



ABINGDON



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GRIFFEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR OLD ABINGDONIANS

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Cover Image: OA volunteers in the Yang Science Centre for the 2018 Sixth Form Careers Evening

From the Chairman

It is certainly a revelation to go back to School – especially if it has been a while since you were last there. Depending on your age, you will experience various states of amazement at some of the changes you will see. The latest addition is the gleaming Beech Court, a magnificent piece of architecture housing a Library, a light and airy Art Department and a very grown-up Sixth Form Centre. To accommodate this development much of the space around the School campus had to be reconfigured and upgraded, so where you might have learnt Woodwork or Biology in the past may now be offered as a hoseroom or space for Modern Languages. We salute the herculean labours achieved by our Director of Finance and Operations, **Justin Hodges (1989)**, who drove much of this change to the fabric of the School, and continue to thank the many OAs who support School projects through generous donations.

But don't worry – some things never change at Abingdon. School House still dominates in its Gothic splendour, and Crescent House has its reassuringly calm air of Edwardian gentility. I think that particular smell of catfish and formaldehyde has just about been exorcised from the old Biology labs, but the Dining Hall still has the certain aroma belonging to that beloved institution.

What hasn't changed much over the generations is the average Abingdon schoolboy. Indeed, our boys today still have that same, slightly untidy look that is a product of the healthy distractions that Abingdon School throws up. Life's too short to tuck in your shirt if you are working on stage set design, kicking a ball about on Upper Field or rushing to a rehearsal.

The boys also share the same questions and concerns that we all did. Am I clever enough to go to university? Will I be able to get a job? What should I study?

This is where the involvement of OAs is so valuable. As a 17- or 18-year-old you were probably shy, confident, smart,



Where it all began...

Rents from properties once owned by John Roysse in Birchin Lane, London, were used to endow Abingdon School. These were sold in 1866 and the new buildings in Park Road started soon after – thanks in part to proceeds of the Birchin Lane properties.

successful, disorganised, clueless, focused – simultaneously – just like Abingdon boys today. It is therefore great when OAs return to the School, share their common experiences with current boys and help them to take the right steps in future.

Of course, it is also great to revisit the School to catch up with old friends and gauge how much or how little they too have changed. Thanks to your OA Club you have opportunities to relive your youth on the hockey pitch, laugh with old form mates, reminisce at the London Drinks Reception and more. The School and OA Club alike look forward to welcoming you back soon to show you how things have and have not changed.

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

Ken Welby (1984)

From the Headmaster

Remembrance is always a powerful event and a time when our connection with Old Abingdonians feels stronger than ever. It is always moving to reflect on the fate of the numerous former pupils and staff who gave their lives in the two World Wars, especially when one considers how small the School was then; in 1914 there were only 66 boys on roll, and over 70 OAs died in the First World War alone.

The focus last year was largely on the First World War as we recognised the centenary of the 1918 armistice. We held a number of events to mark the anniversary and at our Remembrance assembly showed a short film which had been produced by one of our current parents. The film focuses on the First IV rowing crew of 1914, three of whom lost their lives in the War, as did their coach. The film skilfully intertwines images of the crew with footage of Abingdon boys rowing today. It reminds us how young the combatants were in the War, with many joining up as soon as they left School, and



The griffens on the School's rugby pitches wore a poppy in place of John Roysse's rose for the centenary of the 2018 armistice.



also heightens a sense of the strong connection between the generations who have passed through Abingdon and those pupils who are with us today. You can see the film on the School's website and I hope OAs will enjoy watching it.

It is great to see that the connections between current pupils and OAs are strong in many other ways, too, and I am particularly grateful to the OAs who come back to the School to give careers advice or lectures and who offer opportunities to the boys through work placements, internships and so on. There is no question at all that pupils benefit greatly from this support.

I hope that you'll enjoy learning more about the School and Old Abingdonians in this magazine and, if you haven't been back to see us recently, that you will come and visit or take part in one of the OA Club's excellent events. I am grateful to everyone who serves on the OA Club Committee for their hard work and would also like to thank Rachel Boswell for her work in putting together this superb publication.

Michael Windsor

Mike Windsor

Social Media

Instagram: @oldabingdonians

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LinkedIn

The OA Club Committee

Chairman: Ken Welby (1984)

President: David Lindgren (1993)

Elected Members:

Ian Oliver (1958), John Walker (1969), Christopher Clayton (1973), Darshan Puri (2003), Henry Scarlett (2007), Sebastien Wilson (2008) and Peter Moore (2013)

Ex Officio Members:

Michael Windsor (Headmaster), Ian Fishpool (Common Room), Alexa Broad (Director of Development and Alumni Relations), Alison Lester (OA Club Officer) and Rachel Boswell (Communications and Events Officer)

Sport

CRICKET

In August 2018 a group of First XI OA cricketers from the 1960s assembled at Banbury Cricket Club for a special lunch, hosted by the Minor Counties Cricket Association, to recognise the tremendous achievements of **Mike Nurton (1961)**. Mike, whilst representing Oxfordshire in the Minor Counties Championship, scored a career aggregate of over 12,000 runs over a period of more than 25 seasons – a record that is unlikely to be surpassed.

At the lunch Mike spoke engagingly about his cricketing career and, rather fittingly as a member of The Magic Circle, performed a number of illusions to entertain his audience. Of the nine players present, five were ex-captains of cricket and four had played in the Minor Counties Championship.

Attending OAs were Michael Neilan (1960), Mike Nurton (1961), John Bunce (1962), Robert Evans (1962), Geoff Keeys (1963), David Bent (1965), Andrew Varley (1969), Julian Shellard (1971) and Mick Varley (1970).

Apologies were received from David Goodwin (1961), David Robey (1961), Peter Whitton (1961) and Peter Shellard (1964).

John Bunce (1962)



CYCLING

Charlie Quarterman (2017) has had a year of ups and downs. After taking a long time to recover from 2017's big injuries he was then set back by various illnesses, but this did not stop him from targeting the 2018 HSBC UK National U23 Time Trial Championships. Charlie worked towards this goal for months on end whilst out racing in Germany, and on returning to Britain in June earned second place in the Time Trial Championships, just 20 seconds off the win and over a minute clear of fourth place. This impressive achievement bodes very well for next season as Charlie continues to work towards the top spot.

Along with this ride and several other podium finishes in Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg, Charlie has had a good season of development and is now excited to move forward with his new race team, Zappi, which he joins this year. With the right support this move will enable him to target races that are better suited to him in Italy, France and Belgium, with the view that he will hopefully make the big step into the top ranks in 2020.



Be sure to follow Charlie's progress on his blog:

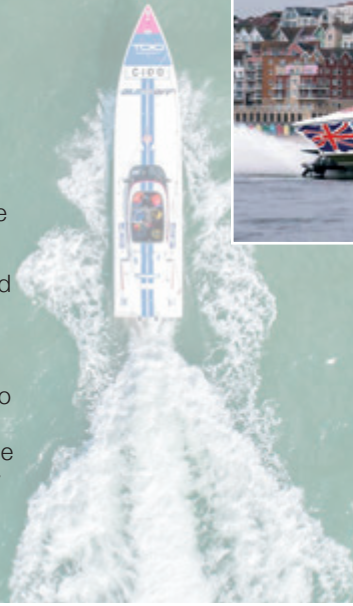
www.charliequarterman.com.



POWERBOAT RACING

Powerboat racer **Dorian Griffith (1979)** enjoyed brilliant success in 2018 with Blastoff Racing. In June the Yanmar engine-powered Blastoff, raced by Dorian and teammate Will Stevens, won Class C at the Fortitudo Property Poole Bay 100 Offshore Powerboat Race, the opening round of the 2018 Marathon World Offshore Championship and the Harmsworth Trophy. The pair were delighted to place third overall.

Dorian and Will then obtained second place in Round 2 of the Championship at Falmouth before going on to achieve a class win at the UKOPRA British Offshore 2 – Marathon National Championship, settled at Cowes on the Isle of Wight. The pair had to battle through huge seas in the shortened race and finished fourth overall, finally placing fourth, too, in the 2018 Marathon World Offshore Championship. They are also the current World Record Holders in their class, Marathon C.



RUNNING

When it comes to outdoor pursuits, **Jonty de la Harpe (2016)** quite literally aims high. In 2018 he embarked on a three-week climbing excursion in the Alps with a friend from his university, Durham, which was entirely self-organised. “It was our first experience of alpinism so we were mostly just learning the ropes (literally),” says Jonty, “but we climbed a few mountains over 4,000m tall. The highlight was definitely climbing an exposed ridge on a very picturesque mountain called Lyskamm at 4,527m (in the left of the photo, behind me).” The pair also attempted to climb Monte Rosa – the highest mountain in Switzerland – but wisely decided that the last section looked too dangerous to tackle.

Shortly after his return to the UK Jonty not only competed in but won the 2018 Longworth 10k, an annual running event of which he has also been junior champion in the past. Jonty finished in a time of 37:28 (ahead of Elliott Birkbeck, Master i/c Athletics and Cross-country, who claimed second place in a time of 39:46), despite difficult course conditions following a downpour that morning.

Three weeks later and Jonty was back racing near Edinburgh, having been given a spot to compete in the Pentland Skyline Race. This highly challenging, 16 mile fell race involves 6,200ft of climbing and was successfully completed by Jonty in a time of 2 hours and 55 minutes, placing him 29th out of a field of 250. “It was steep and in places quite slippery, but very enjoyable with a great atmosphere. I intend to run again next year!”



SAILING

Although Abingdon School is firmly inland its OAs and staff alike have continued to exhibit remarkable nautical skill.

Volvo Round Ireland Yacht Race

Covering a minimum of 700 miles, the Volvo Round Ireland Yacht Race started on 30 June 2018 and went clockwise around Ireland to finish where it began in Wicklow. We raced as a crew of ten on Hooligan VII, a 40ft yacht, and in reality covered closer to 850 miles as we sailed for most of the way against the wind. At the start the weather was quite benign and all 47 boats had a lovely sail with a gentle breeze from behind, but this was to change by the time we got to Wexford, where the wind was now coming from ahead and increasing. We passed the Fastnet Rock and went on to reach the southwesterly tip of Ireland, where the wind was at gale force from the northwest. This continued most of the way up the west coast (which is most inhospitable even in calm weather) where more than 30 knots of wind on a lee shore made it very uncomfortable and wet! However, the conditions did improve in time for us to have a fine run down to the finish with all our sails up and travelling at about 12 knots. It had taken just over five days.

Edward Broadway (1964)

Arrow Trophy

On 13-14 October 2018 a team of 12 represented the OA Club at the Arrow Trophy, an annual sailing regatta held on the Isle of Wight. The team fought hard all weekend, enduring some very strong weather and competition, but also had the chance to enjoy a dinner and prize-giving ceremony in the Cowes Events Centre on the Saturday night. The team raced against 27 boats from other schools' old pupils' associations and, after winning all three of the races on the Saturday by some margin, held onto the top of the tree to eventually finish second overall, adding the School name to yet another trophy at the event. Well done to all – hopefully the team will be able to regain the title of Arrow Trophy champion in 2019.

George Jørgensen (2012)



De Guingand Bowl
In August 2018 Edward Broadway also secured an overall win with Hooligan VII at the Royal Ocean Racing Club's annual De Guingand Bowl race. This was the first time that the yacht had won the competition.



Team (left to right):

Top row: Simon King (1998), Tom Altmann (2008), Owen Thompson-Cheel (2004), Neil Fisher (1997), Nick Wilkinson (2009), Ed Broadway (1964), George Jørgensen (2012) and David Bickerton (former Physics teacher). Bottom row: Will McGeehin (2004), Ben Simmons (Head of Physics), Arthur Bruce (2017) and Giles Oldershaw (2017).

Reflections of a Rowing Coach

I find myself writing this article – a follow-up to last year's *Griffen* piece – outside a coffee shop in Banyoles, Spain, where I am on my second training camp with the Abingdon School Boat Club. A lot has happened since I started back at the School in August 2017. For me, the past season has included many instances of things coming full circle. Teachers from my own time at Abingdon have become colleagues; school and university friends are now involved with rowing schools in some way or another; and others can be found on the rowing circuit installed in their respective boat clubs.

