

Designed by:  
Anthony Grieveson



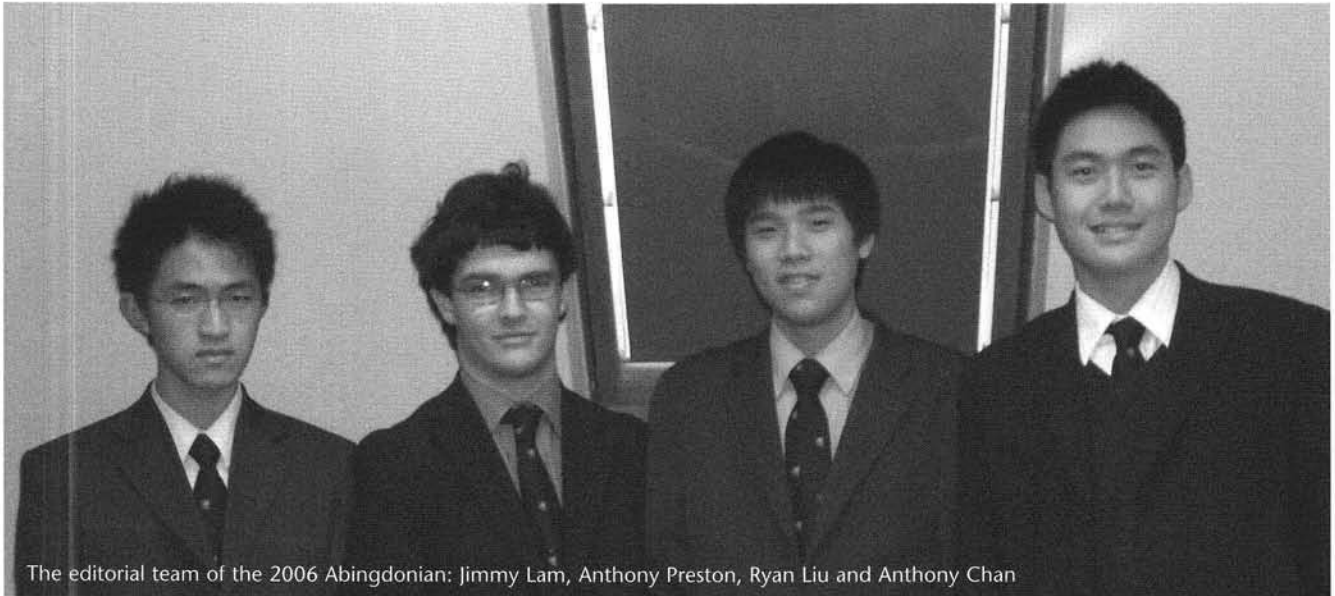


# The Abingdonian

2005 – 2006 Volume XXIV No. 1 Issue 310

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The editorial team of the 2006 Abingdonian: Jimmy Lam, Anthony Preston, Ryan Liu and Anthony Chan

This year's magazine has come out later than usual since it was felt that it would be appropriate to record all the 750th anniversary events in one issue. This despite the fact that traditionally *The Abingdonian* only covers a single academic year and some of the events should therefore have gone into next year's magazine.

I should like to thank my editorial team – **Anthony Preston, Anthony Chan, Ryan Liu and Jimmy Lam** – who have done a wonderful job commissioning, checking and editing all the articles. It amuses me that three of the team chat away to each other in Cantonese whilst editing English text. I should also like to thank **Anne Soper, Phil Richardson and Alison Lester** for helping with the proof-reading – a massive task.

In the interests of accuracy, I must point out that there was a mistake in the numbering of last year's magazine, which should have been Volume XXIII No 6 Issue 309 instead of Volume XXIV as stated.

Any boy who would like to help with the production of next year's magazine should come to the ICT room in the Greening Wing at 1.30 on a Wednesday afternoon, where they will be very welcome. Those who aspire to a career in journalism will find it a useful experience.

Sarah Wearne  
Editor



# Headmaster's Foreword

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This year has been unique for a number of reasons, many of them connected directly or indirectly with the celebration of the School's 750th anniversary, which has touched all our lives in a multitude of different ways. As I write, a curl of steam rises from my 750th anniversary mug – well over a thousand members of the wider Abingdon community were issued with these handsome creations, designed by the Head of Art, **James Nairne**. The year has provided us with the opportunity to celebrate what we are as a School and to remind ourselves of our origins as a Benedictine seat of learning, with a mission to bring education to those who had been denied it hitherto.

Although too numerous to mention individually, there are a number of events that will lodge in my memory, not just this year but for a very long time to come. In August I joined a hundred-strong orchestral tour to Beijing. To listen to Shostakovich and Schumann in a large and ecstatic audience at the Beijing Conservatoire was an almost surreal experience, the more so because I had left my office and report-writing only a day before. If we needed any reminder of how dramatically the world is changing, and at what speed, Beijing is a powerful visual aid. I am delighted that one of the fruits of the experience has been the establishment of a formal link with the Cheng Jing Lun High School, which should allow our new generation of Mandarin learners the chance to test their skills in due course.

A visit to the Great Wall at Badaling provided another raft of metaphors from history about adaptation and change. The

4,000-mile edifice, the largest man-made structure in the world, has been extended and destroyed repeatedly throughout its history. Its functions, from fortress to communications-link to tourist attraction, have changed but such was the quality of its initial construction that it was never simply going to fade away. I hope very much that, although the School's history covers a rather shorter span, a concentration on quality and substance will see us through the vicissitudes of changing fashions in much the same way.

The climax of the 750th anniversary celebrations was undoubtedly the visit of HRH The Princess Royal on 15 September. I am sure that much will be reported of this memorable day in other places; suffice it to say that the day provided a wonderful break from our normal routines. It represented a tangible watershed as a moment of no return in the Sports Centre development, and the chance to honour the past through the unveiling of a truly splendid slate plaque designed and crafted by sculptor Alec Peavor.

All in all, even against the rich backdrop of Abingdon's history, 2006 will stand out as a remarkable year. The editor of this magazine, **Sarah Wearne**, has been largely responsible for the quality and diversity of our 750th programme. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and applaud her and all those who have contributed to make 2006 such a wonderful year in which to have been at Abingdon.

Mark Turner

# 750th Anniversary

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## A Year of Celebrations for the 750th Anniversary of Abingdon School

The following pages record the year of celebrations that marked the 750th anniversary of Abingdon School. These celebrations re-introduced us to our history: our Benedictine origins, our associations with the town of Abingdon and our connections with Pembroke College, Oxford. They reminded us of the part Abingdonians have played, and continue to play, in the life of this country, and they celebrated the talent and achievements that are present in the School today. In addition, they encouraged us to look towards the future when, on 15 September, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited the School, not only to unveil a plaque commemorating the past 750 years but also to turn the first turf for the foundations for our new sports complex, which will open in 2008.

Sarah Wearne

**Friday 3 February**

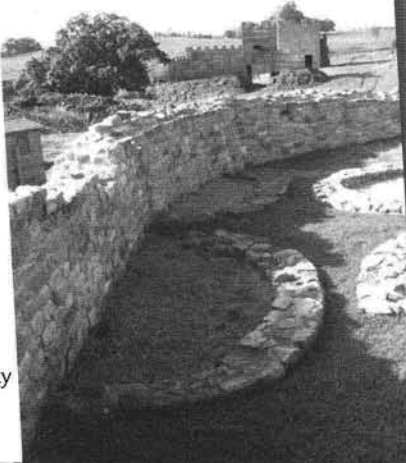
Ben Macintyre, OA 1981, *The Times* journalist and author of *Forgotten Fatherland*, *The Search for Elizabeth Nietzsche*, *The Napoleon of Crime*, *Foreign Field* and *Josiah the Great*, addressed an open meeting of the History Society on 'Story and History: where journalism meets the past'.



Ben Macintyre

**Wednesday 8 February**

A number of chamber music ensembles performed a concert in the Royse Room – between 1563 and 1870, the classroom of the old School. The gallery behind the musicians' heads once housed the School's library; the Greek inscription translates, 'If you are a lover of learning you will be learned.'



Vindolanda

Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall. In 1622, the first holder of the Camden Chair was a former headmaster of Abingdon School, Degorie Wheare.

**Thursday 2 March**

Professor Alan Bowman, Camden Professor of Ancient History at the University of Oxford, addressed an open meeting of the Classics Society on the writing tablets found at the Roman hill fort of

**Sunday 5 March**

Abingdon and the School of St Helen and St Katharine gave a Joint Choral Society performance of Haydn's *Creation* in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford.

**Wednesday 29 March**

Founders' Day was celebrated by a service in St Helen's Church and an evening dinner in the Dining Hall for invited guests. To mark this special Founders' Day, BBC South Today presented a news report from the School.



Foundation Dinner



Royse Room Concert





OA Reunion



Any Questions

## Friday 21 April

On Her Majesty The Queen's 80th birthday, a lively edition of BBC Radio 4's *Any Questions?* was broadcast live from the Amey Theatre. The show was hosted by Jonathan Dimbleby with the former Conservative deputy prime minister, Lord Heseltine; former diplomat, Jeremy Greenstock; royal biographer, Sarah Bradford; and Labour Party treasurer, Jack Dromey, on the panel.

## Saturday 22 April

Over one hundred OAs returned to School for an OA Open Day. Among the attractions were visits to the new Boat House, a 1st XI cricket match on War Memorial Field, which the School won by twelve runs, and showings of three old films that had been made at the School: *Ut Proficias* 1953, *No Tumbled House* 1955 and *Letters to America* 1963.

## Wednesday 26 April

A reception at the Palace of Westminster celebrated the more than thirty OAs who, over the centuries, have served their country as Members of Parliament or in the House of Lords. The reception was hosted by the Chairman of the Conservative Party, Rt Hon Francis Maude (seen on the left), OA 1971, MP for Horsham.

## Friday 5 May

The former Zimbabwean cricketer, Henry Olonga, spent an evening at the School where he sang and spoke movingly about his life, revealing himself to be a remarkable, talented and articulate man.



Henry Olonga

## Thursday 11 May

Dr Arthur MacGregor, Assistant Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, read a paper on William Huddesford, OA 1749, an 18th-century keeper who saved the Museum from oblivion. The event was held at the Museum of the History of Science, the home of the Ashmolean in Huddesford's day. The galleries remained open after the lecture in order that visitors could look round them.



Francis Maude and Michael St John Parker



Museum of the History of Science



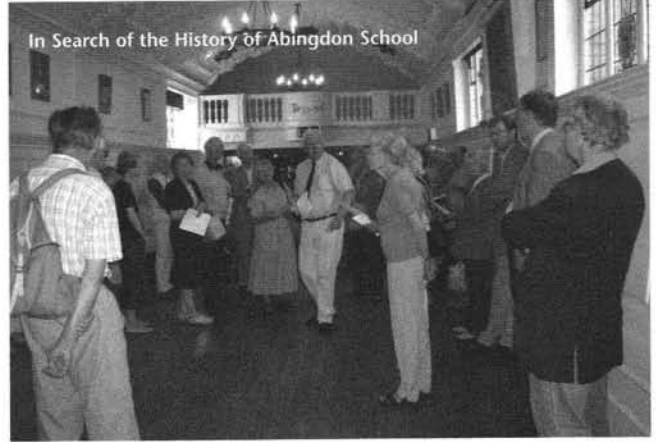
**Wednesday 17 May**

The annual screening of the Film Unit's new work drew a large audience, presenting for the first time a programme of work entirely created by the students, including seven documentaries and five animation films. A large number of film and media industry professionals were in the audience.



**Wednesday 24 May**

Brigadier Patrick Davidson-Houston conducted the biennial inspection of Abingdon's Combined Cadet Force. During the afternoon he reviewed the training at Dalton Barracks. This was followed by an early evening parade outside the front of the School, a reception for parents and visitors, and a formal dinner in the Dining Hall for invited guests.



**Wednesday 7 June**

Nigel Hammond, OA 1957, member of Common Room 1966-1993, and currently Honorary Archivist of Christ's Hospital, escorted about forty people on a walk around Abingdon as they went *In Search of the History of Abingdon School*. The walk began in St Nicolas' Church and included the old Elizabethan schoolroom in the Guildhall and the tomb of John Roysse in St Helen's Church.



**Friday 23 June**

A capacity audience in the Amey Theatre was entertained to a wonderful evening of music when Abingdon jazz stars of the past and present joined forces with the School Big Band. TASS served the refreshments and managed to distribute fourteen kilograms of strawberries and 132 glasses of champagne in the interval.

