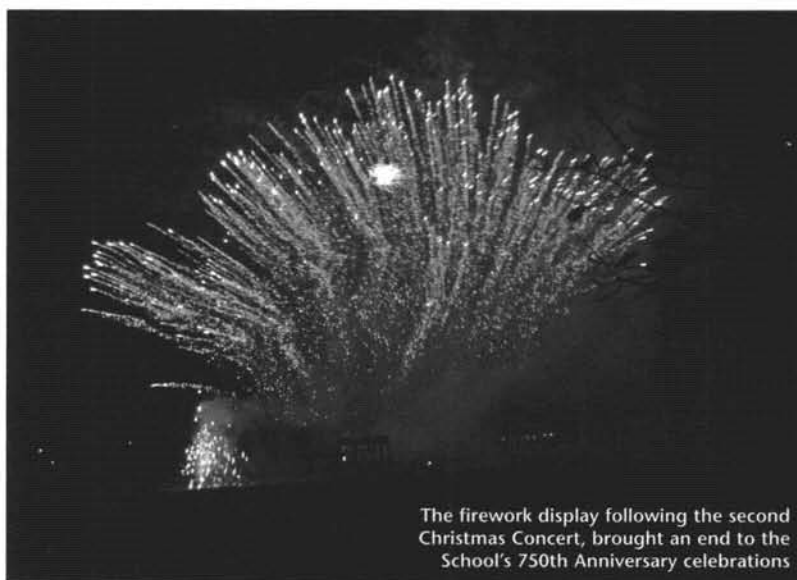


Tristan Mitchard (soloist) acknowledges the audience after his performance in Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with the Chamber Orchestra at the Unicorn Theatre

Vivaldi's Spring from *The Four Seasons* with **Tristan Mitchard** as the solo violinist. As well as showcasing many of our top musicians, the concert provided a platform for a stunning performance of the *Shostakovich Quartet No.8* by our senior *Griffen Quartet*. The performers, **David Ridley, Arjun Kingdon, Henry Scarlett and Timothy Barrow**, were suitably attired in black for a shockingly effective performance of this work, dedicated by the composer to "the victims of fascism", following a visit to Dresden soon after World War 2.

Jonathan Willcocks, Director of the Junior Department of the Royal Academy of Music, was the adjudicator of this year's highly competitive House Singing Competition. The Houses offered a wide range of unison songs, some more successful than others, but the competition was again won by Elliott's House, with *Daydream Believer* by the Monkeys (see House reports for fuller reviews).

Mozart's *Magic Flute* was our November production for the 750th Anniversary – in the composer's 250th year. Cleverly lit, costumed and staged, it was directed by **Jon Barker**, and received two performances in the Amey Theatre. A small but outstanding chamber orchestra of boys accompanied from the pit under **Simon Whalley's** direction and lead roles were taken by **Tom Bennett**



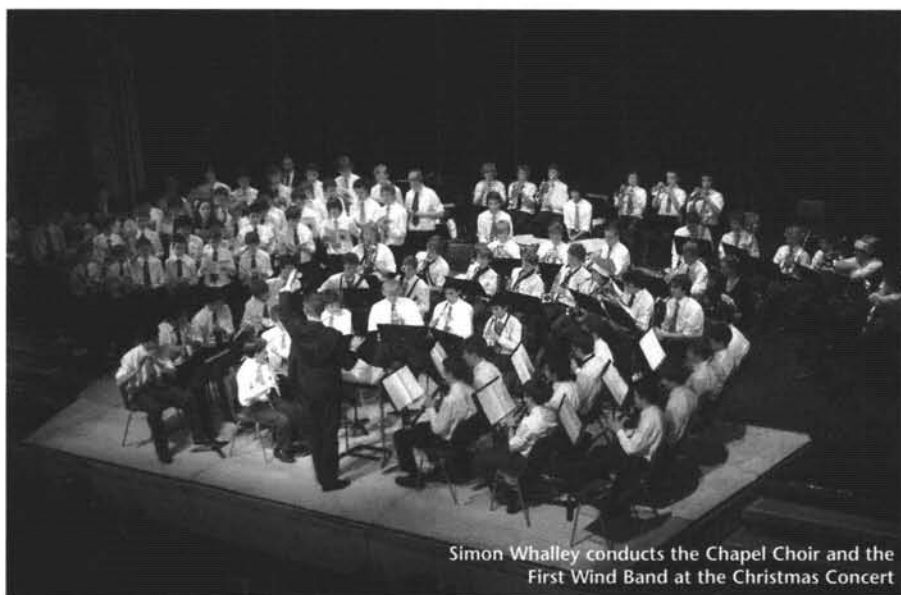
The firework display following the second Christmas Concert, brought an end to the School's 750th Anniversary celebrations

(Sarastro), **Fergus McIntosh** (Monostatos), Alicia Clarke (Pamina), **Guy Cutting** (Tamino), **Tim West** (Papageno) and Cecilia Stinton (Papagena). Christina Shand, another former pupil of Andrew Yeats but now at Trinity College of Music, was an outstanding Queen of the Night, and the Genii parts were taken by a trio of boys – **Otta Jones, Robert Brooks**, newly arrived from New College Chapel Choir, and **Joe Ridley**. This was a marvellous treat for the modest-sized audience and brought to the stage the concert performance of the previous March.

The Christmas Concerts also paid homage to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with two of his best-loved orchestral works alongside performances by the senior bands and Chapel Choir. *The Sinfonia Concertante in Eb* for solo violin, **David Ridley**, and viola, **Henry Scarlett**, featured in the first half, directed at short notice from the oboe by **Michael Stinton**. This is one of the composer's most emotionally heartfelt slow movements, with a sublimely crafted 'conversation' between the violin and viola in C minor, followed by a brisk and effervescent finale presto in Eb. Next came the first movement of the *Symphony No.40 in G Minor* with its memorable question and answer opening. Mendelssohn's *Fingal's Cave*

brought the concert to a rousing conclusion before the audience spilled outside to see an exciting fireworks display on Upper Field with the 750th Anniversary logo effectively silhouetted against the colourful sparks and flumes – a fitting finale to the celebrations of 2006.

The New Year Concert on 19 January (reviewed on page 98 by Laura Macleod Ji) provided, as ever, an ambitiously early focus for a concert, and also an opportunity for some of the ensembles which did not perform before Christmas, notably the Second Orchestra and Wind Band. An organ recital on 2 February gave opportunities for seven of our budding organists to show their mettle, soon after we had heard news of **Clive So's** award of an Organ Scholarship at Selwyn College, Cambridge. Two highlights of this concert were performances of works close to **Clive's** heart – his rendition of Messiaen's *Dieu Parmi Nous* and a duet, with **Tristan Mitchard**,



Simon Whalley conducts the Chapel Choir and the First Wind Band at the Christmas Concert



Big Band trumpeters in festive seasonal attire



Abingdon chamber musicians with coaches Gillian and Robert Secret, Philippa Ibbotson, Robert Max, Valerie Findlay and Mariette Pringle

Peter Stradling (trumpet) in *Neruda*, **George Bone** (horn) in *Richard Strauss*, **Ben Cooke** (horn) in *Mozart*, **Alex Mugnaioni** (euphonium) in *Horowitz* and **Thomas Wilson** (tuba) in *Tcherepnin*.

This year's Joint Choral Society enterprise was directed by Andrew Knowles, the organist at St Helen's School – he chose a programme of French choral music including Gounod's *St Cecilia Mass* together with Fauré's *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine*. The venue of St Helen's Church provided a novel performing experience with the audience situated on each side of the very wide nave of our parish church.

The Singers' Platform on 23 March offered a great

opportunity for our current host of promising singers to deliver the marvellous music of Mozart's *Figaro's Wedding* in concert performance. Although some roles were readily exchanged between singers, there were some wonderful characterisations of Figaro, the Count, Susanna, Cherubino, Marcellina and others. The company included **Henry Scarlett**, **Ed Caird**, **Jeffrey Lee**, **Tim Barrow**, **Tom Bennett**, **Tim West**, **Tristan Mitchard**, **Peter Statham**, **Guy Cutting**, **Fergus McIntosh**, **Caspian Mitchard**, **Nick Ereat** and **Otta Jones**. Female leads were taken by **Elena Yeats Green**, **Tess** and **Daisy Bevan** and **Cecilia Stinton**.

The summer term's music began early with the Big Band and Brass Band taking up invitations to play in Oxford City Council's *Oxford Inspires* festival, the event in question being an Open River Day on Bank Holiday

Monday, 7 May, part of *Go with the Flow*, which saw the Brass Band serenading from the top deck of a *Salter Bros* steamboat from Folly Bridge to Iffley in the morning, and the Big Band performing at Donnington Bridge in a marquee at lunchtime.

of *Naji Hakim's Rhapsody for Organ Duet*. **Clive** has been one of the real characters of the last two years – delighting, (and sometimes appalling), his Sixth-form chapel congregations with quirky and dissonant improvisations from the organ loft.

A Chamber Concert on 7 February in the Charles Maude Room gave the first opportunity of the term to witness work in progress on a large range of compositions for strings, wind and brass. Of the thirteen items performed, the highlights included the string octet by Glière, the quartet by Ravel and Mozart's *Horn Concerto No.4* (finale), played by **Ben Cooke** with the Chamber Orchestra. This excellent concert was followed on 28 February by an intensive afternoon of coaching given by some distinguished visiting musicians, including **Robert Secret** (Head of Strings from Stowe School), **Gillian Secret** (Head of Strings, New College School) and

Philippa Ibbotson, a local violin soloist and freelancer, together with our own **Mariette Richter** and **Valerie Findlay**. We are indeed fortunate to have such inspired direction and teaching in our Strings Department – the afternoon's work, in seven different locations in the School, yielded some stunning performances in the evening concert.

A *Brass Masterclass* on 21 February was to have been given by **Nigel Black** (Head of Brass at the Royal College of Music and Principal Horn with the Philharmonia Orchestra). Although illness prevented his attendance, we were delighted that he was able to send a colleague in his place. **Owen Slade**, a Professor of Tuba at the Royal College of Music, gave some fascinating insights into both brass technique and slapstick humour (!) during an evening which included performances by **Will Stephenson** (trumpet) in *Haydn*,



Ben Cooke (soloist) with the Chamber Orchestra in Mozart's *Horn Concerto* at the Chamber Concert in the Charles Maude Room



Brass Band play on a Salters steamboat at Go With the Flow Open River Day

A frenetic week of music-making followed: a Thames Vale Youth Orchestra concert in the Sheldonian Theatre (including Tchaikovsky's *Fourth Symphony*) on Thursday 10 May; a School Bands' Concert the following day, including **Alex Mugnaioni's** performance of Horowitz' euphonium concerto (first movement) with First Wind Band; and, for the first time ever, a small joint band of double reed players (oboists and bassoonists) from Abingdon and The School of St Helen and St Katharine.

The Summer Orchestral Concert on Monday 14 May offered a wide range of music and was a particularly valuable experience for our cohort of Lower Sixth A level musicians, as it enabled them to experience all three of their set works for study from the perspective of a performer – Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony* (2006 China Tour) and now Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto*, soloist **Will Stephenson**, and Weber's Overture to *Der Freischütz*. The concert also gave a much deserved opportunity for **Arjun Kingdon** (violin) in Saint-Saëns' *Violin Concerto No.3* and for a solo quartet, **Clive So**, **Peter Stradling**, **Henry Scarlett** and **Timothy Burrow**, in Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro*, op. 47.

A brief lull for public examinations was soon followed by a Scholars' Concert on 13 June for Years 1DASH4. No less than twenty-three solo performances, concluding with Chopin's *G Minor Ballade*, played by **Nicholas Ereaut**, emphasised the great strength of music in the Middle

and Lower Schools and the exciting times that lie ahead of us.

The last full week of term gave us another 'mini' music festival. On Monday 25 June we welcomed an unusual professional ensemble, The **Mike Piggott Trio**, violin, Mike Piggott, guitar, Abingdon's guitar teacher, **Jez Cook**, and string bassist, **Andy Crowdy**. This concert, with illuminating commentary from all three performers, offered an insight into the performing world of the great jazz violinist, Stephane Grappelli and the guitarist Django Reinhardt. It was a shame that it was not better attended because the quality of the music-making was outstanding.

The Lower School Gala Concert on 27 June was packed with performances: solos, chamber, Lower School Wind Band and Strings, together with First Year Choir singing three Gospel

Songs. The Josca's School input this year was restricted to band members as they now have their own school concert early in the summer, a sure sign that Josca's music is growing and thriving. The first and second halves were framed by larger ensembles and the last word went to two of our outstanding First Year musicians, **Jack May** and **Joe Ereaut**, whose areas of expertise (cello, trumpet, piano) mirror each other. They performed together twice during the concert – a cello duo by Arnold Schoenbeck in the first half and then, at the end of the second, an arrangement of *Blue Monk* for two trumpets with their teacher, **Nigel Somerville**, vamping his jazz harmonies in typical style at the piano – it brought the house down!

The final School event of the year, The Music Society Riverboat Cruise, billed as A Farewell to RSE, was an opportunity for parents to take leave of the inimitable **Richard Elliott** after his sixteen years of outstanding service to Abingdon's music (see Common Room Farewells). Fittingly, several areas of School music were represented by performances for string quartet, brass quintet, Abingdon Academicals and jazz quartet. A week of inclement weather was broken by an evening of balmy sunshine as a company of a hundred or so parents, staff, friends and boys sailed from Abingdon's bridge to Radley and back, serenaded by the gentle sounds of music, conversation and suitable farewell homilies – a great way to end the year.



The Abingdon Academicals serenade guests on the riverboat cruise

We also said adieu to **Waka Hasegawa** (piano) after seven years of excellent teaching. She intends to return more fully to the concert platform and to competition now that a persistent back injury has been healed. **Libby Burgess** (organ) is now more London-based than ever and will be pursuing the piano accompaniment course at the Royal Academy of Music – we thank her for her work over the past two years. Next term we welcome **Richard Hollingdale**, a former Director of Music, to replace **Richard Elliott** for one term until **Jenni Matthews** arrives to take up the permanent position of Assistant Director of Music in January 2008. **Sophie Biddell**, this year's Music Assistant, will be replaced by **Olivia Newbold**, a post-graduate pianist from the Royal College of Music and Sidney, Australia.

There were a record number of Associated Board Examination successes this year (see table), attesting to the health and quality of our music. It would be invidious to omit mentioning the achievements of **Tristan Mitchard** in the Lower Sixth, who now has five Grade 8 distinctions to his credit (in violin, viola, piano, organ and singing). It was very good to hear that **Tristan** and **Adrian Lo** had both been awarded their professional performing diplomas on piano and violin respectively – the DipABRSM. The public examination results also made pleasing reading – at A2: 5 As, 2 Bs; at AS: 3 As, 3 Bs, 1C; and at GCSE: 5 A*s 6 As, 1B. Well done to all our musicians and thanks to all our dedicated music staff for one of the richest musical years on record.

Michael Stinton



Papageno (Tim West)

The Magic Flute

Over the years we have enjoyed many rich treats from our Music Department, but few have been as sophisticated as *The Magic Flute*, which enlivened the late November darkness with its majesty and sparkle.

Can there ever have been a schoolboy **Tamino** as accomplished and assured as **Guy Cutting**? or a Fourth-form flautist capable of such purity and precision as **Anthony Lloyd**? Alicia Clarke as Pamina complemented **Tamino** by virtue of her grace and freshness, so that the central pair really did represent that rare amalgam of love and innocence which Mozart must have had in mind.

Similarly, the less exalted pair were perfectly cast, **Tim West** as the ludicrous bird-catcher entertaining the audience with his comic liveliness and vocal fluency, while Papagena, Cecilia Stinton, contributed her own equally pleasing and versatile performance as hobbling old crone transformed into charming young lady.

Tom Bennett convincingly played the misunderstood Sarastro, most memorable in his noble hymn of praise to Isis and Osiris, while **Fergus McIntosh**, of terrible aspect, exuded menace as the monstrous Monostatos.

Of all the impossibilities that this fabulous opera requires, the role of Queen of the Night is the most fiendishly difficult to sing, so we were fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy the vocal range and quality of Christina Shand, a student from Trinity College of Music, London.

As is the case in highly professional productions, the members of the supporting cast were as talented as the principals: **Rory Copus** spoke with appropriate solemnity, the three Ladies were gloriously and mysteriously melodramatic, **Nicholas Ereaut** and **Peter Statham** played their various roles with aplomb, while our three Third-

form Genii were models of propriety and decorum.

On the acting side, the production was indebted to **Jon Barker**, who fully entered into and reproduced the style and spirit of Mozart's Vienna – as alien to our boys as are the drawing-rooms of Jane Austen's polite society to modern-day film directors. Our remarkably young and efficient technical crew also deserve hearty congratulation.

Simon Whalley, musical director, would wish to pay tribute to the inspiration and dedication of **Andrew Yeats**; Simon himself, with the acute sensibility that is his hallmark, conjured up a magical performance from the small orchestra which contained an elite of our superb instrumentalists. Indeed a rare and marvellous treat.

Anne Soper



Sarastro (Tom Bennett) and Monostatos (Fergus McIntosh) with Pamina (Alicia Clarke)



Tamino (Guy Cutting) centre

New Year Concert



David Ridley

On the evening of 19 January, after a hectic day's work, I was invited to attend the Abingdon School New Year Concert. I found myself in the usual rush, striving to reach the Amey Theatre within good time and trying to avoid the embarrassment of arriving late and having to shuffle in apologetically to find any free seat during the middle of the opening performance. Amidst the rush, the car radio was on and a gentle yet authoritative BBC Radio 4 voice was soothingly informing me that we were about to enter the most depressing week of the year. Yes, apparently this was the time of year that people find most difficult to handle, with its bad weather, fading Christmas memories and big bills to pay – yes, this was the time when thoughts of distant shores and sunnier climes could not help but enter our heads.

Robert Louis Stevenson said that "the best things in life are nearest" and this certainly proved to be a true appraisal of the most marvellous and uplifting New Year Concert given to a very appreciative audience by First Orchestra, Second Orchestra, First and Second Wind Bands and our very own Abingdon Brass Band on this cold and wet January evening.

The programme opened with Second Wind Band playing the stunning, majestic march of *Marchus Maximus*, which harkens back to the days when the legions of Rome were powerful. This was followed by *Pennsylvania 6500*, and for a moment the conductor, **Nigel Sommerville**, could have been mistaken for Glenn Miller himself as he smoothly led the band into this happy piece, and by the end of it, the mood for the evening was set.

The Brass Band then assembled on the stage to be enthusiastically conducted by **Ms Fiona Parker**. We were delighted by the *March from the Great Escape*, the theme from that memorable true story of the Allied POWs' escape from Stalag Luft 111 in 1944. The haunting *Ashokan Farewell* was played next, with **Jonathon Barrow** soloing beautifully on the flugel horn and then a very patriotic *Men Of Harlech*, with **Alex Mugnaioni** on the euphonium successfully prompting thoughts of the Welsh Valleys.

Fiona Parker then welcomed the First Wind Band to the stage, who continued with the quirky *Wrong Note Rag* from the Broadway musical *Wonderful Town* and ended the first half of the concert with a masterful rendition of *Bohemian Rhapsody*

from *Queen's Night at the Opera* with **Ross Muir** on drums and **James Garrard** on tenor sax, a combination of 'a cappella' and heavy rock arrangements that was superbly handled by the orchestra.

By this time the audience was suitably aroused and a jovial crowd spilled out into the foyer where a Buck's Fizz (or two) were consumed and conversations ringing the praises of our young musicians resounded around the room.

We were called back for the second half of the concert and by this time I was happy to be back in my seat in anticipation as Second Orchestra took to the stage to be conducted by **Richard Elliott**. The first piece to be played was from the passionate *Carmen* and was followed by the noble *Nimrod* from the *Enigma Variations* by Elgar. Elgar dedicated this piece to his best friend, which seemed a very fitting choice of music to remind us of the bonhomie and intention of a good New Year celebration and most certainly of this concert. Mr. Elliott's superb conducting of Second Orchestra ended with a rousing *Can-Can* by Offenbach and perhaps a yearning for Paris and the streets of Montmartre.

We were now coming to the end of the evening and the Grand Maestro himself, **Michael Stinton**, led First Orchestra onto the stage. The First Orchestra was led by **David Ridley** and **Arjun Kingdon** with **John Morgan** on the flute, **Ben Cooke** and **Joe Mason** on horn, **Tim Barrow** on the cello and **Will Stephenson** on the trumpet.

It must be said that no New Year celebration is complete without Johann Strauss and we were not disappointed with two traditional pieces that were played to perfection. *The Blue Danube Waltz*, op. 314 is a traditional piece played for the encore at the annual Vienna New Year Concert. It was coincidental that a German-speaking guest was sitting next to me in the audience this evening. At the end of this piece the gentleman clapped and cheered exuberantly, praising the orchestra for their very high standard and expertise. This seemed to be the greatest compliment to be paid to the young musicians of Abingdon School and their conductors.

The evening ended with the romantic *Radetzky March*, op. 228, which was also played for the encore. The audience clapped festively along and although in Vienna it is traditional to stamp the feet to this piece of music it seemed to fuel the fires to march us all happily home after a truly lovely evening.

I would like to thank all the musicians and the conductors for a beautiful New Year Concert.

Laura Macleod Ji



Will Stephenson (trumpet) with the First Orchestra playing Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in Eb

Summer Orchestral Concert

Always a highlight of Abingdon's musical year, the Summer Orchestral Concert commenced rousing with Walton's *Fanfare*, conducted by **Nigel Somerville** in cheerful, summery mode. After this brief but commanding opening, it was the turn of Second Orchestra to take the stage, their first piece, *Melodies from Faust* by Charles Gounod, conducted by **Tristan Mitchard**, who skilfully managed the various changes of tempo to produce a melodious sound. It was good to observe some young percussionists learning their trade in the background, and also to see brothers shake hands at the end, **Caspian Mitchard** being the leader of Second Orchestra.

Richard Elliott (soon to be missed but never to be forgotten) took over the baton for Haydn's *St Anthony Chorale*, eliciting a beautifully balanced performance, especially notable for the purity of the brass sound – the three horns in particular – and for the work of the now unaided timpanist, **Rory Marsh**. Two lovely pieces from *Swan Lake* followed, and here the strings came into their own, the five cellos supplying a warm and measured underpinning to the vigorous, tripping woodwind, with oboe and flute sounds particularly memorable. Among the younger personnel in this fluent, enthusiastic orchestra, I counted eight from the First Form: this year, as perhaps never before, there is no occasion for alarm as the most experienced and accomplished move on.

One of whom now treated us to the first of two unforgettable performances by Upper-sixth instrumentalists with First Orchestra, led by **David Ridley**. **Arjun Kingdon**, the least showy of soloists, belied his casual appearance with an electrifying performance of the first movement of Saint-Saens' *Violin Concerto no. 3*. New to your reviewer, who was thrilled by the pizzicato sections, this strenuous piece, made up of a series of stunning contrasts, appeared to contain not one single moment of respite for the performer, whose musicality flowed from the ends of his elbows to the tips of his toes. At the end, breathing heavily and almost as shell-shocked as the audience, **Arjun** managed to summon up a smile when taking his second bow, and said afterwards that it had been really good fun to play such a very angry piece – which could have dominated the orchestra were it not that one of **Michael Stinton**'s hallmarks as a conductor is the capacity to conjure up total concentration and sensitivity from his players, among whom, on this occasion, flute and clarinet were particularly striking.

Arjun reappeared for the final piece of the first half to join **David Ridley** as joint leader of Chamber Orchestra to play Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro, op. 47*, a welcome choice for the sesquicentenary, and an immensely complex and demanding composition. Michael Stinton was in expansive mood as he elicited a fine performance from this senior ensemble, so expertly and lovingly prepared by **Mariette Pringle**.



Arjun Kingdon (solo violin) playing Saint-Saens' Violin Concerto No. 3

The second half of the concert belonged to First Orchestra, Weber's Overture to *Der Freischütz* compelling immediate alertness and versatility from all sections, and culminating in an extremely powerful and dramatic finale. Then came our second special treat, as **Will Stephenson** stepped forward to perform Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto in Eb*, described by **Will** himself as the quintessential trumpet concerto. It certainly allows the soloist to prove his mettle, and **Will's** clear, precise, spine-tingling opening, the thrilling cadenza, the tender, melting second movement and the verve and gusto of the *Allegro* left him as drained as **Arjun** had been, and apparently equally surprised by the audience's rapturous response. **Will** would wish to pay tribute to **Andy Bush** for his inspired teaching and of course to

Michael Stinton for his equally inspiring direction.