I always fondly think back to how my interest in rowing began, and the teacher-coaches who set me off on the path that has led me back home. The dream team of Mr Price and Mr Webb, who introduced me to the sport and taught me to cox and scull, are still an essential part of the Boat Club's coaching staff, and it's an absolute pleasure to work alongside them ten years later. Seeing them put in the same amount of enthusiasm, care and passion as when I started is truly heart-warming and confirms that I am not only coaching at the right school, but also amongst some of the best role models this sport has to offer.

I am also very fortunate to be working with smart, talented young men whose educated questions continue to surprise and push you to be a better 'teacher' of your craft. It is an honour to be able to have an impact on Abingdon students' school and sporting experiences, which will hopefully stay with them for many years – just as mine have.

There was a great atmosphere within the Boat Club last year. It always helps when there's some winning to be done, and each age group certainly experienced its fair share of victories. A personal highlight was seeing my J16 crew achieve bronze at the National Schools' Regatta. Every year has its special moments, but your first major coaching victory with a new crew creates memories that endure. The journey that those boys went on throughout the season – and the way that they progressed, supported each other and rallied when the time came – made that victory so much sweeter. Having won a Nat Schools' medal myself, I could completely relate to the joy (and relief!) in their success. As a coach, it's a different but no less satisfying feeling to see others, who've worked so hard, achieve.

To cap off a really good season of domestic racing, it was a huge privilege to be selected to coach the British 2- at the Coupe de la Jeunesse (European Junior Championships) in the summer of 2018 in Cork, Ireland. Returning to the theme of 'coming full circle', coaching at this competition took me back to when I received my first international vest at the exact same regatta and venue some ten years ago. It was fantastic this time to see one of our own athletes selected to race in the flagship 8+ and come home with two gold medals at his first international competition. I was totally gratified to share that experience with him and see the torch passed onto the next rowing generation in that way. I look forward to seeing what forthcoming seasons will bring with great anticipation.



Rory Copus (2009)
Senior Rowing Coach

OAs* who participated in Henley Royal Regatta 2018

Tim Clarke (2009)	The Visitors' Challenge Cup
George Rossiter (2010)	The Silver Goblets and Nickalls' Challenge Cup
Vassilis Ragoussis (2011)	The Ladies' Challenge Plate
Alex Fisher (2012)	The Temple Challenge Cup
Ian Middleton (2013)	The Prince Albert Challenge Cup
Henry Lambe (2014)	The Temple Challenge Cup
Guy Screaton (2015)	The Prince Albert Challenge Cup
Max Townley (2015)	The Prince Albert Challenge Cup
Jack Walsh (2015)	The Temple Challenge Cup
Carl Cox (2016)	The Temple Challenge Cup
Tom Digby (2016)	The Stewards' Challenge Cup
Adam Teece (2016)	The Temple Challenge Cup
Tom Wiblin (2016)	The Thames Challenge Cup
Jamie Sudlow (2017)	The Prince of Wales Challenge Cup
Charles Cousins (Assistant Boathouse Manager)	The Diamond Challenge Sculls

Other OAs* who competed at Qualifying Friday are Rory Copus (2009), Dan Boddington (2010), Alex Rowe-Jones (2014), Jack Squizzoni (2014), Edward Hall (2017), Tom Haynes (2017), Robert Kinnier Wilson (2017) and Jack Lewis (2017). Jonny Garrow (Boathouse Manager) and Oli Pemberton (former Mathematics teacher) also competed.

*That we know of. Be sure to let the OA Club Office know if you will be racing this year.



Abingdon Meets Moldova

Since 2000, Abingdon School has been organising regular fundraising events to support the work of Agape, a charity working in Moldova. To date, these events have raised over £80,000.

In 2003, a group of students visited Moldova to find out how these donations were being spent, and every year since then the School has collaborated with Agape to organise summer camps for Moldovan children. Here, **Graeme Innes (2004)**, one of the pupils involved in the first trip in 2003, reports on the massive impact that this trip has had on his life.

Off the beaten track, in a forgotten corner of Eastern Europe, lies Moldova – the poorest country on the continent. Landlocked between Romania and Ukraine, crippled by corruption and shackled to its Soviet past, Moldova perhaps unsurprisingly receives only 11,000 international visitors a year! Of those visitors, 0.1% are the Abingdon boys who have visited Moldova annually thanks to the School's partnership with Agape, which seeks to improve the lives of children and young people in a small town called Ialoveni, just south of the capital, Chişinău.

Besides enjoying a visit to the nearby, 200km-long (and world's largest) underground wine cellar, each year the boys help Agape with various projects which have, over time, had a considerable impact on the local community. The lowest ranking school in the district, for instance, has climbed right up the league table thanks largely to Abingdon's support. Huge credit is due to **Adam Jenkins (1993)**, Lower School Housemaster, who has tirelessly devoted himself to this admirable partnership from the start.

Whilst in the Lower Sixth, I was privileged to be invited on the School's very first trip to Moldova in the 2003 Easter holiday. We stayed with a host family in Ialoveni and visited an institution for disabled children, a rehabilitation centre for girls who had been trafficked and a project with children who were at risk of being trafficked. It goes without saying that such a trip had a profound impact on the boys and teachers alike. Many of the School's subsequent visits to Moldova have taken place in the summer when the country is greener and more pleasant, but during the bleak and seemingly never-ending winter the grey of the buildings meets dull, heavy skies, exacerbating the burden that many people bear. This widespread hopelessness has been reduced, in part, in places like Ialoveni due to the fantastic work of Agape and Abingdon School.

After that first trip, the director of Agape invited me to return to Moldova to volunteer with Agape on my gap year. I arrived in Chişinău in September 2004 wondering what on earth I had signed up for! The ups and downs of the following 11 months were undeniably life-changing. Living in Moldova had its challenges: temperatures dipping to a bone-chilling -30°C, high levels of suspicion from officials and the unpleasantness of eating boiled chicken feet, pickled watermelon and chunks of raw pork fat. During the course of the year, corrupt officials seeking a bribe accused me of being an arms smuggler (when I had short hair), a drugs smuggler (when I had long hair), a



"It goes without saying that such a trip had a profound impact on the boys and teachers alike."





“That year in Moldova left an indelible impression upon me.”



spy (twice!), a child smuggler (when my sister visited) and, most amusingly, whilst bringing in some large bags of clothes donated to needy kids, I was accused of being the international leader of a second-hand clothes smuggling ring! Needless to say my Scottish blood was too stubborn to part with any money!

The officials may be cold, but the Moldovan people are warm. I was welcomed into people's homes, and as I learnt their language and customs was embraced as one of their own. I taught at the disabled institution and aforementioned bottom-ranked school and helped at classes for young entrepreneurs and at a centre for children from vulnerable family backgrounds. It was hard to leave at the end of the year, but I knew that to be of real, long-term value in Moldova I needed to undertake proper studies, training and experience.

That year in Moldova left an indelible impression upon me. Back in my home village near Abingdon I founded the Marcham-Moldova Lifeline – which carries on a partnership similar to that between Abingdon School and Agape – and following my studies at the University of St Andrews did some youth work before becoming a C of E curate at Christ Church Leyton (in the Moldovan part of London).

In the summer of 2017, my family and I moved out to Moldova. We are now living in Chişinău as long-term humanitarian workers, volunteering with Agape and another Christian charity. We work with street children, housebound elderly people and at a community centre for children in a remote village. I am also a lecturer at a university in Chişinău. We have two young children, Iona (aged four) and Joshua (aged two), who both love Moldova's delicious fresh fruit.

I will always be thankful to Abingdon for giving me the chance to visit and volunteer in Moldova. The country has definitely benefited from this close relationship with the School and the generous financial gifts from many over the years. I, in turn, have also benefited tremendously from Moldova and its people, and am not the only (Old) Abingdonian to have done so. As someone who has had a privileged upbringing, with many opportunities and little suffering, it is humbling for me to live among people who work so hard – some of whom are from very challenging circumstances indeed. Cross-cultural learning is one of the greatest successes of this long-lasting partnership, which is about far more than just charity. Long may it continue to have significant mutual benefit for Moldovans and Abingdonians.

Graeme Innes (2004)



“Cross-cultural learning is one of the greatest successes of this long-lasting partnership.”

What of our Artistic OAs?

They say it takes ten thousand hours to master a skill. If you practise for three hours a day – the length of a standard recording session or one of Shakespeare’s meatier plays – it equates to a little under ten years. On that basis, perhaps it’s a good moment to ask how the arty types who left Abingdon in 2008 and beyond have fared. Shouldn’t some of them be getting good by now? Well, yes – and indeed they are. But we know that careers in the arts are precarious at the best of times, and that the world now feels very different to the one that faced the 2008 leavers – a group that included our largest ever cohort of GCSE Drama students and a host of talented actors, musicians, comedians, directors and filmmakers to boot. We’re also told that young adults of the new millennium are the ‘Snowflake Generation’, supposedly less capable than their predecessors of withstanding the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. So what’s become of the Abingdon thespians of the last ten years?

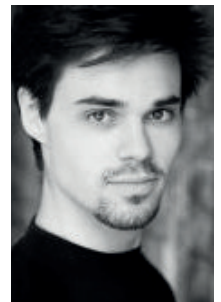
Happily, it seems that they are a resilient bunch, and for some, those ten thousand hours feel as though they’ve passed quickly. **Chris Young (2013)** and **Toby Marlow (2013)** left Abingdon with places at RADA and Cambridge respectively, and lost no time in establishing themselves at the highest level after graduating. Chris began his professional acting career alongside Laurence Fox at the Arts Theatre in Cambridge in a touring production of Tom Stoppard’s *The Real Thing*, before playing Octavius Caesar opposite Ben Whishaw in Nick Hytner’s promenade version of Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*. Hardly had that completed a six-month run before Chris was appearing at the Donmar Warehouse in Muriel Spark’s *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, adapted by David Harrower. Catching up with Chris afterwards in the heat of a World Cup summer, it was no surprise that he was keen for a break before his next role as



Malcolm in *Macbeth* at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. All of these productions attest to the power of Chris’s acting and his electric stage presence.

The same can be said of Toby. Having taken the Cambridge theatrical scene by storm, both as a performer and composer, he wowed Edinburgh, then the West End, with two shows created with writing partner Lucy Moss. *Hot Gay Time Machine*, described as “a feel-good show for everyone”, featured Toby and Zak Ghazi-Torbati in a one-hour blitz of high energy dance routines and hilarious musical numbers charting the key moments in a gay man’s life. By turns outrageous, touching and enormously fun, it prompted one acquaintance to ask whether Toby and his accomplice actually needed an audience, such was their evident onstage pleasure. Meanwhile, *SIX*, a second hit from the Marlow and Moss stable, was hailed in *The Guardian* as Britain’s answer to American theatrical phenomenon *Hamilton*. In *SIX*, the writers liberate the six wives of Henry VIII from their traditional status as victims or royal appendages by giving them microphones, kick-ass songs, sharp dance moves and recasting them as the sassiest of Beyoncé-inspired girl groups. The effect was phenomenal.

Joe Westcott (2013) was in the same year as Toby and Chris, and like them was a Drama scholar. After training at the Guildford School of Acting he too has been making his way on stage and screen. His latest venture was playing Alan-A-Dale in a 2018 take on *Robin Hood* that looks “behind the legend” to bring us a story of “dark magic and power struggles” – so pretty much a story for our times.



Other recent alumni whose passion for acting at Abingdon propelled them towards drama schools include **Charlie Bateman (2012)**, **Henry Papworth (2015)** – both graduates of the Oxford School of Drama – and **Henry Jenkinson (2012)**, who completed his Cambridge Music degree before heading to The Juilliard School in New York where he's currently completing a Fine Arts Acting course. There, he has bumped into a number of other actors schooled in these parts, notably the brilliant St Helen's duo of **Charly Clive** and **Ellen Robertson** whose rise to prominence has been both stellar and clouded by trauma. In 2016, Charly (whose brother, **Dylan Clive (2008)**, was part of that bumper GCSE Drama cohort and is now a key member of the BT Sport team) was diagnosed with a brain tumour – not exactly the stuff of comedy. However, together with friend and comedy partner Ellen, she turned it into a wonderful show called *Britney* that won accolades in Edinburgh, London and the States. Together, they've been dubbed "a modern-day French and Saunders", but they have also enjoyed success as solo artists: Ellen's play *Nesting* was produced at the Watermill Theatre in 2017, while Charly recently completed filming the lead role of Marnie in a hotly anticipated drama series for Channel 4 called *Pure*.