**Thursday 29 June**

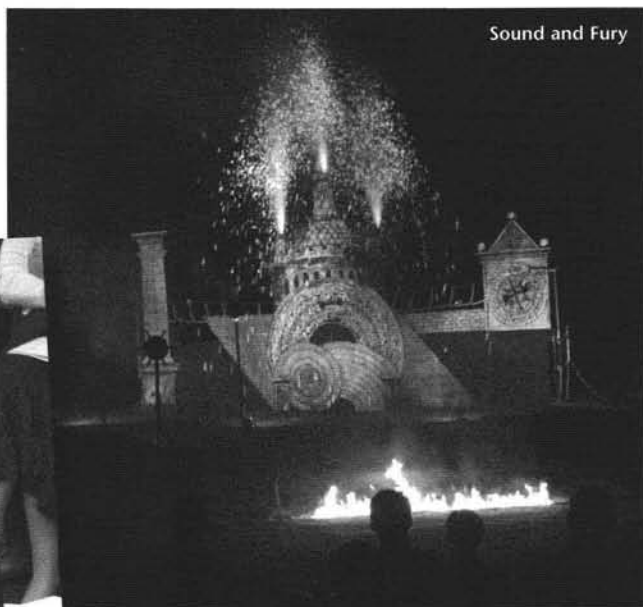
On the 382nd anniversary of the founding of Pembroke College, representatives from all the parties concerned – the Corporation of Abingdon, Abingdon School and Pembroke College – heard former headmaster, Michael St John Parker, deliver a lecture on the history of the Pembroke-Abingdon connection. Many OAs, who had once held the Pembroke Scholarship, also attended the lecture and the reception that followed.



# 750th Anniversary

## Friday 30 June

An outdoor firework display by Tristram Bainbridge, OA 2005, was the highlight of an evening of drama, music, film and fire, which celebrated the triumph of harmony and the eloquence of the great orators.



Sound and Fury



Sheung Wan Civic Centre



Lord Patten



St John's, Smith Square

## Saturday 1 July

Lord Patten of Barnes, Chancellor of the University of Oxford, gave a virtuoso performance when he spoke on the subject of 'success' at Prize-Giving on Leavers' Day. He challenged his listeners to measure their own success by more than their own personal achievements and to take into account the inequalities that exist in the world.



Fireworks at Griffen Ball

## Saturday 1 July

The Griffen Ball celebrated the 750th anniversary in fine style with fairground rides, sumo wrestling, chocolate fountains and a casino. This was in addition to the high standard of music and refreshments that Abingdon's partygoers have become used to at previous Balls.

## Monday 3 July

Two days before the orchestra departed for their tour of Hong Kong and China, they gave a special performance of their repertoire at an early evening concert in St John's, Smith Square, in front of a large and appreciative audience of parents and friends.



## Monday 3 July

The first-formers experienced something of what it was like to be a schoolboy at Abingdon School during the 1860s. Lessons were held in the old Elizabethan schoolroom in the Guildhall, where a cloud of chalk almost obscured the blackboard. After lessons in pre-metric maths, Latin and the kings and queens of England, there were declamations from the eagle lectern, which had been returned to its former home for the morning.





Lord's Taverners Match on War Memorial Field



**Friday 7 July**

A mixed team of staff, boys and OAs, the Abingdon Alligators, played a Lord's Taverners' team on War Memorial Field. Captained by Chris Tarrant, and with Mike Gating in the team, the Alligators put up an impressive performance to beat the visitors by 198 runs to 148.

**Friday 29 September**

The tiny Unicorn Theatre, created out of one of the few remaining parts of Abingdon Abbey, was the venue for a memorable Chamber Concert, which linked our Benedictine past to our 21st-century present. The musicians, many of whom had been on the tour to Hong Kong and China, were in splendid form.

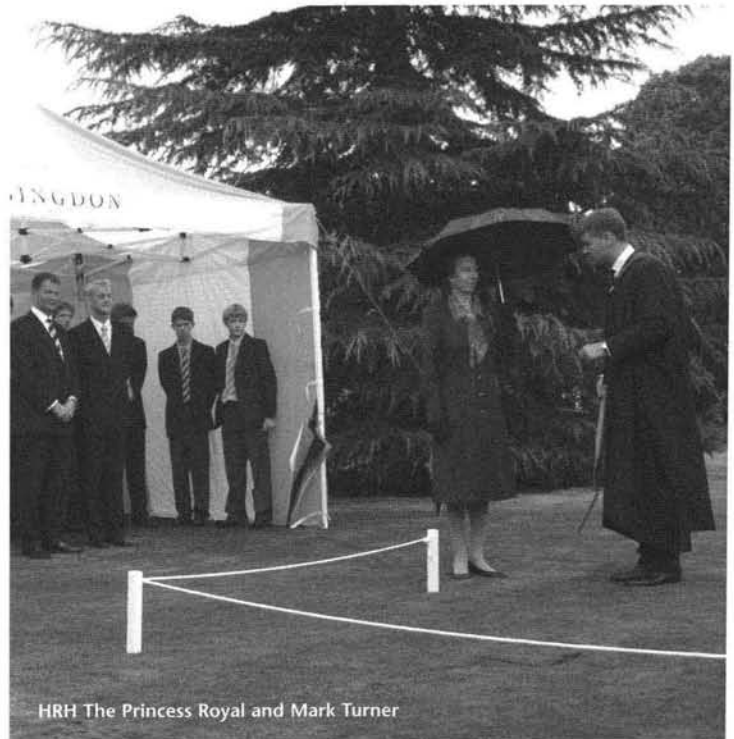


**Saturday 8 July**

One hundred and five guests were entertained in grand style at the OA President's Dinner, which was held in the Dining Hall, with a bar and casino in the Charles Maude Room. Guest speaker, Bill Beaton, who left Abingdon in 1936, entertained his listeners with a hilarious account of his memories of life at the School.

**Friday 15 September**

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited the School during the morning. Her helicopter having landed in front of the School on Upper Field, she inspected a CCF Guard of Honour, dug the first turf for the foundations of the new sports complex, had coffee in the Charles Maude Room with representatives of the whole School community, and then unveiled a plaque commemorating the 750th anniversary.



HRH The Princess Royal and Mark Turner

**Wednesday 5 July  
– Saturday 15 July**

The orchestra gave five performances during their ten-day tour, the first two in Hong Kong, one at the Sheung Wan Civic Centre and the other at the Baptist University, Kowloon. Once in China, a small group gave a recital at the Ambassador's residence, Beijing, then full performances at the Central Music Conservatoire and finally at the Chen Jing Lun High School.



Bell-ringers at St Helen's Church

## Saturday 30 September

The crowds were out for our 750th-anniversary Open Day, in which all that makes up our 21st-century School was on display. Visitors could sample the sort of food the boys eat, take a lesson in Mandarin Chinese and try their skills at shooting and on the ergos.

## Wednesday 4 October

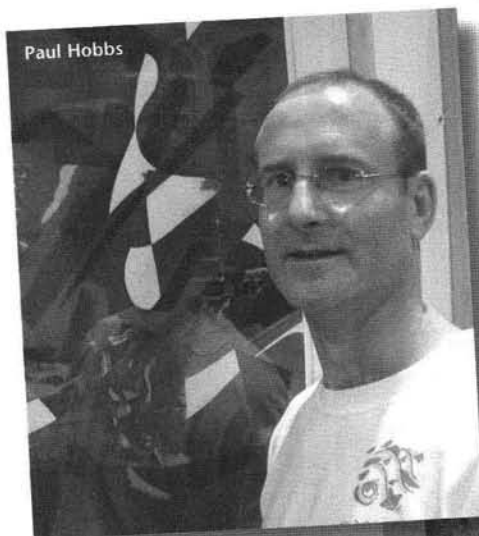
Robert Harris, best-selling author of *Enigma*, *Archangel*, *Fatherland* and *Pompeii*, came to the School to talk about his new novel, *Imperium*. The audience, made up of boys, parents and friends, didn't need to be classicists to find his tales of Cicero and Imperial Rome fascinating.

## Sunday 15 October

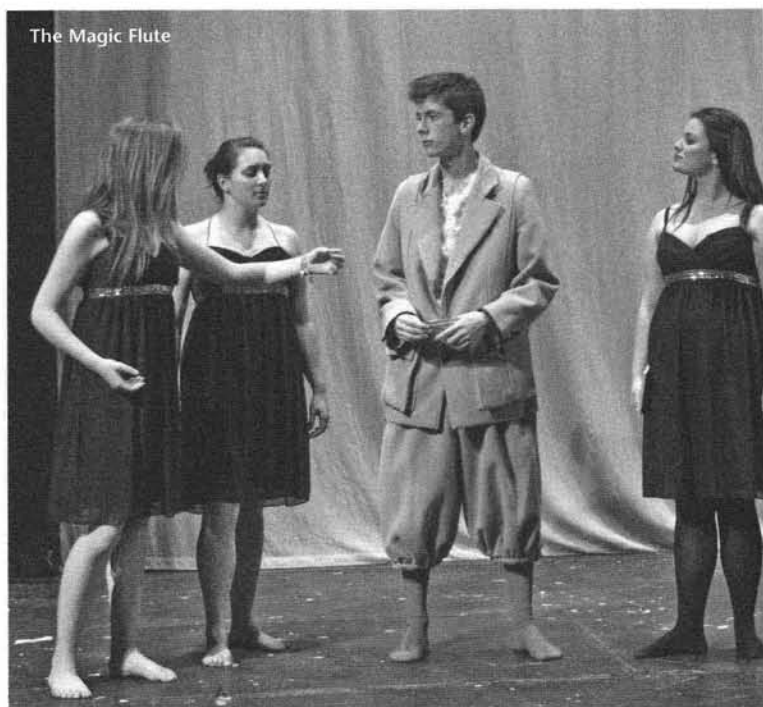
A quarter-peal of 1259 Grandsire Caters was rung in forty-three minutes at St Helen's Church, Abingdon to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the School. Among the ten bell-ringers were past, present and future parents, a current pupil, **Tim Middleton**, and a current member of staff, **Adam Jenkins**.

## Tuesday 7 November

The Grundy Library was transformed into an exhibition space for a display of the work of the artist and stained-glass designer, Louis Davis, OA 1877. Admirers of Davis's work travelled from as far away as Derbyshire and Cumbria for the exhibition and for the accompanying lecture, given by Peter Cormack, FSA, Keeper of the William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow.



Paul Hobbs



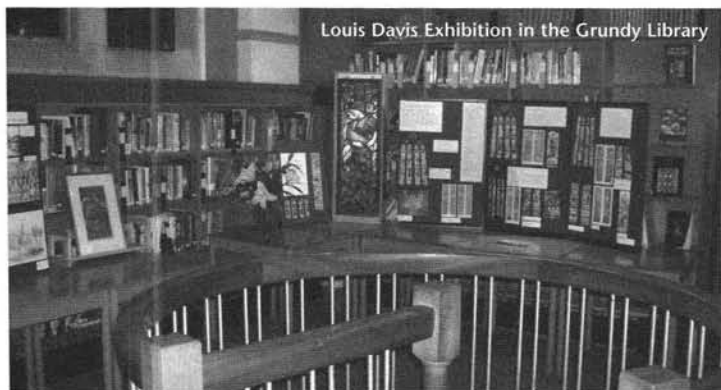
The Magic Flute

## 25 November

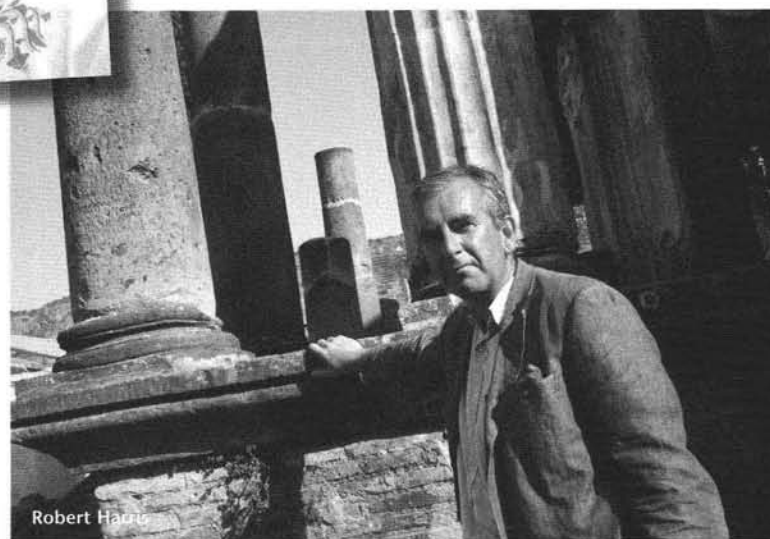
The artist Paul Hobbs visited the School for the week, when his work, with its challenging social and Christian dimension, was on display in the Charles Maude Room. A number of lessons were held in the room so that the boys could use the artworks as a basis for group discussions.



Open Day



Louis Davis Exhibition in the Grundy Library



Robert Harris

Monday 20 – Saturday



**Monday 27 November**

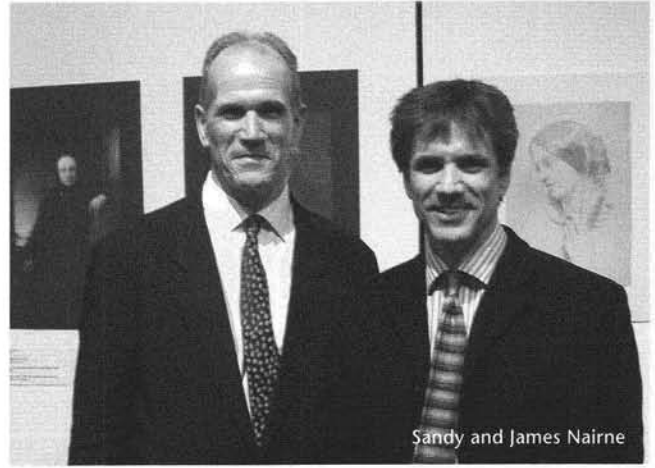
The Director of the National Portrait Gallery, Sandy Nairne, addressed a large gathering of guests in the Amey Theatre on the subject of portraits and portraiture. His lecture followed the private view of an exhibition of the work of the portrait painter William Boxall, OA 1817, who was appointed Director of the National Gallery in 1866.