Finlandia provided the perfect opportunity for all the sections of this magnificent orchestra to play their hearts out one last time. The big brass beginning, bolstered by the double basses and percussion, to be joined by a great swirl of strings pierced by six silver trumpets, announces and proclaims the grand theme. The delicate woodwind sound emerges above the now shimmering strings as the crescendo mounts (MAS almost precipitating himself from his podium in excitement) and the second grand theme rolls majestically towards its climax.

"We are the champions," gestured Michael, when the ecstatic audience finally allowed him to depart.

Anne Soper



The Chamber Orchestra playing Elgar's Introduction and Allegro, op. 47



Billed as *A Farewell to Richard Elliott*, the Music Society's summer term social event, as in previous years, took the form of the popular Thames trip on a Salters riverboat, steaming from Abingdon Bridge to Radley and back.

The trip gave parents an opportunity for a farewell to be said to **Richard**, who leaves Abingdon after sixteen years to take up his appointment as Director of Music at High March School in Beaconsfield.

We were blessed with an evening of lovely sunshine – amazingly the rain was kept at bay. The passengers, numbering about one

hundred, included a large number of boys who gave performances throughout the three-hour cruise, including music for string quartet, brass quintet, jazz quartet and close harmony singing from the Abingdon Academicals.

As usual, passengers brought their own picnics and refreshments, and they all had a lovely evening, with the tributes and speeches for leavers who, along with Richard, included a distinguished group of musicians. We wish them all well as they move on to the next stage of their careers.

Michael Stinton



Practical Music Examination Results 2006 – 07

Associated Board Practical Examinations Passed = 191 Distinctions gained = 48, Merits gained = 58

Congratulations to the following who gained Distinction in their music examinations this year.

Practical – Distinction (130+/150)

Tristan Mitchard	Viola	8	140
Guy Cutting	Piano	8	139
Joseph Brown	Double Bass	2	138
Kevin Cheung	Organ	5	138
Nicholas Ereaut	Double Bass	8	138
Tristan Mitchard	Violin	8	138
Jack May	Cello	5	136
John Carter	Singing	7	136
Jack May	Singing	5	135
Christopher Mears	Piano	4	135
Ian Middleton	Piano	2	135
Tristan Mitchard	Singing	8	135
Ozy Tack	Piano	8	135
Guy Cutting	Viola	7	134
Joseph Ereaut	Trumpet	6	133
Omri Faraggi	Oboe	1	133
Jack May	Piano	5	133
Christopher Mears	Horn	7	133
Jack Tinker	Trumpet	7	133
Euan Campbell	Trombone	6	132
Arjun Kingdon	Piano	7	132
David Mears	Piano	7	132
Caspian Mitchard	Singing	8	132
Ben Thompson	Piano	2	132
Joe Mason	Organ	6	131
Ben Etherton	Cello	7	131

Caspian Mitchard	Viola	7	131
John Mulvey	Guitar	4	131
Calum Smith	Piano	2	131
Rupert Waterson	Organ	3	131
Timothy West	Singing	8	131
Oliver Yeatman	Clarinet	2	131
(Abingdon Preparatory School)			
Laurence Barrow	Cello	7	130
Timothy Barrow	Singing	8	130
Tom Bennett	Piano	8	130
Alexander Black	Flute	7	130
Clym Buxton	Clarinet	5	130
Leo Calnan	Trumpet	3	130
Joseph Delo	Horn	8	130
Anthony Lloyd	Organ	4	130
Veeral Manek	Percussion	4	130
Thomas Salt	Clarinet	4	130
Benjamin Thoe	Singing	8	130
Charlie Uden	Alto Saxophone	3	130
James Yan	Clarinet	5	130
Oliver Yeatman	Eb Saxophone	1	130
(Abingdon Preparatory School)			

Trinity Guildhall: Practical – Distinction (87+/100)

Finlay Curran	Drum Kit	1	97
Joe Kempton	Drum Kit	1	94

Sport

1st XV Rugby



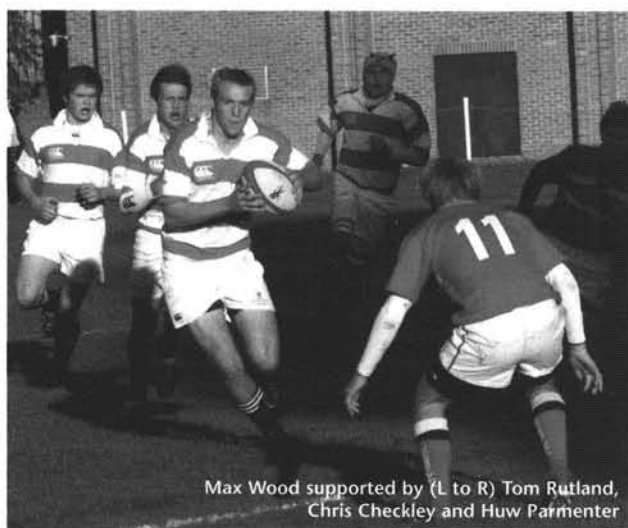
There were two golden performances this year: ones where the coaches, **Mr Watkins** and I, were thoroughly able to enjoy the after-match drink with the coach of the opposing team. The first was one Wednesday afternoon after half term, when the 1st XV beat an accomplished Aylesbury Grammar side that were full of cup aspirations. They had beaten RGS High Wycombe the previous week and they had international players in their ranks. We won a hard-fought match with a score of 18-10. **Matthew Watkins** played the game of his School career. The second occasion was on the final Saturday of the season when everything that we had

been doing came together in a stupendous triumph over a strong Marlborough side. We won 19-0, though we could have won by 30 points. This certainly made up for our defeat by Radley College the preceding week.

We started off the season in the heat. A pre-season tour to Bayonne had been organised and we were off to rugby camp. **Mr Hall** had everyone doing Bleep tests (apart from **WMP** and **JD-H**) at 6.30 in the morning on a cold, misty hillside. By 9 am it was boiling. After four days of intensive work, a lot of icepacks and tender loving care from our physiotherapist and team

doctor, we fielded two senior sides against Bayonne U20s. The pitches left much to be desired: the 2nd XV played on a football pitch while the 1st XV had a tackling practice against an immensely talented French side that had played and won against Toulouse U20s the previous week. In the end, 17-3 was a brave result on our part. That night we had the satisfaction of seeing Bayonne get put to the sword by Perpignan.

After this, a rather exhausted group went back to School the day after our return. To be fair, it was too much to ask for the team to be up for the following few matches,



Max Wood supported by (L to R) Tom Rutland, Chris Checkley and Huw Parmenter

and we duly suffered an initial bad run. An embarrassing defeat to Oratory was then turned around with an excellent performance against St Paul's, yet it was still a defeat.

By the time the Bedford School fixture came around we were beginning to look much better. **Matthew Watkins** slotted a great penalty a minute from time to gain a hard-won victory. Next, a strong Magdalen side were put to the sword with an excellent display on a very damp day, which favoured their pack more than ours. We thus went to Stowe with high spirits and expectations but unfortunately lost two scrums against the head, from which they scored two tries and we lost.



Matt Watkins

Daily Mail Cup. Two days later, we were playing a strong St Edward's side, which



Simon Edwards

was a game that despite the best efforts of skipper **Will Clegg** we lost. The silver lining though was that we were able to blood **Matthew Pursell**, a Fifth-former, at fly-half in this game. The team was an absolute pleasure to work with. Mr Watkins and I enjoyed every minute of it, even those freezing Friday nights under the rain and the floodlights. The senior players – **Chris Halford**, **Greg Palmer**, **Chris Checkley** and **Max Wood** – all led superbly, with **William Clegg** as Captain and **Matthew Watkins** as Vice-Captain setting the tone. Too often we kept the ball in the forwards and did not let our backs get their hands on it. Often the **Max Wood Slice** seemed to work. It would be fair to say that there were three games that we should have won: St Paul's, Stowe and Bedford Modern.

The Sevens season was also reasonably successful. After a long period of practice, we entered two

major tournaments. We won the plate at the Hampton Sevens, beating John Fisher, Christ's Hospital and then Hampton School 33-0 in the final, which was officiated by Wayne Barnes, the international referee. It was thus with high spirits that we played in the National Rosslyn Park Sevens but despite winning some good games we lost to Ellesmere, which effectively ended our season. It would be fair to say, though, that we were a very good Sevens team.



A line-out in the match against Pangbourne

Overall it was a successful season, a wonderful experience that I will never forget. Good luck at university to the squad and make sure that above all else you keep playing as long as you can!

Will Phelan

1st XV squad:

William Clegg (Captain), **Matthew Watkins (Vice-Captain)**, **Bilal Yassine**, **Christopher Halford**, **Nick Li**, **Harry Moore**, **Sam Fletcher**, **Charles Quarterman**, **Alexander Freeland**, **Greg Palmer**, **Huw Parmenter**, **Simon Edwards**, **Alex Hamilton**, **Christopher Checkley**, **Thomas Clee**, **Jonathan Bayfield**, **Adam Paxton**, **Max Wood**, **Matthew Pursell**, **Michael Shaughnessy**, **Jonathan Hughes**.

1st XV Results

Eton	L	0-27
Oratory	L	3-19
St Paul's	L	8-13
Bedford School	W	12-10
MCS	W	19-12
Stowe	L	16-25
Pangbourne	W	18-8
Bedford Modern	L	3-7
St Edward's	L	3-26
Radley	L	3-12
Marlborough	W	19-0

2nd XV Rugby

The 2nd XV, dubbed the 'Wild Dogs' by **Mr Drummond-Hay**, had an extremely strong team spirit from the outset and it was this, along with the visionary guidance from the man himself, which helped the team to a very successful season. Their impressive record of 170 points won as against 80 conceded showed the team's success. The defeats suffered were all narrow losses, whereas the victories were mostly by a large points margin, especially against Bedford School and MCS. Particular mention must go to scrum-half **Thomas Dean**, who has been unwaveringly vicious, and although he has only just started to obey the off-side rule he has had a truly great season, capped off by winning the self-awarded 'try of the season' against Marlborough in the final match. His fellow half-back, fly-half and demi-god, **Michael Watts**, captained the side and provided leadership and genius in equal measure. **Kenneth** 'the Samoan international' Cruickshank was unanimously considered the stand-out player for his incredible commitment and passion, epitomised by the repeated hits on the giant-like Pangbourne number eight, and by being the season's top try-scorer. Also impressive in the forwards was **James Rhodes**, whose lineouts were consistently spectacular, frequently out-competing the 1sts in training, which led to **James** being acknowledged as 'the best line-out jumper in the School' (WMP). The pack powerhouses, **William Stockdale** and **William Stockwell**, provided the forward momentum necessary for the backs, notably the Welsh centres of **Buckley** and **Cadman**, to unleash hell in the form of the CCC (**Cookson** Catching Circus). **Jared Kangwana** has been the pace man and his two tries against **Bedford** were among the best of the season. **David Mills'** promotion to the 1sts, owing to the injury of others, was a blow to our campaign. However, the 'Wild Dogs' were never a team dominated by individual players, and throughout the season the determination and solidarity of the whole squad was integral to

the success of the season and in particular to victories over schools such as St Edward's and Marlborough. This team spirit and lack of ego is something all Abingdon teams would do well to emulate. Obviously, all this could not have been achieved without the genius of **Jeff Drummond-Hay**, who instilled humour in the team and who has been a top-class coach, instinctively identifying and correcting our weaknesses.

Thomas Dean and Michael Watts 6 TCG

Squad:

Ben Jackson, Hugh Graham, Richard Moore, Jonathan Warlow, William Stockwell, William Stockdale (Vice-Captain), James Rhodes, Gus Bartholomew, Kenneth Cruickshank, Alexander Freeland, Simon Jeffreys, Nick Li, Harry Moore, Bilal Yassine, Charles Quarterman, Michael Watts (Captain), Thomas Dean, Joseph Buckley, Rhys Cadman, James Cookson, Jared Kangwana, Sebastien Wilson, Thomas Clee, Tobi Ojo, Timothy Gower, David Mills, Jonathan Hughes, Jamie Graves

2nd XV Results

Oratory	L	7-12
St Paul's	L	20-25
Bedford School	W	32-0
MCS	W	38-5
Stowe	L	7-10
Pangbourne	W	45-5
Bedford Modern	W	7-0
St Edward's	W	15-10
Radley	L	0-13
Marlborough	W	13-12



The 2nd XV in the match against Radley

3rd XV and 4th XV Rugby

This was a disappointing season for the 3rd and 4th XV rugby teams. It was clear from the first week's training that a only a handful of the previous year's U16 C squad had carried on with rugby into the Sixth Form. This meant that we were going to have to rely on the Upper Sixth boys for strength and direction, particularly in the forwards. We were also going to struggle to maintain a 4th XV unless we could call on boys who hadn't trained but would play on Saturdays, like **Tom Phillips, Zhongjie Dong, Ben Allen** and **Joey Wu**. We had our stalwarts from last year in **Robert Haley, Jack Hammett** and later on **Richard Worth** in the forwards, as well as **Will Stephenson** and **Henry Freeland** in the backs, to give us much needed quality and stability in key areas.

The Oratory (7-15) and St Paul's (7-33 and 0-28) had big teams this year and both were out of the blocks early against us whilst we looked and waited for someone to make something happen in our own team. **Luke Himpson** fractured his ankle and missed the rest of the season. Playing Bedford School (12-17 and 0-38) was a replay of the previous year's game, where we dominated all the play in the forwards but didn't have the killer instinct in front of the try-line and were beaten by a breakaway try in the last minute. Against Stowe (12-20 and 0-61) we were not able to adapt to the accurate interpretations of the laws by the referee

quickly enough and found ourselves in a daze, going backwards and behind on points. Although we had chances with **Tobi Ojo** and **Jamie Graves** at the heart of most things, we were again unable to get the ball over the line. We gained confidence against Pangbourne (47-0) with good performances from **Gor Mouradian, Oliver Hampson** and **Bhavesh Amin**. At Bedford Modern (53-10) we clocked up lots of tries and played very direct yet controlled rugby, which was pleasing, whilst **Sean Baker, James Moulds**, and **Dominic Flint** in the forwards, with **Will Stephenson** and **Henry Freeland** in the backs, gave us a cutting edge. We had a cracking game of rugby against St Edward's (12-17) and countered their size very well, with the deciding try coming down to conditions on the day. **Josh Ogle** had a significant role in the game, as did **Tobi** and **Michael Coldwell**. We went into the Radley (0-30 and 0-47) games confident but were rolled over by just a bit more class in front of goal although it was a good game. The first twenty minutes against Marlborough (12-32) proved decisive as three tries went in through basic errors and then it was a matter of fighting for some pride on a very boggy surface.

This ended a hard season where expected wins against Oratory, Stowe and Marlborough did not materialise because they were probably a bit better than normal and we were a little off the pace. St Paul's and Radley are always going to be tough for our inevitably smaller pack, whilst Marlborough, St Edward's and Bedford tend to be so close each year that a small detail like weather conditions or a referee's opinion seems to play a key role in those results.

Last year I reported the most successful season in my time at Abingdon. I feel that this year's results will see my return to coaching in the lower leagues next year. I leave you with two Nigerian 'diamonds in the rough': **Kroma Wenike-Briggs** and **Rotimi Erikotola**. Under the fine leadership of **Robert Haley**, all the boys have shown skill, commitment and loyalty when representing the School, and I thank them for representing the 3rd and 4th XV Abingdon rugby teams in 2006.

Mark Schofield

3rd and 4th Squad:

Jack Hammett, Joey Wu, Robert Haley, Ben Allen, Michael Coldwell, Thomas Phillips, Sean Baker, Gor Mouradian, Dominic Flint, Zhongjie Dong, Richard Worth, Timor Ryvkin, Bhavesh Amin, Kroma Wenike-Briggs, James Moulds, Rotimi Erikotola, Oliver Hampson, Benjamin Taylor, Joshua Ogle, Alex Lewington, Jamie Graves, Jiun Im, Henry Freeland, David Fry, William Stephenson, Luke Himpson, Tobi Ojo, Christopher Osakwe, Stuart Robertson, Charles Lester

3rd XV

Captain: Robert Haley

Most improved player: Bhavesh Amin

4th XV

Captain: Benjamin Taylor

Most improved player: Rotimi Erikotola



The 3rd XV in action against Radley

3rd XV Results

Oratory	L	7-15
St Paul's	L	7-33
Bedford School	L	12-17
Stowe	L	12-20
Pangbourne	W	47-0
Bedford Modern	W	53-10
St Edward's	L	12-17
Radley	L	0-30
Marlborough	L	12-32

4th XV Results

St Paul's	L	0-28
Bedford School	L	0-38
Stowe	L	0-61
St Edward's	Cancelled	
Radley	L	0-47

Senior Colts A XV Rugby

It is not often that a coach is in the unenviable position of struggling to pick his best side because he has so many fine players to choose from. That was the situation amongst the Senior Colts sides this year, which was clearly demonstrated when all 3 teams beat Radley. When players were injured or called away for 1st XV duty, the next player simply stepped up and filled the breach admirably.

No matches at U16 level are easy, especially against St Paul's. In the opening minutes of the game **Michael Shaughnessy** broke through the defence to score under the posts to give us a 7-0 lead. We battled heroically, with big hits from **Tom Green** and **Jacob Swain** in particular. Unfortunately we had an uphill struggle and could not hold onto the lead against a strong side. The tenacity and character of the team was put to the test when they encountered a formidable Bedford team, who had an awesome day and finished everything that they created. The team stuck to their task making the tackles, never giving up, despite conceding a number of tries.

Fortunes were about to change: in torrential rain **Cody Yellowlees-Bound** scored one of the tries of the season against MCS. Fantastic vision from **Matthew Pursell** at number 10, allowed him to put in a cross kick worthy of Jonny Wilkinson, which **Cody** took in full flight and plunged over the line for a superb try. Unfortunately, this was the game in which our captain **George Bone** got injured, which saw him sitting on the sidelines until the final game of the season. Credit must go to the pack for their impressive efforts and to **Sherif Sam-Sadeen** who was awesome under the high ball despite the appalling conditions.

Against Stowe we showed our true potential when **Matt** put **Jonathan Bucke** through a hole, who offloaded to **Michael Shaughnessy**, who then offloaded back inside to **Jonathan** to round off the move just to the left of the uprights. It was a sublime piece of play. Another contender for try of the season. The Pangbourne match brought out the best in **Parathan Rabindran**. In the first 5 minutes we were awarded a scrum in their 22 metre area. The gap yawned in front of him and he took the opportunity, scoring his first try for the School in 5 years. In the last 5 minutes he scored another, his confidence soaring to a different level. Another priceless moment came when **Andrew Cook** chipped through a ball which was taken by **Jonathan Bucke**, offloaded to **Sherif**, who finished it off. It was these team tries that typified the season, not individual brilliance.

Some superb work against Bedford Modern saw us rack up another victory before taking on St Edward's. Another trademark break by **Paz** saw him run almost half the length of the pitch to score under the posts. The tight five had an awesome match, especially props **Will Shrier** and **Andrew Hatzis**. **Felix Wood** demonstrated his superb fitness levels with his tireless work rate around the pitch.

When playing rugby it can sometimes be difficult to maintain the focus and display the sort of composure required to think and act under pressure, especially when the game is tight. Against Radley, the score at half time was 7-5 to Abingdon, and midway through the second half was 14-12 in our favour. Radley made a break and their player had the ball 5 metres from our try-line. **Barry Tse** and **Andrew Partridge**, working in tandem, made the tackle and the turnover. That turnover was in many ways a defining moment for the match and the season. Spurred on, Abingdon proceeded to run in 3 more converted tries to win the game 35-12. Superb work from **Jojo Todd**, **Tom Bradfield** and **Ross Muir** gave us the edge on the opposition in the set pieces. **Michael Shaughnessy** recorded a 100% strike rate with his goal kicking, while **Matthew**



Pursell was involved in each of the tries that we scored, putting people into space, time and again. This performance highlighted the dedicated approach that the entire team have put in during the course of the term.

After a pretty exhausting season, we took on a highly motivated Marlborough team in very muddy, heavy conditions. It was 3-3 at half time and it was down to who wanted the victory more. After losing **Paz** to a concussion injury, **Sherif** stepped into the breach. Another immaculate pass from **Matthew** put **Cody** in for the winning try.

It was a fantastic season, which the players enjoyed immensely. It will be remembered for the tremendous versatility of the players, especially **Andrew Cook** playing second row, back row and wing. Many thanks go to **Mr Hall** and **Kempy (Stumpy)**!

(Parathan Rabindram 5 ASH)
Andrew Hall

Squad:

Will Shrier, Andrew Partridge, Andrew Hatzis, Jojo Todd, Ross Muir, Tom Green, Barry Tse, Tom Bradfield, George Bone, Paz Rabindran, Matthew Pursell, Jacob Swain, Michael Shaughnessy, Sherif Sam-Sadeen, Cody Yellowlees-Bound, Andrew Cook, Jonathan Bucke, Felix Wood, Jack Maynard

Senior Colts A XV Results

Eton (Pre-season)	L	12-24
Oratory	W	13-12
St Paul's	L	7-27
Bedford	L	12-41
MCS	W	28-0
Stowe	W	28-7
Pangbourne	W	29-0
Bedford Modern	W	31-10
St Edward's	W	21-5
Radley	W	35-12
Marlborough	W	10-3



Senior Colts C XV Rugby

The 2006 season was very successful, particularly against the big opposition of Radley and St Paul's, whom we beat for the first time for many years. Throughout the season, the team employed an accurate and effective kicking game in order to better pin the opposition back and frustrate their ambitions. This technique sometimes disguised a lack of penetration in the backs, though **Justin Robinson** was always powerful at inside centre. This kick and chase game was particularly effective against Radley, who saw all their hard-fought gains simply kicked back down the park. The forwards worked hard and improved throughout the season: despite being smaller and less aggressive in the rucks, they were also good ball carriers and, most of the time, effective tacklers. The set pieces were very impressive for a C team and we often stole the line-outs and scrums. Injuries really took their toll: **George Palmer, Stephen Hodgetts and John Davies** all succumbed, which considerably weakened the back line. Marlborough was perhaps a game too far where, for once, our kicking game was no use and our limitations in defence and offence were exposed. Controlling one's temperament was a big lesson that we had to learn this season: at half-time a victory at Bedford was well within the team's grasp, but having a couple of decisions go against us, we allowed our feelings of injustice to get in the way of our rugby. Unfortunately, this ogre of Mourinho-ism reared its head from time to time, distracting us from actually playing good rugby. The team was rightly appreciative of **Oliver Verdon's** captaincy for the majority of the season, as well as the leadership in the pack shown by **Jamie Brown**.

Hugh Price

Most effective Forward: George Dugdale

Most effective Back: Justin Robinson

Most improved player: Oscar Hird

Squad:

Alexander Clinkard, James Fergusson, Oliver Boddie, Thomas McKenna, Oscar Hird, George Dugdale, Samuel Badenoch, Matthew Winters, Patrick Child, Jamie Brown, Oliver Verdon, Harry Porter, Robert Walker, Oliver Henstridge, Stephen Hodgetts, Justin Robinson, Nicholas Croft-Simon, John Davies

Senior Colts C XV Results

The Oratory School	W	12-0
St Paul's School	W	14-0
Bedford School	L	14-29
Stowe School	W	14-0
Bedford Modern School	W	69-0
St Edward's School	W	22-5
Radley College	W	7-5
Marlborough College	L	5-31

Junior Colts A XV Rugby

This was a season of two parts. Before half term the members of the squad struggled to adjust to the demands of rugby at this level. The fixture against the Oratory resulted in a defeat that would have been a lot heavier without the tackling of **Joel Collins**. The score was 0-0 at half-time but the Oratory had been on a pre-season tour and this resulted in them pulling away in the second half.