Screen acting has been a growing source of success for **Steve Hodgetts (2009)**, who signed off from Abingdon with the acclaimed *Sketch, Drugs & Rock 'n' Roll* comedy show at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2009 that included St Helen's drama alumna **Lindsey Russell**, now a budding national treasure courtesy of her role as a *Blue Peter* presenter. After studying Geography at university, Steve made his way back to acting through a series of short comic films co-written with Michael Baccalini. These found favour on the internet, and paved the way for their first feature, the cleverly titled *Love Possibly*, in which Steve plays a hopelessly romantic, rom-com obsessed virgin on a quest to find love. The film premiered in October 2018 at the Raindance Festival in London and has already secured a raft of awards, including Best International Feature at the Catalina Film Festival in Los Angeles. One to watch, in every sense.

Comedy has been a popular destination for several Abingdon Drama students, no doubt inspired by **David Mitchell (1992)** whose work on television and in print continues to delight. Before leaving Abingdon, **Paddy Gervers (2008)** and **Fin Taylor (2008)** interviewed Mitchell for an evening of entertainment at the Lyric Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue to mark the 750th anniversary of the School. Paddy went on to team up with **Jonny Donahoe (2001)** to form Jonny and the Baptists, a comedy blues band that has enjoyed great success at the Edinburgh Fringe, on Radio 4 and around the country by setting the burning issues of the day to music. Fin cut his comic teeth as a stand-up at the University of Bristol and gradually found his voice as "a fiercely funny and uncompromising social commentator" in shows such as *Whitey McWhiteface*, *Lefty Tightly Righty Loosey* and *When Harassy Met Sally*. It felt as if Fin's ten thousand hours were up when he was invited to make his first appearance on the BBC's popular *Live at the Apollo* in September 2018.



"Comedy has been a popular destination for several Abingdon Drama students."



Will Abell (2012) took a degree in Theatre and Performance at the University of Leeds before graduating from LAMDA's specialist Stage Management and Technical Theatre course in 2017. Afterwards, he worked in a freelance capacity on a plethora of shows before securing a permanent role as Technician at The Other Palace, a new London venue dedicated to "discovering, developing and reimagining musical theatre".

The Abingdon Film Unit (AFU) has now been a feature of School life for fifteen years. It, too, has seen a growing number of recent alumni make their mark. **Johnny Burrow (2014)** studied English at Cambridge before completing his MA in Broadcast Journalism at City, University of London. His debut documentary, *Walks on the Wild Side: Britain's Exotic Pets*, is a fine calling card that signals the arrival of a rising star of factual television. **Hendrik Ehlers (2013)** left Oxford as President of the University's Filmmaking Foundation and went on to write and direct *Ruxi: The Road to Slavery*, a short film about modern slavery that has been screened at festivals in the UK and abroad. At Abingdon, **Will McDowell (2011)**, **Tom Bateman (2010)** and **Matt Copson (2010)** combined to make the AFU's *One Foot on the Ground*, a powerful documentary inspired by the School's longstanding Moldova Project. Each has gone on to develop filmmaking skills in professional contexts. Tom graduated from the BBC's Production Trainee Scheme before relocating to Scandinavia to start a freelance career as a video journalist. Will is currently working in the film industry in Los Angeles and has written and directed two features. Matt, meanwhile, has achieved success as an artist. His most recent exhibition, *Blorange*, opened at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris last summer.



After winning a BAFTA scholarship to study Filmmaking in Hong Kong, **Tian Ji (2010)** has produced a host of beautiful short films, several in collaboration with his contemporary **Adrian Lo (2010)**, whose career as a composer and musician is also flourishing. Tian's latest film, *Doolittle Raiders: A China Story*, tells the story of American airmen who crash-landed in Japanese-occupied China during the Second World War, and was screened at the Imperial War Museum in London as part of its 2018 short film festival. Animator **Henry Dunbar (2010)** also teamed up with **Jack Rogers (2010)** to create Get Stamped, a company producing bespoke, custom-made and environmentally-friendly ink stamps. For every stamp they produce, one tree is planted. **Chris Hyde (2011)**, who collaborated with Henry on several AFU films, now works for Creative England, one of the bodies that funds and supports the development of new films and TV shows. **Michael Bicarregui (2014)** followed his Durham English degree with a Masters in Film at the University of Oxford and is now applying for a PhD. **Josh Sarchie (2015)** and **Jack Bradley (2015)**, while still studying at their respective universities, continue to work together on a range of filmmaking ventures, including one that relocates Adam and Eve to a contemporary suburban house. Here, Adam strives to ensure that the front door is securely fastened at all times, and yet Eve's curiosity is sparked when the fateful apple arrives in the form of a football crashing through the roof of their greenhouse. An intriguing prospect. **Jack Perry (2011)** never joined the AFU when he was at School – he was too immersed in the Art Department on the floor below. However, he did find his way into filmmaking at Wimbledon College of Arts and since then has produced *A Girl Goes to Dinner*, a delightful short thriller that turned heads on its release and continues to win golden opinions.

All in all, then, Abingdon's supposedly delicate artistic snowflakes seem to have as much staying power as 2018's redoubtable 'Beast from the East'. And that's to say nothing of those who've been on the loose a little longer. If we widen the net to those who left Abingdon in the ten years before 2008, the list is just as formidable.



"Abingdon's supposedly delicate artistic snowflakes seem to have as much staying power as 2018's redoubtable 'Beast from the East'."

The third series of Radio 4 sitcom *Reluctant Persuaders* by writer **Ed Rowett (2005)** is currently airing to rave reviews, with a cast headed by Nigel Havers and Josie Lawrence. **Tim Dawson (2006)**, another writer who made his name in comedy, has recently turned his pen to the body politic in a series of trenchant articles for *The Daily Telegraph*. Director and magician **Simon Evans (2002)** has continued to deliver gasp-inducing theatre with his productions of Tracey Letts' *Killer Joe*, starring Hollywood A-lister Orlando Bloom at the Trafalgar Studios in London, and *The Vanishing Man* at the Pleasance in Edinburgh. After starring on screen in *Game of Thrones* and *Eastenders*, actor **Eddie Eyre (2006)** returned to the stage in a production of *The Country Wife* at the Southwark Playhouse, in which the number of highly defined torsos on view was guaranteed to frighten the horses. Actor and musician **Alex Mugnaioni (2007)** starred in no fewer than three productions at the Storyhouse in Chester – *Swallows and Amazons*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Tempest* – while **Huw Parmenter (2007)** featured in the BBC's chilling thriller *Killing Eve*. **Max Hutchinson (2007)** starred as Sherlock Holmes in the Peepolykus version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London before extending his CV with a number of assistant director roles at the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton. **Richard Holt (2003)** worked with theatre company Antic Disposition on its musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* in the role of Bob Cratchit, while **Richard Soames (2005)** took his *Let's Make a Movie* show to the Edinburgh Fringe. **Simon Mayhew-Archer (2002)** won a BAFTA as the producer of smash hit BBC Three comedy series *This Country*, while his dad, **Paul Mayhew-Archer** – best known for writing *The Vicar of Dibley* and producing an award-winning documentary about living with Parkinson's – performed *Incurable Optimist*, his first ever stand-up show, in a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe.



Several Abingdon actors who made names as musicians have also been in the news of late. **Joe Wilson (2000)** with his band Solomon Grey released the album *Human Music*, which comprised songs written in response to the death of Joe's mum, Sandy, and which he wrote about beautifully in an article for *The Times*. **Tom Richards (1999)** must be a contender for James Brown's title as 'the hardest working man in show business' as he continues to write, arrange and perform with – among many others – Jamie Cullum, the Heritage Orchestra and Tim Minchin, while also holding down his post as Professor of Jazz Composition and Arranging at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. **David Ridley (2007)** appeared on stage in Sally Cookson's tremendous National Theatre production of *Jane Eyre* and has since served as composer and musical director for several RSC productions in Stratford-upon-Avon, including *The Duchess of Malfi* and a terrific new musical, *Miss Littlewood*. After a phenomenal twelve years as bassist and founding member of Foals, **Walter Gervers (2002)** decided to leave the band in order to pursue a new life. Many of us hope that he might return to the stage he graced so compellingly as an actor during his time at Abingdon.



Among the AFU's first alumni, **Sam Johnson (2006)** enjoyed phenomenal success last year with his family adventure film, *Earthy Encounters*. After premiering at the Prince Charles Cinema in Leicester Square, the film went on to win awards around the world, such as at the prestigious Dublin International, Newport Beach and Tribeca Film Festivals. **George Cowie (2005)**, who set up his own company, Superfolk Films, also tasted success with his film *Dial-A-Ride*, a funny and heart-warming documentary capturing life on board a Dial-a-Ride bus in rural South Wales. **Alex Ingham-Brooke (2006)** combines independent filmmaking with commercial work for clients such as Vogue, Adidas and Swarovski, while **Tom Wakeling (2006)**, who shot the AFU's *Gravel and Stones* documentary in Cambodia when he was at the School, has also made his name as a director of independent and commercial films. His film *Rostrum* won the Best Documentary Short award at the Oxford International Film Festival in 2017.

It is indeed a formidable list, and somewhere near the top of it sits playwright **Mike Bartlett (1999)**, whose prolific output shows no signs of slowing or losing its sure-fire touch. After gripping the nation's TV audiences with two series of *Doctor Foster*, 2018 saw Mike reconfiguring the Almeida Theatre in London to accommodate *Albion*, his brilliant Chekhov-inspired drama. Next, Mike took on print journalism in a new BBC series called *Press*, which is still setting the airwaves humming as I write. Mike undeniably has a gift for state-of-the-nation writing that relishes the nuance and complexity of our lives. At the end of 2018 he unveiled his third project of the year, one specially created for a venue Mike first visited on a School theatre trip twenty years ago – Oxford's Old Fire Station. Its title? *Snowflake*, of course.

Jeremy Taylor
Director of Arts Partnerships

The Loose Limbed Collective hopes to organise its next gathering soon. To stay up to date with arrangements, please contact Jeremy Taylor at jeremy.taylor@abingdon.org.uk.

Changes on Campus and in Common Room

Plans to redevelop much of the School site came to fruition last summer, with physical transformations on campus tying in with various changes amongst the staff.

Rob Southwell-Sander passed on his Housemaster post to Richard Pygott to become our new Director of Partnerships, a role in which he works closely with former long-serving Head of the Drama Department and current Director of Arts Partnerships, Jeremy Taylor. OA **Ben Phillips (2005)** now heads the Drama Department, having transferred his leadership of PSHCE and the Sixth Form Enrichment Programme to Paul Gooding, Head of Wellbeing. Andrew Crisp picked up where Paul left off as Middle Master while David McGill (History), Alexandra Widdern (German) and Victoria Pradas (Spanish) handed over their Departments.

Last summer we also bade farewell to our Head of Art, Amy Downer, who had been greatly involved in the planning of the new Art Department in Beech Court, and to Charlotte McCutcheon (Biology), who founded Abingdon's Lacrosse Club and helped to initiate the annual St Kate's Day match. Mary Lord (Mathematics) moved to Wychwood, Dan Mason (Physics) returned to Cokethorpe and

John Cotton, Assistant Director of Music and one-time Housemaster, departed for a choral post at Portsmouth. Chapel Choir thrived under his leadership. James Hallinan, too, never ceased to enrich the lives of the community during his nine years at Abingdon, having run badminton, developed the opportunities for Middle School scholars and embedded the Extended Project Qualification firmly into our academic programme. He now heads History at Winchester College.