**Thursday 30 November & Friday 1 December**

Pupils from Abingdon School and from the School of St Helen and St Katharine put on a fine production of *The Magic Flute* in the Amey Theatre in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth.

**Sunday 3 December**

Abingdon's dramatic talent was on display at the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, with performances from productions of the past: *The Merchant of Venice*, 1982; the more recent past, *Ines de Castro*, 2003; and from the present, *FxP<sup>2</sup>* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. In addition, there were filmed interviews with some of those OAs who have made their careers in the Arts, including David Mitchell and Tom Kempinsky.



Sandy and James Nairne

David Mitchell on screen at the Lyric Theatre

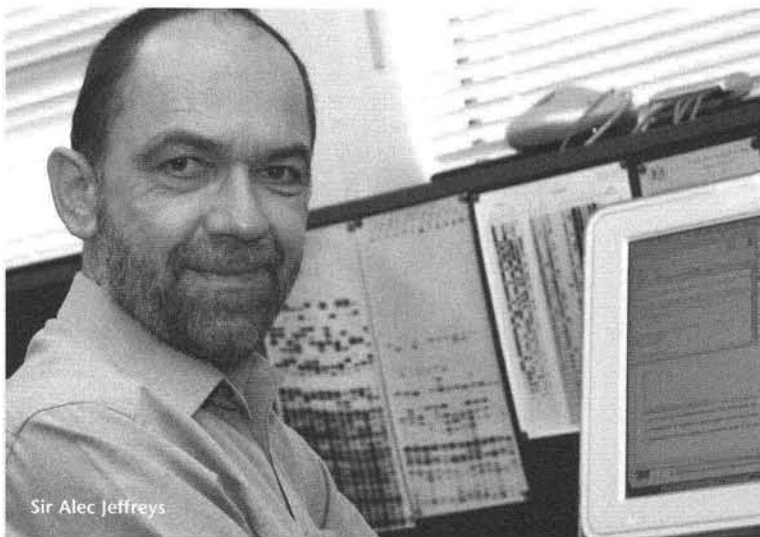


**Thursday 7 December**

The year of celebrations culminated in a Grande Finale Christmas Concert given by the School's bands and orchestras in the Amey Theatre, followed by a massive firework display on Upper Field, which had been threatened with cancellation by strong winds and heavy rain earlier in the evening.

**Friday 24 November**

The world-famous scientist, Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, discoverer of both genetic fingerprinting and Southern blotting, addressed an open meeting of both the Biology Society and the Roysse Society on the techniques of genetic fingerprinting and its uses in forensics and paternity disputes.



Sir Alec Jeffreys





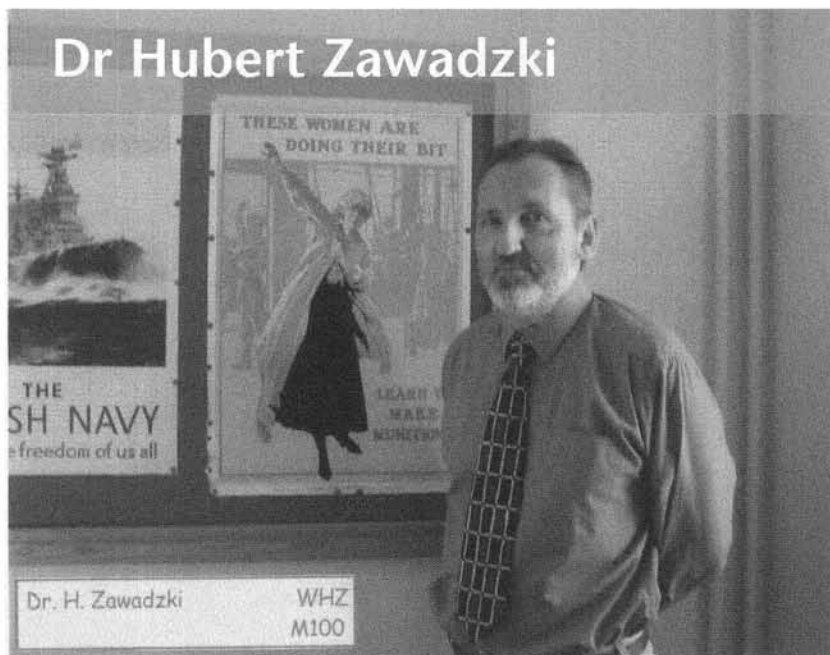
# Common Room Farewells

When **Hubert Zawadzki** retired in 2006, it brought to an end a remarkable contribution to the School and to learning there, which had begun exactly thirty years before. Hubert joined the School fresh from researches at Keble and Wolfson Colleges, Oxford, where he had pursued extensive studies, in particular on early nineteenth century Polish and Russian history. He quickly settled into the idiom of the School, lending it his own inimitable flavour.

Many and varied are the stories which accrued to him over that time, but one thing was clear from the outset. Not only was he a natural and gifted teacher, he was a significant scholar whose dedication to his subject was as wholly admirable as it was beyond reproach.

Hubert's sonorous tones revealed that his native tongue was not in fact English, but Polish. His own direct family experience was one that in microcosm encapsulated many of the terrible events that had so bedevilled Europe in the middle of the last century. His earliest days were spent with his family in a number of Polish resettlement camps in Northumberland, Cornwall and Gloucestershire, before they finally settled in Lower Quinton in Warwickshire. It was from there that in due course he was to make his way to Oxford via, for a time, the very school in which Shakespeare had received instruction. The rich baggage Hubert carried was reflected in the fact that he is conversant in five languages.

From the outset Hubert contributed to the wider life of the School. He established volleyball, that popular mid-European sport, and it ran for a number of years. At the same time he was in charge of General Studies and guest speakers, a duty that resulted in a lengthy succession of talks which greatly benefited the pupil body. As time went on he withdrew somewhat from the sporting side, but took over debating and schools' challenge. In 1994 he and Richard Hofton revived the History Society, which has flourished ever since with a long list of distinguished speakers. These activities became a by-word for Hubert's input, often amusing and laconic. What perhaps deserves particular mention was the humour and lightness of touch in all he did. He had developed his own style, almost a self-mocking one in many ways, characterised by amusing head-notes or footers. Thus the boys were always addressed as 'gentlemen'. There was an old-world charm to this, as well as a dignity and elegance of expression. The boys were not indifferent: Hubert, fondly known to them – and indeed further afield – as 'Doctor Zed', was a great favourite. He was tireless in supporting them, setting out and establishing the highest standards in the mildest of ways. It was a rare boy indeed who did not sense that he was in the presence of a master in every sense of that term.

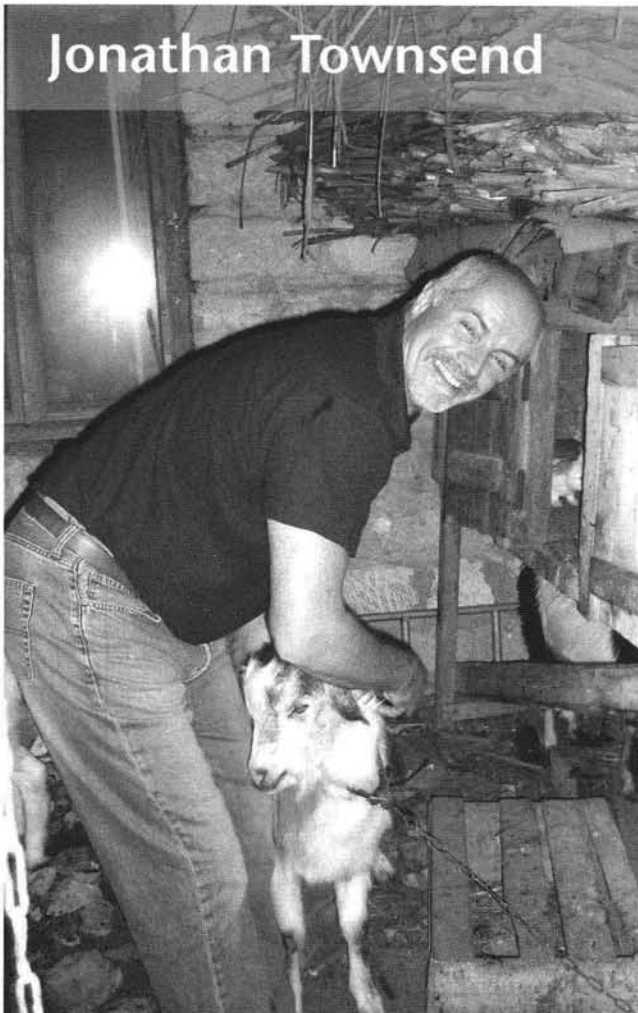


Hubert's deep and abiding love, at the core of his professional work, was the study of Polish history over the past two centuries. That is easily enough written, but his study of the great Polish political figure, Adam Czartoryski, was a major contribution, extending over many years in the midst of a full teaching schedule. It led to recognition in top academic circles. This was in turn followed by various articles, reviews and conferences, and latterly by co-authorship of a volume on the history of Poland, which has already run into a second edition.

Very striking was the manner in which all this was carried so effortlessly. Boys could so easily have been borne down or overwhelmed by the sheer weight of scholarship, but this never happened. On the contrary, they benefited immeasurably from his interests and insights. His General Studies course, illustrated by his exceptional video archive, was a gem and a mine of information which they found fascinating.

Hubert retires to enjoy the company of his devoted family; indeed, his first self-appointed task is to write up his family archive, particularly on his mother's side. But of course there are many other projects in the offing too. A deeply humane man, of him it is truly correct to say that we shall not see his like again. We look forward eagerly to learning of further achievements and contributions, and in the meantime wish him and Francesca, a distinguished and generous educationalist in her own right, a long and fruitful retirement.

Rodney Mearns



Jonathan Townsend

**Jonathan Townsend** was forced, owing to a sudden and unexpected medical condition, to take early retirement in February 2006. His current state of health is good and should remain so if he continues to lead a quiet and stress-free life. Jonathan moved from Epsom College to Abingdon to teach economics in 1985. During his time here, he has been involved in a fantastically wide range of diverse activities, which few other teachers will even get close to matching. In many of these areas he has been instrumental in setting up new and different Other Half activities, which continue to benefit a wide range of boys.

Three areas in particular stand out, the first being the Sailing Club, which Jonathan master-minded for ten years. During this time, he widened the membership of the Club to include girls from both The School of St Helen & St Katharine and from Our Lady's Convent Senior School. Competitions were entered on a regular basis and opportunities to compete at a higher level were given to those who had genuine talent.

A key part of the sailing year was the five-day Easter cruise in the English Channel on the *Jolie Brise*, a sailing ship that Jonathan had a real passion for. In total, he organised ten Easter voyages, as well as an eight-day Greek voyage. All of these ventures served

several purposes: they introduced many novices to sailing, gave those with experience the chance to extend their ability, and provided those who had social/family difficulties the opportunity to find themselves in a different, challenging environment. Social therapy was very much part of the hidden agenda and was typical of the way that Jonathan worked, aiming for a multitude of goals within a single framework. Jonathan also regarded bridging activities with the local community as something that all parties involved could gain from. He served as Commodore of Oxford Schools' Sailing Association for six years, during which time he was able to develop further benefits for Abingdonians at Farmoor. In later years, he became a senior dinghy and powerboat instructor, allowing for even more challenging activities to be undertaken by our boys at the reservoir.

In 2000, Jonathan introduced World Challenge to the School and, after much fund-raising, co-led an expedition to Namibia and Tanzania in 2002. Both sailing and World Challenge are now firmly established in the School calendar, having been taken on and further developed by other teachers at the School.

The third major Other Half project that Jonathan initiated and developed was the link between Abingdon and schools and orphanages in Romania and Moldova. This started with a Christmas aid project to Romanian orphanages in 1997 and 1998. This was then developed into three sixth-form visits to Moldova, giving Moldovan children the chance of a holiday that they would not otherwise be able to afford, as these summer camps in the mountains were hosted and financed by Abingdonians. These trips were not always plain sailing: living conditions were not what Abingdonians were used to and many boys returned home with a humbling perspective on their own lives and a genuine appreciation for what they had previously taken for granted.

What all these activities have in common is that they encapsulate Jonathan's wider view of schoolmastering, which has always involved using this kind of activity to help boys achieve far more than simply some new practical skills. He has always had a holistic aim behind these ventures, something for which many Abingdonians will vouch. Another characteristic possessed by all these activities was Jonathan's own passion and enthusiasm, which was instantly translated to the boys and to the other teachers involved, and in this way was passed on to the future, becoming in no time part of the culture of the School. The fact that we are all proud of our sailing, proud of our Moldovan links and envious of those lucky enough to go on World Challenge expeditions is all down to Jonathan.