In the match against St Paul's, the team were thirty points down but a brave fight back limited the margin of defeat to 15 points. The fixtures against Bedford and Stowe were also narrowly lost. However, set against all this was an exciting Cup run. A local state school was defeated 50-0, with **Bobby Aigbogun** scoring three tries. This set up a trip to Monmouth, which fielded a very strong side but the team overcame them and won 14-10. Unfortunately, the next round resulted in a heavy defeat away at Hereford. This was a match played without a number of key individuals.

After half term, the only defeat was a narrow loss to an unbeaten Radley side. The forwards started playing consistently well, with excellent performances from **Edward Howe, Joshua Jackson, Richard Parkin-Mason and Richard Milford**. **Charlie Redman** linked the forwards and backs from scrum-half, with **James Plumb** proving to be a steady influence at fly-half. **Sam Newman** stepped up to the A team and added pace and power to the back division. Before the Radley match there was a winning run against Pangbourne, Bedford Modern, MCS and St Edward's. The game against St Edward's featured a **Nathaniel Watkins**-inspired second half comeback. The last game of the season resulted in a 19-5 win away at Marlborough, with the tries being scored by **Freddie Howe, Max Makarov and Ben Juffkins**. The win was achieved after being down to fourteen men in a crucial period of the game.

The performances against Marlborough and Radley demonstrated the talent that there is in this side and the potential for improvement as they move up through the School. At the start of the season it took time for the squad to realise the intensity required but once they had overcome this there was a platform from which to develop an effective game plan. There are also some very strong sides on this fixture list. At the time of writing this report, St Paul's, Bedford and Hereford Bluecoat had all made the quarter-finals of the *Daily Mail* U15 Cup.

Ian Middleton

Squad:

Alexander Ward, James Humberstone, Edward Howe, Frederick Humfrey, Liam Smith, Max Makarov, Joshua Jackson, Richard Milford, Richard Parkin-Mason, Ben Juffkins, Charlie Redman, James Plumb, Nathaniel Watkins, Callum Keown, Henry Mills, Joel Collins, Bobby Aigbogun, Freddie Howe, Sam Newman

Junior Colts A XV Results

Oratory	L	5-22
St Paul's	L	17-38
Bedford School	L	15-20
Stowe	L	17-21
Pangbourne	W	22-7
Bedford Modern	W	38-3
MCS	W	17-14
St Edward's	W	36-12
Radley	L	17-21
Marlborough	W	19-5

Junior Colts B XV Rugby

2006 was always set to be a tough year for the Junior Colts Bs. Having maintained an unbeaten season last year, the odds were heavily stacked against us to achieve another. Numerous changes took place even before the first game, with players changing position and often changing team. We all knew that to go undefeated again would need a lot of hard work, and most importantly, wins.

The first match was against The Oratory. A difficult game to start with, since everyone was feeling a little rusty and nobody was expecting any miraculous performances. Nonetheless, we went out there and after a closely contested game, we came away with the victory, 17-5.

Our next match was against St. Paul's. Having gained some confidence from our first game, and in the knowledge that we had been the only team to thrash them last year, we made the long journey to London. Like our first game, it was a tough reminder of how far we had to go if we realistically were to have a chance against Radley and Marlborough at the end of the season. However, once again the Bs pulled out all the stops and ended the game 22-7 up, a fair result against a good side.

The next few matches were to turn out to be massacres. With **James Edwards** now assuming the role of fly-half and with the promotion of **Benedict Edwards** from the Cs, the squad was gaining strength. We annihilated Bedford School, 43-12 and Stowe, 53-14. Bedford Modern were also brushed aside, 48-7, and Magdalen College School were defeated 68-0. By now, with several wins under our belt, solidarity was emerging in the side, and with the physical presence of **Thomas Hughes** and **Hugo Morrison**, just returned from injury, the side was improving. The St Edward's match was cancelled, which gave us a chance to test out our new scrum-half, **Joshua Smith**, newly down from the As and keen to prove himself in a new position.

Eventually the two biggest games arrived, although the first was somewhat of an anti-climax as we seemingly crushed Radley, 52-7. Two breakaway tries from **Henry Mills** were the icing on the cake, and **Stephen Poland** scored yet another try, putting him ahead of **Charles Brampton** in the try-scoring race going into the last game.

And then there was Marlborough. Having not had a decently contested game for weeks we found ourselves lacking the physicality needed. We

started the game poorly on the sloping pitch and let in an early try – a wake-up call. At half-time we were crudely reminded by **Mr Brenchley** how hard we had worked over the last two years and to throw it away now would be like handing back all we had achieved. We started the second half fired up and the two unbeaten sides battled it out, until **Bobby Aigbogun** saw a gap and made for the try-line. **James Cook**, a regular performer for the Bs, also dived over from a nearby ruck to put us in the lead. The last fifteen minutes were to be the most gruelling we had ever experienced as the opposition piled into us on our line. Fantastic tackles, perhaps unexpectedly from **George Rossiter** and **Charlie Brampton**, kept us in the game until the final whistle blew. We had won 17-12 and the feeling of two unbeaten seasons was incredible.

Special mention must go to **Joe McDonagh** for a definite improvement at second row and also naturally to **Jack Rogers** at hooker, the backbone of our line-outs and scrums. However, the squad would not have been what it was without Mr Brenchley, a sensational coach who guided us through our all matches and was rightly deserving of the signed rugby ball at the end of the season.

Euan Campbell 4 VMW

Squad:

Thomas Hughes, Jack Rogers, Benedict Edwards, Jonathan Barrow, Euan Campbell, Joe McDonagh, Dylan Robinson, James Cook, Hugo Morrison, Henry Kibble, Alexander Beech, Joshua Smith, James Carter, James Edwards, Henry Mills, Stephen Poland, Charles Brampton, George Rossiter

Junior Colts B XV Results

Oratory	W	17-5
St Paul's	W	22-7
Bedford School	W	43-12
Stowe	W	53-14
Pangbourne	W	31-5
Bedford Modern	W	48-7
MCS	W	68-0
St Edward's	Cancelled	
Radley	W	52-7
Marlborough	W	17-12



A Junior Colts' match on Lower Field

Junior Colts C XV Rugby

The Junior Colts C had a spectacular season, with only one defeat – the last game of the season – by one point! We had significant strength in depth and a D team this year too, although most of our opposition were unable to field a D team and St Edward's did not even dare to take us on, so fierce was our reputation. Most of our games were won by 50 points, but Radley proved tough. We scored 14 points in ten minutes and then held on for a bitter and exhausting game. **Will Fotherby**, in the thick of things always and tireless, was man of the match.

Daniel Boddington was man of the match against Bedford Modern; he was full of energy and ran rings around a weak team. **Nam Hweu Jo** had a habit of tackling and then recovering the ball and racing the full length of the pitch to score. He has even been known to rip the ball from the hands of surprised opposition wingers, in full flight, and then run off and score. Against Stowe, **Robert Winearls** was man of the match for his penetrating running and counter-attacks. Another forward, **Peter Brombley**, was man of the match against Bedford for some determined running and excellent support play. Our first match of the season was a tough one too and required grit to come back from a deficit to win, with **Tim Richards** steadying things with some confident running that won him man of the match. Other outstanding players were **Peter Ryan** and **Alexander Black**, with **Ben Hogan** giving his all every moment he was on the pitch.

We have played very well at times – often better against stronger opposition – with confident straight and clever running from the backs and rolling, technically excellent attacks from the forwards. There have been frustrations when we have abandoned our game plan and not played thinking rugby, but we are pleased to have developed so much during the season.

Joss Williams

Squad:

Thomas Hughes, Jack Rogers, Benedict Edwards, Jonathan Barrow, Euan Campbell, Joe McDonagh, Dylan Robinson, James Cook, Hugo Morrison, Henry Kibble, Alexander Beech, Joshua Smith, James Carter, James Edwards, Henry Mills, Stephen Poland, Charles Brampton, George Rossiter

Junior Colts C XV Results

Oratory	W	83-0
St Paul's	W	10-7
Bedford School	W	30-7
Stowe	W	53-0
Pangbourne	W	31-5
Bedford Modern	W	39-0
St Edward's	Cancelled	
Radley	W	14-5
Marlborough	L	19-20

Juniors A XV Rugby

The Juniors A XV had a mixed season, full of highs and lows and with much competition for places, which began right from the second Saturday of term with the match against The Oratory.

The first game was largely very scrappy until Oratory managed to squeeze in two tries before half-time. In the second half, substitutions were made and tries came from **Jamie Hall**, **Charlie Uden** and **Ben Stockwell**, which gave us a hard-fought victory: 17 - 15.

The second game of the season was a match on Open Day against St Paul's on Waste Court Field. We were under pressure from the start but some huge hits in defence, brilliant kicking from penalties and good teamwork saw us through most of the first half. However, a small error let their winger in at the corner, with the result that it was 6 - 5 at half-time. We came out a different side in the second half, partly because we were now playing down the slope. With 10 minutes left we called a double dummy switch and **Jamie** went through to score under the posts. We added another penalty and finally the whistle went. We won 16 - 5. After a great performance against St Paul's came our worst against Bedford School. We never played our best rugby and were beaten in every area of the pitch: 0 - 19.

Refreshed after the half-term break, we had two training sessions before the first away game at Pangbourne. We controlled for large parts of the game, converting tries through **Ben McGuire**, **James Percival**, **Harry Copson** and **James Carter**. Our defence was a worry, letting in a soft try, but there were a lot of good points to take away and we won 23 - 7. The next match was a long trip away to Bedford Modern. We had focused on defence in the week previous to the match and had tried to work on our tackling. The match was bad-tempered with not much good rugby being played on either side. Our problem again was defence and our inability to stop two very quick wingers. We eventually began to get into our stride and **Matthew Boyd** got a try near the end but the result was a defeat, 7 - 17.

Nearing the end of the season, we entered into a run of three derby matches, the first of which was against Magdalen College School. We started really well, getting three early tries from **Mark Francis**, **Charlie**, and **James**. However, some poor handling and



The Juniors A in action against St Paul's

errors let Magdalen back into game, but they in turn made a lot of mistakes and in the end we won, 19 – 0. The second derby was against St Edward's on War Memorial Field. This was our best performance of the season, running in nine tries from **James (3), Mark (2), Ben, Xilin Song, Matthew** and **Tim Gladstone**. We played some great attacking rugby in an excellent performance with the result a great victory: 60 – 0.

In the penultimate game of the season we played Radley. Confident from our earlier good performances, we were totally outplayed in all areas of the field. Our defence was poor and were ineffective in attack; we lost 0 – 51. The last game of the season was against Marlborough. In the first half we leaked two sloppy tries and at half-time we were down 3-12. In the second half we were more positive and started with two quick penalties. Not through lack of trying, however, we could not get over the line and went down in a disappointing end to the season, 9 – 12.

A great effort went into the season and we should thank **Mr Evans** for all his efforts on the touchline, in training and refereeing. We will take a lot into next season and we have definitely learnt a lot in this one.

Mark Francis 3 JPGB

From the Coach

The season finished with a narrow, disappointing home defeat against Marlborough and the deflated feeling following this says a lot about the boys. Through the term they had developed a good team spirit and a desire to play the best rugby they could. It always seems to be a cliché but there really is great potential in this squad and there will be keen competition for places next season, especially given the strength of the B XV. Some interesting positional changes might occur and the team line-up could take on a very different look. The future is bright and exciting for this squad. They have been great to work with this season and they have improved significantly. The high points have definitely outweighed the low points; their bravery and effort against St Paul's, and the exhibition of adventurous, free-flowing rugby they produced against St Edward's, will remain important memories. I am grateful to **Mark Francis** and **Ben Stockwell** for their excellent leadership through the season. Finally, very many thanks to the parents and friends for their positive support – and best of luck to the team next season.

Stuart Evans

Squad

Xilin Song, Robin Veale, Ben McGuire, Matthew Boyd, Harry Dennis, Sam Murrell, Tom Foxon, Ben Stockwell, William Durrands, Jamie Hall, Tim Gladstone, Jonathan Bourchier, James Carter, James Percival, Mark Francis, Jack Perry, James Cross, Harry Copson, Charlie Uden

Juniors A XV Results

Oratory	W	17-15
St Paul's	W	16-5
Bedford	L	0-19
Pangbourne	W	23-7
Bedford Modern	L	7-17
MCS	W	19-0
St Edward's	W	60-0
Radley	L	0-51

Juniors B XV Rugby

The Juniors B XV have had an encouraging season with only two defeats and some notable victories. We got off to a good start with a decisive win over Oratory. Our next match was a defensive battle against St Paul's, with some fantastic hits put in by every player on the field. Unfortunately, this resulted in a loss. However, after this defeat, we picked ourselves up, trained hard and did not lose a game again until very late in the season. We crushed Pangbourne with some awesome back play, including two great tries from **Edward Arnold**, our full-back, after an injury scare. We also laid a hammering blow on Magdalen, with four superb individual tries from **Tim Gladstone**. Even though these two games were our highest-scoring matches, our best team performance had to be against local rivals, Radley. An early try, again scored by **Tim**, put us quickly into the lead. The conversion put us seven points clear. We battled hard until half-time with neither team scoring. Early in the second half, we were pinned to our line, and after some superb last-ditch tackling, our defence gave way and Radley scored. However, to our advantage, a difficult conversion was missed. After this, just having the edge over our rivals, we did not leave their half for the rest of the game and a late try in the final minute sealed our victory over Radley. I put our brilliant season down to great determination, awesome individual flair, dedication, and team work.

William Sensecall 3 JPGB, Captain

From the Coach

The U14 Bs worked fanatically hard over the course of the season. They were characterised by dogged determination, a will to improve and a superb team ethic. Captain **William Sensecall** and pack leader **Vassilis Ragoussis** led the team superbly. As a team and as individuals they made great progress over the season. They developed a fast-flowing style of play that was rewarded with some excellent team tries, notably against Pangbourne and Bedford Modern. In defence, their bravery in the tackle, epitomised by **Andrew Russell** and **Edward Arnold**, was a huge asset. As individuals they developed old skills and learnt some new ones. **David Grant, Stanley Ng, Jack Trodd, Joshua Bull, James Cross, Andrew Elliott, William Sensecall, David Snead, and Christopher Green** all improved dramatically. I am sure that much of the squad will successfully press their case for the A team in the future. They were a superb group of young men to work with and I wish them all the best for the future.

Edward Davies

Squad

James Cross, Matthew Lake, Ben McGuire, David Grant, Ozy Tack, Michael Garner, Marcus Seller, Vassilis Ragoussis, Edward Otty, Andrew Elliott, Joshua Bull, Jack Trodd, Andrew Russell, Nicholas Williams, William Sensecall, Matthew Roberts, Stanley Ng, Charlie Uden, Jack Perry, Christopher Green, Tim Gladstone, Edward Arnold, Harry Aitken, David Snead, Liam Craughwell, Alexander Watson.

Juniors C XV Rugby

The C XV had a good season and was an improving team. They played some good rugby and showed an excellent attitude. In all three of their defeats they dominated large parts of the game. Their Achilles heel was tackling, and teams scored more points against them than they should have done.

The forwards handled the ball skilfully and were mobile on the loose. They kept the ball alive well and improved the quality of their rucking considerably. **William Davey** scored two tries from hooker and **Oliver Jackson** was a destructive ball-carrier. **Angus Innes** lead the pack well in attack and defence and second-row partner, **Tom Price**, was the season's Most Improved Player.

The backs started to play really well in the second half of term. They handled the ball well at pace and were more incisive. **Edward Kempell** captained the side reliably from inside-centre and brought other players into the game with well-timed passes. **Christopher Wilkinson** was the Player of the Season at outside-centre, showing a superb attitude in attack, defence (where he put in some big hits) and in training. **Ben Brazel** started to show his talent on the wing and scored a hat-trick against St Edwards.

Nick O'Doherty

Squad

Jack Channon, William Davey, Oliver Jackson, Dominic Graham, Angus Innes, Jamie Copus, Samuel Bowers, Tom Price, Liam Craughwell, Harry Naylor, Nicholas Williams, Christopher Moore, Benjamin Brazel, Harry Aitken, Edward Kempell (capt), Christopher Wilkinson, Nicholas Acutt, Stephen Horlock, Matthew Haywood, Spencer Davis

Juniors B XV Results

Oratory	W	30-5
St Paul's	L	0-37
Bedford School	W	17-12
Pangbourne	W	53-0
Bedford Modern	W	26-0
MCS	W	53-0
St Edward's	W	38-0
Radley	W	12-5
Marlborough	L	5-12

Juniors C XV Results

Oratory	W	48-0
St Paul's	L	5-43
Bedford	W	20-5
Bedford Modern	W	29-14
St Edward's	W	55-0
Radley	L	0-15
Marlborough	W	5-13

Minors A and B XV Rugby

The Minors A XV had a successful season, winning six of their eight matches including notable victories against Josca's, Bedford Modern, Magdalen College School, Summer Fields and Cothill. The defeats came early on in the season: against Bromsgrove, by a single score, in a game that they dominated but, having conceded a breakaway try, were unable to convert into victory, and in the final game against an impressive Moultsford side.

The B XV were almost as successful, winning five of their eight games including victories over Josca's, Bromsgrove, MCS and Cothill, whilst their defeats came by narrow margins against Bedford Modern, Summer Fields and Moultsford.

There is a great deal of enthusiasm and potential within this age-group which can hopefully be nurtured into an excellent side with a few additions from the prep school intake in September. There are plenty of strong, aggressive runners amongst the forwards in the likes of **Patrick Stinson**, **Lloyd Cadman** and **Henry House**, balanced with intelligent ball-carriers with excellent handling skills, such as **Andrew Halls** and **Toby Blong**. The backs also had talent: **Peter Allan** is an accomplished fly-half with good vision and distribution, though he kicked away possession too frequently, whilst **Charles Studdy** is an outstanding runner who is awesome in the tackle but needs to develop his handling skills and positional play. **Daniel Leach** proved reliable under the high ball and an excellent last line of defence, whilst **Joseph Foxon** and **Peter Barnshaw** both have pace to burn and are able to finish things off, given a bit of space.

The success of both teams was built around their dominance up front, trying to starve opponents of possession, but there was a tendency, which is all too common at this age, for too many of them to want to do their own individual things and not necessarily what would have been best for the team. They will have to work hard to develop a greater cohesiveness as they move up through the School, and increase their work rate and contributions when they personally aren't in possession of the ball if they want to develop into the outstanding team they're capable of becoming.

Andrew Broadbent

Minors A XV Awards:

Player of the season: **Patrick Stinson**

Player's player: **Charles Studdy**

Most Improved: **Michael Deeks**

Minors B XV Awards:

Player of the season: **Paul Woo**

Player's player: **Peter Barnshaw**

Most Improved: **Luke Carter**

Minors A and B XV Results

	A XV	B XV
Josca's	W 24 - 0	W 36 - 12
Bedford Modern	W 29 - 14	L 24 - 25
Bromsgrove	L 0 - 5	W 38 - 10
MCS	W 20 - 0	W 26 - 0
Summer Fields	W 24 - 5	L 10 - 12
Cothill	W 10 - 5	W 12 - 10
Berkhamsted	W 45 - 0	W 32 - 5
Moultsford	L 12 - 39	L 7 - 24

1st XI Hockey



Jonathan Bayfield

The team, led by **Chris Newman**, still only in the Lower Sixth, produced an entertaining rollercoaster ride of a season. There were on average seven goals per game, some sublime finishing, last-minute winners and moments of madness.

With only six boys starting the season with any 1st team experience, and three of these still being in the Lower Sixth, it was always going to be essential to get a win early in the season to build confidence. This win eluded us until just before half term, but it proved to be a catalyst in giving the team the confidence to play some excellent hockey. In the second half of the season we were able to play with a good deal more assurance, controlling possession and having the patience not to force matters. This approach paid off and it was gratifying to see the goals fly in.

In the first encounter of the season, and after only two training sessions, we travelled to St Edward's and lost 2 – 5. After going behind early on, we had to chase the game and left ourselves

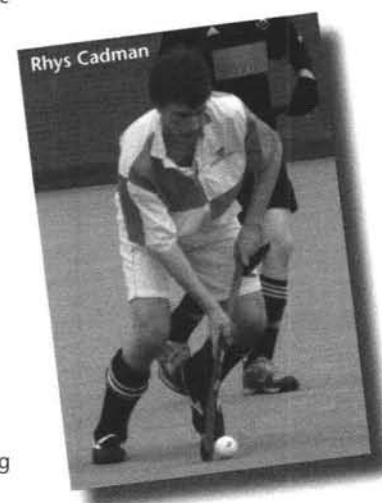
exposed at the back. This game highlighted our lack of organisation and the importance of putting away short corners.

Next up was a new block fixture against Repton, who we knew from reputation would be a strong hockey school. Repton proved to be just that and looked sharper and more direct with the ball, playing with a pace in attack we found hard to deal with. Well-taken goals from **Seb Wilson** and **Adam Paxton** kept us in the game, but Repton ran out 7 – 4 winners.

The match against Dean Close saw **Tom Green** make his debut for the 1st XI. It was to be a very scrappy encounter, but the nature of the contest enabled Abingdon to get a hold of the game and compete well. The match was not without incident as both teams had men leaving the field, and there was disappointment too as Abingdon put the ball in the goal twice. That luck continued into the Stowe match and the game ended in a draw, a result I suspect both teams came away feeling frustrated with.



Hugh Graham



Rhys Cadman



Rhys Cadman (left) and Seb Wilson (right)

We then took the long trip down to Bristol to play Clifton College. It proved to be a worthwhile journey as not only was it our first win, but it was also a pivotal moment in turning around our results for the season. We played with pace and ambition, creating a host of chances. **Adam** and **Seb** looked dangerous up front and there was also a good display in the second half by **Andrew Partridge**, making his 1st XI debut in goal.

This was followed up by two high-scoring wins against Bloxham and Bradfield, 6 – 4 and 7 – 4 respectively. The game against Bloxham saw Abingdon fly out of the blocks to lead 5 – 0 at half time. **Rhys Cadman** and **Charlie Lester** slotted home before the break, only to allow Bloxham back into the game in the second half, in a match littered with errors from both sides. Against Bradfield we controlled possession and were able to apply a good deal of pressure to the opposition. This saw Abingdon score seven goals in an impressive display, with **Seb** and **Chris** finding the target.

The match against local rivals MCS was played on a bouncy astroturf at Banbury Road, meaning both teams struggled to move the ball and possession was given away cheaply. This made for a hugely entertaining match as neither side was in control for any length of time. With end-to-end action and goals being scored at both ends, the score was level at 4 – 4 with a couple of minutes to go. The stage was set for skipper, **Chris**, to step up and settle things after a solo run saw him bury a strike from the top of the D.

There was another big game to follow against Radley, who had by this stage been on an unbeaten run. We were never allowed to impose our style of play on the game and were outplayed by a composed Radley side.

Going into the last match against King Edward's we had won four and lost four and the boys seemed intent on securing a winning season. This was a frustrating day and we were unable to convert some of the chances that were on offer, going down 2-4.

In the county championship we were looking to match last year's success and go on to represent Oxfordshire at the regional tournament. The day started well with wins against St Edward's

and Bloxham, with **Bilal Yassine** pulling out some fine saves in goal to allow us to progress into the final. This proved to be a game too far and Radley came out on top to take the title.

Huge credit should go to all those boys who represented the 1st XI over the course of the season. I was impressed with the way they collectively set about turning around the team's fortunes, by working harder in training and encouraging each other to develop. This attitude was rightly rewarded by some excellent results in the latter half of the season and they should all take credit for this.

Chris Boyle has been a great addition to the coaching staff this year and in particular the work he has done with the goalkeepers. Both he and I look forward to building on the success gained this year, with eight of the squad returning.