Nicky King, who joined us as Head of Economics, retired in 2018, as did Jane Mansfield, one-time Head of French, Languages Coordinator and dynamic leader of the Third Year Service and Citizenship Scheme. This Scheme was developed vigorously in its early years by Carolyn May, who also retired after a long and sustained

commitment to the teaching of History. George Moody, who ran Religious Studies for 15 years and for a while led athletics and cycling, retired from teaching to become Team Vicar at the Three Valleys Benefice in North Dorset. Sue Wigmore first joined Abingdon 26 years ago as a part-time, one-to-one EFL teacher, and after heading the EFL Department for a period transferred to teaching English full-time. She too retired after a sabbatical at the end of last year.

And so the start of Michaelmas Term saw us welcome several new recruits to carry on the good work of those who departed in the summer, as well as many new boys to replace our 2018 leavers.

David Dawswell Second Master



Mike Stevens (1968), Chairman of Governors

OA Professor Mike Stevens became Abingdon's Chairman of Governors in January 2018, having previously served as OA Club President from 2011-14. Beyond the School Mike trained as a doctor, ultimately specialising in children's cancer care and becoming Professor of Paediatric Oncology at the University of Bristol.

What is the highlight of your first year as Chairman of Governors?

The obvious highlight is the completion and opening of Beech Court, and the extent to which this allowed for a reshuffle of teaching spaces. It is a huge and very exciting piece of work, and I think the facilities are wonderful.

What is the stand-out moment from your time working in the health sector?

My career incorporated academia as well as clinical care, so I had a foot in university life and a practice within the NHS. I also held several senior managerial roles and at one stage was involved in moving an entire hospital from one site to another, and being responsible for safeguarding the care of patients during the process – which is not what you think you'll be doing when you go to medical school! I have in addition had the chance to travel abroad, and in fact lived and worked in the Caribbean for almost four years and in Canada for three years. But what stands out the most are the great people I've worked with and the remarkable children and young people and their families I've encountered along the way.

Who or what inspired you to take up medicine?

Nobody in my family went to university before me, nor were any connected with the medical profession, so goodness knows where I might have inherited the drive and inspiration. At the age of 13 I came to Abingdon School, became attracted to Biology and soon after realised that medicine was what I wanted to

do. My Biology teachers, Joe Talbot and Bill Potter, had a big impact on my experience here.

Outside of the classroom, what would have been your chosen Other Half activity?

My major activity was rowing, which I continued throughout university, but I wish that I'd also explored an interest in music, drawing or painting. I always felt that these were things I couldn't do, so didn't try them. What life has taught me is that all of these things are possible – it's just a case of giving them a go. That said, you do need to encourage boys to follow things through and show a commitment, so they don't just build up a patchwork of relatively small and superficial experiences. It's about striking the right balance – which Abingdon seems to do very well.

What are your forthcoming plans as Chairman of Governors?

I am passionate that we further develop the Abingdon School in Partnership programme and am pleased that a Director of Partnerships is now in place to help us build and strengthen our relationships with the local community and partner schools. I am very keen to see our bursary programme grow so that more boys who might otherwise not be able to benefit from an Abingdon education can do so in future. We have more capital developments in the pipeline, both at Abingdon and at the Prep School, and we will, above all, continue to prioritise the wellbeing of the boys and our staff.

Members' News

1950 – 1959

David Treacher (1950)

David, who studied painting at the Ruskin School of Art and Oxford School of Art, recently sent the School a wonderful piece of artwork depicting the famous griffen playing in the snow (as shown in the accompanying image). This piece, painted by David, was selected as Abingdon School's 2018 Christmas card. David is now retired and lives in Cornwall.

1960 – 1969

Geoff Randall (1968)

Sadly, Geoff's wife died in February 2018 after nearly a decade of debilitating illness. In the years following the death of his brother and fellow OA, **Jim Randall (1965)**, in December 2012 in Thailand, Geoff spent respite leave there in the family apartment. He has now moved to Thailand full time.

Roger Wharton (1967)

Having survived into his 70s in the knowledge that his twin brother, **Chris Wharton (1967)**, sadly didn't make it, Roger now tries to be as fit as possible. Although he doubts that he will be running a 4-minute mile, Roger has taken up the treadmill and also embarks on canoe trips along rivers such as the Frome and Wye and around Poole Harbour. He feels stronger and fitter than he has done for a long time. These new activities are interspersed with Roger's continuing work in the social care sector.

1970 – 1979

Stuart Cameron (1977)

43 years after winning back-to-back Scottish High Jump Championships in 1974 and 1975, Stuart came out of retirement to take part in the Scottish Masters High Jump Championships. He won the Scottish Indoor title in the M55 age group and took silver in the Outdoor Championships, clearing 1.47m. Stuart recently produced and presented a ten-part sports series for ITV Border called *Sport in Focus* and is currently finishing off his film production, *Behind Her Eyes*, which tells the story of Jackie Storrar's final days battling with cancer. Jackie was an eminent Scottish singer and broadcaster.

John Hills (1972)

Whilst on a day trip to London, 32 Lower Sixth pupils and three members of staff from the School's Economics Department were delighted to be hosted at the LSE by OA and academic Professor Sir John Hills, who gave a highly engaging talk on inequality.

Nicholas Kay (1976)

Sir Nicholas was awarded a KCMG in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2016. In August 2017 he was appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, having previously served as the UK's Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa and in many other government roles.

Matthew Savastano (1975)

Matthew has just returned from the USA where, for the past three years, he has been living the dream in Sacramento working as the Track Expert on the California High Speed Rail Project. The Project is a proposed 250mph railway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, due to open in 2029. He has now returned to the UK to live the dream in Basingstoke as Design Manager at WSP (a major transportation and civil engineering consultancy), working on high speed railways in the UK and on projects in India and Africa.

Richard Savory (1971)

Richard finished work in February 2018, having spent 40 years in librarianship, library supply and scientific publishing at the Royal Society of Chemistry – the latter not bad for someone with a Modern Languages degree who was barred from Chemistry lessons at School by Mr Gray (who considered Richard a danger to himself and/or others). He and his wife, Linda, have children in London and Bristol and a grandson in Berlin, with a granddaughter expected soon in London. Richard recently worked out that he has visited 51 countries over the years, and intends to visit another ten or more before he starts 'falling apart'. He is also looking to learn another foreign language – either Russian or Italian. Richard is still in touch with a number of his Abingdon contemporaries.



David Treacher (1950)



Roger Wharton (1967)



Stuart Cameron (1977)



Matthew Savastano (1975)



Richard Savory (1971)



Peter West (1972)



Martin Edwards (1985)



Alexander Snow (1986)



Matthew Trump (1991)

Peter West (1972)

Peter is in his final year as President of the British Association of Audiovestibular Physicians and was awarded the Ruth Spencer Prize by the British Society of Audiology in 2018 for his contributions to vestibular practice. So if any OAs feel dizzy, they know where to go. His is one of the faces featured in the Royal College of Physicians' new recruitment campaign. Peter still enjoys meeting **Noel Crosse (1972)** regularly at Lord's, and is a keen runner and a proud grandfather.

1980 – 1989

Colin Cross (1981)

Colin is the Vice President and Global Head of End User Services, Cloud Infrastructure Services for Capgemini in Buckingham.

Martin Edwards (1985)

Martin is Founder of the Wiltshire Children's Hospice, which opened last year in Devizes. As CEO of Julia's House Children's Hospices in the South West since 2005, he provides palliative care for children and support for their families. The charity makes every moment matter for every child, creating fun memories along the way no matter what the ending. Martin lives with his family by the sea in Dorset. He returned to Abingdon in 2013 to give the annual Prize Giving speech.

Dan Knowles (1988)

Dan is CEO of Oxfordshire Mind, a charity that helps 20,000 people in the county each year. To support the cause Dan completed the 2018 Dixons Carphone Race to Stones, an ultramarathon which sees competitors traverse 100km of the Ridgeway over the course of two consecutive days. Dan placed about halfway in his age category and, at the time of writing, has raised £3,476.25 for Oxfordshire Mind from his efforts. "I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It definitely was one of the hardest things I've done, but I have a feeling I may do something similar again! My thanks to everyone who sponsored me."

Alexander Snow (1986)

Alexander (Sasha) is a director and director of photography who makes films for cinema, television and a range of commercial and charitable organisations. His first film won a BAFTA scholarship to study Documentary Direction at the National Film and Television School. His work since has taken him to challenging environments such as Greenland, Siberia and Zimbabwe, and seen him collaborate with convicted murderers, tiger hunters and property tycoons. In 2006 Sasha was nominated for an RTS Award in Documentary Lighting, Photography and Camera for the film *Arctic Crime & Punishment* (2002) and his subsequent film, *Conflict Tiger* (2006), won 17 international film festival prizes. This was followed by another environmental thriller, *Hadwin's Judgement* (2015), which was nominated for two Canadian Screen Awards. Sasha is also Creative Director at Spark Films.

1990 – 1999

Oliver Greasby (1996)

Oliver continues to work as Senior Legal Counsel for the Deutsche Post DHL group of companies in the UK and lives in Buckingham with his wife, his two sons, Thomas (aged eight) and Joseph (aged six), and his Labrador, Ted. Oliver has recently ventured into self-publishing stories that he originally wrote for his sons, the first two of which (*The Battle of Boggle* and *The Boggle Thief*) are available from Amazon as e-books or in paperback. A third book is in the pipeline.

Stuart Laurie (1999)

Stuart is Regional Brand Manager for Ram and Fiat Professional at FCA Fiat Chrysler Automobiles in the United Arab Emirates.

Stephen Morgan (1990)

Steve has just started working for Deloitte in its management consulting practice. He returned to the UK a year ago with his wife and five-year-old daughter, having lived in Melbourne, Australia for the past 14 years. Steve has competed in marathons and four Ironman triathlons and still does shorter distance events such as, most recently, the London Triathlon. He is now looking for his next challenge. Steve visited Abingdon not long ago to help out at a careers evening, and looks forward to getting back in touch with the School now that he is in the same country.

Mike Morris (1996)

Mike was appointed CEO of the Severn Rivers Trust, an independent environmental charity, in August 2018. He is also a director of the not-for-profit consultancy Severn Rivers Ecology and a trustee and director of Afonydd Cymru, which represents the Welsh Rivers Trusts. Mike additionally secured the funding and is a board member for the largest river restoration project in Europe – Unlocking the Severn. He lives in mid-Wales with his wife and three-year-old daughter.

Matthew Trump (1991)

Whilst at the Plumpton Races in May 2018 Matthew encountered **Ian Moss (1961)**, a

bookie at the event who recognised Matthew by the OA tie he was wearing that day. The accompanying photograph shows the moment they crossed paths.

2000 – 2009

Jamie Barton (2002)

Jamie spent five years working as a solicitor in London with Ashurst LLP before moving back to Oxfordshire in 2012, where he is now a commercial real estate Partner at BrookStreet des Roches LLP. He is married with three children.

Jonathan Bucke (2009)

Jonathan is currently working as a physiotherapist for the British Men's Artistic Gymnastics team and in April 2018 attended the Commonwealth Games with Team England in the Gold Coast, Australia. The accompanying photograph from the Games was taken after they won the team gold; Jonathan is second from left.

Yuan Gao (2005)

Yuan is Co-Founder of Mavrx, an AgTech platform that analyses aerial data collected by drones and provides actionable digital insights to farmers. In recognition of his work, Yuan made the 2018 Forbes 30 Under 30 list for the Enterprise Technology category.

Dominic Roche (2004)

In 2008 Dominic completed his degree in Classical Civilisation at the University of Leeds. He is now Director at Pronto Cocktails and Exquisite Cocktails in Marlow.

Mike Yeung (2000)

Following his time at Abingdon, Mike went on to the LSE to study Law. He is now a practising barrister in Hong Kong (focusing mainly on contentious and non-contentious capital market regulatory compliance, company and commercial disputes and general civil matters), following a ten-year stint as a solicitor specialising in corporate finance, cross-border mergers and acquisitions and private equity funds.