On the academic and pastoral side, Jonathan was Head of Economics and Business Studies between 1985 and 1995, introducing economics to the School in 1985 and business studies in 1986. During this time, he also began the teaching of economics to St Helen's girls at Abingdon, which subsequently evolved into St Helen's own successful Economics and Business Studies Department. Jonathan has always believed that if learning and education are to be effective they should not be confined to the classroom but should involve a variety of visual, auditory and kinaesthetic strategies, and that you learn more by being involved than from simply being the recipient of information. Unsurprisingly therefore, during his time in the Economics Department he has always encouraged his pupils to visit many of the places that they had covered in their theory. In total, he organised eleven overseas study visits during the February half-term breaks, to factories and financial institutions all over Europe,

never returning to the same place, though that would have been the easy option! These visits proved to be extremely popular with the boys, who not only learned much about the international factors relating to the practical side of their course but were also able to relate what they learnt to the culture and history of the various countries they visited. More importantly to all concerned, they were fun, as they allowed for Jonathan (not Mr Townsend when overseas) to educate in an informal manner over a beer.



Bridging with the community was also part of Jonathan's personal remit in the Department and much benefit was obtained from his contacts with the Oxford branch of the Institute of Management, of which Jonathan was a committee member for six years. This interest in developing the wider side of a boy's education, and expanding outside the formal academic side, was well utilised when Jonathan was the Head of Careers. Over a four-year period, he introduced Morrisby testing for all fifth-formers as well as the joint careers evenings with St

Helen's and Our Lady's Convent. For two years he was a member of the ISCO National Council, ensuring that Abingdon had a national voice in the organization. On the sporting side, Jonathan, a triple-jumper of national standing in his day, coached athletics to all age-groups. He also coached and refereed both rugby and hockey and for ten years was the master in charge of 3rd XI Hockey, having originally agreed to run it as a favour for one year! This developed into a worthwhile and popular club as boys, who did not have a history of representing the School, were given the opportunity to do so. The relaxed and informal way in which he managed the side gave the boys much pleasure and a real sense of involvement. Needless to say, the results invariably matched those of the other teams.

It is however on the pastoral side that Jonathan will be most remembered. In total he was a housemaster for fifteen years, the last eight leading Townsend's, and before that as a joint head of Sixth Form. During this time he was much respected by both boys and parents as he invariably produced wise, well thought out practical solutions to many of the tricky issues that crossed his desk. Forever positive and innovative, he was always looking to improve the welfare of his boys and it was no surprise that he felt the need to initiate the School's healthy eating policy. He sat on committees and canvassed in his own discreet and effective manner. Abingdon has much to be grateful to Jonathan for, and thankfully much of what he started lives on and is being run by people who share the same sense of purpose. For many of us, Jonathan was more than just a colleague: he was a good friend, who shared happiness and helped us through tricky personal and professional difficulties. Jonathan's glass has always been half-full, and it is characteristic of him that he views the end of his Abingdon career as creating a new beginning, spending much time planning the future. Jonathan has given Abingdon much more than he has taken, and it is with universal sincerity from the Abingdon community that we wish Jonathan and Annie every success and happiness for the future.

Dean Evans



**Margaret** joined the staff in 1997, rapidly making an impact as a conscientious and enthusiastic teacher with a deep affection for the German culture as well as an impressive grasp of the language and a firm believer in academic rigour. Forthright in her approach, she was not one to tolerate boys' evasiveness and would not shy away from telling them some home truths regarding their shortcomings! However, behind her often robust and even combative exterior, there was a very caring side to her character, which was evident in her readiness to spend extra time with those who sought or needed help in their quest for examination success. She always had the pupils' interests at heart and, as a shrewd judge of character and ability, she knew exactly what was required to steer them towards good performances at examinations level: her consistently good results at both GCSE and A level speak for themselves — and also reflect her excellent understanding of the demands of the examination boards. She also played an important role over the years in the Bielefeld Exchange, accompanying many groups to our partner school, where she established close and long-standing relations with our German colleagues, who valued her contribution most warmly. Her intimate understanding of the German people and their culture has helped to ensure the continued success of the exchange.

Margaret's other major — and highly effective — contribution to School life was in her capacity as organiser of Community Service, which soon became established as an integral part of the Other Half under her coordination. From doughnut sales and tea parties to games of dominoes and raffles, she unstintingly gave her time to help the local community and develop the boys' organisational and leadership skills. Under her tutelage, the well-mannered party planners entertained Abingdon residents in hospitals and residential homes, paving an important bridge with the wider community. We wish her well in retirement, although we are fortunate that she has agreed to oversee the 3rd-Year Service Scheme this year so the senior citizens of the town will continue to enjoy their weekly chats and keep up with the gossip!

Nick Revill



Big man, big presence, big loss! **Stuart** arrived at Abingdon in 1992, having spent the first year of his teaching career just down the road in Didcot, at St Birinus. His influence within the School was far-reaching. He immersed himself in the Abingdon idea of an all-round education, teaching PE and biology; coaching rugby, hockey, cricket and athletics; instrumental, together with Andrew Broadbent, in setting up the first of the annual Adventure trips for the first-years; being a boarding house tutor; and fulfilling his role as a diligent and tremendously caring housemaster.



On the rugby pitch, Stuart made a lasting contribution, instilling a sense of enthusiasm, pride and determination amongst his boys. His versatility lay in being able to coach the full spectrum of age-ranges, communicating his message with real clarity, enthusiasm and expertise. Stuart laid down a legacy by initiating the introduction of the *Abingdon Touchliners*, which has allowed the Rugby Club to operate more professionally. He took great pride in being Scottish and made regular comment on the 'soft southerners'. In his desire to broaden the boys' experiences, he set up tours to the Southern Hemisphere, namely one to Australia in 1994, and one to South Africa in 2000.

Stuart took over the running of the Physical Education Department in 1995 and continued to challenge the pupils to aspire to reach their potential. He had equal time and enthusiasm for the gifted and less able athletes alike. He enjoyed the challenge of teaching new skills and sharing in the success that they achieved.

Stuart was a wonderful role model for the boys. It was during his time as a boarding tutor that he honed the skills that would eventually lead to his appointment as Boarding Housemaster of Lyon House at King's School, Bruton, in Somerset. In his pastoral role as Dayboy Housemaster at Abingdon, he showed tremendous understanding, taking great pride in the boys' achievements in all areas of School life, and making sure that he took a personal interest in each and every one of them. This role appealed to Stuart's 'other half'. Behind the big personality and tough rugby man is a deeply caring individual, with a real sensitivity to other people's needs, often to the sacrifice of his own.

In his early days in Abingdon, he was a young 'rabble-rouser'. In his later years, a deeply devoted family man to his wife, Emma, and twin daughters, Olivia and Sophie. I have no doubt that Stuart will continue to develop his skills in the pastoral, academic and sporting roles, and we wish him and his family everything of the best as they settle in to their new surroundings.

Andrew Hall

**Richard** arrived at Abingdon in early 1987, having already acquired thirteen years' experience at Bristol Grammar School which, when added to his pedigree as an Oxford historian, made him a formidable classroom teacher. Abingdonians soon came to respect his deep knowledge and understanding of the complexities of European history – that Mr Hofton would know the answers to their questions rapidly became axiomatic. Respect for his scholarship was matched by the confidence that not only would they receive the required information, but also that their work would be thoroughly marked and helpfully annotated. Richard saw all aspects of his teaching as integral parts of a constructive, co-operative learning process. The experience of his tutees from the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools was even more positive, as they had more opportunities to enjoy his witty and mildly subversive conversation: Richard is one of a rare breed whose charges could regularly be found turning up early to tutor time because they were afraid of missing something amusing or acerbic (especially if Aston Villa had lost).

Although he never engaged with the School's sporting elite, Richard's wider contribution should not be underestimated. He was a stalwart of the Rydal Hall expeditionary force, making the trek north for thirteen out of a possible fifteen visits. In the same period he steadfastly (if somewhat against his natural inclinations) umpired Junior Colts Hockey, latterly coming to 'enjoy' a hate-hate relationship with the micro-climate of Tilsley Park. Richard could always be relied upon to provide a calming influence on trips to the Great War battlefields or the Normandy landing sites, as well as on cross-curricular visits to Paris and Berlin. We understand that the highlight of a trip to Paris was a classic Buddy Holly karaoke session.



So we bid farewell to a man of many parts. Memories linger of him winning an esoteric argument over naval architecture with another eminent historian; persuading an upper sixth group that the tenth point of the treaty of Rome was very bad news for owls; having an inspected lesson on 19th century Germany singled out for its cogency; in 2006, guiding a heterogeneous A level set to a homogeneous result (12 A grades); and last but not least, the head shot delivered by an elastic band that sent an invasive wasp to meet his/her maker. There was always an element of impish, self-deprecating humour just below the surface, and it is this, as well as all the traditional schoolmasterly traits, that Abingdon will miss.

John Henderson

The Chemistry Department said a fond farewell to **Anna Patrick** at a lunch in Avernus in early July.

Later, at the end of term staff lunch, when there is an opportunity for goodbye speeches to leaving members of Common Room, I was fortunate enough to be able to express my thanks to Anna for her dedicated and effective contribution to the life of the School, both in and out of the classroom, over the three short years she had been with us. After lunch, **Rodney Mearns** presented her with a bouquet of flowers in gratitude for all that she had done whilst in charge of charities, and especially for her work with Rodney for the Landmine Disability Trust.

Anna came to us straight from her biochemistry degree at University College, Oxford. I was privileged to be her mentor for the first two years, in the second of which Anna made a considerable success of her distance-learning Buckingham University PGCE. She was more than willing to grapple with the opportunities for teaching and learning thrown up by ICT, and exhibited encouraging bravery in the business of chemical demonstrations linked to cylinders of potentially explosive gases! She was also very keen to develop her approach to Oxbridge teaching and to delve into the more esoteric and arcane aspects of the inorganic and physical



Anna Patrick

chemistry. Anna was able to develop a highly effective approach to lesson planning and specification delivery. Her pupils' examination results were quite simply stunning. The boys responded very positively both to her high expectations of them and to the generous praise with which she rewarded their contributions to lessons.

During the summer Anna helped the Tennis Club and in the colder terms was able to contribute to the smooth running of the Cross-Country Club at middle school

level. She thoroughly enjoyed the fitness opportunities that running alongside third-formers offered. She was particularly successful in developing the Lower School Christian Union and numbers grew under her enthusiastic and well planned meetings, which happened on a weekly basis in the Charles Maude Room over packed lunches. Her excellent chocolate brownies were no doubt part of the attraction.

Her cooking prowess was also much appreciated by the senior citizens at Cygnet Court when, once a fortnight, they were visited by Anna's Third-Year Community Service group. The previous week she would have overseen the boys' baking in preparation for those visits.

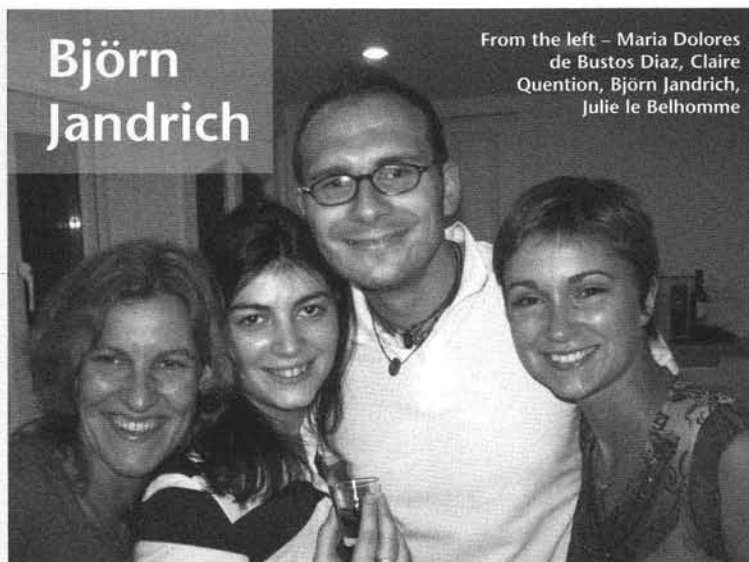
For the record, and a certain perspective, Anna was not quite the first female member of the Abingdon School Chemistry Department but she was the first to be keen enough to stay for more than a year. Her husband's archaeological studies have taken him to the British School in Athens, which is a research institute for Greek Studies. Anna has taken up a post at the International School on the southern edge of Athens, encouragingly close to the Aegean beaches. We wish them both the best of good fortune for their time in Greece.

Richard Coleman

Our luck held out again this year with the arrival of **Björn Jandrich**, who soon showed himself more than capable of maintaining the line of highly competent German assistants to which we have become accustomed. He rapidly found his feet within the School and proved to be a popular addition to the staff with his engaging, easy-going and good-humoured manner. The boys whom he taught warmed to him too. He was always prepared to make a determined effort to help whenever necessary and his advice was sound and thoughtful. He established an excellent rapport with his pupils, particularly those studying at AS and A2 Level. All of them appreciated his enthusiasm, his knowledge of the subject and his unstinting efforts in helping them prepare for their oral components: the impressive results in these elements of the examination were, in no small part, due to his commitment. As a colleague, he was always looking to support the Department and offer help. He took a keen interest in how the language was taught and in pupil assessment, reflecting his desire to join the teaching profession. His pleasant, modest personality allied to these qualities allowed him to integrate fully and effectively: his contribution was certainly very well received.

Björn has the makings of a good teacher and we wish him every success in his quest to qualify. We very much enjoyed getting to know him and hope he will keep in touch – and perhaps find time to visit us when not honing his footballing skills in the provincial backwater of Diepholz!