Steve Benchley

The Roche Cup was awarded to **Charlie Lester**
Full Colours to **Chris Newman**, **Charlie Lester** and **Chris Halford**

Squad:

Chris Newman (Captain), **Chris Halford (Vice Captain)**, **Jonathan Bayfield**, **Adam Paxton**, **Seb Wilson**, **Rhys Cadman**, **Charlie Lester**, **Jamie Soames**, **Peter Stradling**, **Tom Green**, **Hugh Graham**, **Alex Hamilton**, **Bilal Yassine**, **Andrew Partridge**

1st XI Results

St Edward's	L	2-5
Repton	L	4-7
Dean Close	L	0-2
Stowe	D	3-3
Clifton College	W	4-1
Bloxham	W	6-4
Bradfield College	W	7-4
MCS	W	5-4
Radley	L	1-5
KES	L	2-4

2nd XI Hockey

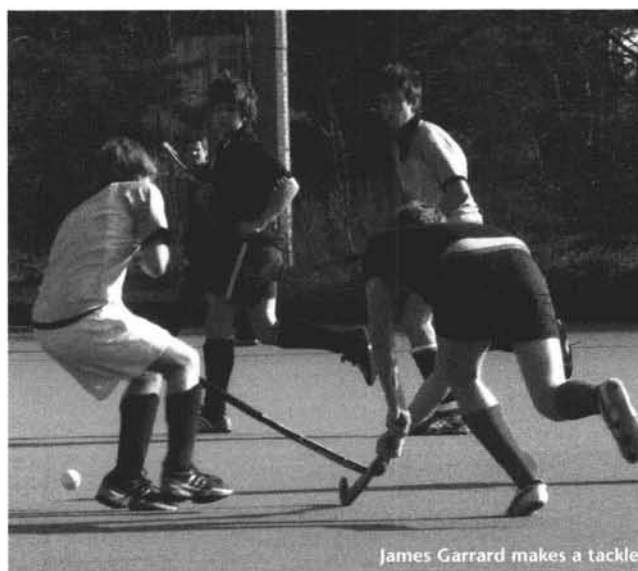
As I write this and think back over the season's hockey, I don't think the results reflect the quality of hockey that we played. The Abingdon fixture list has improved in quality over the last few seasons and we have very few matches that can be guaranteed as wins. Some of our best results were against traditionally strong hockey schools, such as the draw against Dean Close and the 0-1 loss to Repton. Against Radley we never gave up and played good containing hockey against a team that was both fitter and had better skills. The loss to Magdalen College School was disappointing – **Joshua Ogle** scored a cracking goal to put us ahead but then we lost control in mid-field and they came back. The final play of the game gave them a controversial penalty flick from which they scored. Clifton College were a team of similar standard but we dropped to their level, didn't link well with each other, failed to build attacks and passed badly! Against Bloxham, we played much better as a team, defended well and deserved our win.

As seems to be the rule now with 2nd XIs we were not a settled team, with forced changes between matches made because of selection changes in the 1st XI, owing to university open days, illness and even driving lessons! It was disappointing to lose a number of last year's team to association football. **Jared Kangwana** led the team well and didn't stop running all season but lacked a suitable attacking partner and didn't score as many goals as I'd hoped he would. **Harry Hole**, in goal, played every match and was a steady influence on the defence. **Stuart Robertson**'s bulldog-like marking kept many centre-forwards quiet, while **Edward Barrett** improved all term to become a first choice defender. **Alec Plint** is a class act, able to read a game, and with improved distribution he will make a very good player. **Oliver May** worked hard through the term and with more confidence going forward will make a good back. **James Cookson**'s speed is his greatest strength but he lacks ball control skill and doesn't always exercise appropriate judgement about when to go forward. **Joshua Ogle** had moments of brilliance but was often too laidback; I hope he will take more responsibility next season. **William Cullen** likes to play in attack but enthusiasm isn't always enough against fast and solid defending. I still think he



would make a better wing-half or mid-fielder. **Thomas Rutland**, playing his third season for the 2nds, was a true utility player and often looked fearsome running with the ball at a defender, only to lose the ball at the last minute! **James Garrard** was as determined and as powerful in mid-field as ever; he aimed to dominate the play and as the timing of his tackles improved during the season he had some excellent games.

James Nairne



James Garrard makes a tackle

Squad:

Jared Kangwana (C), Harry Hole, Oliver May, Stuart Robertson, Edward Barrett, Alec Plint, James Cookson, Nick Li, Richard Parker, James Garrard, Joshua Ogle, Thomas Rutland, William Cullen, Matthew Purcell, Parathan Rabindran, Thomas Blakey.

2nd XI Results

St Edward's	L	1-5
Repton	L	0-1
Pangbourne	Cancelled	
Dean Close	D	0-0
Stowe	L	1-5
Clifton College	L	0-2
Bloxham	W	3-1
Bradfield College	D	2-2
Magdalen College School	L	1-2
Radley	L	1-5
Rendcombe 1st XI	L	1-2
King Edward's School, Southampton	D	2-2

3rd XI Hockey

The 3rd XI hockey team has always been one of mixed ability and this year was no exception. The original squad was small, having only about seven people who had actually signed up, but over the week the numbers increased. Having gained in popularity with the footballers in the Upper Sixth, the results gradually got better. The season started off well with the victory against St Edward's where we were the only senior team to win. This victory was largely down to some help from the footballers, **Greg Salmon** getting his name on the score sheet and **Zhongjie Dong** keeping a clean sheet in goal. From there the results started to slip, with fixtures against Cheltenham College, Dean Close and Stowe. Two of these games were marred by injuries: **Henry Freeland** lost half a tooth against Cheltenham, which was a big blow, and **Sahaj Sethi** took a shot to the head. There were, however, good performances from the team, notably from **Oliver Morrison, Ed Pattison** and

Adam Withnall, all of whom were key members of the team. The season began to improve from here on. We played Bloxham at home on a very muddy War Memorial field, winning fairly comfortably with goals from **Andrew Bell** and **Timothy West**. **Bruce Christiansen** and **Andrew La Forte** continued to form our rock-solid defence. The next game was also a success, winning 2-1 against Bradfield College. From here we went on to face Magdalen College School. This was a well-fought game, again using outside players. **Charles Tucker** proved extremely useful and **Stuart White** and **Shanx Tandon** ran circles around their defence. Our defence again proved solid, with **Oliver Trotman** putting in an excellent defensive performance, as did the ever-improving **Richard Lai**. After a fairly long break it was time to face our ultimate test and play Radley. This was a game that all of us were ready for and it was our strongest team that faced a hard-hitting Radley side. After two early goals from **Andrew Bell**, we lost concentration and conceded late on in the second half despite the efforts of **Greg Palmer** and **Zhongjie Dong**. In the penultimate game of the season we travelled to Rendcomb to play their second team. Despite all our best efforts, we managed to concede four somewhat lucky goals in the first half. In the second half things were better with **Sam Johnston** getting his name on the score sheet. Facing formidable opposition in the form of KES, Southampton, the 3rd XI went into the game with the intention of limiting the damage. After a strong start, it seemed that it was going to be our day. An early goal from **Andy Bell** gave us an unexpected lead and we continued to frustrate a clearly skilful and talented team. Another goal from **Andy** before half time gave us a 2-0 lead and we expected a comeback to start straight away. KES tried but failed to threaten our goal and, seizing any opportunity to attack, we pressured them. Another goal from **Andy Bell** was matched by two from **Will Cullen** and these were helped and supported by the mid-field with **Olly Morrison**, **Henry Freeland**, **Ed Pattison** and even an attacking **Bruce Christiansen**. Abingdon continued to keep the pressure up and having survived a final attack (with the defence of **Adam Withnall**, **Andrew La Forte** and **Sahaj Sethi** holding firm) one last attack resulted in a goal from **Jack Ambler**. This 6-0 win rounded off our best performance of the season. Many thanks to all the team and to **Mr Evans** for making it an exceptionally enjoyable season.

Jack Ambler 7 DRM

Squad:

Jack Ambler, Andrew Bell, Bruce Christiansen, Alex Corps, Will Cullen, Zhongjie Dong, Henry Freeland, Sam Johnston, Andrew La Forte, Richard Lai, Oliver Morrison, Greg Palmer, Edward Pattison, Gregory Salmon, Sahaj Sethi, Shanx Tandon, Oliver Trotman, Timothy West, Stuart White, Adam Withnall

3rd XI Results

St Edward's	W	3-0
Cheltenham College	L	0-2
Dean Close	L	0-2
Stowe	L	0-2
Clifton College	L	0-3
Bloxham	W	5-1
Bradfield College	W	2-1
MCS	W	1-0
Radley	L	2-3
Rendcomb	L	2-5
KES, Southampton	W	6-1

Senior Colts B XI Hockey

A large Colts hockey squad reflected a certain sporting strength in depth at Abingdon this year. Although the A team more or less picked itself, there were enough competent hockey players available for us to be optimistic about achieving a winning season in the Bs – and this turned out to be the case.

The term started with a draw against St Edward's. Despite dominating the first half, we failed to kill off the opposition and found ourselves very much on the back foot as the match drew to a close and the result, 1 – 1, was a fair one. The long wait for the next match, away at Clifton College, was rewarded by a comprehensive victory. Despite several first choice players being unavailable, the team soon settled. The captain, **Nicholas Howe**, was in fine form in mid-field, creating a lot of space for the forwards and we looked like scoring a lot of goals. **Tertius Alberts**, a goalkeeper most A teams would be pleased to have, was not going to be beaten too often so a 4-1 scoreline did not flatter us. **Harry Porter**, always in the right place at the right time, scored a hat trick, and **Guy Cutting** as ever put his speed to good use for the other goal. In the Bradfield College match we could have played all weekend and still not scored – luckily the opposition was not much better and a 0 – 0 draw was the outcome. The next match, at Radley College, was our only defeat, but paradoxically our finest hour. Against easily the best opposition of the term, the team suffered a narrow 2-3 defeat and were putting the Radley goal under significant pressure at the final whistle. **William Shrier**, **Thomas Buffery** and **Thomas Devlin** all did great work in defence and **Alexander Kempell** at last performed close to his potential in mid-field. The work rate and team spirit in this match were outstanding and came so close to getting us a result. The season ended with a fairly comfortable win, 3 – 1 at home to Rendcomb, and with **George Dugdale** having a better idea of where the goal was than in previous matches!

As well as those mentioned above, the following represented the team at least once:

Alex Baboolal, **Dominic Berry**, **Oliver Boddie**, **William Chang**, **Lewis Davis-Poynter**, **Jamie Laidlaw**, **James Manasseh**, **Thomas Ryan**, **Matthew Stafford** and **Jack Trotman**.

Long-term health problems robbed **James Manasseh** and **Jack Trotman** of a satisfactory hockey season and the team of two of its strongest players – and good luck to them in all future sporting endeavours. Further frustrations felt by the team and their coach were a shortage of fixtures compared with the previous year, and an inability to make the most of training sessions. Despite all that, we had some great moments and I would like to thank **Nicholas Howe** and the rest of the team for their contributions – and I will leave them with the thought that if they continue with their hockey, and improve as much relative to the school just outside Abingdon as they did since the 2006 fixture, then they will beat them by 5 or 6 goals next year.

Douglas Aitken

Senior Colts B XI Results

Rendcomb	W	3-1
Radley	L	2-3
Bradfield College	D	0-0
Clifton College	W	4-1
St Edward's	D	1-1

Junior Colts A XI Hockey

The playing record for the season does not read particularly well, but is that a genuine measure of a successful season? It is certainly what most people turn to when considering success, but it is also about player development and team performance. This team, on paper, has tremendous talent and potential, but harnessing that is sometimes quite a challenge for both players and coach alike. There are two players in particular who stand out in terms of their personal triumphs. **James Carter** took on his role as a defender and worked incredibly hard to develop not only his individual technical skills but also his tactical awareness. He adopted a dogged approach, never giving up. **Will Hutton** grew in confidence during the course of the season, working impressively hard to develop his tackling technique and the understanding of his role as an attacking defender.

One of the most important lessons that the squad learnt was the importance of playing together as a team. When they concentrated and did the basics well they looked sublime, but at other times they looked fragmented as they tried to run with the ball. The performance of the season was against Bradfield where they shifted the ball around at pace, never allowing the opposition to settle. As a result they created opportunities in front of goal that they were then able to finish off.

The other important lesson was that of concentration. Small lapses in this area can be incredibly costly, as they found out on more than one occasion. The ability to communicate with each other in an effective manner is critical, especially in terms of organising the defence. Each individual needs to take responsibility, remembering that the forwards are the first line of defence. Consistency in defensive performance came from **Callum Keown**, who reads the game incredibly well, picking off the ball with regularity and being able to clear the defensive lines.

This season will serve as a very good learning experience for each and every individual in the squad, hopefully allowing them to move forward, having developed a greater understanding of the game.

Andrew Hall

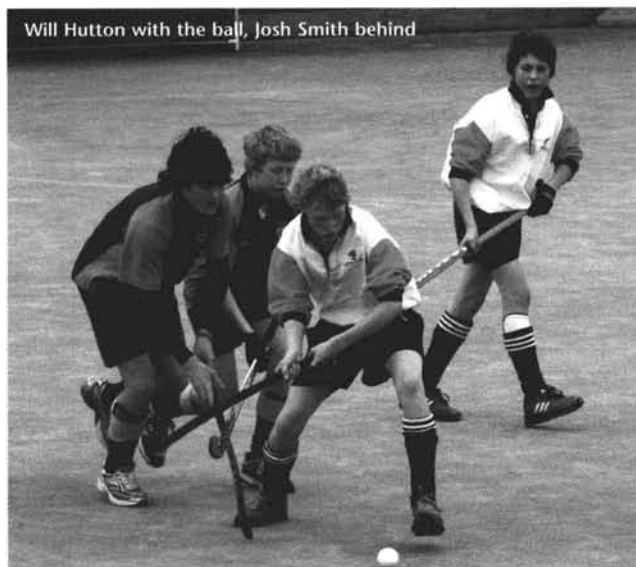
Squad:

Ben Juffkins, Callum Keown, Veeral Manek, James Carter, Joshua Smith, Will Hutton, Nat Watkins, Freddie Howe, Peter Ryan, Edd Howe, Alex Veale, Joe Kempton, Joel Collins

Junior Colts A XI Results

St Edward's	L	3-4
Repton	L	0-2
Dean Close	L	1-3
Stowe	W	1-0
Clifton College	D	2-2
Bloxham	D	3-3
Bradfield College	W	4-1
MCS	D	1-1
Radley	L	1-4
KES, Southampton	L	0-5

Will Hutton with the ball, Josh Smith behind



Junior Colts B XI Hockey

We had a successful season under the watchful eye of our coach, **Mr Drummond-Hay**. It was frustrating to draw so many games but we did come from behind on several occasions to force the draw. Perhaps our most notable performance was against Repton where, after a long journey, we managed to secure a win against a well-drilled side. Our last game, against KES, Southampton, a 1-2 defeat against what was undoubtedly our strongest opposition, was a good indicator of how much we had improved during the season. All in all, this was a most enjoyable season where the positives substantially outweighed the negatives and I hope we can carry this forward to next season.

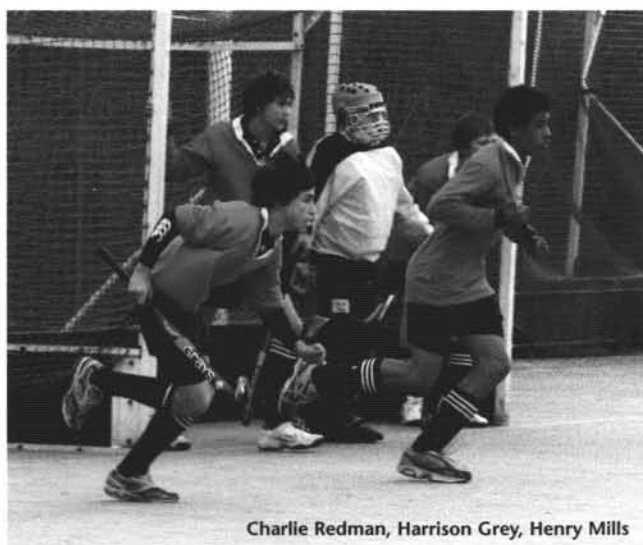
Dylan Robinson 4 NJOD

Squad:

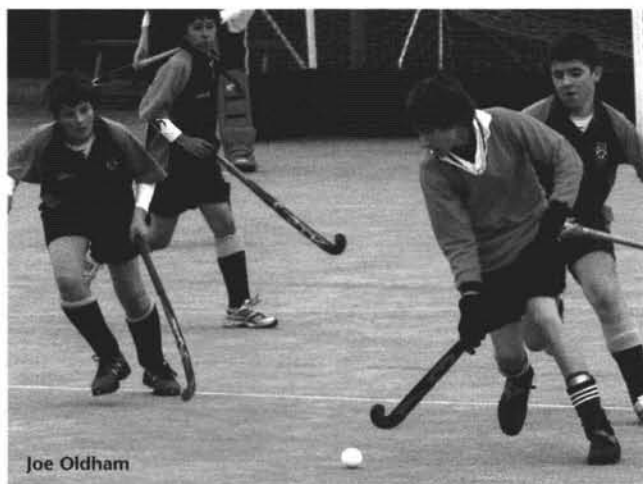
Jonathan Ient, Harrison Gray, Charlie Redman, Robert Henley, James Edwards, Henry Mills, Oliver Read, Joe Oldham, Dylan Robinson (Captain), Joel Collins, Ben Read, Bobby Aigbogun, Edward Callow

Junior Colts B XI Results

St Edward's	D	1-1
Repton	W	1-0
Dean Close	D	1-1
Stowe	L	2-3
Clifton	W	4-0
Bloxham	W	2-1
Bradfield	D	2-2
MCS	D	1-1
Radley	L	1-3
KES	L	1-2



Charlie Redman, Harrison Grey, Henry Mills



Joe Oldham

Junior Colts C XI Hockey

It is rare for the Junior Colts C hockey team to get much recognition, but in the final School assembly of the Lent term they received praise from the Headmaster. This was due to the fact that they had finished the term as the only hockey team to be unbeaten, including a 5-0 victory over Radley and a 13-0 thumping of Cheltenham College.

Throughout the previous season, the team had been blighted by problems in goal and had made its way through various goalkeepers. Things did not seem to have improved when at the start of the 2007 season there were only two apparent goalkeepers. **Jonathan Ient** stepped forward to fill the gap, having never played in that position before. He rose to the occasion and soon developed into a fine goalkeeper, even stepping up into the Junior Colts B team for a few matches. During that time, **Harry Strong** continued the fine work of **Jonathan**, remaining solid at the back. Overall, the team let in only four goals, three of which came in a tight game with Stowe – a fine achievement by both goalkeepers and defenders alike.

The defence usually picked itself as there were a few regulars who always made sure that **Jonathan** and **Harry** had very little to do. **Richard Meadows** was always darting up the right-hand side in an Ashley Cole-like role, whilst also defending with grit. **Henry Kibble** was always a fine performer at centre-back, whilst **Richard Moon** started off the season at left-back but moved into the sweeper role whenever required. **Jasper Marlow** and **James Pickard** playing in defence always gave solid performances – **Jasper** demonstrating his versatility by also playing on the left, in the centre, and as a defensive half.

Before moving up to the Junior Colts B, **Joe Oldham** was a fine defensive half, providing safety for the defence but also running up into attack to destructive effect. In mid-field, **Robbie Winearls** was a fantastic captain, as well as having a devastating hit on him as he ran in from the right-hand side.

The front line changed throughout the season as players moved up and down to and from the B team. **Charlie Redman** led the line in the first match but was soon called up to the Bs as a defender. **Ben Read** scored a number of goals before he too was snapped up, as was **Ollie Read**, who only lasted one game for the Junior Colts C. **James Plumb** performed well up front before covering for **Joe Oldham** at defensive half, a position also covered by **James Baldwin**, who also supported the front men, as well as scoring a few goals himself. **Johnny Bartlett** and **Alex Beech** both helped out the Junior Colts C as well as the teams above. **Henry Beggin** provided some pace up front in a number of games. The flexibility, determination and enthusiasm of all those involved meant that a number of people played in a variety of positions, but they gave everything that they had and the results came from that.

Other players who deserve a mention for the part that they played in this outstanding season are **Will Lloyd** and **Euan Campbell**, who even played one game in goal owing to a last-minute emergency. **Ted Thompson** and **Andrew Doll** both developed hugely over the course of the season and demonstrated that they will be pushing for places in School teams in the coming years. **Daniel Boddington** also deserves a mention for the constructive goalkeeping/coaching role that he took on with **Jonathan Ient**.

Overall it was a great season. Congratulations to all those who played some part in it.

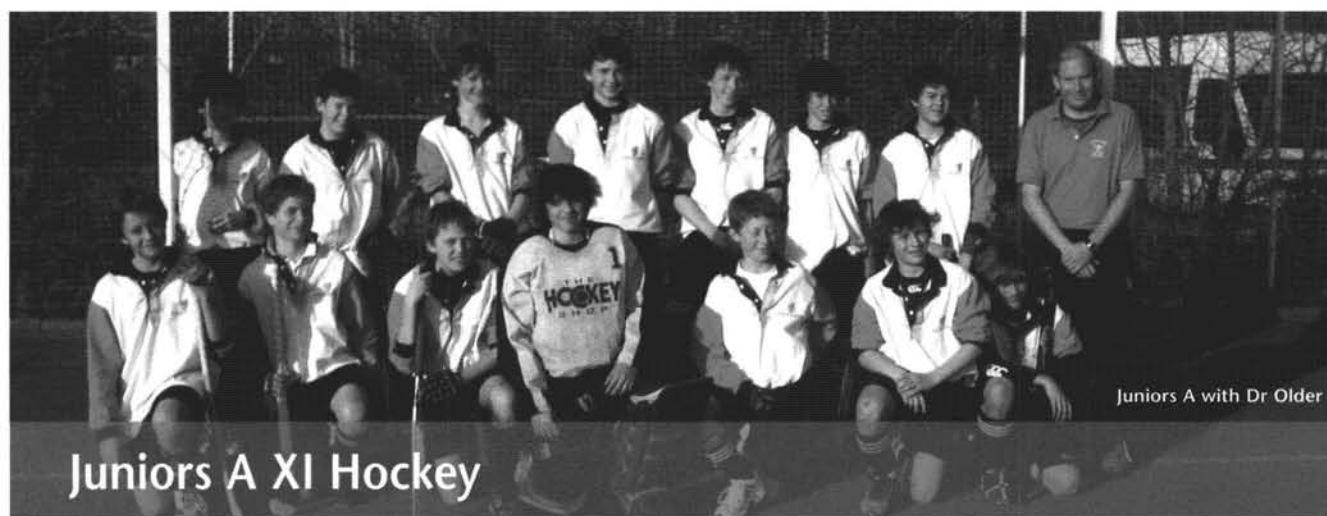
Jon Barker

Squad:

Harry Strong, Jonathan Ient, Euan Campbell, Richard Meadows, Richard Moon, James Pickard, Henry Kibble, Jasper Marlow, Joe Oldham, Robbie Henley, Charlie Redman, Henry Beggin, Ted Thompson, Andrew Doll, Will Lloyd, Alex Beech, James Baldwin, Ben Read, Ollie Read, Johnny Bartlett, Robbie Winearls

Junior Colts C XI Results

St Edward's	W	1-0
Cheltenham College	W	13-0
Stowe School	W	4-3
Bloxham	W	1-0
Bradfield College	W	3-1
Radley	W	5-0



Juniors A with Dr Older

Juniors A XI Hockey

The Juniors As' season was one of mixed performances and too many defeats for the effort we put in. After two training sessions we were straight into the fixture schedule with a game against St Edward's. Our performance was mainly lacklustre and our finishing was not great. We went down 1-5, **Chris Green** getting on the score sheet. So we had to pick ourselves up for the visit of Repton. A poor first-half performance saw us 0-2 down before **Sam Clarke-Warry** got us back in. Despite some excellent hockey and buckets of energy, we lost 1-3.

The third game of the season saw us come up against Dean Close. They were a well-drilled side and we found ourselves down 0-2 early on, but goals from **Chris Green** and **Marc Woolley** gave us a well-deserved draw. The next day was the county championships at Bloxham. This was an excellent test of effort for all, considering we played four matches on the bounce, winning one, drawing one and losing two.

Half term was a welcome break and we came back with a fixture against Clifton College. This was our poorest performance of the season and we went down 1-4, **Chris Green** again getting on the score sheet. The following Wednesday we played away at Bloxham. Despite the driving rain we played some of our best hockey of the term, passing and moving quickly. We were very unlucky to go down 0-1 from a short corner.