2010 –

Callum Buchanan (2014)

Callum completed a degree in Industrial Design at Northumbria University in 2018 and is now an industrial design intern at LAYER in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Johnny Burrow (2014)

Johnny is a freelance broadcaster. From Monday to Friday he does full time work in London at a new station called Love Sport Radio, where he writes and produces shows and is normally on air for about an hour a day chipping in with feature pieces, too. The highlight of his week is then co-presenting his own show, *Bell & Spurling's Comedy Countdown to Kick Off*, from 12.00-12.30 pm every Saturday (as shown in the accompanying photo). Johnny also regularly appears on BBC Radio London, reviewing the top stories of the day on the early breakfast show. "It's a bright and early start – on air from 4.00-5.00 am – so it's not one for the sleep cycle... It's live from a fancy studio in Broadcasting House, though, so it's a pretty cool experience!"

Mihai Clapaniuc (2010)

After successfully completing the Oxford University Diplomatic Studies Program in July 2018, Mihai returned to work for the Diplomatic Service of his country, Moldova. In August 2018, Mihai was promoted and dispatched to assume the duties of Chargé d'affaires a.i. in Moldova's diplomatic mission to the State of Qatar – the very first diplomatic presence of the Republic of Moldova in an Arabic country. Mihai returned to Abingdon School twice last year to give talks about his career and country, including a presentation to pupils embarking on the School's 2018 Moldova Project trip. He encouraged pupils to be unafraid, open and curious when exploring Moldova and its culture.

Conor Graney (2016)

Conor is now in his third year at Cardiff University studying for his BA Hons in Spanish and Italian, a degree which requires him to spend a minimum of four months in countries where his chosen languages are spoken. Having already visited Spain on a number of occasions, Conor ventured last year to Rosario, Argentina's third largest city, where he spent six months working as a teaching assistant whilst also continuing to play rugby at a competitive level for the Old Resian Club – a local side that plays in the top division in the region and has strong links with Abingdon School. Conor is now developing his Italian language experience in Venice, where he is set to spend another six months playing rugby at a competitive level for Padua Petrarca and teaching English in a local Italian school.

Joe Hogan (2012) and Hussein Ibrahim (2012)

Joe and Hussein were best friends at Abingdon and remained very close pals whilst completing their medical training together at the University of Birmingham. Joe, Head Boy at Abingdon in 2011-12, was a member of the School's First XV rugby squad and at university became Captain of the Rugby Football Club First XV. He now works



Jonathan Bucke (2009)



Johnny Burrow (2014)



Mihai Clapaniuc (2010)



Conor Graney (2016)



Joe Hogan (2012) and Hussein Ibrahim (2012)



Carl Olavesen (2017)



Hal Parke (2012)



Na'im Peymán (2012)



Christian von Eitzen (2015)



David Carson (Honorary OA)

as a foundation year one doctor at Croydon University Hospital, having started his rotation in obstetrics and gynaecology. Hussein, too, is now a foundation year one doctor at Southmead Hospital in Bristol, where his rotation is in geriatrics. Whilst at medical school Hussein won the Patrick Trevor-Roper Undergraduate Award from the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and completed research in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Joe and Hussein both did intercalated degrees midway through medical school and together completed their medical electives in the famous Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, Chennai in India, where they worked on medical research projects.

Carl Olavesen (2017)

Carl, one of Abingdon School's first ever Science Ambassadors, was warmly welcomed back last year to talk to current Science Ambassadors about his gap year experience working as a teacher in a school in Zambia. Carl was a committed member of the Saturday Science Club when he was an Abingdon pupil, having helped to organise a number of events including a 'Back to School' science evening for adults. During his final year he also single-handedly set up and ran a science club at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Abingdon – a project which put Carl in good stead for his time working in Zambia, where he received only four days of formal training before going straight into teaching classes of up to 50 students with very few resources.

Hal Parke (2012)

In 2017 Hal graduated with a First in Chemistry from the University of Nottingham. Following a rigorous selection procedure, he was then offered and accepted the position of Associate in the public sector audit team at Grant Thornton.

Na'im Peymán (2012)

Na'im has been focusing on expanding his short term rentals business, Peymans, which operates serviced apartments in Brussels, Cambridge, Hertford, London, Manchester and Oxford. With over 200 units under its belt, Peymans has now launched a spin-off focusing on short term room rentals and guesthouse management, Snoozzz, and is about to take on the management of its first 61-bed hotel in Newport, South Wales. Na'im has also been working on developing an innovative software for the management of short term rentals, SayPhew, which was shortlisted for the ASAP Breakthrough & Innovation Award in the summer of 2018 and is set to launch this year.

Josh Ridley (2011)

Josh completed a BSc in Pharmacology at the University of Leeds in 2016. He is now the Donor Contract Manager for The HALO Trust in Oxford.

Alex Rowe-Jones (2014)

Alex graduated from the University of Oxford in 2018 and is now part of the Graduate Talent Program at UBS.

Will Sharps (2013)

Will graduated from the University of the West of England in 2018 with a degree in Banking, Finance and Economics. He now works as a unit trust dealer in Bristol for Rowan Dartington.

Liam Smith (2010)

Liam graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2013 with a degree in Geography. He is currently a Senior Manager at Ernst & Young in London.

Christian von Eitzen (2015)

Since leaving Abingdon, Christian has graduated from university and helped a number of charities to raise funds and break into the 21st century by introducing them to various digital marketing platforms and tools. He continues to be part of the German national team for athletics (800m), has recently signed his first professional contract with Adidas and has his eyes set on the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. Christian has also modelled in various UK and global advertising campaigns over the past year, so keep an eye out for him in the near future as you may be able to spot him in some high street shop windows. He currently lives and trains in London.

Honorary

David Carson (Honorary OA)

In June 2018 Colonel David Carson was appointed MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. During his time as Estates Bursar at Abingdon School from 1994-2009 he volunteered to reform the disbanded Army section of the CCF, becoming its first Officer Commanding. In 2001 he was promoted to Major on being appointed CCF Contingent Commander, a position which he held until 2008. He saw the number of cadets rise from 50 to over 120 during this period and was later awarded the Oxfordshire Lord-Lieutenant's Commendation to recognise his achievement in rebuilding the CCF at the School. Following this, David spent three years as County Commandant of Oxfordshire ACF, where he was responsible for commanding around 600 cadets and 120 CFAVs. He is currently Colonel Cadets for Headquarters South West – the most senior voluntary position in the ACF/CCF.

Supporting OAs

OA Club Awards

The OA Club continues to run a small grants programme for OAs.

- The **Personal Fund** is open to any individual OA applying for support of a personal or professional development opportunity.
- The **Group Fund** is open to OAs applying as a group for support of activities in sport, music, art, drama or another collective endeavour.

2018 OA Club Award Recipients

- **Jonathan Taylor (2002)**
To attend the Radiological Society of North America's annual meeting in Chicago.
- **Daniel O'Neill (2008)**
To make a film about the harpy eagle in the rainforests of Guyana.
- **George Jørgensen (2012) with 11 other OAs and staff**
To support entry into and yacht hire for the Arrow Trophy Sailing Regatta.
- **Joseph Heade (2013)**
To volunteer with Learning Planet to help build schools in Nepal.
- **Luke Derrick (2014)**
To support a six-month design internship with Brioni in Rome.
- **William England (2015)**
To support a three-week intensive language course at Uppsala University in Sweden.
- **George Hale (2015)**
To support an unpaid economics internship at the Reserve Bank of India in Mumbai.
- **Luke Shepherd (2015)**
To research international conflicts using big data at UCL's Department of Political Science.

Spotlight: Previous Awardees

Tom Perkins (1989)

Tom applied for a grant from the Personal Fund to support his entry into the 2017 Volcano Marathon in Chile's Atacama Desert. Starting at an altitude of 4,475m, this race is billed as the highest desert marathon in the world, and yet Tom battled against the thin air and rough terrain to successfully cross the finish line. In his own words, "the sense of achievement of finishing an extreme event such as this is hundreds of times greater than any so-called normal event."

In January 2018, Tom – otherwise known as Lt Col Tom Perkins MBE SCOTS – returned to the School to talk to current CCF cadets about his experience completing both this marathon and others on Mount Everest and through the Gobi Desert, as well as his military service to date.

Michael Fowkes (1993)

Michael applied for a grant to develop *The Sheep Who Thought She Was A Cloud*, a family-oriented puppet show which he directed, wrote and designed. Thanks to this funding Michael was able to construct prototype puppets, sets and props which could then be tested by performers at the Little Angel Theatre in London and worked into his ripening storyline. As a result of these useful explorations, Michael was then in a position to apply for full development funding for his show from Arts Council England.



2019 Applications

Applications should be submitted by 1 May 2019. Grants are made annually at the June meeting of the OA Club Committee. Terms and conditions apply.

Application forms are now available on the OA Club website or can be requested from Alison Lester, OA Club Officer, at oa.club@abingdon.org.uk or 01235 849098.

How to Give Back

University Events

Life at 'uni' is far from uniform, encompassing more than just essays, lectures, lab work and late nights. We therefore encourage OAs who are currently at or who have recently left university to return to Abingdon to meet with current pupils, share their unique university experiences and offer key advice about their course, institution and more. How to help:

- UCAS Advice Evening
- Medic Interviews Evening
- Oxbridge Interviews Evening

Careers Events

OAs of all ages and professional backgrounds continue to be of great help to current Abingdon pupils and each other. Whether you can engage in professional networking, offer an internship or simply help to sow the seed for future career aspirations, we're keen to hear from you. How to help:

- Sixth Form Careers Evening
- OA Club Career Networking Event
- Abingdon Careers Convention
- Work Experience Scheme
- LinkedIn – join the Old Abingdonians group

Please contact the OA Club Office for further details on any of these opportunities.

Spotlight: OA Club Career Networking Event

On 10 October 2018 around 40 OAs and Abingdon School parents working in the fields of property, design and construction convened at BoConcept's stylish Tottenham Court Road store for the annual Career Networking Event. It was a brilliant opportunity for attendees to exchange industry insights and the first time that parents as well as OAs were invited to join the conversation. Many thanks go to **Michel Baumgart (2010)** and **Mireille Baumgart** of BoConcept for providing the venue and for speaking about current styles in interior design, and to **Tom Sykes (2002)** for his fascinating presentation on the trends and future of architecture.



Make It Your Own Way

Many people dream of starting their own business – but what of those who do actually transform their ideas into substance and successfully become their own boss? We spoke with three OAs who took the leap, donned the entrepreneurial cap and did just that.



Oli Haenlein (2003)
Cook Eat Discover



Chris Edson (2006)
OurPath



Forrest Radford (2011)
FixIts

Can you briefly introduce your business?

Oli: My partner Flo and I run a business in Tuscany called Cook Eat Discover. We organise all-inclusive Italian food, wine and cookery holidays based in and around the village where we live called Roccatederighi. It is a beautiful, wild and undiscovered area of southern Tuscany brimming with amazing cooks, winemakers, fishermen, olive farmers, cheese producers, gelato masters and much more! Our guests stay in poolside holiday apartments in the village and we provide an itinerary for their stay including cooking classes, feasts cooked by a private chef and other exciting foodie adventures. Our focus is on personal cooking instruction from an experienced chef and pasta maker and experiential, authentic tours that go behind the scenes at responsible small-scale producers. We believe in sustainable food and drink production that works in harmony with our environment, and introduce guests to people who not only make magnificent food, but who also respect nature, innovate with green energy and put quality and integrity above profit margins. During the colder months we hold pasta making workshops in London, too, since we are in Italy for one half of the year and London for the other.



Chris: We help people to reverse type 2 diabetes. Typically, you get diagnosed with type 2 diabetes because you haven't been taking care of yourself. Your doctor will give you a pill, and then another, then another, until eventually you're injecting insulin and all kinds of bad things are happening to your body (like blindness and amputations).

We learnt that there was another way. By giving people really intensive support to help them to change their eating and exercise habits, you can actually reverse the disease. That sounds so simple – because it is! But helping people to make those changes and actually stick to them is the tricky part.

This kind of thing has existed in the NHS for a while – but we made it all digital. OurPath has been running for about three years now and is commissioned throughout the NHS – as in, your GP can prescribe the programme over and above drugs. We recently raised \$3 million from some of London's top venture capital firms and are now looking to take on the world.