Nick Revill



From the left – Maria Dolores de Bustos Diaz, Claire Quention, Björn Jandrich, Julie le Belhomme

### María Dolores de Bustos Diaz

Last year saw the arrival of the first Spanish assistant at Abingdon, adding yet another nationality to the Whitefield community. **María Dolores de Bustos Diaz**, from Almeria in Southern Spain, was a great help to the Department in our first year of GCSE in the language. We wish María all the best with her teaching career.

Patricia Henderson

**Hugh Randolph** was a rare bird; however, whilst he would have appreciated the ornithological metaphor, he would certainly have denied the implied compliment. And that would have been characteristic: he was an extraordinary person who could not be persuaded that he was anything other than very ordinary – though he had a gift for making others, who perhaps were *truly* ordinary, feel very special.

Strictly speaking, Hugh was a child of the Raj, since he was born in Calcutta, where his father was chaplain in the cathedral, on 27 September, 1936. But the family returned to England the next year, and much of Hugh's childhood was spent at Eastleigh, in Hampshire, where German bombers seeking nearby Portsmouth made life perilous during the war years. The vicarage air-raid shelter, which was open to all who had no shelter of their own, was the scene of rigorous early training in the art of staying calm and observing social conventions under difficulties.

After he had won a choral scholarship to the Pilgrims' School in Winchester at the age of eight, Hugh's life became set, if not entirely in "quires and places where they sing", at any rate in collegiate establishments with chapels. His early grounding as a cathedral chorister at Winchester, under the distinguished organist Alwyn Surplice, gave Hugh a lifelong love of music, and especially of church music.

From Pilgrims', Hugh went on to Marlborough. His own summary of his school record, preserved with typical care among his papers, aptly portrays the child who was father to the man: "I was a captain in my House and secretary of the Natural History Society, for which I was also joint editor of 'A Handlist of the Birds of the Marlborough District'. I won three prizes – for ornithology, for ancient history and a form prize." Already, it seems, he had established a reputation for being able to identify the colour of the plumage on a flying bird's legs before others had even managed to get the creature in the field of their binoculars – together with a penchant for recording everything from rainfall statistics and cricket scores to the estimated numbers of starlings in one of the mammoth flocks of those days.

Health problems caused Hugh to be exempted from the military service that was otherwise obligatory for his generation, so while his contemporaries were burying the British Empire on the banks of the Suez Canal, Hugh was at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, reading classics and Ancient History, before going on to a year of theology.

Hugh's decision to teach, rather than preach, may have been a difficult one. He came of a distinguished line of clerics, and if there is such a thing as a natural priesthood, Hugh most certainly belonged to it; his devotion to pastoral concerns, which seemed to grow as the years passed, was matched by his unobtrusively ascetic style of life. His own old headmaster at Marlborough was in no doubt that he would make a good teacher; Mr. Garnett's only reservation, drily stated in the manner of those times, was that "I can imagine that he might get overloaded because of his competence". Prophetic words!

After a novitiate at King Edward VI School, Southampton, Hugh was appointed Classics master at Abingdon in 1963, where his engaging but scholarly style quickly established him in the affections of specialists and non-specialists alike. The memories

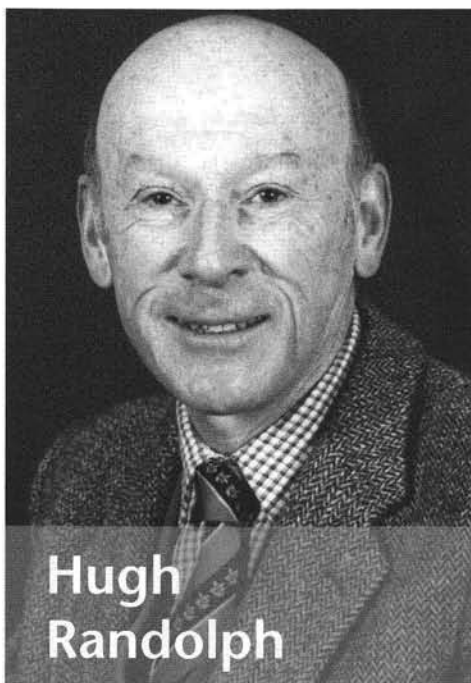
abound: Hugh expounding Winnie-the-Pooh in Latin (while not exactly trendy in his approach to teaching, he was a natural story-teller); Hugh offering sonorously classical salutations on boys' birthdays; Hugh umpiring cricket games with a gravity hilariously at odds with the incompetence of the players – gravity which was only slightly impaired by a sunhat almost as remarkable as those famous shorts.

Fairness was a value greatly prized by Hugh, and he made others see it as a precondition of real enjoyment. So we should not fail to mention the impositions and punishments which he handed out with no arbitrary hand, but with a very quirky sense of what was needful. Richard Willis recalls having to stand for a while on the

Gravel in front of the school with one leg in a waste paper bin, as the penalty for failing to remember "a particularly dull verb".

Thirteen years of resident house tutorships in Crescent and School House were followed by a full twelve years as housemaster of one of the newly established dayboy houses. Hugh had a talent for pastoral care which was founded on – but by no means confined to – an apparently infinite capacity for taking pains; and I believe that, like many of the best schoolmasters, he found it more rewarding to help the hard case (sometimes designated as 'No-good Boyo') than to applaud the achievements of the merely virtuous.

But all this effort came at a cost, and Hugh's health, never strong, seemed shaky by the end of his housemastership. So it was no great surprise – though a severe blow – when, not long afterwards, he announced his decision to retire early from schoolmastering, in 1993, in order to concentrate on church work.



Not that the School lost him, of course: he became, more than ever, the communicating spirit of the O.A. Club, and visited us so frequently from his home in Park Road that it felt as if he was truly part of the fabric. He organised staff reunions with scrupulous, affectionate care, and was a faithful remembrancer of festivals and anniversaries both public and private.

However, he had now found yet another outlet for his restless urge to be doing good things. David Duce, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, describes how Hugh worked tirelessly for the parish; his 'job description' ran to pages, from emptying the bins, and mowing the lawns, to being secretary to the St. Michael's District Church Council, and churchwarden – and, of course, archivist and general recorder.

His last illness, and rapid decline, were borne with impeccable patience and courtesy; his chief concern at the end seemed to be to avoid making trouble for others.

No mere summary can do justice to the personality, or the lifework, of this remarkable man, whose apparent simplicities did not entirely conceal the complexities beneath. Hugh's was a life crowded with incident rather than adventure, a Trollopian tale rather than a Dickensian drama; but it was a life lived to the full in committed service to others, and the School's record of his unobtrusive goodness will be his lasting monument.

*(This is an abbreviated version of the address delivered at HTR's memorial service by Michael St. John Parker, former Headmaster, on 25 March, 2006.)*



# The School

## The Library



Members of the Library team,  
Summer 2006

The Library calendar is punctuated throughout the year by a series of regular, favourite events. For example, if it is the latter half of the Michaelmas term and Bonfire Night has exploded, then it must be *Kids' Lit. Quiz* time. This year, the regional heat of this international quiz was held at the White Horse Leisure Centre, Abingdon. A team of four first-formers and four second-formers represented Abingdon, having come through as the winners of the internal heats the week before. Several authors supported us at the event, including Jan Mark in one of her last public appearances.

Earlier in the term we were host to William Nicholson, author of the children's fantasy trilogy, *The Wind of Fire*, on his publicity tour for his new book, *Seeker*, (the first book in a new series, *The Noble Warriors*). Using the Amey Theatre, we were able to share the experience with over three hundred students from local secondary schools.

The Michaelmas term also saw the return of a regular visitor: the well-known author Gillian Cross. Gillian spoke to groups of first-, second- and third-formers about her books and also about how and where she finds her inspiration. Particularly fascinating was how much gelignite is required for an explosion, and her close encounters inside the wolves' cage at London Zoo!

February saw the inauguration of what we hope will become an annual event in the School calendar when Abingdon School was the first to host a visit by an invited 'Joint Schools' Author'. The event, organised by the librarians from three schools (Abingdon, Our Lady's Convent Senior School and the School of St Helen and St Katharine), is intended to offer an opportunity for as many primary and secondary students as possible from the local area to hear a first-class children's author talk about his work. (The original inspiration for this event was Michael Morpurgo.) Alan Gibbons was our first invited guest and as a teacher before he became a full-time writer, his very down-to-earth approach ensured he had his audience intent on his every word. After his visit, he kindly consented to judge and offer a professional criticism of boys' writing on a choice of topics. **Joe Foxon** was awarded first prize, **Thomas Earl** second prize and **Daniel Hearne** third prize, with the following boys receiving 'highly commended' awards: **Oliver Bowyer, Edward Griffiths, Oliver Howard, Nicholas Krol, Edward O'Brien, Charles Studdy, Thomas McDonald** and **Toby Warren**.

We marked World Book Day in March this year with a survey of Top 10 favourite authors and their books. Overall, Anthony Horowitz was the outstanding favourite author, with Michael Morpurgo edging J.K.Rowling into third place.

Favourite titles were:

First year

<i>Private Peaceful</i>	M Morpurgo
<i>Ark Angel</i>	A Horowitz
<i>Silverfin</i>	C Higson

Second year

<i>Holes</i>	L Sachar
<i>Curious Incident of the Dog etc.</i>	M Haddon
<i>Harry Potter series</i>	JK Rowling

Third year

<i>Curious Incident of the Dog etc.</i>	M Haddon
<i>Northern Lights</i>	P Pullman
<i>Alex Rider series</i>	A Horowitz

The culmination of the library year is 'Shadowing the Carnegie', a national scheme involving over 30,000 schoolchildren reading the shortlisted titles of the prestigious award, the Carnegie Medal, awarded annually for the best of children's literature. As part of the scheme, shadowers from all six Abingdon secondary schools join to participate in shared events. The first event, the Carnegie tea, held at the School of St Helen and St Katharine, provided an opportunity to meet fellow-shadowers and hear their opinions of the shortlisted books.

The second event of the Shadowing year was the Carnegie quiz at Abingdon School. Mixed teams pitted their knowledge of the shortlist against the fiendish questions set by their librarians! However, the children's knowledge of minute detail never fails to stun us. The final event of the year was the Carnegie Forum, hosted this year by Larkmead School. For once the Forum's top book coincided with the national judges: *Tama* by Mal Peet. A worthy winner!

As always, the Library could not run without its very competent team of pupil librarians and thanks are due to the senior librarians of this year, **James Cook** and **Wesley Peile**.

Gaynor Cooper



Alan Gibbons with Gaynor Cooper

The Chapel

School services were held in St Helen's Church at the beginning and end of the Michaelmas term. Our 750 years were celebrated both at the Commemoration and Passiontide Service (Preacher: The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading) and the Eastertide Service (Preacher: Father Henry Wansborough, OSB, of Ampleforth Abbey). There were similar services in Chapel for the Lower School.

The visiting preachers at our Thursday evening services were:

The Reverend David Wippell,  
Chaplain of St Edward's School

The Reverend David Winter,  
former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC

Dr Paul Williams, CBE, School Governor

The Reverend Canon Nick Fennemore,  
Chaplain to the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals

The Reverend Justin White,  
Chaplain of St Helen's School

The Reverend Simon Jones, Merton College, Oxford

The Reverend Brian Cunningham,  
Chaplain of Pangbourne College

The Reverend Matthew Lawson,  
Chaplain of St John's School, Leatherhead

The Chapel Choir sang on Thursday evenings at a St Michael and All Angels eucharist, an Advent Service, a Candlemas eucharist, a Lenten service with Compline, a Choral Evensong and the Confirmation Service, at which the Right Reverend Henry Richmond confirmed **James Cook, Jonty Cook, Robert Crawford, Tim Deeks, James Edwards, David Grant, Daniel Leach, Ben Read, Oliver Read, Tim Richards** and **Peter Ryan**. Confirmation preparation included visits to churches, a monastery, a cathedral and a college chapel.

Other services included a Boarders' Christmas service, a eucharist and imposition of ashes for Ash Wednesday, an Ascension Day eucharist in St Michael's Church and Holy Communion in the boarding houses. The Leavers' Service was also in St Michael's.

All are welcome to the Thursday services and to daily prayers in Chapel at 8.20 a.m. We are most grateful to the staff who officiate at some services, the boys who read, the Chapel organists, Mrs Elizabeth Turner and her flower arrangers, and the cleaners.

Revd Henry Kirk

## Paradise Lost

In a memorable evening at the Oxford Playhouse, members of the Lower Sixth were treated to a stunning adaptation of *Paradise Lost*, reviewed here by **Dan Buttar 6 IM**.