Having not won a block fixture all term, we went into the game against Bradfield College more determined than ever. As usual we found ourselves down early on and were 0-2 down at half-time. But this was the turning-point. We pulled out an awesome performance in the second half, scoring five un-answered goals from **Marc Woolley** (2), **Chris Green** (2) and **Mark Francis**.

With a win under our belts we went into the game against MCS with extra confidence. This again was a poor performance: we never got going and the absence of our talismanic figure, **Chris Green**, didn't help our cause. But after the poor performance

against MCS we were more fired up to beat local rivals Radley in the next game. For the first time in the season we went ahead as a result of a scrappy goal from **Mark**. But Radley came back at us, scoring twice before half-time. Early on in the second half we were 1-3 down before a wonderful passage of play saw us get back on level terms, through **Chris** and **Mark**. However, a short corner at the end of the game was our downfall. We were slow out of the blocks and conceded right at the death. This was a gutting result considering the effort that had been put in.

So we came to our last game of the season, away at King Edward's School, Southampton. They were a very good side, passing the ball well and finishing their chances clinically. We lost 3-4, **Chris** (two penalty flicks) and **Jonny Bouchier** getting on the score sheet, but really we were outplayed by the better side.

The season ended with a team meal in Oxford. **Chris Green** was deservedly voted the Player of the Season for his dribbling, goals, tackling and brilliant flair. Our goalkeeper, **Jack Perry**, was awarded Most Improved Player of the Season for his priceless saves on countless occasions and real development through the season.

Our season was one of disappointment but we can take a lot of positives from it. Finally I think we should thank **Dr Older** for his hard work in coaching us this season. He has given us huge amounts of energy throughout the season and really helped us to develop our game.

Mark Francis 3 JPCB
Captain

Squad:

Jack Perry, David Grant, Matt Roberts, Jonty Cook, Ed Kempell, Chris Moore, Jonny Bouchier, Chris Green, Mark Francis (C), Marc Woolley, Sam Clarke-Warry, Toby Blong, John Mulvey, Sam Bowers



Juniors A XI Results

St Edward's	L	1-5
Repton	L	1-3
Dean Close	D	2-2
Clifton College	L	1-4
Bloxham	L	0-1
Bradfield College	W	5-2
MCS	L	0-3
Radley	L	3-4
KES	L	3-4

Juniors B XI Hockey

The season had its highs and lows, but through it all the Juniors B Wanted to Improve their hockey and eNjoy their hockey (but read between the lines ...).

The team started well with two 2-0 wins in a row against St Edward's and Repton, captain **Andy Russell** leading the way by scoring the first goal of the season. After these two games we faced a very strong Dean Close team who gave us our first defeat of the season. Nevertheless, owing to strategic absences, goalie **Jack Trodd** maintained a clean sheet for the first half of the season.

We trained hard to improve the mistakes we had made against Dean Close and, despite missing some key players and our coach, **Mr Butler**, we had our best win of the season against Clifton College, 4-1, **Ed Arnold** notching up his second goal of the season.

Sadly, the season subsequently went downhill. **Henry Gibson** and **Daniel Bayley** played especially well against Bloxham but, despite an impressive fighting spirit from the whole team, the final score was 2-3. We then lost three more games, including bad defeats to Radley (0-6), Bradfield (0-4) and MCS (0-3). Through it all, the defence of **Rajan Sehmi**, **Matthew Roberts**, **Tom Fishpool** and **Matthew Haywood** remained determined and competitive.

Nevertheless, these losses made the final 2-1 victory against King Edward's School, Southampton even sweeter, especially for **Hugh Brash** and **Henry Gibson**, who scored their first and last goals of the season.

With five goals, **Digby Coulson** was the top scorer of the season. **Andy Russell** was awarded Player of the Season, and **Henry Gibson** the Most Improved Player of the Season.

Andy Russell 3 JPW

Squad:

Digby Coulson 5, Ed Arnold 2, Andy Russell 1, Sam Bowers 1, Daniel Bayley 1, Henry Gibson 1, Hugh Brash 1

Juniors B XI Results

St Edward's	W	2-0
Repton	W	2-0
Dean Close	L	0-3
Clifton College	W	4-1
Bloxham	L	2-3
Bradfield College	L	0-4
MCS	L	0-3
Radley	L	0-6
King Edward's, Southampton	W	2-1

Juniors C XI Hockey

The U14 Cs enjoyed a slightly up and down season, with one win, one draw and two defeats. However, as the season progressed the team definitely improved and there were some excellent individual performances. There was also always an enormous amount of effort, and this was epitomised in the last match of the season where we were one man short.

Chris Audley was a solid goalkeeper and produced some match-winning saves when required. **Campbell Garland** put in crucial tackles and was ever-present in defence. **William Summers**, **Daniel Miles** and **Clym Buxton** formed a resilient defence with **Campbell** as sweeper.

James Bater was a dangerous and hard-working left mid-fielder, as was **Freddie Miles** on the right. **Ben Brazel** was always present in the centre of mid-field and **James Cross** added steel and leadership.

Stephen Horlock and **Michael Butcher** formed an intuitive partnership up front with **Stephen** a constant threat and **Michael** always there to apply the finishing touch.

Ben Brazel 3 SRW

Squad:

Digby Coulson 5, Ed Arnold 2, Andy Russell 1, Sam Bowers 1, Daniel Bayley 1, Henry Gibson 1, Hugh Brash 1

Juniors C XI Results

Radley	L	0-3
Bradfield College	L	0-2
Cheltenham College	W	2-1
St Edward's	D	1-1



1st XI Cricket



Josh Smith

The 2007 cricket season began as one rich with promise for the First XI: the core of last year's side remained, the previous season had ended strongly and the winter nets programme had gone well. The side did indeed begin by playing well, but there is no doubt that the overwhelming feeling at the end of the season was one of frustration and disappointment: the weather was quite the worst I have known in any summer since taking up the game in my own youth! It is a testament to the side that it remained a pleasure to work with them throughout the summer, through the abandonment of matches against Stowe, Bloxham and Radley, the frequent Friday evening practices accompanied by constant drizzle and the abandonment of the festival at Birkenhead without a single ball being bowled. Cricket is the best game in the world – but not if it is raining.

There was no inkling of the summer to come at our first game against Eton's 2nd XI. A dreadful start, in which we gifted them two wickets in the second over of our innings, was followed by excellent and disciplined batting by **Nat Watkins** (57), in partnerships first with **James Manasseh** and then **Matt Pursell**. Good hitting by **Greg Salmon** and **Jamie Graves** at the end allowed us to set a decent target of 215 off our 50 overs. Eton's third-wicket partnership appeared to be seeing them home with some comfort as they reached 157 for 2, but we removed both batsmen on the same score to set up a very exciting finish. Eton needed 11 runs to win off the last over, with only one wicket in hand, and then 3 to win off the last ball. Happily, **Greg Salmon** struck with

his third wicket, giving us a victory by 2 runs. Prospects for the season looked good, with the team having fielded excellently and **Tim Deeks** marking his debut as opening bowler with 3 wickets.

The following week saw a facile victory by 10 wickets over a very weak Pangbourne side, who managed to score only 31 runs: the match was notable only for **Jamie Graves**'s bowling figures of 4 wickets for 2 runs. The following week we lost quite easily to a very strong Oratory side, although the game marked a welcome return to form for the captain, **Chris Halford**, as he made 62 at better than a run a ball, and an excellent bowling performance by **Watkins**, who took 6 wickets for 45. Then rain struck as first the Stowe match was abandoned quickly, though we already had them 26 for 3, and the following week, the Bloxham game was abandoned at the half-way point when they had reached 190 for 6.



Nat Watkins

The best game of the season followed, away at St Edward's. The almost ceaseless rain had made their pitch slow and difficult to bat on, so we had to go carefully to ensure we set a challenging target. **Watkins** again kept our effort together with a remarkably disciplined 41, with **Halford** and **Graves** again contributing vital runs as we reached a total of 178 in spite of **Salmon**'s comical run out. **Graves** and **Salmon** struck early in St Edward's reply, before a crucial run out and another 3-wicket haul for **Watkins**. However, it was only **Salmon**'s return, with 3 wickets takes, that sealed a closely-fought 20-run victory.

The following day saw the regional section of the national 20-20 competition at Stowe. It had been postponed by a week owing to the weather and as a result we were missing key

Back row Sahaj Sethi, Greg Salmon, Sam Fletcher, Max Neil, David Mills
Front row: Josh Smith (wk), Matt Pursell, Nat Watkins, Chris Halford (captain), Jamie Graves, James Manasseh, Tim Deeks



players, including **Nat Watkins**. However, we were glad to be playing in the sunshine for once and enjoyed victories in the first two games against Dauntseys and Shiplake. **Deeks** bowled particularly well, but two remarkable innings won these games, firstly a 30 not out from **Jonathan Bouchier** on debut, and secondly a rapid 76 from **Sahaj Sethi**, all the more commendable for being made in the face of incessant sledging from the opposition. However, in the decider, Stowe's much greater experience at this form of the game, combined with their greater athleticism in the field, gave them a fairly comfortable victory.

A narrow, low-scoring defeat followed for a weakened team on a difficult pitch against the Berkshire Gentlemen, and then a strong win by over 100 runs against RGS High Wycombe, in which **Watkins** gave a strong all-round performance with 61 runs and 4 wickets. The match at Radley was rained off at the half-way point, when we had dismissed them for 189 runs after a fine bowling and fielding performance. Another facile 10-wicket win against the South Oxfordshire Amateurs ensued, remarkable only for **Graves** surpassing his figures against Pangbourne, this time taking 4 wickets for no runs.

The next game marked the nadir of the season with a defeat against MCS. The match had to be switched to their ground owing to water having got under the covers on War Memorial Field. Collective madness struck our batting line-up and we were bowled out for a meagre 99 runs as we threw away wicket after wicket. Although we were almost saved by a heavy and prolonged rain shower, we deserved to lose and did so after the sun re-emerged. However, thanks to an inspired spell by **David Mills**, we had them 6 wickets down and had we managed to get just a few more runs we would probably have scored enough to win the game. Our final game was another defeat, but we made a much better showing this time



Sam Fletcher

and missed out narrowly against a strong MCC side. On another difficult wicket on War Memorial Field we struggled to 158, having at one stage been 19 for 3. After taking another 4 wickets, **Watkins** got us off to a good start in pursuit of the target with 31, but we lost wickets at a fast rate to find ourselves in trouble at 77 for 6. Then **Sethi**, **Graves** and **Deeks** batted with real application to take us very close: we finished 11 runs short.

This was to prove the last cricket of the season since the term ended as a damp squib in Merseyside. It had been a season for bowlers, with excellent performances from **Watkins** and **Salmon** in particular throughout the season. Conditions did not favour the batsmen and only **Halford** and **Watkins** amassed more than 100 runs. Next season we need to see much greater consistency from our whole line-

up: the core of our batting order will still be in the side, but they will need to support **Watkins** on a much more consistent basis if we are regularly to post high scores. A settled side again offers much hope for next year, but let's hope for better weather!

Chris Burnand

1st XI Results

2006 results!

Defeated Eton by 12 runs

Abingdon 150	Calnan-Shaw 62
Eton 138	Mills 5 for 12, Roche 4 for 30

Lost to Stowe by 18 runs

Stowe 138/9	Mills 3 for 27
Abingdon 120 all out	Canlan-Shaw 30, Roche 30

Draw to Bloxham (rain)

Bloxham 172/8	Watkins 3 for 29
Abingdon 82/6	Canlan-Shaw 50 not out

Lost to St. Edwards by 124 runs

St. Edwards 200/8 dec.	Mills 4 for 37
Abingdon 76 all out	

Lost to RGS High Wycombe by 8 wickets

Abingdon 202 all out	Watkins 62
RGS 203/2	

Defeated Radley by 9 runs

Abingdon 169 all out	Watkins 49
Radley 160 all out	Halford 3 for 21, Mills 3 for 25

Lost to MCC by 51 runs

MCC 136 all out	
Abingdon 85 all out	

Lost to Kloof High School (SA) by 108 runs

Kloof 266 all out	Mills 5 for 19
Abingdon 158 all out	Canlan-Shaw 42

2nd XI Cricket

The 2nd XI enjoyed a successful but soggy season. It was a great pity that their 100% record could not have been extended and that the rain prevented them taking on a Radley team that would have posed a greater challenge than some of their earlier fixtures. Success was based on solid upper-order batting: **David Spencer** and **Tom Blakey** proved to be a reliable opening pair; **Jamie Soames** and **Chris Newman** provided the class; and **Charles Quarterman** and **Sahaj Sethi** the fireworks to increase the run rate following up solid first-wicket partnerships.

The team fielded well and generally held their catches, the slip cordon providing positive encouragement for bowlers and fielders alike. **Parathan Rabindran** was the leading wicket taker, his flighted off-spin being too much for any middle-order batsmen trying to push the scoring along. The seamers all bowled tidy spells and took wickets. **Dylan Clive's** season was cut short by injury but **Guy Cutting** provided line and length while **Harry Wimborne**, **Charles Quarterman** and **Tom Blakey** tried to extract pace from some lifeless wickets.

Highlights of the season included **Harry Wimborne's** long-range direct hit to clinch the final wicket against Eton; an opening partnership of 149 between **Tom Blakey** and **Max Neil** against RGS High Wycombe; and 20/20-style hitting from **Sahaj Sethi** before his 1st XI call-up. The team had fantastic spirit, fully enjoying their cricket and encouraging new players to perform. **Charles Quarterman** captained the side and led by example both with bat and ball and in the field and nets. A number of this season's team should play 1st XI cricket next year. I look forward to seeing the others gel with some talented cricketers from the U15s.

Nick O'Doherty

Squad:

Charles Quarterman (c), **Thomas Blakey**, **Max Neil**, **David Spencer**, **Jamie Soames**, **Christopher Newman**, **Sahaj Sethi**, **Alex Fisher**, **Joshua Ogle**, **Andrew Partridge**, **Harry Wimborne**, **Guy Cutting**, **Parathan Rabindran**, **Dylan Clive**, **Faraz Naqvi**, **Michael Shaughnessy**

2nd XI Results

Defeated Eton by 2 runs

Abingdon 166-4	Spencer 47
Eton 164	Clive 4-24

Defeated Oratory by 112 runs

Abingdon 185-5	Sethi 54
Oratory 73	Wimborne 3-14, Rabindran 3-12

Defeated Bloxham by 50 runs

Abingdon 175-6	Sethi 54, Quarterman 47
Bloxham 125-7	Rabindran 3-21

Defeated St. Edwards by 36 runs

Abingdon 151 all out	Fisher 68
St Edward's 115	Rabindran 4-42, Quarterman 3-12

Defeated RGS High Wycombe by 76 runs

Abingdon 200-3	Blakey 97, Neil 50
RGS 124	Blakey 4-12, Rabindran 3-35

Matches against MCS, Radley and Stowe were abandoned owing to rain.

3rd XI Cricket

Our mission was to defend the mighty 3rds' unbeaten two-year record, which we managed to accomplish. The team was lead by the saviour of Abingdon School, **Mr Drummond-Hay**. The comments made by our coach during net sessions, matches, bus journeys and team meetings were truly inspirational – oh, and not forgetting his new shoes!

Beating very competitive sides such as MCS and Eton kick-started our season on a high, after which we encountered an astonishing range of cricketing experiences. We found that Pangbourne were waiting for us at their school, while we were waiting for them on our pitch. We won three matches in the last over, watched a spinner bowl a 13-ball over, and the support we enjoyed on upper field rivalled a boisterous crowd at Lord's. Stowe and Radley were matches that nearly ended in defeat but were fortunately called off for bad weather.

Our squad was extensive, as players moved up and down from the 2nds. Every player in the squad was committed and gave his all. Almost every wicket we captured sparked a party celebration. Those who played for the unbeaten 3rds will never be forgotten as the best team in the School. **Nick Li** captained the side and kept the team in good spirit despite never winning the toss; **Jack Ambler** was one of the solid performers who always spurred the team on in the field; **Sam Barton's** ability to bat and bowl made him one of the best all-rounders in the squad; and our wicket keeper, **Graham Forrest**, had a great season. **Alex Fisher's** last season of cricket before he replaces **Michael Owen** in the England team was inspirational; **Tim Gower** was our most consistent bowler, with best figures of 5 for 19; **Luke Himpson** was solid with the bat with a few big totals and always volunteered to bowl – and got hit for 20 on his first and last over! **Oliver May** was a keen bean and will make a good player next season, while **Oliver 'action man' Raban** got us big runs when they were needed quickly, and **Charlie Lester** took vital wickets we needed them. **Faraz Naqvi** hit balls out of the ground, and we have to thank him for getting the big scores which were a feature of many of our wins. Cameo roles played by **Andrew Partridge**, **Parathan Rabindran**, **Jamie Soames** and **William 'do you breathe in or out?' Clegg** provided good (comedy) value. **Alex Sharp's** highlights were his two wickets in one over, and his backchat in the field. **Ben Taylor's** 90 mph bowling will never be forgotten, while last but by no means least, **Harry Hole** boosted our sugar intake and scored for us in nearly every game.

I would like to thank all my team-mates for being a great squad. You all made the season enjoyable and we did it for Jeff's shoes, didn't we?

Nick Li 6 DE

3rd XI Results

Defeated MCS by 1 wkt

MCS 166 all out
Abingdon 172-9

Defeated Pangbourne by 56 runs

Abingdon 136 all out
Pangbourne 80 all out

Defeated Oratory by 4 wks

Oratory 106 all out
Abingdon 107-7

Defeated Bloxham by 2 wks

Bloxham 134 all out
Abingdon 135-8

Defeated St. Edwards by 41 runs

Abingdon 191-9
St. Edwards 132 all out

Junior Colts A XI Cricket

There is a great deal of talent within this age-group, backed up by good team spirit and plenty of enthusiasm, all of which contributed to a very successful season. Our match statistics showed that we played 15, won 11 and lost 3, with one game abandoned because of rain.

The season started strongly with a good victory over Eton's B XI thanks to some tight bowling and an explosive innings from **Robert Winearls** just when the game looked to be slipping away from us. His final 49 runs came off just 20 deliveries and he finished the game in style with a string of four exquisite boundaries off consecutive balls. Next came the challenge of taking on the Eton A XI in the first round of the national section of the Lord's Taverners Cup. Eton batted first and we were made to rue an early run-out opportunity as they posted a testing target of 195 for 40 overs, which could have been even more but for a superb throw from **Freddie Howe** to run out their star batsman with a direct hit from the boundary. Abingdon's reply started well with a century opening stand from **Joshua Smith** and **James Edwards**, but unfortunately another run out, just as Eton were starting to get panicky, halted what might have been a memorable victory and we fell disappointingly 11 runs short.

Next up were Oratory where some sloppy batting and poor shot selection from the top order reduced us to 5 for 5 and, despite some determined batting from **Jack Metcalfe** and the tail, a total of 120 was never likely to be enough on a good surface, and so it proved. Unfortunately the following game against Stowe had to be abandoned owing to rain midway through the first innings.

We started the game against Bloxham cautiously and in difficult conditions, but **James Edwards** and **Jack Metcalfe** capitalised on some wayward bowling in the middle of the innings and this allowed us to post a total we were always confident of defending. The final result was never in doubt once **George Rossiter** and **Stephen Poland** reduced them to 2 for 3 with an excellent display of controlled swing bowling. St Edward's came next and again some disciplined bowling restricted their total so that our target of just over 4 runs an over on a quick outfield at Cox's was very gettable. After the loss of two early wickets, **Robert Winearls** once again kick-started the innings in his usual hard-hitting style and although he threw his wicket away when in total control of the game, **George Rossiter** and **Michel Baumgart** batted sensibly to see the team home comfortably.

The side weren't at their best against Pangbourne. It was a hot afternoon, but nevertheless the opposition offered little threat and another comfortable victory was achieved, thanks largely to a solid innings of 48 from **Callum Keown**. Then came a disappointing defeat in a low-scoring game against RGS High Wycombe where, chasing a modest target of 102, a bizarre dismissal prompted a collapse from 42 for 0 to 79 all out.

The final game of our block fixtures was against Radley. After being put in to bat, we were well set for a score around the 200 mark until **Nathaniel Watkins**, who had held the innings together well, was unfortunately run out in a mix-up and the innings ended tamely with only 22 runs coming from the final 7 overs. However, this wasn't too costly as tight, disciplined bowling from all the bowlers, backed up by some excellent catching, never let Radley get into their stride and a convincing victory was achieved.

This year, for the first time, we entered the *Daily Telegraph* Under 15 20-20 Cup and although the early rounds were something of a mismatch, they helped to build confidence and get players used to the shorter form of the game. The first big test came in

Back Row (left to right): Jack Metcalfe, Stephen Poland, James Plumb, Oliver Read, Callum Keown, Joel Collins.
Front Row (left to right): Ben Read, George Rossiter, James Edwards, Michel Baumgart, John Bartlett.
In absentia: Robert Winearls, Freddie Howe, (Nathaniel Watkins, Joshua Smith)



the Oxfordshire final where we came up against MCS. **Nathaniel Watkins** and **Joshua Smith** saw off their opening attack sensibly before launching into the remainder of their bowling with a superb display of stroke play and placement in an opening stand of 118. The team went into the field full of confidence and the result was never in doubt from the moment **Stephen Poland** removed both their 'big guns' in his first over to leave them reeling at 3 for 2. Good bowling from everyone, supported by some sharp fielding, ensured that a comfortable victory was achieved. This took the team into the regional rounds and a trip to face Solihull on an artificial strip as a result of all the rain that had been falling. Solihull came out of the traps flying and raced to 45 off the first 6 overs, but an astute decision to take the pace off the ball coupled by a good catch off a rank long hop, which dismissed their key batsman, triggered a remarkable turnaround and they fell to 88 all out. In stark contrast, our reply stuttered to 11 for 2 before some intelligent batting from **Joshua Smith** and another explosive display of hitting from **Robert Winearls** took us to victory with 5 overs to spare. The semi-final was against Shrewsbury and unfortunately, owing to the tight schedule of both schools at the end of term, we had no choice but to venture over there in atrocious weather conditions with little chance of playing. This proved to be the case and the tie was decided by a short 5-a-side game in their indoor cricket school, which unfortunately we lost. This was a hugely disappointing way to exit a tournament and bring to an end our dreams of running out at Headingley in the national finals, especially as we had won all our games so convincingly up to that point and hadn't really been put to the test.

There is plenty of potential with the bat among the team, although there was a certain lack of consistency. The batsmen would do well to learn the importance of settling themselves in before going for their shots, and of not throwing their wicket away once they have got themselves set. The pick of the batsmen in the 'regular' team were **James Edwards** (302 runs, average 21), **Robert Winearls** (198 runs, average 26.8) and **Jack Metcalfe** (198 runs, average 22.4), whilst **George Rossiter** (175 runs, average 16.9), **Michel Baumgart** (88 runs, average 15) and **Callum Keown** (89 runs, average 9.89) all displayed potential and contributed useful innings at times.

The consistency and depth of the bowling in the side was a real strength, and the fact that the captain could call upon any one of 6 or 7 bowlers in each game gave great variety to the attack and always meant the side could maintain pressure on the batsmen, although it might have created difficulties in choosing which bowler to use at certain times! **Stephen Poland** (14 wks, average 11.9) and **John Bartlett** (10 wks, average 15.7) provided the pace to the attack and were ably supported by the nagging accuracy of **Ben Read** (17 wks, average 10.6) and the swing and variations in pace of **George Rossiter** (16 wks, average 13.8) and **Robert Winearls** (17 wks, average 12.8). Then, to round things off, there was the flight and guile of left arm spinners **Callum Keown** (12 wks, average 11.9) and **Nathaniel Watkins** (8 wks, average 10.1).

Fielding is often a part of the game players don't focus enough on, especially at a young age, but is essential to the success and morale of a team and this side have a certain buzz about them in the field that is great to see. **Freddie Howe** is a constant live-wire with excellent reactions and a real sense of purpose; **George Rossiter** and **Robert Winearls** have both excelled too; whilst **Callum Keown** provides a sense of competitiveness that helps to keep everyone alert and on their toes.

It has been a thoroughly enjoyable season. I hope the boys have learnt from their experiences and wish them well in the senior sides next year. I would like to add a final thank you to the many parents who have turned out in their numbers to support the team throughout the season.