Forrest: FixIts are eco-plastic fixing sticks that can be used to solve numerous challenges around the home, garden or workplace. Reusable and non-toxic, FixIts empower consumers to do DIY on their own terms, without overspending on single-use or niche equipment. Made from mouldable plastic, they become flexible when heated to 60°C and can be formed into whatever shape you require. The material sets as it cools so there's no curing time needed, and it can be reformed simply when heated up again. FixIts are incredibly tough and made to last, but you're not stuck with them for life. If you decide to part ways with your FixIts, you'll be pleased to know that they are fully biodegradable in compliance with the requirements for EN-14995. You can follow our journey on Instagram: [@fix_its](https://www.instagram.com/fix_its).

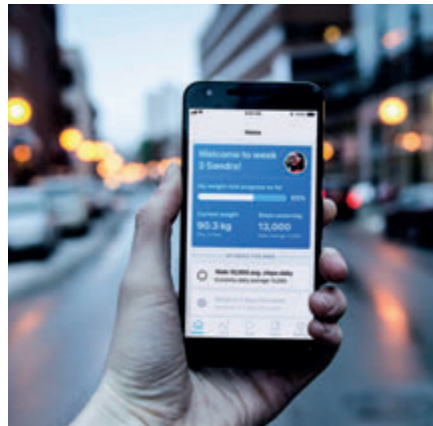


How and why did you first get inspired to set it up?

Oli: As a chef and a food writer I have always worked with food, and in recent years have cooked professionally in Tuscany and trained for an Italian company as a professional fresh pasta maker. Having grown tired of the lifestyle and working conditions associated with restaurant chef work I was on the lookout for the ideal outlet for my passions and skills, so when the idea to do this came to me it seemed perfect. My parents have owned a home in Tuscany since I was young (before I even started at Abingdon School, I think!), in the very same village in which we now operate. I had a knowledge and love of the place, its people and most importantly its food from an early age, so everything just fell into place really. My girlfriend worked as a party planner and events professional so she had the skills for the more organisational and customer-facing side, so together we seemed well set to take on the challenge!

Chris: There are perhaps three 'really big' problems that exist today that technology can help to solve: transport, energy and healthcare. Healthcare was something I was already working in (as my first job out of university was in healthcare consulting) and it quickly became an area that I was passionate about.

Whilst working in consulting I was exposed to the awful burden of type 2 diabetes on both the NHS and the people that developed it. I wanted to do something about it, so I quit my day job and haven't looked back.



Forrest: The inspiration for Fixlts first came about when Founder, Chris Lefteri, was undertaking research for his first book on plastics in 2000. Since then he knew that this material had a place within the home for the everyday user. It wasn't until 2014, though, that Chris started to research how to turn this material into a household product.

In 2015 I contacted Chris for some freelance work (he was a former tutor of mine at Central Saint Martins), and he told me about this materials project that had been on the back burner for quite some time. For the next six months Chris and I made huge progress on what was to eventually be named Fixlts. For months, many evenings and weekends were spent perfecting the brand, as we knew that it had to be just right when we launched it. One of the things I'm happiest about is all the work we put in to ensure that the entire manufacturing process for Fixlts was carried out in the UK. This has allowed us to make the product smoothly and create some great relationships.

Only a handful of people knew about the project before Fixlts was launched on Kickstarter on 26 June 2018. The campaign finished a month later on 26 July, having successfully raised £36,982 with 2,941 backers.

What is it like to be an entrepreneur? Are there any particular highs, lows or challenges?

Oli: Both Flo and I had always struggled in desk jobs. We are creative people who like to work with our hands. Therefore, through our entrepreneurialism, we have created roles and work that suit us best and mean that we neither have to be in an office nor buried in a dark restaurant kitchen somewhere! A lot of it is about creating the lifestyle you want. We are our own bosses and can decide on the direction we want to take ourselves. Because it is our own company, we are constantly engaged and passionate about our work, and feel like everything is full of purpose. The negative side is that it can be stressful and there is a lot of responsibility. You have to accept that it's going to be hard work.



Chris: Running your own business gives you the total freedom to solve a problem that you're passionate about. In the early days, the highs would be getting into *The Times* or doing a speaking event. And essentially, they're exercises in vanity. Now, the highs are more around the business – like securing a new NHS contract. We're a team of 30, which brings with it a new sense of responsibility in order to make it a success. Getting in the papers doesn't really cut it anymore.

The job is implicitly stressful and people probably don't appreciate that when they start out. It's easy to forget that the buck stops with you. You are ultimately responsible for the success of the business, making payroll and producing a return to investors. Basically, delivering on what you promised you would do.

Oh, and you'll probably have to fire people. That's the worst.

"Running your own business gives you the total freedom to solve a problem that you're passionate about."

Forrest: Being an entrepreneur isn't as glamorous as the media would like you to believe. I think it has more to do with pursuing something that you believe in either on your own or with a group of like-minded individuals. It can be a struggle and often involves making a lot of decisions that you may not be ready to make, often without the guidance of others with experience in this area. You take on a huge amount of risk when you decide to pursue your own projects and often have to fund yourself, the project and anyone that you need to bring onto the team as you get your business up and running.

There will be many setbacks and with each one you take a hit. There's also the knowledge that your business may not end up where you want it, no matter how much work you put into it.

However, the highs are achieving things that you didn't know you could do. Looking back to the start of your journey and seeing how much you've learnt and grown as a person since then. Mistakes are part of the game and they help you to get back on track if you don't let your ego dictate the direction the business moves in. Our biggest high was launching on Kickstarter and seeing almost 3,000 people buy into and validate the work we had poured so much of our energy into.

What are your future plans for the business?

Oli: We have only done one year so far so need to keep consolidating the business, increasing our audience and spreading the brand. Everything has been going in the right direction, so we just intend to keep growing!



Chris: Over the next year we'll be expanding throughout the UK via the NHS. Towards the end of the year, we'll start to think about going international. But we've got a few things that we need to prove first!



Forrest: We have plans to expand the range to make Fixlts the brand people go to when they have something that they need to fix. We're currently trying to focus on a balanced amount of expansion into retail, alongside exploration of materials technology for our next products. For me, I'm interested in taking some time out to travel the world whilst working remotely. After that I plan to get into education and mentoring whilst continuing to grow Fixlts and my other side ventures. Life is too short to pursue endless wealth and knowledge if you don't have people to share it with.

What advice would you give to other OAs wanting to become entrepreneurs?

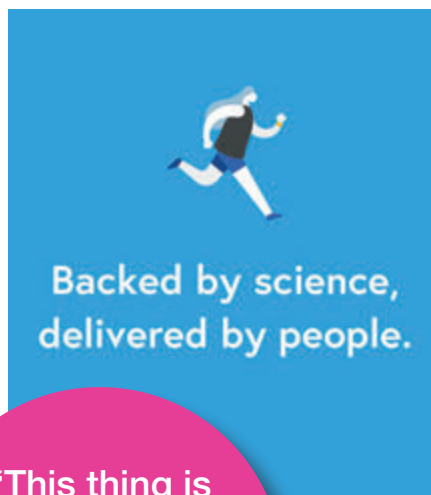
Oli: I think a lot of people are scared to give things a go, but if you don't try you'll never know! If you have a passion and specialism for something, and believe that you can do something really well, then there's no reason why it shouldn't work. Be brave and give it a go. Our business model is relatively low risk since we only need to spend money as we receive bookings, so I think it has helped us to start with quite low overheads. People say that quite a lot of small businesses don't succeed initially, so perhaps be careful at first with how much money you're pumping into something before you know whether it's going to work.



“Be brave and give it a go.”

If you too have developed or are in the process of building your own business, please do let the OA Club Office know. We'd love to hear about your entrepreneurial exploits.

Chris: Don't think about building a start-up. You're building a business. The current new wave of tech start-ups and TV shows like *Silicon Valley* have encouraged a lot of people to go into this for the wrong reasons. This thing is really hard – you'd better have your head on straight.

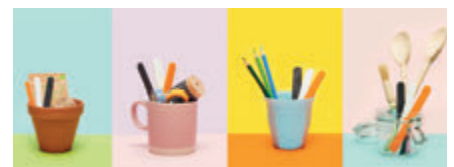


“This thing is really hard – you'd better have your head on straight.”

“Your million-dollar idea is quite simply just that – an idea. Turning it into a product requires a lot of work, domain knowledge and resilience.”

Forrest: Entrepreneurship has very little to do with learning business techniques or numbers. That kind of knowledge will come and is part of learning how to run a business, but it's way down on the list of priorities. Your million-dollar idea is quite simply just that – an idea. Turning it into a product requires a lot of work, domain knowledge and resilience. The system that tends to be offered to you (university followed by desk job) may be the path for you, but if at any point you find yourself uncomfortable on that path then it may be time for you to do your own thing. An entrepreneur, no matter how big or small their business or type, is still an entrepreneur.

I firmly believe that those who take the time to develop something, make sensible decisions, are willing to learn, take critical feedback and drop their ego (as I had to do) will find themselves following the entrepreneurial route more easily. Those who pursue it only as a means of becoming wealthy will fail. And never forget that luck plays a huge role in being an entrepreneur...



Taking Flight

An Interview with Tony Edwards (1962)

Since his days as an Abingdon schoolboy, Tony Edwards' commitment to aviation and the RAF has been extraordinary. As a pupil he was one of the founding members of the CCF's Air Force section and over the course of his working life he has held a range of increasingly senior business and voluntary roles linked to aeronautics and the military in four different countries. In 2018 he generously funded two new virtual reality flight simulators for the School's CCF, which are already greatly benefiting cadets' training together with the entry level simulator he funded earlier. The simulator suite was officially opened last November – in Tony's presence and in tandem with the RAF Centenary – by Lawrence 'Benny' Goodman, the last surviving pilot of the 617 'Dambuster' Squadron.



We spoke with Tony to learn more about his finest School memories, fascinating career, influential fundraising campaigns and the other causes that he continues to support – including access to an Abingdon education itself.

What was it that first sparked your interest in the RAF and aviation as a whole?

A former RAF Officer came to teach Russian at Abingdon in the late 1950s and I joined his course. In about 1960 he asked if I and some of my friends would like to help him introduce an RAF section into the School's CCF, and it all started there.

Which of your School memories stands out the most?

I shall always remember the Russian Embassy sending us the newspaper, *Pravda*, every single day for one old penny a copy. I'll also never forget being invited with some of my peers to a Russian Exhibition in London; we were treated as special guests simply because we were learning Russian, but the caveat was that it was the only language we were allowed to speak all day!

Reflecting on your impressive business career and voluntary work, what would you mark as your greatest achievement?

Perhaps my most significant feat in business came in the 1990s after I moved from Lucas Industries to leading the Dowty Group, whose biggest success was in undercarriages or landing gear. At the time there were only four large landing gear companies in the world and it so happened that I knew the French competitor, Messier-Bugatti. Together we agreed to form a 50:50 joint venture, and after extensive negotiations Messier-Bugatti-Dowty was born. Today that Anglo-French company (now known as Safran Landing Systems) has achieved 55% market share of the world's landing gear, making it the biggest of its kind.

My most substantial accomplishment in the voluntary sector was with the RAF Museum, where I was a Trustee for 20 years and for a period Head of Fundraising, during which time I was responsible for raising about £25 million to build RAF museums at Hendon and Cosford. In more recent years, I was asked to raise funds in the Middle East to help transform the Hendon museum in time for the RAF100 celebrations. I visited Kuwait on many occasions over a five-year period, gathering support in the Kuwait royal family and government and at one point parking a real Spitfire on the British Embassy lawn! In recognition of the RAF's defence of the country for the past 100 years, the State of Kuwait recently donated a sum of £5 million.

It was also a privilege to be presented with the Air League Gold Medal for services to the cause of aviation by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

You were additionally involved in the campaign for the RAF Bomber Command Memorial in London's Green Park. How did this come about, and what challenges arose along the way?