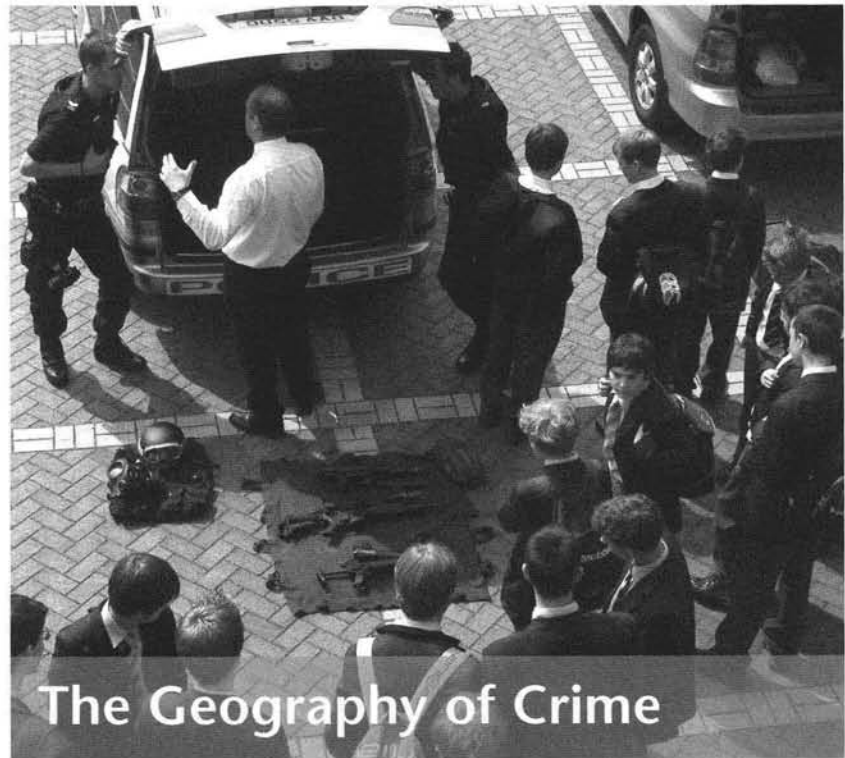
*Paradise Lost* is a rare work that reinvents the story of original sin. In the same way that Dante wrought his own multi-sphered universe in the *Divine Comedy*, and Homer laid down the law in regard to the end of Troy, so too does Milton craft a rich portrait of the Fall. To the eternal credit of **Ben Power** and the Oxford Stage Company, their theatrical presentation did the original work ample justice.

The production utilised spectacular lighting and choreography to envision the Satan's monumental journey from Hell to Paradise. In several aspects, concessions were made to simplify the tale – the angel Uriel is removed for the stage version, his part filled by Raphael, while Michael is not mentioned and the long speech on Man's eventual redemption, made to Adam in the closing books of the poem, is dramatically cut down. Gone too is much of the fawning flattery between God and the Son – a welcome omission that not only prevented some condescending scenes but which also helped keep up the pace in the spaces between Satan's stunning onstage appearances. For the Satan is truly the heart of the story, and just as his are the best parts of the poem, so too do his scenes onstage eclipse those of Adam and Eve and the servants of Heaven.

The speeches, taken directly from the verse, were powerfully delivered, with the hatred inherent in Satan's initial speeches pouring forth through the speakers, and the stern words of Gabriel, "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" – vocalised with such force as to make a harrowing impact on the audience.

In all, *Paradise Lost* was an excellent piece of onstage entertainment that impressed heavily upon the audience and combined high-calibre acting with outstanding choreography and an impressive lightshow. With this in mind, it certainly is "better to reign in Hell".

Dan Buttar 6 IM



As part of the geography syllabus, second-formers study the geography of crime. Thames Valley Police came to the School in force to give a presentation to the whole year-group to explain the links that exist between their day-to-day work and geography. During the morning, different kinds of crime and their impact on communities were examined in some detail. After giving an overview of the use of intelligence, mapping and other geographic data, Thames Valley Police concluded the first session with a review of some examples of front-line police work in the Oxford area. The second session involved a close examination of some impressive police kit – highlights included riot gear, police dogs and the contents of an armed response vehicle.

We are tremendously grateful to Thames Valley Police for giving us such an excellent insight into their work and giving so generously of their time to come into the School to help us link our class studies with the world outside.

Ian Fishpool



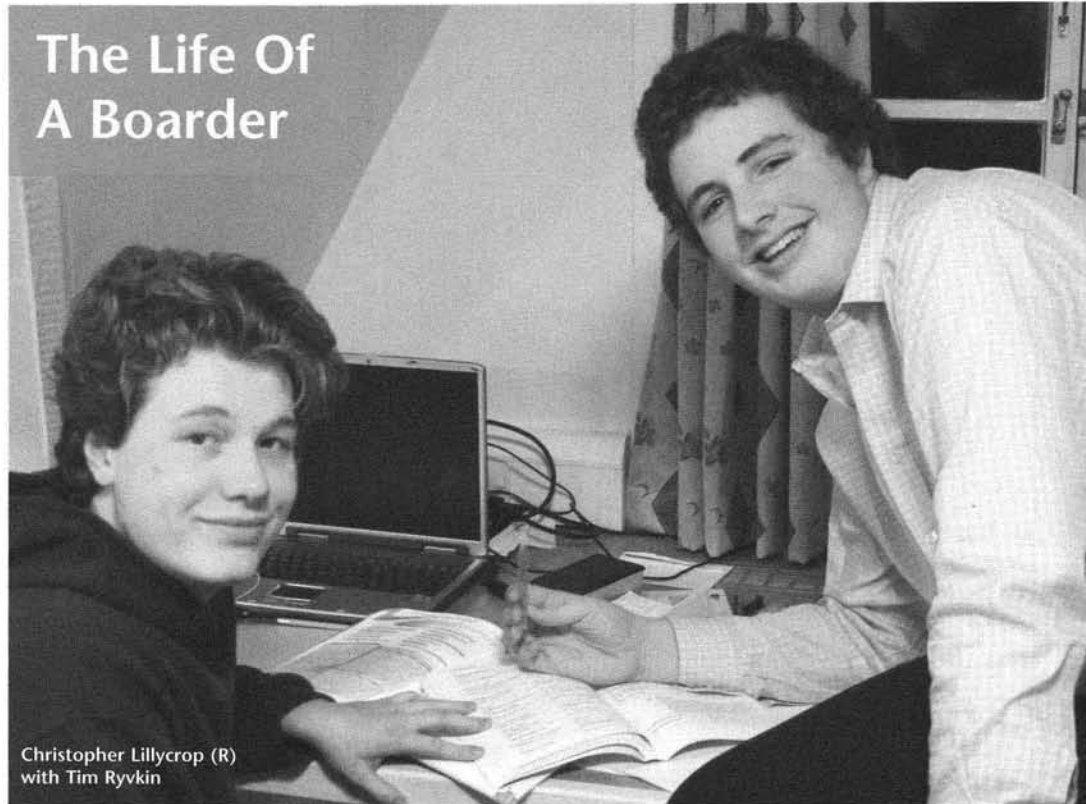


I have often wondered what an outsider would think if he wandered around one of our boarding houses at 8 in the morning. Dayboys are often mystified by the fact that we boarders live closer to the School than anyone else and yet can be late with impressive consistency. It is true that the morning can paint an unfavourable picture of our habits, but after seven years of boarding at Abingdon School, I have learnt that the boarding houses are not merely good homes, but they are also the beating hearts of the entire School. Perhaps because we conserve our energies through our late rising, boarders have a prodigious record of contributing to the academic and recreational activities here at Abingdon. There is scarcely a club or sports team that does not have the School's permanent residents at its core.

Some would say that it is Abingdon's wide range of pursuits outside the classroom (what we dub the *Other Half*) that makes boarding here such a success. When lessons finish each day, almost every boy in the School plunges into their preferred activity for an hour, but for boarders this process lasts all evening. A typical week for me might involve a concert on Monday, a lecture on Tuesday, cricket on a Wednesday, followed by Chapel the next day, and football to conclude the week. Of course some might fear that this leaves little time for work, and this is a claim often hurled at us by those jealous of the fact that we are still playing sport while they are sitting on buses queuing along the A34. But it is a suggestion rendered foolish by the boarders' constant success in examinations and university entrance. When darkness descends, finally bringing an end to the *Other Half*, prep begins. At that point every boy, from age 11 to 18, devotes himself to hours of conscientious study ... or so the Housemasters will tell you! It is of course true that some boys can boast, as their primary talent, the ability to avoid doing any work, ever; but, despite the efforts of these individuals, the boarding houses are excellent environments for working. When exam leave comes around, I always opt to stay in School because I work so much better here than at home – and I am by no means alone.

But of course all this would be merely circumstantial if the company was not pleasant. Everyone has characters from their schooldays whom they despised, but if

## The Life Of A Boarder



Christopher Lillycrop (R)  
with Tim Ryvkin

you happen to be living with this individual 24/7 it is a rather different matter. I have always found that there is such a variety of people boarding at Abingdon that I can invariably associate with someone affable. If I really tire of the South African who shares my room, as well as the German, Russian and Maldivian across the corridor, I am forced down a flight of stairs to seek the company of an American, a Cossack and a native of Hong Kong. This variety does not only make for a wide range of international liquors and exciting holiday invitations, it also offers varied conversation and a plethora of insights on any issue. It is certainly an invigorating experience to be revising for an exam on the Napoleonic Wars and have a proud Muscovite enter your room and declare that your entire education on the subject is false. Difficult though it might be to counter this claim, you are glad to have his company when trying to perfect your pronunciation ahead of a Russian oral.

The staff too play an important role in the boarding environment. As I approach the end of my seven years, I am inclined to look back with some nostalgia on the ways in which the staff have shaped my life. The same people who once seemed to be pressing my nose to the grindstone with unrelenting determination are now offering me a glass of port in their flat to congratulate me on the success that their earlier efforts have yielded. Sometimes funny; sometimes serious; thoroughly

attentive; occasionally angry for sure, although (almost) always with good reason: the staff are in many ways what glue the variety of characters in a boarding house together. Of course it takes a certain skill to make a German and a Russian peaceably share a bedroom, whilst at the same time bringing up a family and doing your teaching.

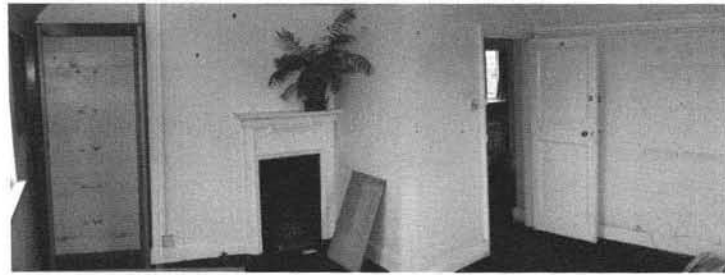
Many other schools offer boarding; most of them in fact can boast a larger community than we have at Abingdon. Some too will offer the wide range of activities that Abingdon enjoys; a small few can even claim better academic standards; but I have never visited another school that displays the kind of community spirit that I enjoy here. At a recent school debate – the Debating Society incidentally has been chaired by a boarder for three years in a row now – a motion to eliminate boarders from the school was resoundingly defeated. I was touched that we received such supportive comments from many dayboys, but for me the greatest joy was how boarders came in droves to declare what Abingdon meant to them. A school is an important formative influence on anyone's life as an educational institution and as a social hub, but for me it has an even more important role – it is my home. The greatest testament to boarding at Abingdon is that I, and many others, proudly and gladly embrace the School as home.

Christopher Lillycrop VI DRM

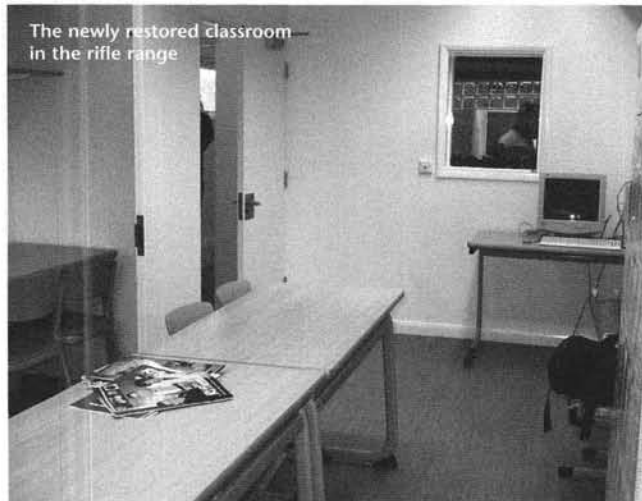
## Buildings and Maintenance



The accounts office before (below) and afterwards (above)



The reception before and afterwards



The newly restored classroom in the rifle range

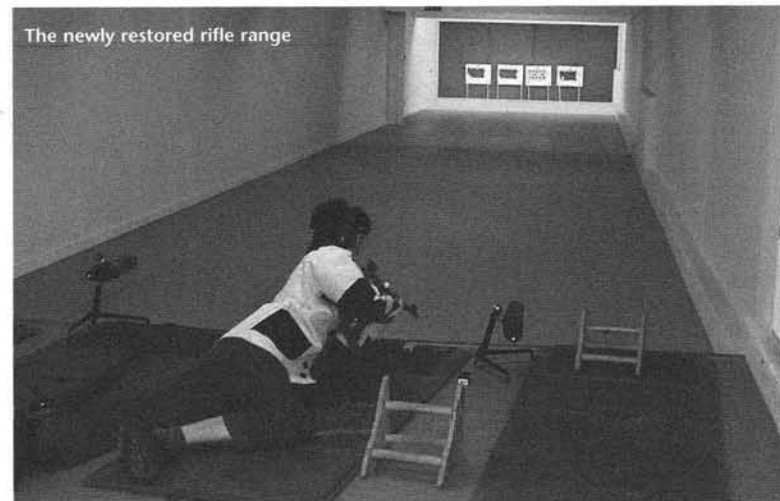
The summer of 2006 saw the completion of three large capital projects as well as a number of other refurbishments.