Andrew Broadbent

Junior Colts A XI Results

Defeated Eton by 5 wks

Eton 135 all out	Stephen Poland 3 for 17
Abingdon 136 - 5	Robert Winearls 66 no

Lost to Oratory by 6 wks

Abingdon 120 all out	Jack Metcalfe 35
Oratory 121 - 4	

Stowe Abandoned

Abingdon 72-3

Defeated Bloxham by 110 runs

Abingdon 172 - 4	James Edwards 64, Jack Metcalfe 38
Bloxham 62 all out	Callum Keown 3 - 6

Defeated St. Edwards by 5 wks

St Edward's 155 - 9	Stephen Poland 3 - 10
Abingdon:157 - 5	Robert Winearls 41

Defeated Pangbourne by 5 wks

Pangbourne 120 - 3	
Abingdon 121 - 5	Callum Keown 48

Lost to RGS High Wycombe by 22 runs

RGS 101 all out	
Abingdon 79 all out	

Defeated Radley by 45 runs

Abingdon 157 - 9	Nat Watkins 62
Radley 112 all out	Robert Winearls 3 - 11

LORD'S TAVERNERS COUNTY COMPETITION

Lost to Eton by 11 runs

Eton: 194 - 6	
Abingdon: 183 - 7	

Oxfordshire 20/20 Cup

Defeated Carterton by 140 runs	Abingdon: 172 - 5
	Carterton: 32 all out

Defeated Larkmead by 10 wks

Larkmead: 42 all out	
Abingdon: 48 - 0	

Defeated Shiplake by 58 runs

Abingdon: 145 - 4	
Shiplake: 87 all out	

Defeated Henry Box by 10 wks

Henry Box: 42 - 5	
Abingdon: 45 - 0	

Defeated MCS by 70 runs

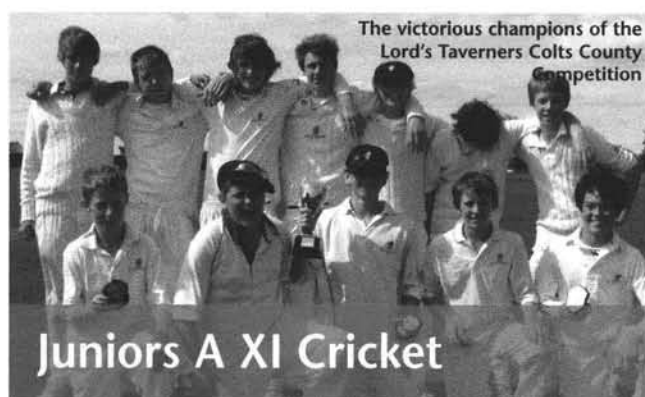
Abingdon: 128 - 2	
MCS: 58 all out	

Regional Quarter Final

Defeated Solihull by 8 wks	Solihull: 88 all out
	Abingdon: 89 - 2

Regional Semi-Final

Lost to Shrewsbury in bowl out



Juniors A XI Cricket

Of the four block fixture victories, one was by 1 run against Oratory – a nail-biting finish, after **William Sensecall** had scored an unbeaten century. There was a more convincing defeat of Bloxham, by 6 wickets, owing largely to **Jonathan Bouchier**'s four wickets, good team fielding and a quick-fire 53 by **Harry Copson** at the top of the order. And there were dominant wins against Pangbourne and RGS, with two 50s by **Jonathan Bouchier**.

We were well set for victories against Stowe and MCS, but rain, alas, thwarted our ambitions. The only draw was a declaration match against St Edward's, who chose to defend rather than chase our total, perhaps in awe of another **Jonathan Bouchier** 50 and four leg spin wickets by **Matthew Lake**.

Our two losses were not without glory with **Jonathan Bouchier** scoring another 50 against Eton and a magnificent 132 against Radley; we scored 182-8 and 190 respectively.

Lord's Taverners

We won all five matches by significant margins. The highlights were a second century by **William Sensecall** in the first round and an aggressive, lower order 39 not out by **Ben Stockwell** in the final.



The team was well led by **Jonathan Bouchier** and **William Sensecall**, who were also our leading batsmen and catchers. **Christopher Moore** was a reliable opening batsman. There was strength in the variety of bowling, with no less than seven bowlers, each taking 11 or more wickets at an average of less than 18 runs per wicket. There was a good balance of pace – **Tom Price**, who generally bowled straight, **Joshua Bull**, **Jonathan Bouchier**, **Harry Granger**, who was not limited by the width of the wicket, and **Ben Stockwell**, and spin – **Andrew Russell**, the most improved

bowler, with his off-breaks, and **Matthew Lake**, the leading wicket-taker and talker, with his 'leggies'.

Mark Francis took over as wicket keeper during the season and developed into an excellent and enthusiastic gloveman.

The players showed splendid team spirit and are to be congratulated on their personal qualities. A selfless concern for others was noticeable, **Mark Francis** and **Andrew Russell** being exemplary. It was great to see their enjoyment and love of the game.

Henry Kirk

Juniors A XI Results

Lost to Eton by 7 wickets

Abingdon 182-8	J Bouchier 54, W Sensecall 38
Eton 183-3	

Defeated Oratory by 1 run

Abingdon 190-2	W Sensecall 103 not out
Oratory 189-4	

Stowe Rain stopped play

Stowe 113	H Granger 3-12
Abingdon 28-0	

Defeated Bloxham by 4 wickets

Bloxham 110	J Bouchier 4-16
Abingdon 111-6	H Copson 53

St Edward's Draw

Abingdon 166-8 dec.	J Bouchier 57
St Edward's 94-6	M Lake 4-23

Defeated Pangbourne by 154 runs

Abingdon 194-7	J Bouchier 62
Pangbourne 40	J Bouchier 3-3, T Price 3-3

Defeated RGS High Wycombe by 8 wickets

RGS 84	A Russell 3-2, T Price 3-18
Abingdon 86-2	J Bouchier 58

Lost to Radley by 5 wickets

Abingdon 190	J Bouchier 132
Radley 193-5	

MCS Rain stopped play

MCS 101-8

LORD'S TAVERNERS COUNTY COMPETITION

Defeated St Birinus by 129 runs

Abingdon 218-5	W Sensecall 102, J Bouchier 48
St Birinus 89	M Lake 3-26

Defeated Larkmead by 9 wickets.

Larkmead 45	H Granger 4-9, B Stockwell 3-6
Abingdon 46-1	

Defeated Oxford Community School by 62 runs.

Abingdon 150	J Bouchier 45
OCS 88	J Bull 3-9, T Price 3-10

Defeated Shiplake by 6 wickets [20-20 match]

Shiplake 79-6	A Russell 3-7
Abingdon 82-4	

Final:

Defeated Warriner by 45 runs

Abingdon 126	B Stockwell 36 not out
Warriner 81	M Lake 3-9

Abingdon are now through to the next stage of the competition, having been crowned as Oxfordshire County Champions.



Back row: Calum Smith, Charlie Studdy, Peter Allan, Andrew Hall, Oliver Bailey
Middle: Daniel Leach (Capt)
Front row: Rob Blong, Gregor Hearn, Michael Deane, Chris Hall, Finn Ryley

Minors A XI Cricket

'Lack of consistency can be detrimental.'

The opening game of the season, which was a cup match against King Alfred's, Wantage, started with a flourish. It saw **Peter Allan** recording the first half-century of the season, with the team scoring a very respectable 133 for 4 off their 20 overs. **Finn Ryley** set the tone for the bowlers by taking 4 wickets for 10 runs in his spell of 4 overs. Tight fielding and accurate bowling restricted the opposition to just 63 runs. An impressive start, but would they be able to continue this positive momentum?

In a rain-affected season, conditions were not always conducive to good cricket. Dull wickets and slow outfielders often made runs difficult to come by. It required a great deal of patience from the

batsmen, playing each ball on merit. Exactly what we failed to do against Summer Fields. On a slow track, we gifted our wickets to the opposition. We were all out for 86 runs off just 21 overs. Off 21 overs Summer Fields had scored only 71 runs but they had batted sensibly and had wickets to spare and we were beaten by 4 wickets. After difficult starts in the next few matches, the team gained a little momentum. However, the disappointing aspect was the lack of consistency in terms of individual performance. Fortunately, where some failed to shine, others succeeded, and so it continued throughout the season. Two notable performances came against New College School, where **Charles Studdy** swatted his way to 42 off just 24 deliveries, and **Sasha Barras** helped himself to a very impressive 5-wicket haul while conceding just 1 run in the 15 balls he bowled.



Gregor Hearn at the wicket



Peter Allan



Calum Smith, batting



Andrew Halls bowling

However, it was sometimes the less conspicuous performances that really made a difference. The innings that **Gregor Hearn** and **Toby Blong** played against New College came at a critical stage: the top order had come and gone but they stuck around, nudging the ball, taking quick singles, and ensuring that the remaining overs were not wasted, a task which they performed on other occasions as well. This was a great lesson for the team in terms of patience and control.

The inconsistency of the players made it very difficult for the captain, **Daniel Leach**. Bowling changes became tricky to implement. When in doubt, take the responsibility yourself, which he did. He bowled 34 overs during the season, which cost the team just an average of 2.9 runs per over, with 9 wickets being taken – a true display of leading by example.

Other notable performances came from **Michael Deeks**, who found opening form against RGS High Wycombe and sustained his form through to the Moultsford match and to that against St Birinus, where he carried his bat to secure victory. **Andrew Halls** scored a superb 44 against RGS to keep us in the game; **Calum Smith** waited until the Cup Final against Warriner School to find form, by top-scoring with 28 runs; and **Oliver Bailey** came good to take 4 wickets for 26 runs against RGS.

Overall, the season was a little fraught with rain abandonment and a lack of consistency. It will certainly serve as a learning experience. To have reached the final of the County Cup Competition was a tremendous achievement, which, I am sure, will help to inspire the team to raise their standards in future seasons.

Andrew Hall



Batsman Michael Deeks

1st and 2nd VIII Rowing



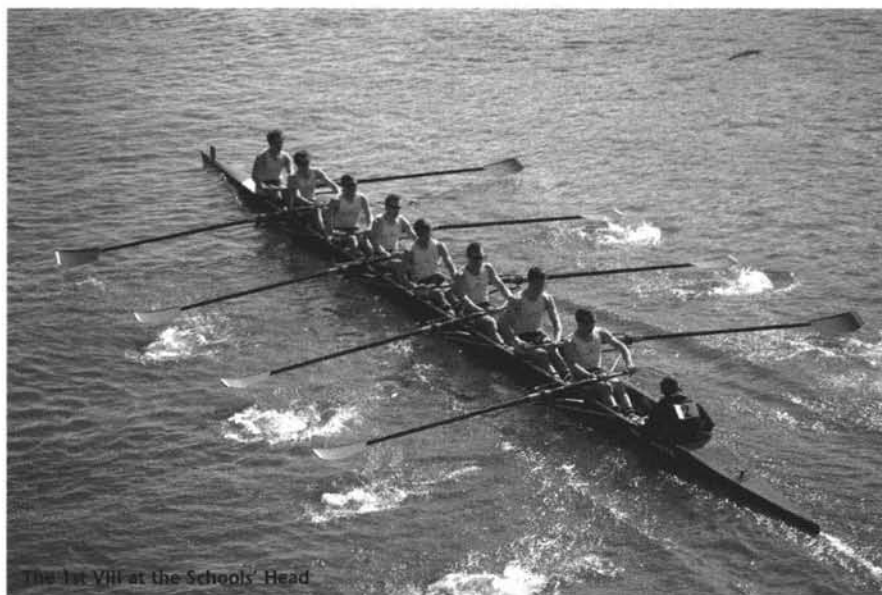
Training on the River Charles, Boston

The season started with great promise with a strong squad, training well. A trip to the USA in October to race in the Head of the Charles Regatta saw us just pipped by Eton College and only two seconds away from winning the High School Pennant. We are getting closer to that prize each year.

We started in earnest at Peterborough Head and had some pleasing results in pairs, IVs and VIIIs, although Eton did look strong. The Schools' Head race was mixed. The standard of competition in the school VIIIs in 2007 was very good. Plenty of crews had pace and ability, especially in the early part of the season. It was good to be ahead of most of the pack and we were

closer to Shrewsbury than in 2006 but we were disappointed with 3rd since it was only one second behind Radley. The 2nd VIII managed 4th place in their event, an improvement on 2006.

We had a very fruitful training camp at Le Temple-sur-Lot in south-western France and selected our crews for the summer. Wallingford Regatta saw us race in IVs with the 1st squad; **Matthew Rossiter** was busy winning a silver medal with the Great Britain Junior Team in Munich, his first international appearance – but not his last! It was good to win strongly in Junior and Senior 2 IVs. The 2nd VIII had a couple of disappointing races although they did qualify for the final.



The 1st VIII at the Schools' Head

We then crossed the channel for the Ghent Regatta in order to get some race experience – and we got it. Some boys did 72,000m racing in the two days. We performed very well in the men's open coxed IVs (Saturday) and U 23 IVs (Sunday), making the final and being very competitive: a second behind a Dutch university crew, Laga Delft, on Sunday. We also won the Junior VIIIs, coming home with a rather strange 'vase-like' trophy that could only hold very tall flowers. The 2nd VIII went to Bedford Regatta and were having a good day until they got entangled with a crew making their way to the start. Unable to re-row because of a spot of concussion, and a broken blade, Eton was given the verdict. The regattas are looking into their safety procedures in order to avoid such a problem again in the future.



Matthew Rossiter, a member of the British Gold Medal-winning coxless IV

National Schools' Vllls went, generally, to plan through the heats, with both Vllls looking strong in their semi-finals. In the final the 2nd Vlll did not get such a good start and were always playing catch-up. They ended out of the medals. The 1st Vlll were a bit too steady out of the blocks but squeezed their way into contention. Eton and Shrewsbury were having a titanic battle for 1st/2nd only two-thirds of a length ahead of Radley. With a very strong push we came right back on Radley but the finish line came a stroke or two early for us and we came fourth.

The Sunday at National Schools' Regatta brought some horrible weather, very windy and with heavy rain all day. The 1st IV raced in the Championship Coxed IV event and dominated. It was brilliant to watch the crew cruising through the semi-final well ahead of the chasing pack, and even better to see them repeat it in the final – Gold and the Hedsor Cup to Abingdon!

Back to School and on towards Henley. The 2nd Vlll re-shuffled and in came Nicolai Jürgens for Paddy Vickers. Since the 2nd Vlll can only race in a college event the age limit goes and so the 'Old Man' was eligible. A win at Marlow – their first in two years

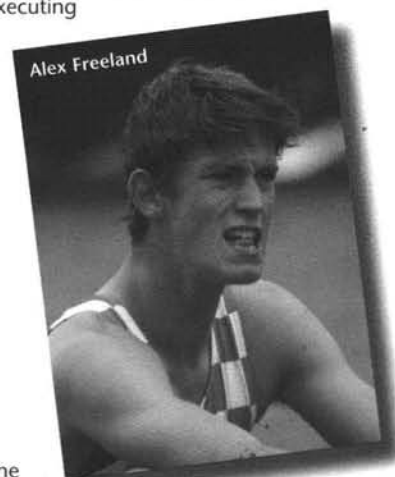
– was a real morale boost to them and they rowed with great grit and determination in the Henley qualifiers and managed to get in. There were only 16 places and 71 crews trying, so it was a great achievement. It was especially good that the journeymen, Harry Moore, William Stockdale, Robert Marsh and Luke Tittley achieved that target. They lost on the Wednesday to Leeds University.

The 1st Vlll were seeded in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup and despatched Kingston Grammar School in the 1st round, rather unsatisfactorily, before executing a very impressive race against King's, Chester on Thursday. Friday drew us against Shrewsbury and they were phenomenal. We were never really in it. It was some consolation to watch Shrewsbury go on to win the event on Sunday by one foot from Brentwood College, Canada in what was the best Henley race of the year.

After Henley, two of the crew were selected for Great Britain Junior Team trials.

Alexander Freeland raced in the Vlll in the *Coupe de la Jeunesse* in Varese, Italy, coming fourth and fifth in their two races. Matthew Rossiter showed his class by gaining a place in the top boat, the coxless IV, for the World Junior Championships in Beijing. He went even better by helping power the crew to an impressive gold medal in those championships; a sensational performance from a superb athlete. He has so much talent – and we still have him next year. The rest of the boys in the Club have a target to beat now!

Mike Martin



Alex Freeland



The 2nd Vlll at the Schools' Head

J16 A and B Rowing

J16 Crew at Bedford: Cox Ian Houlby, 8 Felix Wood, 7 Tom Davey, 6 Sam Walton, 5 Andy Hatzis, 4 George Bone, 3 Chris Brash, 2 Henry Holdsworth, 1 Rex Carter



The 2007 season was slow to start with less than ideal river conditions for most of January. The cold weather and short afternoons meant that time had to be used effectively in order to be ready to race in the Peterborough Head at the beginning of February. Two mixed crews acquitted themselves well and gained valuable experience in the lead-up to the Schools' Head of the River.

For the Schools' Head the weather was bright, clear and mostly still – perfect conditions for rowing on the Tideway but at one stage it looked as if we were going to miss the race as we were stuck in a traffic jam for several hours (or so it seemed because of our race day nerves). However, we made it on time and after rigging up and donning our wellies we had a small pep talk from **Mr Hundermark**. The warm-up went well but the tension in the boat before the start was still unbearable. The A crew held off a strong challenge from St Paul's, who had set off directly behind us and clearly hoped to pass us early on in the race. However, our confidence multiplied as we saw them fade into the distance behind us. Our newfound self-belief was wind beneath our oars, and after one or two inspirational calls from our cox, **Rory Copus**, and also further down the boat, we started to hunt down Eton, who had started directly ahead of us. Drawing near to the finish we knew we were close when **Rory Copus** called for them to move over (**Rex Carter** claims he could literally feel the breath of their stroke man on the back of his neck). We knew we had made up time on Eton and St Paul's but we had no idea how other crews had fared. On the way back in the minibus the call came through from **Mr Martin** to say that we had won (it turned out our closest competition had come from Radley and King's Chester). Rampant celebrations ensued on the bus when this was announced – **Max Makarov** was so excited he even managed to mutter a whole sentence! Special mention must go to **Rory Copus** without whose enthusiastic encouragement and unwavering course we could not

have won. The B crew gave a very strong account of themselves (especially as many of them had not 'experienced' the long course before) and rowed above all expectations. Their third place was a just reward for their efforts. I think we all agreed that these results went some SMALL way to justifying Mr Hundermark's sadistic regime of weekly 5km ergo tests.

Rowing camp was, as usual, early mornings, rampant banter, go-karting and jokes about French people; with a little bit of rowing thrown in for good measure (and of course 'loads' of revision... honest).

Just a couple of weeks after our eventful return journey from France, the A crew headed down to Nottingham to represent the Upper Thames region in the Junior Inter Regional Championships. In our heat, we got into a dog fight with King's Chester (representing the North West), who had come second at the Schools' Head by a meagre two seconds, but we stuck to our plan to conserve energy and let them row away from us in the last 200m to win by a third of a length. As they celebrated, we rowed in quietly, knowing that we all had a lot more to give. Before the final, Mr Hundermark reminded us that there were no prizes for winning the heat and that we should show King's Chester how big a mistake they had made. We did, taking half a length in the first 250m and winning by a very substantial 7 seconds.

The Wallingford and Bedford Regatta followed with the As and Bs coming second in their finals in the respective regattas.

And then ... Nottingham beckoned. The National Schools' Regatta was the focus of all our training up to that point; it had become our only reason for being. Ours had become lives of food, sleep and training; our minds focused on one collective goal.

We were ready. The J16 B crew raced well to get to the final but came in 6th place behind several A crews. We, the A crew, kept our cards close to our chest and did enough to proceed to the final without wasting excess energy. When we lined up at the start for the final we were all ready – or at least... most of us were. After the massive, boat-stopping, monster crab that was our first stroke, we had courteously given the other crews a generous headstart (Mr Hundermark would later explain to us that this generosity was neither expected nor required of us in a race). We fought tooth and nail to get back into the race and passed Radley before the 500m mark. At one stage it looked as if we might salvage a bronze medal but, in the later stages of the race, our earlier efforts took their toll and we were just pipped for 3rd place. Needless to say, we were all gutted that we did not achieve the result we deserved. The next day saw the coxless pair make it to the semi-final, which was an achievement in itself considering the very challenging conditions, and the coxless IV went on to take bronze medals in a very closely contested race.

The J16 B IV (**Rex Carter, Christopher Dunster, Henry Holdsworth, Matthew Winters and Ian Houlsey**) won their event at the Thames Valley Park Regatta. Reading Amateur Regatta was our first chance to try out the new combination of the coxed IV (**George Bone, Andrew Hatzis, Felix Wood, Tom Davey and Rory Copus**) that we were going to enter in the GB trials just after the end of term. Unfortunately, the conditions did not favour us and we lost to Radley in the second round.

Training in the IV progressed well, despite commitments to work experience, and we travelled to Nottingham with high hopes. We had to win our race in order to be assured a place in the GB squad. Despite



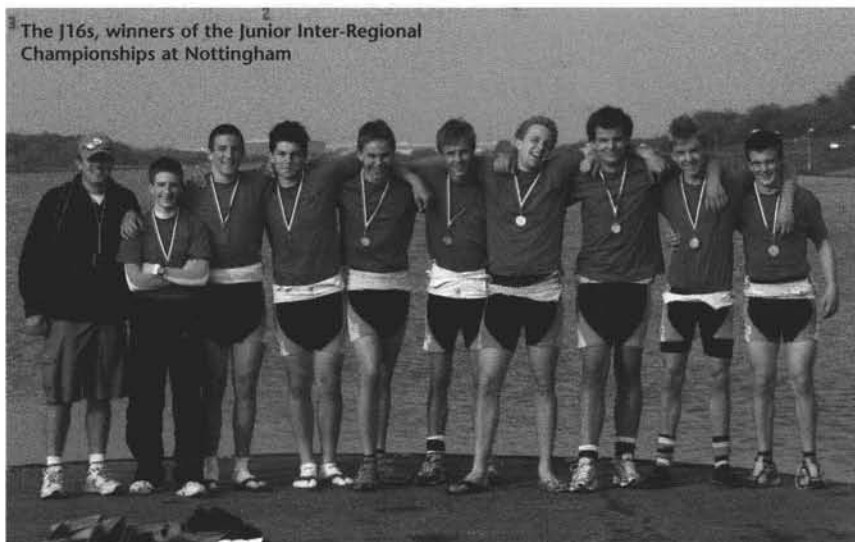
having a commanding lead for almost the entire race, our finish seemed to be absent and we came second by about three feet, having been passed in the last two strokes. However, the disappointment soon evaporated when we discovered that we had in fact been quicker than the second-placed coxless IV and so had earned ourselves a place in the VIII. The next day we were informed that **George Bone**, our stroke man, had raced with pneumonia, explaining our sub-standard finish.

We began training in the VIII immediately, with only one week until the match against France. The rest of the VIII was comprised of the coxless IV from Canford and **George's** place was filled by, I'm sorry to say, a Radley boy. We were eager to use every possible training day to the full and, after a few days training at Abingdon, we headed off, yet again, to Nottingham. We trained there over the weekend and anticipation mounted before the race on

Monday. After a morning trip to *Morrisons* to calm the nerves, we donned our as yet unworn all-in-ones. Our row up to the start went well but, despite our shopping spree, nerves at the start were still frayed. The more experienced French crew quickly took a length lead, which they still held with 500m to go. However, we increased our boat speed and won by three-quarters of a length. As I collapsed over the finish line, the rest of the crew started cheering and I vaguely remember feeling incredibly irritated that everyone had so much energy left for celebration. We all felt this win was a fitting end to a season that had started out with so much promise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made our successful season possible: to all the parents, without whose support and willingness to drive us to early morning training we could not have succeeded; to **Tim 'the Gappy with the lady's bike' Barrow** for all his help with coaching, especially on rowing camp, and to Mr 'Mr team-talk' Hundermark for providing inspiration and giving us self-belief and, of course, to all the rowers for being committed to training and always giving 100%: **Rory Copus, Ian Houlsey, Andrew Hatzis, George Bone, Tom Davey, Sam Walton, Max Makarov, Christopher Brash, Rex Carter, Henry Holdsworth, Matthew Winters, Christopher Dunster, Joe Glover, Joshua Jackson, Andrew Nagi, Jack Maynard, Timothy Clarke, Christopher Weller-Jones, Barry Tse and Benjamin Kemp** – thanks for making this season one to remember.