A good friend of mine was Squadron Leader Tony Iveson, a decorated Lancaster bomber pilot who was transferred to 617 Squadron in order to train to sink the Tirpitz. After the War Tony became Chairman of the Bomber Command Association and

asked me to help him commission a monument to honour the original 125,000 volunteers who served – 55,700 of whom were killed. But this appeal was not without controversy. The bomber raids became unpopular and the crews were shunned. In 1945 they were not even allowed to parade on VE Day. To overcome objections, we emphasised that the bomber crews were in fact courageous young men who simply did as they were asked at a desperate time for the nation. I supported Tony in raising the first £1 million and in obtaining planning permission for the Memorial near Hyde Park Corner. Tony, meanwhile, grabbed positive media attention and public support by flying above Britain in a Lancaster bomber – at the age of 90!

The year 2018 marked 100 years of the RAF. How did you celebrate this milestone?

I helped kick off celebrations at the Lord Mayor's Show in November 2017, shortly after being elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers of London – one of the three Livery Companies of which I am a member. To put an RAF spin on this event, I managed to borrow a 1924 Rolls-Royce RAF armoured car (complete with machine gun) which had been used in Syria and Iraq in the 1920s, bring it up to running order and accompany it as it was driven in the parade. In April 2018 I then organised a formal banquet in London's Guildhall for 550 people, where five aeroplanes and three aero-engines representing 100 years of aviation technology were on proud display in the courtyard. I was delighted to invite a contingent of Abingdon's CCF cadets to this magnificent occasion and recognise them in the presence of the Lord Mayor, the Chief of the Air Staff, the Ambassador of Kuwait and the Master Mercer.

What would you say to young OAs currently considering a career in aviation?

I should encourage all students to become comfortable with mathematics – it's the secret to so many things in life. From there, they might develop an interest in technical things, which could eventually lead them towards either aviation engineering or the operations side such as becoming a pilot or helping to run an airline. The number of people flying around the world





increases by 4-5% per annum, so aviation certainly is a growth industry with plenty of opportunities all over the world! But my watchword on career planning is to not get hung up on deciding exactly what you want to be at what age. Instead, focus on what direction you want to go; does your path open up or close down future opportunities? People switch careers throughout life so you need breadth and flexibility.

What is your favourite aircraft?

I own the de Havilland Chipmunk that I learnt to fly in with the University of Birmingham Air Squadron. But I'll have to admit that my favourite is the Spitfire – an aircraft I know more about than any other, and two of which I have flown. It is also, of course, a British icon. As early as 1938 the government realised that there was something special about the Spitfire, which quickly grabbed the imagination of the nation and came to symbolise the British determination to defy invasion and never give in. Churchill built on this feeling by funding a propaganda film which eventually became *The First of the Few*. This was shown to Americans in the 1940s to point out that, against all odds and alone, we were successfully resisting and they should really come and help!

In addition to your loyalty to the School's CCF, you and your wife, Lynda, have recently become committed supporters of bursaries at Abingdon. What encouraged

you to give so generously to the School in this way?

The initial seed to support bursaries was planted by Michael Triff (former Director of Development and Alumni Relations and now Head of Career Guidance), who first invited Lynda and me to a reception and dinner at the School. This occasion opened my eyes to the transformation that had taken place at Abingdon over the past 50 years and encouraged me to reflect on how fortunate I was to be able to attend the School thanks to a Direct Grant, which made all the difference to my life. Within 10 years of leaving Abingdon I had completed a five-year apprenticeship at Rolls-Royce, a BSc in Engineering at Birmingham and an MBA with Distinction at the Harvard Business School, I had joined the Faculty at Harvard as a lecturer and I had learnt to fly – all based on the Abingdon School experience. Since Direct Grants are no longer available, we were keen to find other ways to help boys of today access the School as I did, irrespective of their financial means.

Why is it important that schools such as Abingdon provide bursaries?

It would be such a waste for talented boys, particularly in the local area, to miss out on an Abingdon School education because of money. If that's the only problem, we should work together to fix it!



Remembering Abingdon with a Legacy

Since before the days of John Roysse, legacies have been a vital source of support for Abingdon School. Thanks to legacy gifts, we are currently funding 63 means-tested bursaries for Abingdon pupils, 11 of whom receive a full bursary. An Abingdon education would not be possible for these boys without this pivotal support.

Those who choose to remember the School in their will are therefore investing in the society of tomorrow through outstanding educational opportunity. Some of our OA legators told us why they have decided to give back in this way.



Alan Williams (1965) is a retired judge of the First Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber):
"I had the privilege to go to Abingdon from Carswell

Primary School at a time when there was a chance to do so on a free place, thanks to the now extinct Direct Grant scheme. I feel very strongly that bright boys should still get the chance I had, no matter what their family circumstances are financially."



Simon Hills (1975), currently Director in Prudential Policy at UK Finance, came to Abingdon as a recipient of a Direct Grant free place:

"I didn't particularly shine academically, but an Abingdon education gave me the meta skills that have been the bedrock on which I have built my professional life: collaboration, influencing and self-awareness. It is so important that Abingdon continues to remain accessible to boys with potential, both local and international, so they can build their intercultural understanding."



Justin Hodges (1989) had a global career with Goldman Sachs and Vodafone before returning to the School to lead Finance and Operations across

the whole Abingdon Foundation:

"In my role I see first-hand the impact of legators' thoughtfulness in supporting bursaries at Abingdon. At an individual level, it is heart-warming to see these boys and their families flourish and make the most of all that the School has to offer. More broadly, I think the bigger picture of improving social mobility is vital, and I see bursaries as key to making this happen."

In 2019 we will formally launch a legacy society for Abingdon School with an inaugural event. Should you wish to find out more about becoming a member, please contact Alexa Broad in the Development and Alumni Relations Office by emailing alexa.broad@abingdon.org.uk or by phoning 01235 849117.

From the Archives

To mark the centenary of the founding of the Royal Air Force, the School's Archivist, Sarah Wearne, recalled the Abingdonians who served in the RAF during the First and Second World Wars.

In December 1909 an OA reported in the *Abingdonian* that he had seen a flying machine for the first time, "a silhouette against a hazy background, only too soon to disappear again in the haze". The OA's first sighting was also the first ever mention of a flying machine in the magazine. Ten years later, as a result of the First World War, they had become a much more familiar part of the skyscape and at least 16 OAs had taken advantage of the War to learn to fly – and at least eight of them had been killed.

Among the dead were **Arthur Gelston Shepherd (1910)**, who learnt to fly before the War and joined the Royal Naval Air Service on the outbreak. He was killed in March 1915 when his Short-Sommer pusher biplane crashed into the sea at Eastbourne. **Robert Slade (1903)** was shot down in October 1917. He spent 17 weeks in hospital and then became an instructor at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. He and his pupil were killed in a crash in July 1918. **Bernard Marshall MC (1912)** served originally in the South Wales Borderers until wounded in May 1916. On recovering he trained as a pilot. Returning to France at the beginning of June 1917, he was shot down by anti-aircraft fire a week later. **John Milne MC (1909)**, who went on to Radley after Abingdon, was a flying ace with nine 'victories' to his name. He and his observer were killed when their plane was shot down on 24 October 1918 – three months after his marriage and less than three weeks before the end of the War.



Bernard Marshall MC (1912)



John Milne MC (1909) (photo - Radley College)

Only a small proportion of Abingdonians served in the RFC and RAF during the First World War – 16 out of a total of 379 – with the eight who died forming only 10% of Abingdon's total First World War dead. This was completely different in the Second World War when of the 424 Abingdonians who served 120 were in the RAF; 28%. And of the 47 Abingdonians who died 21 were in the RAF; 44%. They served all over the world. **David Wardlaw (1931)** was shot down in April 1940 whilst on a reconnaissance flight over the coast of Denmark. **Dennis Healy (1931)**, who had earned a DSO for 'special operations' over the Arctic Circle, was killed over Murmansk on 25 September 1942. **Leslie Bernthal (1938)** was shot down over Sicily on 8 July 1943, two days before the Allied invasion of the island, and **Alexander Ormand's (1932)** plane was lost over Burma on 23 October 1943. **Alan Wiggins' (1938)** plane was brought down by RAF night fighters over Belgium on 29 September 1944, and on 2 February 1945 **Bill Dockerty's (1939)** plane crashed on take-off from RAF Leconbury with a full bomb load.



Dennis Healy (1931)



Alan Wiggins (1938)

Among those who served in the RAF and survived the War were **John Viney (1935)**, who flew 49 raids over Germany and France with Bomber Command before retiring at the end of the War as a Wing Commander with a DSO and DFC. He was still only 24. **Roger Morewood (1933)** was one of 'The Few', a Battle of Britain pilot. **John Rayson (1942)** joined the RAF but lamented that the only active service he saw was on 24 March 1945 when he piloted a glider during Operation Varsity, the successful crossing of the Rhine on 24 March 1945.



John Viney (1935)



Roger Morewood (1933)

Sarah Wearne
Abingdon School Archivist

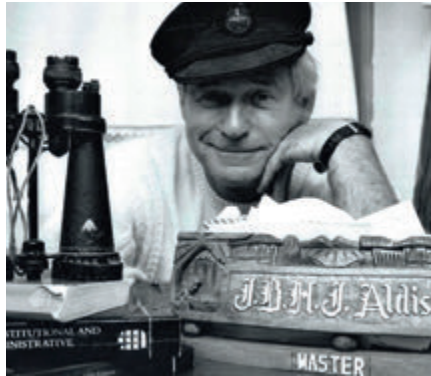
Obituaries

James Aldiss (1946)

James was schooled at Abingdon from 1940-1946, during which time he received Colours for rowing in the First IV and also played First XV rugby. He went on to join the Merchant Navy for what he believed would be a brief period, as an experience, and in the end served for 38 years. He spent 25 of those years in a worldwide command and was variously honoured throughout his service, most notably in 1973 when he was awarded the Royal Society of Arts Medal and Thomas Grey Medal for leading a sea rescue that was described as outstanding. He was elected a Younger Brother of Trinity House in 1967 and after retiring from the sea graduated with a Law degree from the University of Auckland. He went on to practise both as a barrister and solicitor for ten years and found the change exhilarating. He retired from law in 1999 and moved from New Zealand to Queensland, Australia, where he wrote novels. Three of these – *The Babylon Boat*, *Sell the Pig and Buy Me Out* and *The Last Voyage of the Lunar Queen* – were published and are available on lulu.com. He passed away on 4 May 2018 and is survived by his wife of 63 years, Carmelita, one daughter, five sons and eight grandchildren. Although his calling and settling overseas kept him away from participating in the Abingdon scene, his time at the School was pivotal to the conduct of his life. His initials are inscribed thanks to the generosity of his

son, Jason, on a beam in the boathouse.

Isabel Aldiss and Peter Aldiss (1946)



George Barrett (1946)

George passed away on 13 December 2017.

Frank Bartlett (1952)

Frank passed away peacefully on 16 April 2018 in Hampshire at the age of 83. He attended Abingdon School in the 1940s and always spoke fondly of his time there. On leaving the School he completed National Service and then sailed to New Zealand where he lived for the next 30 years. He married in 1962 and returned to the UK with his young bride on their honeymoon to meet his family for the first time. During his time in New Zealand, Frank lived and farmed in the Waikato, Central North Island. He met up with other old boys from Abingdon and they

became a surrogate family for each other whilst away from England and home. Frank returned to the UK in 1984 to the family pub in Cheriton, The Flower Pots, and spent the next 30 years working as a publican around the Hampshire countryside. He never really retired and continued to contribute to the garden each spring with his hanging baskets and colourful flower beds. When not pottering around in his garden he would be found behind a bar with his friends putting the world to rights. He is always thought of daily in our hearts. He is survived by his daughter in Auckland, New Zealand, his son in Adelaide, Australia and his second wife, Ann, and extended family in Hampshire.

Sharee Bartlett



Raymond Butt (Physics teacher, 1965-68)

Raymond joined Abingdon School in 1965 as a Physics teacher and rowing coach,



having grown to become a skilled and enthusiastic oarsman over the course of his own education at the King's School in Peterborough and University of Edinburgh. He took part several times in the Boston Rowing Marathon along the River Witham, winning twice, and in 1968 competed in the Silver Goblets at Henley. Aside from that, Raymond was known to recite pi to 3,500 places and, since he had memorised the entire British Rail timetable, could calculate any train journey in his head. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and published his own, comprehensive *Directory of Railway Stations*. Raymond was married for just under a decade from 1980 and had two children, and on retiring from teaching in 1998 became an usher. He died of pancreatic cancer on 23 March 2018.