### The Lodge:

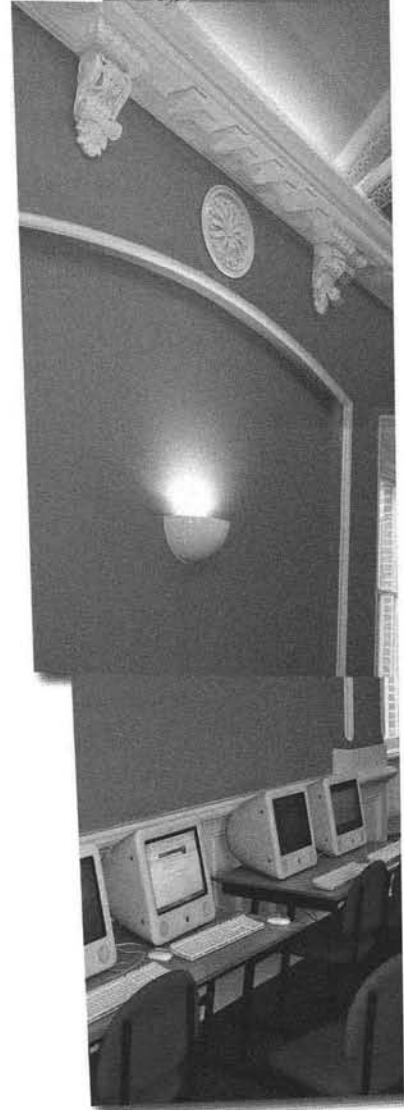
The total refurbishment of the Lodge meant that all staff had to be moved out of the building into temporary accommodation installed on the Lower Field car park.

The building was completely stripped out and the outhouses at the rear were demolished so that an extension could be built. Foundations for this extension revealed an underground spring, which had to be capped. The whole building was rewired, replumbed and re-roofed whilst period features were restored.

The summer was one of the hottest on record so the Bursary staff were very happy to move out of their portacabins once the work was finished just before the start of the Michaelmas term.



The newly restored rifle range



## Waste Court:

The project involved almost every area of the boarding house and was the final stage in a two-year refurbishment programme. The challenge had been to modernise the boarding accommodation, which involved closing the last remaining large dormitory in the School, 'Big Dorm'. During the course of the work, three en-suite bedroom dormitories were created out of the existing TV room and an office, the library, and from the existing shower and changing rooms. Meanwhile, 'Big Dorm' was transformed into a study and computer room, and the existing quiet room became the day-boys' houseroom.

The refurbishment was a huge project, especially that of 'Big Dorm' since the job involved specialist plaster restorers, who matched the damaged ornamental plasterwork, and carpenters who reproduced the missing wooden panelling.



A stitched photograph showing the transformation of Big Dorm into a study room



Work in progress on the ceiling of Big Dorm

## The Rifle Range:

(left)

The project was to extend the building and improve its sparse facilities by adding a classroom, kitchenette, disabled toilet and storage facilities. In addition the building was rewired, redecorated and greatly improved air extraction units were installed.





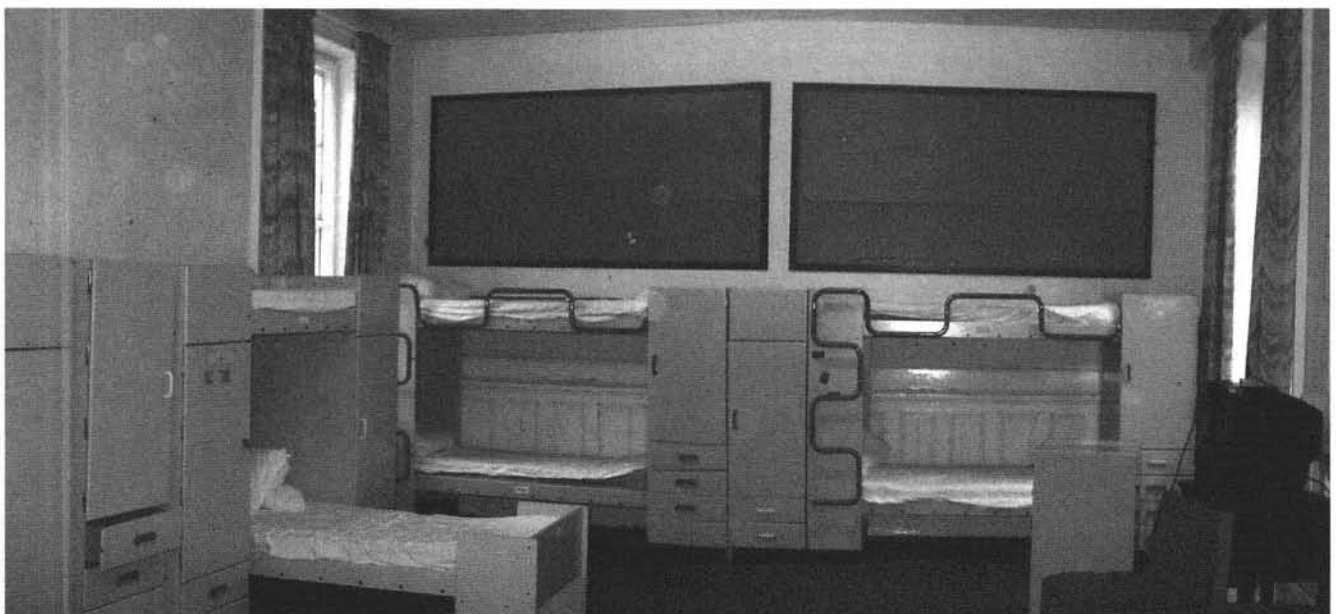
Lower Dorm during and after the work

The finished building is a credit to all who have worked on it but special mention should perhaps be made of **Kim Phelps** and her family who have put up with endless hammering and banging, badly tuned radios, lack of electricity, water and heating throughout the whole project, which has finally brought to an end a ten-year refurbishment programme of all the boarding facilities at Abingdon School.

Nick Barnard  
Buildings Manager



Big Dorm below and above before restoration work



Among the boys who came to Abingdon School as a result of two substantial boy migrations in the early years of the 20th Century were a number who went on to lend distinction to the name Old Abingdonian. These migrations were the result of the closure of schools in Chard, Somerset and Bishops Stortford in Hertfordshire.

In 1900 the Revd Charles Wimberley, headmaster of Chard School, took himself, with thirty-five boarders, off to Abingdon. The Revd Thomas Layng (Headmaster 1893-1913) opened Tesdale House in Marcham Road to house the intake. After they had passed through School, and Wimberley had left Abingdon, Tesdale House became a First World War military hospital.

In 1929 J W Reynolds, an Abingdon master (1920-1929), became headmaster of Bishop's Stortford School (1929-1930). That school closed suddenly and William Mitchell Grundy (Headmaster 1913-1947) found room at Abingdon for eleven of Reynolds's boarders.

The Revd Charles Frederick Arabin Wimberley (1863-1930), had been educated at Eagle House and Haileybury College, and was a graduate of Durham University. A master at Llandaff Cathedral School, he then became precentor of Holy Trinity Church, Hull, and headmaster of Hull Choir School before taking up the headship at Chard.

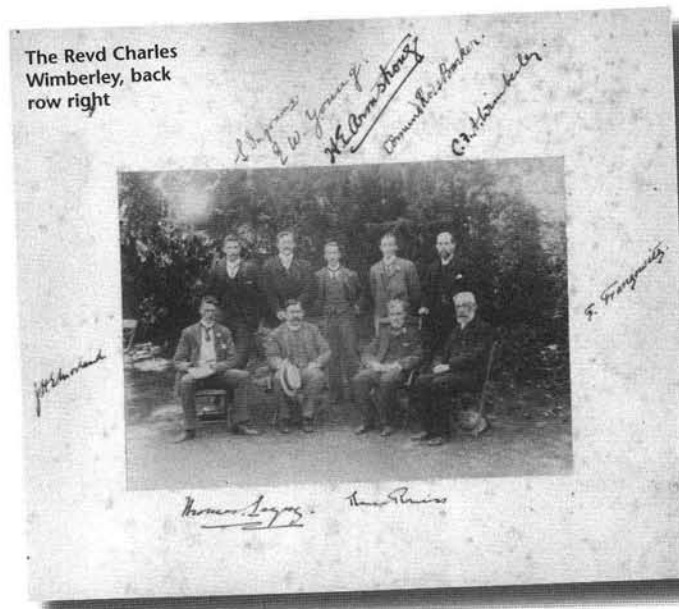
Wimberley remained at Abingdon for three years (1900-1903) prior to taking up an appointment as headmaster of Gillingham Grammar School (1903-1906). He was chaplain at Loretto School (1906) and Chaplain to the Forces in the First World War, after which Wimberley was preferred as rector at St Andrew's Church, Fettercairn. J W Reynolds was an historian, formerly Scholar of Keble College, Oxford, and master at Abingdon (1920-1929), commanding the recently formed Abingdon School OTC throughout that period.

Among the Chard intake were several men of note. Edward Fleetwood Berry, MC (1888-1916), AS 1900-1905, the son of Archdeacon Berry of Tuam, entered RMA Sandhurst (1906) and joined the



Tesdale House in Marcham Road

## Fresh Blood for the School



The Revd Charles Wimberley, back row right

Wiltshire Regiment in India (1908). Berry was Captain, King's Royal Rifle Corps at the outbreak of the Great War: it was as Adjutant, 9th Gurkha Rifles that he was killed in Mesopotamia.

The Duncan brothers, John William Duncan (1885-1963) and Norman Duncan, MC (1888-1972), hailed from Llandaff: John Duncan played hockey for Wales against England and Scotland (1909, 1910 and 1912), and was chairman of the family business of Cardiff ship owners J T Duncan & Co., and was president of the Old Abingdonian Club (1931). His brother, Norman, was a talented sprinter and represented Abingdon in the 100 yards at the Public Schools' Sports (1906 and 1907). Whilst at London University and when reading for the Bar, Norman Duncan acted as London Secretary of the Old Abingdonian Club (1912-1914). He then saw war service in the Dorset Yeomanry and became president of the Old Abingdonian Club (1932). At Llandaff Cathedral (1914), their sister married Abingdon solicitor, Bromley Challenor (1879-1963), AS 1889-1898.



Tesdale House as First World War military hospital

Another notable sportsman, Norman Vaughan Hurry Riches (1883-1975), a Cardiff dentist, played cricket for Glamorgan (1901-1934) and was the team's high-scoring batsman and wicketkeeper. In his first major innings with the county he scored 183 against Monmouthshire (1904) at Swansea. Norman Riches was Captain of Glamorgan (1921 and 1929) and played for Gentlemen v Players (1927). Scoring nine centuries in his career, he was the first Glamorgan batsman to pass a thousand runs in first class cricket (1921). Riches hit 140 runs against Lancashire (1928). In retirement he was vice-chairman, trustee and patron of Glamorgan CCC (1934-1950).

From the smaller Bishop's Stortford intake came three Gould brothers, Hugh Lunghi, James McPherson, and the Osmand brothers.

Arriving from Rio de Janeiro, where their father was in banking, Philip Herbert Gould (b.1917), AS 1930-1933, Robert Charles Gould (b.1918), AS 1930-1933, and Roy Douglas Gould (b.1920), AS 1930-1931, all joined Abingdon's boarders. Philip Gould



Norman Riches

entered stock-broking then joined the Royal Navy (1937) in which he served throughout the Second World War, afterwards joining the Merchant Navy. Robert Gould entered the Westminster Bank and served in the Royal Air Force during the war. Roy Gould emigrated to Australia and saw service in the Royal Australian Air Force: afterwards joining the Dunlop Rubber Company in Australia.

James McPherson (1914-1991), AS 1930-1933, a doctor's son from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, served as Captain in 17th Uganda Regiment, King's African Rifles then entered the oil industry with Iraq Petroleum Company becoming the company's head of finance (1965).

Retiring from the oil industry (1969) he was accountant and secretary to a wholesale meat business at Shrewsbury.

Alexander Gordon Osmand (1918-1943), AS 1930-1933, was Squadron Leader (pilot) with 261 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and was killed in the Far East. He is commemorated at Chittagong War Cemetery. His younger brother came directly to Abingdon: Peter Edmund Osmand (b.1920), AS 1931-1932, and served in the war as Pilot Officer, Royal Air Force.

The most distinguished of the Bishop's Stortford intake was Hugh Albert Lunghi (b.1920), AS 1930-1939. Hugh Lunghi was elected Scholar of Pembroke (1939) and served as a major in the Intelligence Corps. He acted as Russian interpreter for Winston Churchill at the Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences. In a BBC interview, he said he had learnt Russian at his mother's knee. He became British military attaché in Moscow (1946). Diplomat, author and broadcaster, Hugh Lunghi was East-European specialist with the BBC (1963): over the years he has regaled groups of Abingdon boys with an interpretation of world events and reminiscences from his unique career.