Felix Wood 5 DJB



J15 Rowing



The J15s at the Schools' Head

Each January a new group of J15 oarsmen converts from sculling to sweep-oared rowing and since 2004, when **Mr Garnier** set new standards at J14 level, the J15 coaches have been far better placed to develop competitive crews in the short time available before the Schools' Head. J14 rowing reached even greater heights last summer with the double gold achieved at the National Schools' Championships and this year's J15 coaches, **Mr English** and **Ben Lewis**, were anticipating an equally good season. Success at the National Schools' Championships has been elusive for the A Crew at J15 level – two 5th places in the final, in 2003 and 2006, have been the best recent results – but this season it looked as though a medal might really be on the cards.

Inclement weather and an unusual dearth of coxswains frustrated initial hopes of rapid progress. Adding to these difficulties, **Ben Lewis** soon accepted an offer of full-time work at the Leander Club and departed before the first Head Race at Worcester. Subsequently, we did not manage a single outing prior to the Schools' Head and the final blow was a CCF field day timetabled for the day before the race. Each crew did its best and it was a credit to all concerned that three Vllls actually competed, but the selections were untested and the results were predictably poor.

Under sunnier skies down in Somerset, crews had a chance for a new beginning and the Easter camp on Wimbleball Lake was indeed highly successful. Quick development in technique was noticed in all those involved and 20 of the top oarsmen were present, which was excellent. The results of the seat-racing radically altered the Schools' Head selections and by the end of a week of triple daily outings in Vllls, IVs and pairs, with an additional afternoon of cross-training on mountain bikes, hopes were high of a strong revival.

Returning to Abingdon to find **Richard Parkin-Mason**, one of our strongest stroke-side oarsmen, with his arm in a cast, made it difficult to quieten thoughts that the season was simply jinxed. The two tallest oarsmen, **Andrew Nagi** and **Joshua Jackson**, were now rowing with the J16 Bs,

where they looked far more comfortable. But this decision, alongside **Richard's** injury, had the result that the new A crew seemed distinctly underpowered. Undaunted, the crew members submitted themselves to a regime of six training sessions a week, which is more than had been attempted recently, and looked forward to the first regatta at Wallingford.

But at Wallingford and subsequently at Bedford, and then at the National Schools' Regatta itself, the A Crew did not figure among the top boats. The oarsmen always looked good technically but never had the power to live with the best. And it turned out to be an exceptional J15

year: both the Hampton and Latymer J15s, for example, were quick enough to have beaten crews in the J16 final at Nottingham, including Abingdon's own J16 crew. The only consolation for the As was to have led Radley for most of the heat, which is a rare achievement.

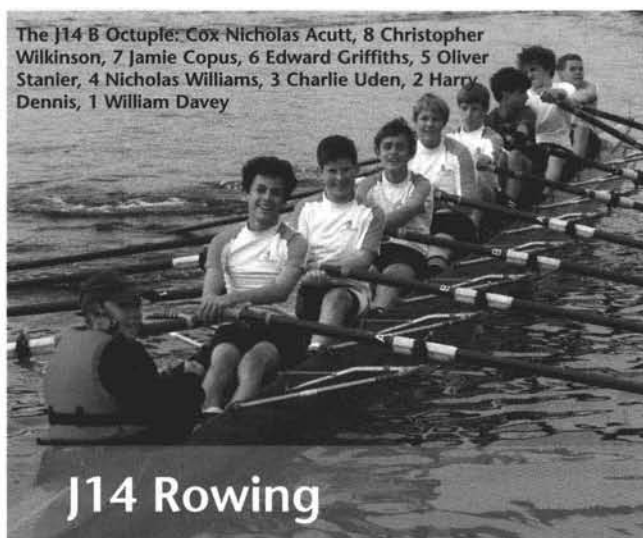
The B Crew's season was better. At the Schools' Head they were knocked off the top spot they had retained last year, but slid only to a respectable third place. At Bedford they were the only Abingdon crew to win an event, and in Nottingham they reached a hotly contested final, coming 5th. I was also impressed by a C IV (c. **Swain**, s. **Strong**, 3. **Ibrahim**, 2. **Nicoll**, b. **Hogan**) who put up a really good fight against a Bedford B Crew at Bedford Star regatta, showing that, as ever, there is considerable strength in depth in Abingdon rowing.

Thanks to **Tim Barrow** for coaching the Cs prior to the Schools' Head, and to **Mr Christodoulou** for coaching the Bs in the summer term and at Wimbleball and for stepping in at the last moment to staff Worcester Head.

Andrew English

Crew Lists

	J15 A Crew	J15 B Crew	J15 C Crew	J15 A Crew
	Schools' Head	Schools' Head	Nat. Schools'	Nat. Schools'
Bow	C. Brampton	J. McDonagh	C. Brampton	B. Edwards
2	M. Morrison	T. Richards	F. Humfrey	R. Hussey
3	D. Boddington	R. Milford	J. McDonagh	W. Fotherby
4	R. Parkin-Mason	L. Smith	A. Ward	L. Smith
5	J. Jackson	J. Fries	R. Fife	R. Milford
6	A. Nagi	A. Ward	J. Cook	T. Hughes
7	P. Brombley	R. Fife	T. Richards	J. Fries
Stroke	J. Cook	F. Humfrey	H. Morrison	D. Boddington
Cox	L. Abbott	J. Swain	L. Abbott	J. Swain



The J14 B Octuple: Cox Nicholas Acutt, 8 Christopher Wilkinson, 7 Jamie Copus, 6 Edward Griffiths, 5 Oliver Stanier, 4 Nicholas Williams, 3 Charlie Uden, 2 Harry Dennis, 1 William Davey

J14 Rowing

Coaching Third -form rowing is always dramatic and exciting because of the immense progress made by the boys in a very short space of time, and this year was no different. After the double gold at the National Championships last year, we faced an imposing precedent. We began the year with many boys keen to try rowing, and a river that was not obliging, owing to flooding. Though this damped spirits it allowed important fitness training to be carried out and the majority revelled in the competitive spirit that is a hallmark of the Boat Club.

The first test came perhaps too quickly, towards the end of the Lent term: the National Sculling Head. Having had very little time on the water, we were up against schools and clubs which had in the main begun rowing at least a term if not a year earlier, and we were soundly thrashed. The boys had started to realise the enormity of the task ahead of them, but as the coaches pointed out, Abingdon boys learn quickly; a week later we were in an arctic Bedford for a quad match and won a good haul of golds and silvers. Spirits were high, despite low temperatures!

The holidays saw some very promising work in single sculls and predominantly calm and bright weather enabled the boys who were continuing rowing in the summer term to gain experience, mainly of falling into the water, though also of how a boat feels when you are moving on your own.

The summer term started with a far smaller group of boys who were nonetheless keen and eager for success. Ergo tests followed from which the crews were chosen, first for Wallingford, then Bedford and then for the National Schools' Regatta.

Wallingford was the first real race for the octos and they showed that the Easter training had paid off: the As missed out on the final by 2 seconds, but were well up with the good crews. The Bs, rowing in a slower heat, made the final, showing prophetically that they were a force to be reckoned with.

Bedford saw the B octos' first tussle with Radley Bs, who were destined to be our nemesis; unfortunately, a blade came free in the race and lost us a few lengths and denied the crew the opportunity to know their real speed. The A boat beat Bedford Modern School and Oundle before coming up against the eventual winners, St. Paul's.

At the National Schools', the season's characteristic wet and miserable weather continued but the crews were looking strong. The A crew rowed through a couple of crews in an exciting race to make the semi-finals, but then were the wrong side of the two seconds that split all the finalists, though they were still very competitive. The B crew had a terrific race and rowed through Westminster to claim silver, the only medal won by any Abingdon VIII at the competition this year. Sadly, Radley Bs were first!

The second half of the term, following some very interesting seat-racing, saw further fine performances at Marlow where the A crew came second to Radley (though satisfyingly defeating two other Radley crews), and at TVP where the B crew narrowly and somewhat unfairly missed out on victory. At the final event of the season at Reading Town, having scared off the opposition, Abingdon was left to race itself in the final of the octos. **Dr Smith** and **Mr Price** decided to select teams to race, which they called 'Rock' and 'Roll'. 'Rock', the seeming underdogs, selected by Mr Price, went on to a fine victory – by a length.

Hugh Price



The J14 Octuple: Cox Hugo Mendus, 8 John Carter, 7 Andrew Elliott, 6 Dominic Graham, 5 Vassilis Ragoussis, 4 James Percival, 3 Amir Garmroudi, 2 Angus Innes, 1 Robin Veale

Crew Lists

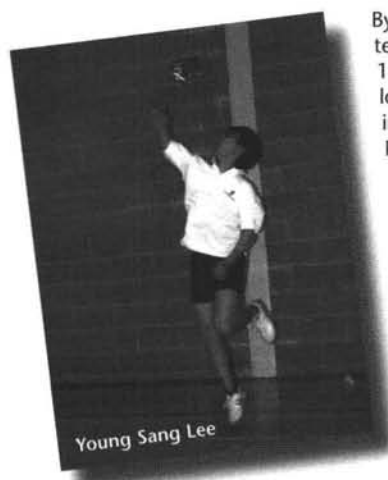
J14 A Crew	J14 B Crew	J14 A Crew	J14 B Crew	J14 A Crew	J14 B Crew
Nat. Schools'	Nat. Schools'	Marlow	TVP	Rock	Roll
Veale	Davey	Williams	McDowell	Copus	Davey
Innes	Dennis	Uden	Griffiths	McDowell	Veale
Percival	Uden	Dennis	Innes	Innes	Graham
Garmroudi	Williams	Percival	Veale	Carter	Ragoussis
Ragoussis	Stainer	Garmroudi	Stainer	Percival	Dennis
Graham	Griffiths	Carter	Ragoussis	McGuire	Garmroudi
Carter	Wilkinson	Elliot	Davey	Uden	Elliot
Elliot	Copus	Wilkinson	Copus	Williams	Wilkinson
Mendus (cox)	Acutt (cox)	Mendus (cox)	Acutt (cox)	Mendus (cox)	Acutt (cox)

Winner of Single Sculling Cup (joint): **Jamie Copus, Dominic Graham**

Badminton

Abingdon continued its all but unbeaten record during the first half of the Michaelmas term. The first two fixtures against Bloxham and Stowe both saw 9-0, 9-0 wins and provided opportunities for some of our younger players to represent the School. This was followed by an 8-1, 9-0 victory over Cheltenham. During these first three matches of the season, our first pair (**Harry Richards** and **Jun Tao**) conceded an average of less than one point per set! The match against Oratory was more of a challenge, but Abingdon was still able to secure a 12-4 win.

The second half of term brought the beginning of the Oxfordshire Schools' Badminton Association League and the U14 and U16 teams had successful OSBA matches against Matthew Arnold School and Wheatley Park School, but the weight of defending our Oxfordshire Schools' League titles typically falls in the Lent term.



Young Sang Lee

By the end of the Michaelmas term the A team was unbeaten in 11 games, whilst the B team only lost when we fielded a C team in the return matches against Radley and Stowe. Wins against Radley, Bloxham and Wellington were followed by a close-fought three-way match between Abingdon, Cheltenham and Malvern, with Abingdon winning an exciting deciding game against Malvern to clinch a 5-4 victory. Fixtures against Rugby and Millfield were more competitive but we came away with 6-3 and 8-1 victories respectively, with **Michael Chan** and

Kevin Cheung, playing as Abingdon's 3rd pair, winning an impressive game against Millfield's 1st pair.

In December, full colours were awarded to **Harry Richards** and **Jun Tao** and half colours to **Michael Chan**, **Timothy Middleton** and **Tobi Ojo**.

The inter-house badminton competition saw a hotly contested final, with Webb's (**Jun Tao** and **Tim Middleton**) the eventual winners over School House (**Harry Richards** and **Timothy Chu**).

Although the mock exams delayed the start of badminton sessions and matches in our own sports hall, we were able to play a couple of OSBA League matches in early January: first an U19 mixed fixture against Burford School at Audlett Drive – Abingdon/St Helen's won 8 - 1, and then a week later and back at home, Abingdon's U19s beat Wantage School 7 - 0.

Rugby School came for a return match at the end of January and we were able to play a lightened B team after inflicting a heavy defeat on the Rugby Bs before Christmas; even so Abingdon won, 8 - 1 and 9 - 0. In the OSBA League - the day immediately after the Rugby match - the Abingdon/St Helen's U16 mixed team beat the Warriner School 9 - 0.

The School was in the remarkable position of

effectively being offered a submission by Millfield for the return fixture: Abingdon had so steam-rolled Millfield in the Michaelmas term that it was agreed that there was no point in the two schools playing at full strength again, because the outcome was clearly a foregone conclusion. Accordingly, a different team visited Somerset for a 'social' match on 3 February while those with full colours stayed at home – and still Abingdon won about as many games as Millfield.

Late in the Lent term **Tobi Ojo** was awarded full colours, and **Kevin Cheung** half colours.

A small number of boys from Abingdon School competed in the Oxfordshire Schools Badminton Association Schools' Tournament on Sunday 18 March and 1 April at the White Horse Leisure Centre in Abingdon. **John Mulvey** and **Nicholas Williams**, who play as U14s for the School, were runners-up in the boys' U15 doubles. In the U17s boys' singles the gold medal was taken by **Alexander Smith**. In the U17s boys' doubles the gold medal was taken by **Alexander Smith** and **Jianghao Zhu**. **Timothy Middleton** was the runner-up of the U19 boys' singles and partnered **Alexander Smith** to win the U19 boys' doubles.



Alex Smith ready to receive a serve

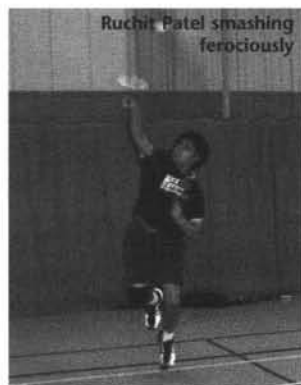
Personalia

Two long-serving members of the team are leaving this time, **Timothy Chu** and captain **Harry Richards**. **Tim** has become noted for his celebratory laps of the court after each point, although on occasion the habit has taken him to the point of exhaustion before the end of the match! **Tom Ayling** has praised **Tim's** neat footwork for several years and I think everyone has been impressed by his elegant and scrupulously legal service action.

Harry Richards' captaincy has been just as successful as his recent predecessors'. Increasingly powerful and blessed with a considerable reach, he has led by example and not hesitated to confront players who were unhappy with placement or partners. **Harry's** partnership with **Jun Tao** has been an object lesson in good humour combined with competitive sportsmanship: if they won a point they grinned and moved on to the next, and on the increasingly rare occasions when they lost a point they grinned and took up the appropriate formation to receive the next service. His readiness to fight the game's corner with other users of the Sports Hall whom he considered dilatory in clearing away became something of a sideshow!



Timothy Middleton



Ruchit Patel smashing ferociously

Ephemera

When I came to Abingdon, badminton was a gypsy, if not vagrant, operation. We played almost every match 'away' and trundled around Abingdon between the Old Gaol, where we had to pay, St Helen's School and John Mason School, where we were generously given a few hours of court time. In 1984 we were blessed with an on-site Sports Hall: suddenly life was an awful lot easier. We got more court time, more people could opt for badminton as their official game and we could pay off huge hospitality debts to other schools. For years other schools complimented us on the quality of the facility – excellent floor, good sightlines and decent lighting. Over time we found our lebensraum eroded by the invasion first of table-tennis, then of fencing and then of still more fencing as other interests gained the priority accorded to growth industries.

Next year we will be back on the road as the mighty works proceed on Waste Court field and it is to be hoped that with the provision of dedicated facilities for other activities, badminton will again have the run of the whole hall from September 2008. I hope to be proved wrong in my misgivings over the proposal to paint the interior walls of the hall, but I fear that the building will become irredeemably noisier and that sightlines therein will not be improved by a coat of blue.

Ian Macdonald

Badminton Results

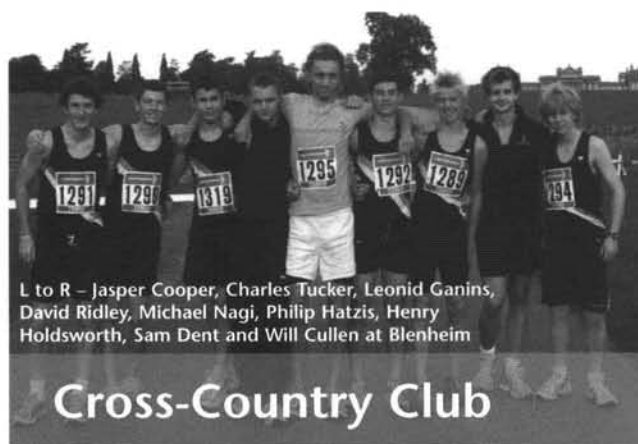
Michaelmas Term

Bloxham: 1st & 2nd 6	9 - 0, 9 - 0
Stowe: A & B	9 - 0, 9 - 0
Cheltenham College: A & B	8 - 1, 9 - 0
Oratory	12 - 4
Radley: A & B	5 - 4, 8 - 1
Wellington College	5 - 4, 4 - 2
Bloxham: B & U14/15 6	6 - 3, 1 - 8
Matthew Arnold School OSBA U14	4 - 3
Malvern & Cheltenham: Abingdon A	5 - 4 & 8 - 1
Rugby School A & B: A & U15	6 - 3, 8 - 1
Millfield	As 8 - 1; 4 - 2 (singles)
	Bs 9 - 0; 6 - 0 (singles)
Radley: U19 OSBA A & B	9 - 0, 4 - 5
Stowe	9 - 0, 4 - 5
Wheatley Park OSBA: U14 & U16	6 - 1, 7 - 0

Lent Term

Burford School OSBA: U19 mixed	8 - 1
Wantage School OSBA: U19	7 - 0
Rugby School	8 - 1, 9 - 0
Warriner School OSBA: U16 mixed	9 - 0
Cheltenham College: A and B	9 - 0, 9 - 0
Wood Green OSBA: U19	7 - 0
Cheney School OSBA: U14	3 - 4
Oratory	10 - 6
Henry Box School OSBA: U16	boys 4 - 3; mixed 5 - 4
Henry Box School OSBA: U19	boys 6 - 1; mixed 3 - 6
John Mason School OSBA: U14	5 - 2
Cheltenham and Malvern	9 - 0, 8 - 1

House Doubles Competition won by Webb's - Jun Tao + Tim Middleton, (School House Harry Richards + Tim Chu, runners-up)



L to R – Jasper Cooper, Charles Tucker, Leonid Ganins, David Ridley, Michael Nagi, Philip Hatzis, Henry Holdsworth, Sam Dent and Will Cullen at Blenheim

Cross-Country Club

The Cross-Country Club completed yet another successful season. We trained through sunshine, rain and occasionally snow! Never finding a good enough reason to stop training: if the fields and paths were flooded, we just ran through them; if it was cold, we ran faster to keep warm! Starting from the beginning of the year meant we had a slight edge over many of our closest opposition. During the Michaelmas term the Club concentrated more on endurance training: long runs and hills. And in the second half of term, where the races were shorter, we did more sprint work.

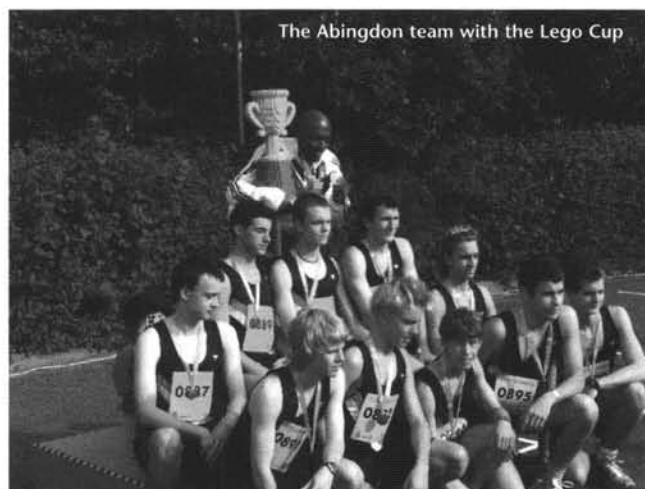
Monday training was a mixed session. The Sixth-formers, who have a Monday afternoon games period, complete a 5k run before being joined by the younger guns at the Dalton Barrack Race Track, which we were kindly allowed to use. There we worked on speed, doing a variety of exercises that focused on raising the heart rate and lowering it again and then raising it so we could run faster for longer through our aerobic threshold.

Tuesday was always a rest day unless we had races. Wednesday, however, was a long session. We would either spend the time on a long-distance run or, as we did more towards the end of the first term, we would go to Wittenham Clumps, which seems to be the steepest hill in Oxfordshire. Mr Christodoulou had us running up and down the 'mountain' more than seven times every session, continually reminding us that "pain is mere information!" Other days we were fortunate enough to be allowed to train with professional fitness instructors at the Park Club in Milton. We completed some of the hardest circuit training ever imagined and a three-months-pregnant Polish triathlete put all of us to shame on her fifth RPM session (and our first) by barely looking pink in the face as we were practically passing out on the floor!

Thursday was predominantly a strength session. We would train for about half an hour to forty-five minutes doing sets of sit-ups, press-ups, burpees, bridges and dorsal raises in pairs, sprinting the length of the rugby pitch and back between each set. Every session would finish with some group strength exercise, which really brought the team closer together. The weekends were generally rest periods although we usually had to complete a gentle run just to help with active recovery.



Philip Hatzis, Captain of the Cross-Country Club



The Abingdon team with the Lego Cup

To begin with, the Club was hit with a couple of injuries at the senior end: **David Ridley** and **Philip Hatzis** did not compete in the first race of the season. Nevertheless, Fourth-former **Tom Watkins** showed that there really was strength in depth and dominated the field at the Longworth 10k by coming 7th, closely followed by his own home rival **Alex Muir**, who came 9th. This was made even more impressive by the fact that this was not a school event – the other runners were all adults!

The 10k Cancer Research Race at Blenheim Palace took place on a beautifully sunny day in September. Out of the top ten runners in this adult event of 1300 runners, five were Abingdon boys: **Henry Holdsworth**, **William Cullen** and **Michael Nagi** completed the course in times of less than 39 minutes. **Charles Tucker**, who came 5th, completed it in a time of 38.36, and **Philip Hatzis** came 2nd with a time of 36.36.

Another Open 10k, this time in the grounds of Windsor and Lego Land, was the venue for the Prince's Trust 10k. This time there were 1200 runners and five of the Abingdon runners secured places in the top thirty. Here the Club won the team event and was rewarded with the most prized trophy: a Lego trophy presented by Olympic Gold Medallist, Marlon Devonish.

Then there were two more 10k races and our first schools' race at Harrow. The course was gruelling and very challenging but the Club did not do as well as we had hoped. However, Leonid Ganins pushed through even the hardest of terrain and smaller runners achieved personal bests, running faster than many members of our own team! **Michael Nagi** showed us all how hill-training at Wittenham was working both physically and mentally by comparing training on the 'mountain' to all future hills! **Sam Walton** and **Joseph Delo** were some of the fastest runners of the day.

After a vigorous training programme over the Christmas holidays (with some members even going back to Wittenham out of their own choice!), the Club came across its biggest fixture of the season. The 9.02 k Knole Run, with runners from all round the country representing their schools, is held in the grounds of Sevenoaks Schools in Kent. This year the weather was against the competitors: strong winds and a very wet course making conditions difficult, to say the least. Nonetheless, the standard of this year's event was many times higher than that of previous years. Captain **David Ridley's** 12th and **Philip Hatzis's** 22nd were strong results, but their times would have put them both in the top ten in the previous year's event. However, their performance was still good enough to put the team in 6th position nationally. **Jasper Cooper** brilliantly captained the B team to 31st overall, which beat many of the other schools' A teams, demonstrating yet again the strength in depth of the Club. **Joseph Delo** pleasantly surprised everybody with an exceptionally strong performance, showing his phenomenal improvement which continued throughout the year.