The immediate thing that comes to mind is Raymond's obsession with all things rowing. I think that in one of his Physics exam papers every question was based on a rowing scenario. He was also convinced that big spade oars were technically superior to the traditional shape – but I don't remember the First VIII having any great success with them.

Roger Baker (Physics teacher, 1957-94)

John Dickinson (1964)

John died very suddenly on the course at Burford Golf Club, a place he loved to be, while enjoying a round with friends on 3 November 2017. As a cricketer, he bowled a mean medium pace swing delivery that fooled many and was very proud of his entry in Wisden 1965 with friends from the First XI. He went on to play cricket with the 'Alligators' and made

his home at the Oxford Downs Club. On leaving School he took the long route to qualify as a solicitor and his working life was spent in that capacity employed by firms in Witney. During his retirement he actively used his skills to help others at the Citizens Advice centre in the town. He was a gentleman of the highest order who is greatly missed by his wife, Gill, his three children, Sara, Emma and Kate, as well as their families and many of his friends.

Geoff Bailey (1964)



Colin Elderkin (1959)

I first met Colin in about 1955 at Abingdon School, where we became good friends together with **Graham Brown (1957)** and a few others whose names I cannot remember! On leaving School Colin went to work with Ivor Fields at his camera shop in Stert Street, Abingdon, and occasionally his other shop in St Ebbes Street, Oxford. He eventually became Ivor's right-hand

man and was very popular with their customers. We went on several winter trips to Austria together with some of Colin's other friends, but we could never get Colin to try his hand at skiing! Colin and I also went to California to do a long, round coach trip from San Francisco to Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and more, and enjoyed the trip enough to do it twice! We both had an interest in aircraft and often went to museums and air shows together, particularly at Fairford and Abingdon. Colin will be sadly missed by his friends and home carers who looked after him before he went into hospital in Abingdon. He asked that his ashes be scattered at sea around Jersey, so I know that he is not far from me here in Normandy. Colin died on 29 January 2018.

Martin Shaw (1958)

Jeffrey Evans (1967)

Jeff died suddenly on 9 March 2018 at his home in St Bees, Cumbria, rather too early. Jeff had always been a great lover of English whilst at Abingdon, especially the English cliché as an art form. He enjoyed his rugby as a Welshman should, he rowed, he played his violin and he took advantage of life as it was offered to us. He left Abingdon to read English at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, spent a few years at Canford, then Radley, and was finally attracted to St Bees – always as Head of English. Jeff retired from St Bees in 2014 and in doing so was missed as Lt Col of their CFF contingent and as contributor to drama, to the magazine and to School life in general. The Choir bade him farewell, which was most fitting considering his role as Deputy Choirmaster. Jeff was our best man and brother – thanks for everything, Jeff.

*Philip Evans (1974), Neil Burns (1967)
and Jo Lister (1967)*



John Glenville-Dowling (1969)

John died peacefully on 5 January 2018, aged 66, following a short battle with bowel cancer. He had been married to Sarah, but sadly they were divorced and had no children. On leaving Abingdon, John read Law at Christ Church College, Oxford. Although he went on to follow a career in the law, initially with solicitors in Reading and London, then in the legal departments of two major reinsurance firms, rising to Head of Department in one and Director of the other, his real love was of literature. I suspect that he always regretted not pursuing a career in academia. He was widely read and had a wonderful command of the English language. Life as an Oxford don would have suited him! He remained in contact with **Peter Bennett (1969)** and spoke with interest of Peter's activities in Norwegian film and TV (see the 2017 *Griffen*).

Postscript:

I understand that bowel cancer is one of the more easily treated and survivable cancers, especially if detected early. I was saddened, therefore, to discover from John's papers that he had ignored all reminders to engage in the NHS bowel cancer screening programme. I have no idea why, and it would have been insensitive in the latter stages of his illness to enquire. Who knows whether the outcome would have been any different... But why take the chance?

Peter Dowling (1966)

**Martin Lawless (1972)**

Martin passed away in 2018.

Trevor Sewry (1960)

Trevor died on 28 January 2018 aged 75. He entered the School in 1953, following in the footsteps of family members who have attended Abingdon since the middle of the 19th century. At School he excelled as a violinist, chorister and oarsman. In 1962 he joined the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy, where he met his

wife, Freda. Tragedy struck in October 1983, however, when he suffered a broken back in a motoring accident whilst serving on Ascension Island. Paralysed from the chest down, he spent over 34 years in bed or various forms of wheelchair. In 1984 he was invalided out of the Navy and spent countless periods in hospitals or respite homes, eventually succumbing to infections. He is sorely missed by his wife, three children and seven grandchildren.

Steve Sewry (1966)

Chris Wharton (1967)

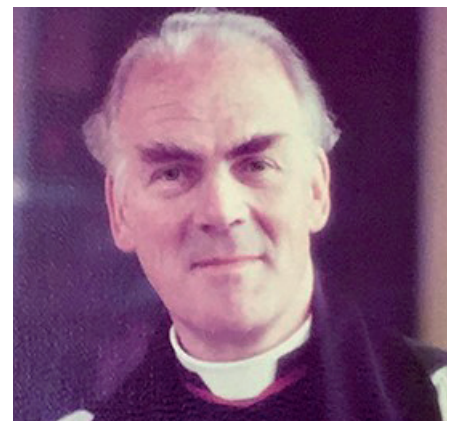
We came into this world as a matched pair (well, almost), born as asymmetric twins in Shubra, Egypt, where our father was serving as a Royal Air Force Engineer. Following further RAF tours in High Wycombe, Norfolk and Singapore, we returned to Abingdon School in 1960 as day boys until Dad was posted to RAF Aden and we became boarders in School House. This was a halcyon period – we adored life at the School and made the most of everything that was on offer: swimming, sailing, theatre, cricket and rugby (even though we weren't very good at it). Our trips to Aden were such fun, but sadly interrupted when Chris was badly damaged by a terrorist hand grenade. His strength and determination saw him recover, although O Levels seemed to take a bit of a hit. A Levels came and went and at this point the 'matched pair twins' went their separate ways, with Chris heading to Westland Helicopters, settling in Somerset and marrying Hilary. The pair's development of a nursing home and conversion of land into sheltered housing (winning a design award) and another building into a residential care home established them as the area's leading example of care providers for the elderly. When Chris and Hilary parted company, Chris took over the care homes until his sad passing on 16 October 2017 following a long period of complex ill health.

Roger Wharton (1967)

**David Wheaton (1948)**

David and I had a brotherly bond that started at the age of two through the friendship of our parents and continued until the end of our childhood. David was a very clever boy who loved Abingdon School, and together we were keen members of the CCF. During the War we also enjoyed holidaying together each summer in Ilfracombe with David's relatives. On leaving Abingdon he was called up to the Wiltshire Regiment for National Service before going on to study Classics at St John's College, Oxford. From this point on, David, an Anglican Evangelist, essentially dedicated his life to the Church. He was ordained in 1959 and following a number of posts in Wiltshire and London became Principal of Oak Hill College, where he stayed for 15 years and which he helped to modernise and reform. The College was also the site of his own memorial service. He held numerous other positions over the years such as Vice President of the Church Society and Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen, and continued to hold Bible reading classes at his home throughout retirement. In his own words, he was indebted to Abingdon School for laying the foundations for such a long career as a pastor and teacher. Later in life David also joined the Institute of Advanced Motorists, and in his 80th year passed the advanced driving test before going on to qualify as a group observer to help others with the assessment. He died on 10 April 2018 and his funeral was held in Blandford.

David Barrett (1944)



Useful Things

Address:

OA Club Office
Abingdon School
Park Road
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 1DE

Telephone: +44 (0)1235 849098

Email: oa.club@abingdon.org.uk

Website: www.abingdon.org.uk/oa

OA Members' Area:

www.alumni.abingdon.org.uk

Alexa Broad (Director of Development and Alumni Relations):

alexa.broad@abingdon.org.uk;
+44 (0)1235 849117

Alison Lester (OA Club Officer):

alison.lester@abingdon.org.uk;
+44 (0)1235 849098

Rachel Boswell (Communications and Events Officer):

rachel.boswell@abingdon.org.uk;
+44 (0)1235 849074

Gary Baiden (Database Administrator):

gary.baiden@abingdon.org.uk;
+44 (0)1235 849138



Rowing Blazers

Visit the AE Clothier website for more details: www.aeclothier.co.uk.



School Photographs

Go to the Archive Search section of the Gillman and Soame website: www.gillmanandsoame.co.uk.

OA Ties

Two designs (stripes and griffens) are available to order through the OA Club Office. Ties cost £20 (each) via collection, or £25 inclusive of P&P. Both cash and online payments are accepted.



OA Belts

Belts in OA colours will soon be available to purchase from Pioneros, a family business with strong OA links. OAs have been offered a 10% discount on all products, too! Simply enter 'Abingdon10' at the checkout. Visit pioneros.co.uk or call +44 (0)1491 671177 for further information.

FASBC

FASBC (Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club) was established to support the School Boat Club in every sense of the word. Membership consists of current and former parents and OAs who are keen to see the continuing success of the Club. FASBC encourages greater involvement from the Abingdon School community and would love to hear your ideas.

Website: www.abingdon.org.uk/fasbc

Email: fasbc@abingdon.org.uk

Merchandise:

merchandise.fasbc@gmail.com

Twitter: @FASBCabingdon

Guild of Mercers' Scholars

The Guild of Mercers' Scholars in the City of London is comprised of alumni and associates of the Mercers' Company's cluster of schools. One of its principal objectives is to enable its members to become Liverymen of City Companies. The Apprentice Scheme and Charitable Trust offers opportunities for OAs to learn more about the City of London and careers within it, and also to gain the Freedom of the City of London. More information about the Guild, including details of its social events calendar, can be found online: www.mercersscholars.com.

John Roysse Lodge

The John Roysse Lodge (no. 7957) is a Freemasons Lodge that was consecrated in 1964 primarily to allow OAs to enjoy freemasonry in familiar surroundings. Membership of the Lodge is open to



all OAs, past and present members of the Common Room and those whose association with either Abingdon School or Abingdon Preparatory School is through a relation. It is an opportunity to appreciate freemasonry whilst retaining strong, philanthropic ties to Abingdon School and the Abingdon Foundation. To learn more about the John Roysse Lodge, please email the Lodge Secretary, **Roger Chester (1964)**, at roger@thechesters.net.

Visiting Abingdon School

OAs are very welcome to visit Abingdon School. Please contact the OA Club Office in advance of your trip so we can ensure that someone is here to greet you. All visitors must be accompanied by a member of staff around the School site.



OA Football



OA Cricket



OA Croquet



OA Club Career Networking Event



OA Rugby



OA Hockey

Forthcoming Events

Southampton Reunions – Friday 18 and Saturday 19 January 2019

Birmingham Reunions – Friday 1 and Saturday 2 February 2019

Cardiff Reunions – Friday 15 and Saturday 16 March 2019

Road Relay – Monday 18 March 2019, Abingdon School
Entry for teams of four OAs.

OA Football and OA Hockey – Saturday 23 March 2019, Tilsley Park

ASPA Quiz Night – Saturday 27 April 2019, Abingdon School
Entry for teams of eight OAs.

OA Golf Day – Monday 13 May 2019, Frilford Heath Golf Club
*If you did not receive an invitation to last year's event and would like to receive one this time, please email the organiser, **David Blomley (1976)**, at d.blomley@btinternet.com.*

50s, 60s Dinner – Friday 10 May 2019, Salisbury Cathedral

Year Group Reunions – Saturday 15 June 2019, Abingdon School

OA Cricket – Friday 21 June 2019, Abingdon School

UCAS2 – Friday 21 June 2019, Abingdon School

Henley Royal Regatta – Friday 5 and Saturday 6 July 2019

OA Rugby – Saturday 31 August 2019, Abingdon School



OA Football



Sixth Form Careers Evening



OA Rugby



Year Group Reunions - Class of 2008



OA Rugby



Year Group Reunions - Class of 1978