Tom Watkins



The start of the Knole Run at Sevenoaks School



L to R Andrew Birch, Joe Greenman, Fraser Capill, Sasha Barras, Charlie Stenton-Pütt, Luke Carter, Leo Calman, Patrick Lay

Junior Cross-Country Club

The Abingdon Juniors' team once again enjoyed a successful season and continued their unchallenged run of victories at this level. On Monday 12 March the Abingdon team was at Cokethorpe for the Year 7 County Championships. Competing with fifteen other schools, Abingdon won the event for the second year running. On Wednesday 8 February the Cross-Country Club entered two U15 teams for the Tortoise Relays at Christ Church Meadows in Oxford. The U15 A team won their event easily even though there was very strong opposition – **Tom Foxon** and **Alistair Duff** scored 2nd and 3rd overall, while the rest of the team's runners were very close behind. **Alexander Davis's** début to racing for the U15s was also promising. Unfortunately, the next day's relays at Radley were cancelled owing to heavy snowfall.

This year's Vale Championships were cancelled owing to bad weather, so selection for the County Championships was fierce and stronger than anticipated. In the U19 category, the Club came 2nd and **David Ridley** secured a county place; in the U17 category, **Alex Muir**, **Tom Watkins**, **Freddy Howe** and **Chris Burgess** ran brilliantly to secure a win with 1st place for their team. The U15s won their event as well, coming 1st in dramatic fashion with spectacular performances from **Tom Foxon** who, despite taking a wrong turn, won the race, and **Alistair Duff** who, following close behind, came 2nd. Five boys were selected to run for Oxfordshire.

The Tortoise Relays of about 2.4k, held in the beautiful Christchurch Meadows, were definitely an event for the juniors. The U15s came 1st overall with **Tom Foxon** and **Alistair Duff** coming individual 2nd and 3rd. **Alexander Davis** put in a very courageous début performance. The U19s managed to come 5th against strong opposition. The juniors continued this winning streak to thrash the other fifteen schools at the County Championships, held at Cokethorpe for the second year running.

The Marlborough Relays, held in the hilly grounds of Marlborough School, is a fantastic event with a challenging 5k course. **David Ridley** secured a fine 2nd place and other members of the team, including Sam Dent, ran fantastic times so that the team took another gold medal! The juniors, led from the front by **Alex Muir** and **Tom Watkins**, won their event.

The final event of the season was a 'mob match' held at Radley. This race epitomises what the Cross-Country Club believes to be two of its fundamental values: strength in depth and teamwork, with the positions and times of every age category counting for the entire team's position. Here **Stephen Stinson** showed determination and total disregard for pain, becoming famous for pushing himself beyond normal expectations to overtake a few more runners and help the School win comprehensively, beating Harrow and Radley at all age-groups.

As we leave the Club and the School, we believe we have left behind a continually evolving situation; we look forward to hearing about the ever greater successes of our younger team-mates, to whom we wish all the luck in the future. knowing that we will always be proud to have run in the pink, black and white vests.

Philip Hatzis 6 NAFF

Finally, on Thursday 1 February the U15s competed at the County Championships held at Radley. They won their event, coming 1st in dramatic fashion with spectacular performances by **Tom Foxon** who, despite taking a wrong turn, won the race and **Alistair Duff**, who followed closely behind to come 2nd overall. Five boys were selected to run for Oxfordshire. This was a very impressive performance by the School's younger runners and hopefully will help inspire next year's crop of new First-formers!

David McGill



Andrew Birch followed by Joe Greenman and Luke Carter at Cokethorpe

Tennis Club

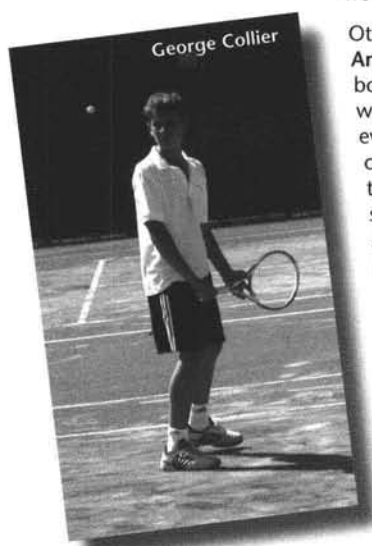


Matthew Watkins returning the ball

The Tennis Club grew again this year, playing a total of 75 inter-school matches, up from last year's total of 60, and 52 in 2005. This continued growth has seen the Tennis Club put out a total of 16 teams with 96 boys being involved in tennis fixtures on any given match day.

This growth can be explained by the infectious enthusiasm of Paul Butcher, who has been responsible for the majority of the coaching over the past two years; the number of boys signing up to tennis is a reflection of the standard of coaching he is delivering. I can't thank him enough; there is a real buzz around the tennis courts over the course of the summer term.

The Club experienced the end of a dynasty this year with the departure of **Matthew Watkins** and **Andrew Bell**. **Matthew** has been playing for the 1st VI throughout his entire School career (7 years) and has captained the side for the past three years, where he has played at number one pair with **Andrew**. Together they have formed a fantastically successful partnership, winning 83 of 108 sets of tennis played over the last three years. Although they didn't play their best tennis this year, it has been a delight to watch some of their tennis over this period and it has been a real pleasure to work with them both.



George Collier

Other senior pro's departing are **Andrew Barton** and **David Fry**, both talented players who have worked fantastically hard to develop every aspect of their game. Their commitment and effort have set the standard throughout the summer term. **Tobi Ojo** followed suit in his application and he again has shown massive development throughout his School career. **Sebastian Vogelsberger** has also been a great addition to the Club. His arrival two years ago added a good deal of impetus to the 1st VI and his aggressive ground strokes have seen him achieve good success.

Senior Tennis

With **Matthew** and **Andrew**'s occasional absence through examination commitments, it fell on the shoulders of **George Collier** and **Sam Jeffery** to take up the mantle as number one pairing. They are both stylish-looking players and performed well in this role, gaining a good deal of success. Unfortunately **Sam** will be leaving us this year after his GCSEs, but we wish him every success as he looks to forge a career as a professional player. **George** returns next year to captain the side and will look to build on the results he achieved this year.

The season began, as it did for all age-groups, with a couple of intense training days at the Vale of the White Horse Tennis Centre. However, this wasn't enough to get the better of Radley in the opening fixture and they proved to be too strong for us as we took our time to get back into a competitive frame of mind.

Next up was Shrewsbury who always provide a close-fought game. This year was no exception and the match ended in a draw, with Abingdon failing to close things out. This was followed by good wins against local schools MCS and St Edward's, before we took on Eton in a singles and doubles rubber match. Although they fielded a weakened 1st VI, it was still a good win, with **Sam Jeffery** closing out the deciding singles tie.

In the matches after these three wins we were unable to field many senior players and the stage was set to blood some youngsters against Stowe, Wellington, Bradfield and Marlborough. **Euan Campbell** looked composed at this level, even though he is still in the Fourth Form, and **Sam Murrell** showed he has a bright future by representing the 1st VI whilst still in the Third Form.

1st Team Results

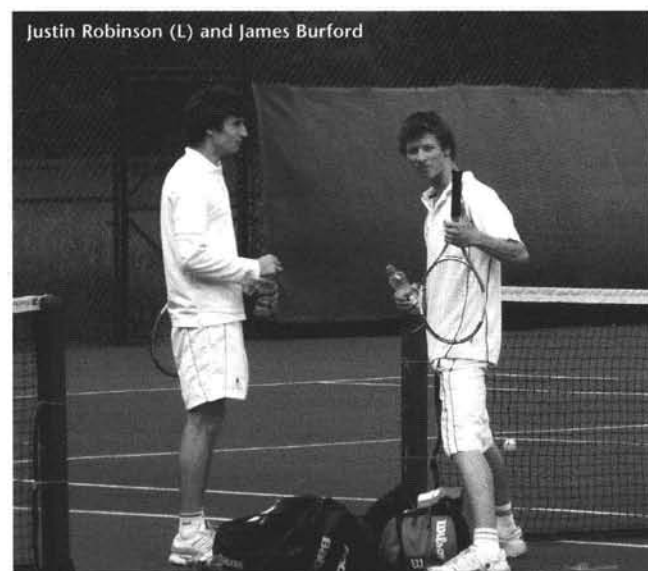
Opponents	Result
Radley	L 2 - 6
Shrewsbury	D 4 - 4
MCS	W 6 - 3
St Edward's	W 6 - 0
Eton	W 7 - 5
Stowe	L 3 - 6
Wellington	W 4 - 1
Marlborough	L 3 - 6
Bradfield	L 2 - 7

U16 Tennis

In what is always a very short season, owing to the advent of the GCSE exams, the Fifth-formers were blessed with a great depth of talent. The likes of **Justin Robinson**, **Jonny Bucke** and **James Burford** all performed well in the A team to help achieve wins against MCS, St Edward's and Stowe, whilst the B and C teams have shown excellent commitment towards improving their tennis. **James Callow** and **Lewis Davis-Poynter** made themselves difficult to beat in match situations and their whole-hearted effort was mirrored throughout the squad.

U16 Results

Opponents	U16 A	U16 B	U16 C
Radley	L 3 - 5	L 4 - 5	W 5 - 4
Shrewsbury	L 1 - 8	L 3 - 6	
MCS	W 5 - 4		
St Edward's	W 7 - 2	W 9 - 0	W 6 - 3
Eton	L 4 - 8	L 2 - 7	
Stowe	W 5 - 4	D 2 - 2	



Andrew Bell



Sam Jeffery

U15 Tennis

With a large number of boys playing for tennis clubs around the area in this age-group it was not surprising to see wins across the board against Radley, MCS and St Edward's. **Joe Oldham**, **Dylan Robinson**, **James Carter** and **James Baldwin** were regular fixtures in the A team and formed the foundation of a very strong team. **Euan Campbell** spent the second half of the season in the 1st VI, but there was certainly no lack of talented replacements with **William Lloyd** and **Henry Mills** continually pushing the top players.

Richard Brown and **Sam Newman** made excellent strides forward and won crucial matches for the B team, whose only losses came away at Eton and Marlborough. There were excellent wins for the B and C teams against a host of competitive schools.

U15 Results

Opponents	U15 A	U15 B	U15 C
Radley	W 5 - 4	W 9 - 0	W 8 - 1
MCS	W 6 - 2	W 6 - 2	
St Edward's	W 7 - 2	W 9 - 0	W 6 - 3
Eton	L 0 - 9	L 3 - 6	L 9 - 0
Stowe	W 7 - 0	W 6 - 0	
Wellington	L 3 - 6	W 4 - 2	W 6 - 3
Marlborough	L 1 - 8	L 3 - 6	L 4 - 5
Shiplake	W 3 - 1		
Bradfield	L 4 - 5	W 9 - 0	W 7 - 2

U14 Tennis

It was fantastic to see so many boys opting for tennis in this year-group and **Mr Gooding** really did have his hands full. After an early season trial, the boys settled into some structured hitting sessions and it was clear that again there was a lot of talent to work with. **Sam Murrell** shone out and he ended the season representing the 1st VI in matches against Stowe and Bradfield. There was also some useful back-up for **Sam** in the shape of **George Baldwin** and **Xilin Song**. The pinnacle of their season was a Davis Cup-style match against Radley and wins against MCS and Stowe.

Many thanks to Paul Butcher and all the members of staff who have given up a huge amount of time in taking teams and practice sessions.

U14 Results

Opponents	U14 A	U14 B	U14 C
Radley	W 9 - 1		
MCS	W 5 - 4	L 3 - 6	
Eton	L 0 - 9	L 1 - 8	L 2 - 7
Stowe	W 5 - 1	W 5 - 0	
Wellington	L 4 - 5	L 3 - 6	W 6 - 3
Marlborough	L 2 - 7	W 5 - 4	L 4 - 5

Steve Brenchley



Jonathan Bayfield 'flying' in the long jump at Harrow



Jasper Cooper on his way to a School record in the 3000m steeplechase at Harrow

Athletics

The Abingdon Athletics Club experienced a wide variety of results crossing all age-groups, from the Lower School up to the Sixth Form.

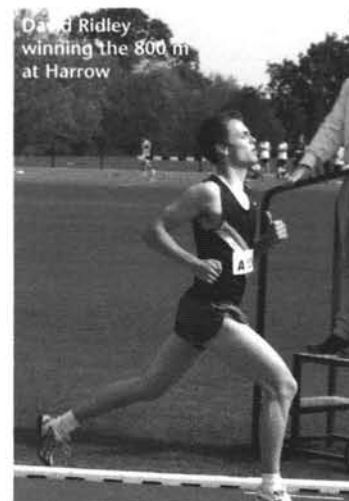
Our captain for the season was Upper Sixth-former, **David Ridley**. **David** led from the front both in competition and in training by being the most energetic and enthusiastic. Despite the fact that his races were usually late in the day, he was always there from the beginning to support and encourage those around him.

Across the age-groups we were able to put out some very varied and strong teams, in particular the U16 team who won the U16 ESAA Track and Field Cup County Finals and came 5th in the Regional Finals, winning with 364 points. There were many strong competitors in the team, ranging from very good middle distance runners like **Alex Muir**, **Tom Watkins** and **Tom Foxon** to sprinters and field athletes like **Michael Summers**, **Bobby Aigbogun** and **Joe Kempton**.

The U17 team contained many of the same pupils as the U16s, who were competing against students in the year above. Their match results of 4th, 6th and 7th suggest that, while this year

they have had to opt for lower places, next year they can expect to be very competitive.

Our U14 team also contained very strong competitors across the field: turning out to training and always producing a full team for competitions, they were among the most committed of the athletes in the Club. Under the coaching of **Mr Dickens**, ably assisted by **Mr Barker**, they were successful in retaining Abingdon's place as U14 ESAA Track and Field County Cup champions. In the regional final they came a solid



David Ridley winning the 800 m at Harrow

Massed start to the 1500m at Harrow





The senior team at the Achilles Relays: (R to L) David Ridley (Club Captain), Simon Edwards (Club Secretary), Joe Buckley, Rhys Cadman

4th with 397 points. They should be a team to look out for in the future. **Peter Barnshaw** put in a star performance, winning the 80m hurdles in 12.2 (28 points). He went on to represent the county at U15 level in the ESAA Combined Events Regional Finals (5 events) and the ESAA inter-county meetings (80m hurdles).

The U15 (Third Form) team contained some of our most promising athletes, but they were always rushing around to fill slots and many athletes competed in events that were not their normal preference. In this light, match results of 2nd, 5th and 7th are pretty good.

The senior team, although smaller and rather under-manned, always turned out an athlete for a competitive event, even if that competitor had never done the event before. Most notable was **Jasper Cooper**, who competed and achieved a record in the 2000m steeplechase (7:40.4), an event that is new to Abingdon boys.

The number of records that the School is now achieving is a measure of the season's success. Fourteen School records were equalled or beaten over the last athletics calendar, some breaking those that have stood for a number of years, the most impressive results coming in the sprinting and middle distance events: **Mike Summers**, U17 100m record (joint with **Simon Edwards**), 11.4; **Tom Foxon**, U15 1500m record, 4:29.6; **Alex Muir**, U17 800m record, 2:10.9.

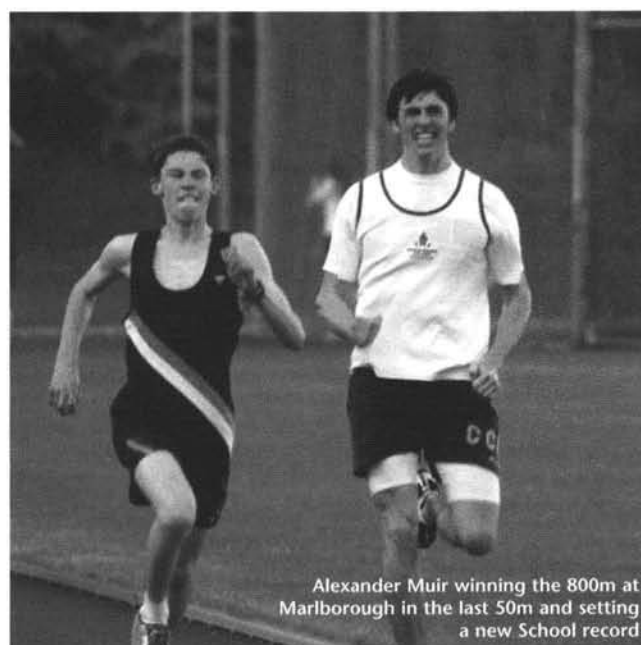
The prize for Best Athlete went to **Joe Foxon** for breaking the intermediate and junior 1500m record in one competition. The prize for Most Improved Athlete went to **Joe Kempton** for his

dedication and success in the 800m and the high jump. The 2008 season looks to be a promising one: with a number of boys remaining as members of the Athletics Club for their final years, there are still many more records to be broken. Many thanks go to all the coaches who gave up so much time.

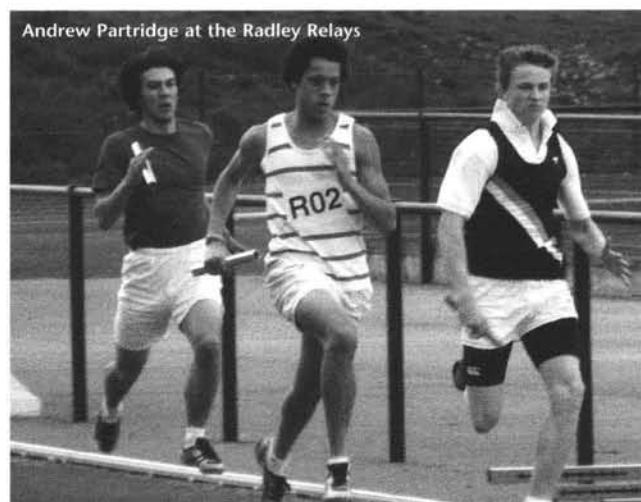


Sherif Sam-Sadeen at the Radley Relays

Simon Edwards
6 FAD



Alexander Muir winning the 800m at Marlborough in the last 50m and setting a new School record



Andrew Partridge at the Radley Relays



Thomas Watkins in the 1500m at Harrow

Sailing



Cruising in the Aegean

The Sailing Club has shone out this busy year with fantastic results in all fields!

Thomas Altmann (Captain), **Guy Stephens**, **Rory Spriggs**, **Nicholas Wilkinson** and **James Hawkes** were entered into the Youth National Championships in their respective classes. After a week of light airs the crews battled well against stiff competition and managed to get solid results, **Guy** coming 2nd in his age-group. **Guy** and **Nicholas** then progressed to the NSSA Championships in their 29er. Even after gear failure and a late start, the team performed to an excellent level.

After the rest during the exam period, **Guy** and **Rory** came 2nd in the Feva Europeans in Cork. We then swiftly moved on to the 420 nationals on Hayling Island. **Thomas** and **Guy** competed in separate boats, with **Thomas** coming 2nd in the first race in a fleet of 80. After impressive results, **Guy** was invited into the 420 National Squad and **Thomas** into the 29er National Squad. After an interesting last night party, the team drudged their way to Weymouth for the Match Racing Youth Nationals, which is like a mini-America's Cup. The team did well, even through illness, to beat Magdalen College School convincingly in the 5th/6th play-off.

Thomas Altmann has qualified as a RYA instructor and **Matthew Halls** and **James Hawkes** are close at his heels! The Club has also enjoyed some relaxation, travelling to Greece and enjoying fabulous weather and sailing. We yachted around the Greek islands, paired up with the Classics Society for two weeks. Several of the boys are hoping to complete their day and coastal skipper awards with **James Hawkes** and **Matthew Halls** already having done so.

The Club hopes that it can do even better next year, which is looking to be even busier!

David Bickerton

L to R Guy Stephens, Tom Altmann, Rory Spriggs, Theo Hoole and Nick Wilkinson at the RYA National Youth Match Racing Championships



Guy Stephens and Tom Altmann sailing the School's 29ers



Leavers



Bath

Mills D International
Management &
Modern Languages
– German 2007

Birmingham

Wallis J Political Science 2007

Brighton School of Medical Science

Pucks N Medicine 2008

Bristol

Barton A Politics 2007

Cole A Law 2007

Dong Z Chemistry with
Industrial Experience 2008

Garrard J Mechanical
Engineering 2007

Kangwana J Law 2007

Lawrence S Engineering Design with
Study in Industry 2007

Ridley D Aeronautical
Engineering 2008

Vickers P Mechanical
Engineering 2007

Cambridge

Chan A Economics 2007

Forrest G Engineering 2007

Halford M Economics 2007

Innes J Geography 2007

Kingdon A Medicine 2007

Lomax G Natural Sciences 2008

Mann J Natural Sciences 2008

Robertson J Mathematics 2007

So C Engineering 2007

Worth R Architecture 2007

Cardiff

Groves R Accounting and
Finance 2008

Haley R Mechanical
Engineering 2007

Phillips T Education and
Social Policy 2007

Leavers

Durham

Grove Smith	Social Sciences Combined	2007
Hatzis P	General Engineering	2007
Lee K	Law	2007
Li N	Accounting and Finance	2007
Parker R	Chemistry	2007
Probert P	Zoology (with Industrial Placement)	2007

Edinburgh

Graham D	Arabic	2007
Watts M	German and European History	2008

Exeter

Grant A	Geography	2007
Moore H	Biological Sciences	2008
Rutland T	Mechanical Engineering	2007
Watkins M	Geography	2008

Harvard

Bucke R	Humanities	2007
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Imperial

Drazin W	Physics	2007
Ho L	Aeronautical Engineering	2007
Lee J	Biomedical Science	2007
Ling M	Chemical Engineering	2007
Wu J	Chemistry	2007

King's College London

Amin B	Mathematics	2007
Blakey T	History	2007
Fóster O	American Studies	2007
Hofman	French with Film	2007
Keogh T	French with Management	2008
Liu	Ancient History	2007
Marsh R	English and French Law	2008
McGrath	History	2007
Sethi S	Medicine	2007
Titely L	Geography	2008
Leeds		
Caird E	Music	2008

La Forte A	International History & Politics	2007
Morrison O	History	2008
Pattison	Geography	2007
Perou E	Cinema & Photography	2008
Raine V	Classical Literature and English	2007
Waite O	Mathematics and Philosophy	2007

London School of Economics

Ryvkin T	International Relations	2007
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Manchester

Ambler J	Geography	2007
Chambers	Architecture	2007
Tierney A	Chemistry	2007

Newcastle

Bell A	Economics	2007
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Nottingham

Halford C	Industrial Economics	2008
Wood M	Veterinary Medicine and Surgery	2007

Oxford

Chu T	Mathematics and Statistics	2007
Dean T	Classics	2007
Freeland H	English Language and Literature	2007
Hamilton A	Human Sciences	2008
Preston A	Physics	2007
Rawcliffe	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2007
Richards C	Chemistry	2007

Queen Mary University London

McFarlane	English	2007
Yassine B	Biomedical Sciences	2007

Reading

Woodley K	Quantity Surveying	2008
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Rose Bruford

Hutchinson	Acting	2007
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Royal Holloway University London

Beaumont	English	2007
Cooper J	Ancient History	2008
Dawson T	English	2007

Fenton G	English	2007
Fry D	Financial and Business Economics	2007
Lawson B	Drama and Creative Writing	2007

Royal Veterinary

Hughes	Veterinary Medicine	2007
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School of Oriental and African Studies

Wylie S	History and Chinese	2007
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Sheffield

Christiansen	Biomedical Science	2008
Cooke B	French and Politics	2008

Southampton

Buttar D	English	2007
Hosking S	History	2008
Stradling P	Music	2007
Thomas C	Management Sciences & German	2007
Westenbrink	Electromechanical Engineering	2007

Sussex

Salmon G	Geography	2008
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Swansea

Lester C	Business Economics	2007
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University College London

Burnham O	Human Sciences	2007
Checkley C	Geography	2007
Cruickshank	Geography	2008
Im J	Mathematics and Statistical Science	2007
Mouradian	Project Management for Construction	2007
Stephenson	Medicine	2007

Warwick

Halls C	Physics	2007
Kim Y	Politics and Sociology	2007
Roberts M	Theatre & Performance Studies	2007

York

Dwyer C	Philosophy, Politics & Economics	2007
Minton O	Economics	2007





ABINGDON