Nigel Hammond OA 1957  
MCR 1967-1993



Hugh Lunghi, centre, with General Montgomery



# House Reports

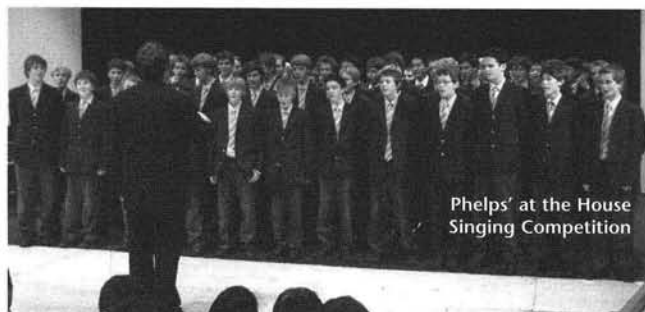
## Waste Court

The year of 2006 will always be remembered as a momentous one in the history of Waste Court. On 5 July, just minutes after boys had left the House for a final day of lessons, builders entered "big dorm" and proceeded to tear it apart. A few hours later, Abingdon's last large dormitory had been gutted. Plans for the summer are extremely exciting: the room will be converted into a new social room, and the current games rooms will become en-suite three-man bedrooms.

Throughout the year, many of us have had half an eye on the changes that were to come, occasionally bemoaning the fact that we were leaving just too soon! But none of this anticipation or regret has stopped Waste Court from enjoying yet another successful year. A new batch of Lower School boys has thrown up the usual challenges: that traditional blend of endearing optimism and roguish insolence has never been more apparent, but they remain the unique element that makes Waste Court special. The Sixth Form too was filled, back in September, with a new legion of energetic and talented students. Pleasingly, Waste Court's infamous diversity stretched yet further with the arrival of **Ibrahim Qasim**, the House's first ever Maldivian. And on the staff front also we welcomed a new arrival.

**Mr Jon Barker** settled seamlessly into the routines of Waste Court. Simultaneously earning the friendship and the respect of all the House's characters, he has become especially well known for his football expertise. Whether encountered in his coach-house flat or in the Geography Department, his tips for Saturday's games are infallible.

An author wishing to pen even the most extensive account of Waste Court's achievements finds himself faced with a list too long to be rendered in unabridged form. This is a congenial dilemma to grapple with, but still an intractable one. Certain individuals though have accomplished deeds so magnificent that they cannot be ignored. **Nicholas Acutt**, having spent all year marshalling the ranks of Lower School as a prefect, has now been rewarded



with a scholarship. From September, he will be Duxbury Scholar, not only the second Waste Court boy in two years to take on the Duxbury mantle, but also ensuring continuity, as the outgoing Duxbury boy is yours truly. Amongst the Lower School, **Charles Studdy** and **Daniel Leach** also deserve commendation for both being selected to play A-team cricket for the year above.



The Middle School contingent also continue to thrive in their own idiosyncratic manner. At Sports Day especially, the third- and fifth-formers put in splendid performances to lead the House to a very creditable third place overall. **Patrick Appleton** and **Finlay Taylor** must also be mentioned for their agonisingly funny comedy show which raised an impressive sum for charity. An account of the Middle School's exploits in unexpurgated form would be enough to deter even the most resolute prospective parent, but Phelps' boys remain very capable of leading their colleagues in absolutely all their activities.

Congratulations must be offered to **Harry Wimborne** and **James Wallis**. They have both been selected to serve the School as prefects – continuing the tradition of boys from our house leading the School. I would also like to make a special mention of **Timur Ryvkin**, who is to

assume the most influential position at Abingdon: Chairman of the Debating Society. He is surely opinionated and outspoken enough to make a great success of the job.

Unfortunately there are, as ever, a few goodbyes. I refer not to the fond farewells of all our Upper Sixth leavers – they depart for too promising careers to linger long at this rite of passage. Instead, I speak of **Mr Boyd**. He has served the House willingly, and with tremendous commitment. Inspiring and demanding academic excellence in all, he has also been a valued source of pastoral care. To Waste Court's detriment, we were unable to hide his outstanding qualities. Since May he has been answering a higher calling by taking over as a Housemaster amidst the savage hordes that are the day-boys. From September he will no longer be living in the House and, though he will be sorely missed, we wish him the best of luck.

With the conclusion of Mr Boyd's tenure as resident tutor and the demise of "big dorm", two fine Waste Court institutions have reached their end. No doubt, though, the House will move on and continue to thrive, as it always does. Well done to all on a fine year; congratulations to the leavers; and the best of luck to those who remain.

Christopher Lillycrop VI DRM

Many in School House have achieved great things over the course of the year, be it academically, socially, creatively, in the sporting arena, or in recognising other sorts of ambitions. Others have successfully continued a little further down a long path towards still distant goals. This report will, I hope, do some justice to at least some of these achievements, and to the people who have supported the boys along the way. It has, after all, been in many ways a very good year for the House.

If it is the aim of any Housemaster, particularly a boarding Housemaster, to stamp something of his personality on the House, then he needs to be aware that the senior boys in the House are likely to do just that without really trying. If School House has been a happy, relaxed place for a lot of the time this year, as well as being industrious and ultimately ambitious, then that has been at least part due to the example set by this year's Upper Sixth. Not only did we welcome the inimitable **Sam Wylie** into the House, the newly created Head of School no less, but had two more resident School Prefects or international style gurus to call on – **Han Park** and **Stanislav Urzhumtsev**. As well as carrying out their School duties conscientiously, this highly sophisticated trio did a lot to set the tone in School House, with their immaculate dress sense, their almost female ability to multi-task, and their desire to work hard, play hard, and simply make the most of things. But no one did more this year to help make School House the place it is than our Head of House, **Oliver Waite**. Oliver won the respect and affection of everyone in the House, and certainly did not need to give his Housemaster a hard time in the Sumo ring at the Griffen Ball to achieve those ends!

## School House



**Edmund Lo** was the entrepreneur of the House and **Andy Mak** worked really hard on our House music entry, but I would again like to thank the whole year-group for their great contribution. They particularly enjoyed **Andrew Crofton's** style of tutoring, I know, and he and I both wish them well.



The relatively small Lower Sixth group, once again looked after by **Peter Willis**, have had a great year in all sorts of ways. They have made a tremendous sporting contribution, mostly as it happens in the School's minor sports – badminton, cross-country, fencing and football, to name but a few. Much iron has also been pumped! In addition, the musicianship of **David Ridley** and **Timothy Chu**, not to mention Dr Willis himself, has been inspirational. At the time of writing, boys in this year-group have all been running the House efficiently for several weeks, and I shall be delighted to have all seven of those remaining serving as House Prefects next year, with **Harry Richards** as Head of House, and **David Ridley** as a second resident School Prefect. I am optimistic that they will all do an excellent job, as well as continuing to achieve highly in the academic sphere. We have said good-bye to **Cornelius Kirsche**, who joined us for a year from Germany, and who made many friends during his short spell here.



The fifth-formers continued where they had left off last year, but at least had the wise, relatively youthful guidance of **Hugo Besterman** to guide them through the stormy waters, certainly for some of them, of GCSE coursework and exams. Many did aspire to academic excellence, and we wish them all luck for results day. Some still saw the skateboard as their best means of self-expression: nothing was more inevitable than **Tom Skeer** spending his last week here on crutches. **James Cookson** in particular continued to make his mark in a variety of sports, and it was great to see **Jamie Graves** in action for the 1st XI cricket team. **Robin Madden** joined us for a year, prior to his move to Edinburgh, his apparently relaxed outlook on life sometimes, but not always, disguising his quiet determination. We wish him well, as we do the others who are leaving the School (**Tom Skeer**, **Sebastian Howard**), and those who are becoming dayboys – **Oliver Hampson** and **Hee-won Yang**.



The fourth-formers in School House, collectively almost as sporty as their tutor, **Andrew Hall** and, some might say, even better-looking, went about life with huge energy and achieved some great things. Once again they did very well in sport – **George Bone** captained the successful Junior Colts rugby team: almost half of which was made up of boys from this House. School hockey and cricket teams also had a strong House contingent, with **Matthew Pursell** again being one of the leading lights. This group also did much to ensure that the boarders won the Inter-House Athletics Competition, with **Michael Shaughnessy** doing a lot more than his fair share, as usual. But, as much as anything, these young men all make excellent dinner companions, as I discovered on the evening when, in an interesting reversal of roles, we went to Pizza Express before watching Mr Hall in a dramatic production. They will continue to do things in style in their important year next year, I am sure.

For a while the new third-formers were not quite sure what to make of it all, but together with another new boy, their tutor, **Dan Smith**, they mostly settled down very well, and by the end of the year could cook a risotto as well as anyone on the evenings set aside for such activities. They all spent their time in *The Dungeon*. **Andrei Smirnov** had the difficult task of joining the group a term later than the others, but the generosity of the group as a whole in welcoming him into the House was impressive. **Daniel Boddington** made a bold effort at beating the copy record, but was not without his close rivals on those hot summer evenings post-exams. So, they've arrived then!

There have been many highlights of the School House year, and members of the House will have their own favourites, not always coinciding with mine, and perhaps even unknown to me. But it is how the House functions day by day which is most important to my way of thinking. **Diane Faulkes**, our very own House matron, not to say domestic goddess, has together with her team cared for us all supremely well in this respect – even if the diagnosis of some of our most terrible mid-winter sufferings was usually “man-flu”! The maintenance team has also looked after us far better than we perhaps deserved. I would like to thank them all, as well as the tutors, and certainly my own family for helping create the atmosphere we now have in School House, and look forward to the new academic year, with all its changes, with huge excitement. But where would I be without the boys to keep me youthful, and stop me getting too pompous?

Douglas Aitken





In September 2005, nineteen new members joined Crescent House – twenty if you count the new Housemaster. With a capacity of fifty-seven, that is a relatively large number and, as in any new environment, there was a lot to get used to. Boarding life is exciting and busy. It offers a wide range of opportunities: certainly the members of Crescent House, old and new, grasped all the opportunities available to them in House and School this year.

The House can be relatively quiet at the weekend, when the weekly boarders go home. To counter that, we enjoyed a number of trips this year: from bowling and films to indoor skiing at Milton Keynes and the museums of London. Whole-House activities included a meal at Chinese New Year and a trip to the Royal Albert Hall to see *Cirque du Soleil*. A formal House dinner was held to give the House the opportunity of enjoying a meal together without the daily rush. Former Housemaster Thomas Garnier and his wife attended the dinner, taking time from their busy lives at Pangbourne College to be with us.

Crescent House boys have been busy around the School in music, plays, sport and not least academically. As tutor **Keith Butler** pointed out, Crescent House boys always seem to punch above their weight and are strongly represented whenever awards are announced or team sheets published. Some rowing crews were fifty per cent Crescent House this year. The prefect body took a lead in organising a House Concert, House Review and entry to the House Singing Competition. I hope to see more year-group social evenings next year, an area where I hope each year-group will take a lead. I am sure my idea of a large evening does not coincide with theirs.

There are two exciting changes for 2006/2007. Firstly, day-boys will be introduced into Crescent House, initially in the Third Form, but eventually throughout the House. This will give us the chance to give each year-group a wider circle of friends and it will increase the integration of boarders into the whole School. Secondly, we will be changing the evening routine such that when School ends for day-boys at 17:15, boarders will enjoy a wide range of activities and sports opportunities. Instead of spending the early evening in prep watching the sun go down, we will have a greater chance to enjoy the facilities of the School. Later, after supper, we will do prep as the House settles down for the evening.

Crescent House is a lively and energetic environment: I have much enjoyed getting to know the House and its boys this year. Angela and I and our children have been made very welcome; we have enjoyed hosting the boys' birthday parties, weekly baking and BBQs. I have been greatly assisted by a very dedicated Matron and team of tutors, who have all given their time willingly and kindly, with enthusiasm and care, to a level that I have not seen in boarding life before. We are sorry to lose **Mike Webb** as he moves on to run a day house, taking over from **Stuart Hamilton**, where we wish him well. His replacement is **Steve Brenchley**, who is most welcome and will make a strong addition to an outstanding team.

Joss Williams



Boyd's (formerly Townsend's) at the House Singing Competition

## Boyd's

As I reflect upon the last academic year and think of the huge number of successes that we as a House, and as individuals, have achieved, I feel somewhat overwhelmed. Boyd's House 2006 'Best Bits' is a highly anticipated compilation of a year that everyone in the House will look back on as a very busy, memorable, slightly disjointed but clearly flourishing year at Abingdon School.

The year started off under the veteran command of **Mr Townsend** who, as always, brought typical humour, continuous cheerfulness and well needed support and advice to the houseroom and classrooms. However, sudden and tragic illness meant he was unable to continue his role at Abingdon School. This was quite a shock for all the students in the House and we wish him well for the future. **Mr Schofield** took over on a temporary basis and, on behalf of the tutors and boys of Boyd's House, I would like to thank him. Combined with the ever-present House Prefects, especially **Ben Carter-Fraser** and Head of House **Mark Beevor**, Mr Schofield maintained the order and structure throughout the House as well as the omni-positive atmosphere that fills our houseroom



Jonathan Townsend

on a daily basis. Then came the transfer of the season as we managed to secure the services of **Mr Boyd**, the youngest Housemaster in Abingdon's history, who immediately added an extra dimension to our House and demonstrated a clear passion and enthusiasm to make a difference right from the start. Three housemasters in one year must surely be a record and in terms of House successes and reports I have barely touched the surface.

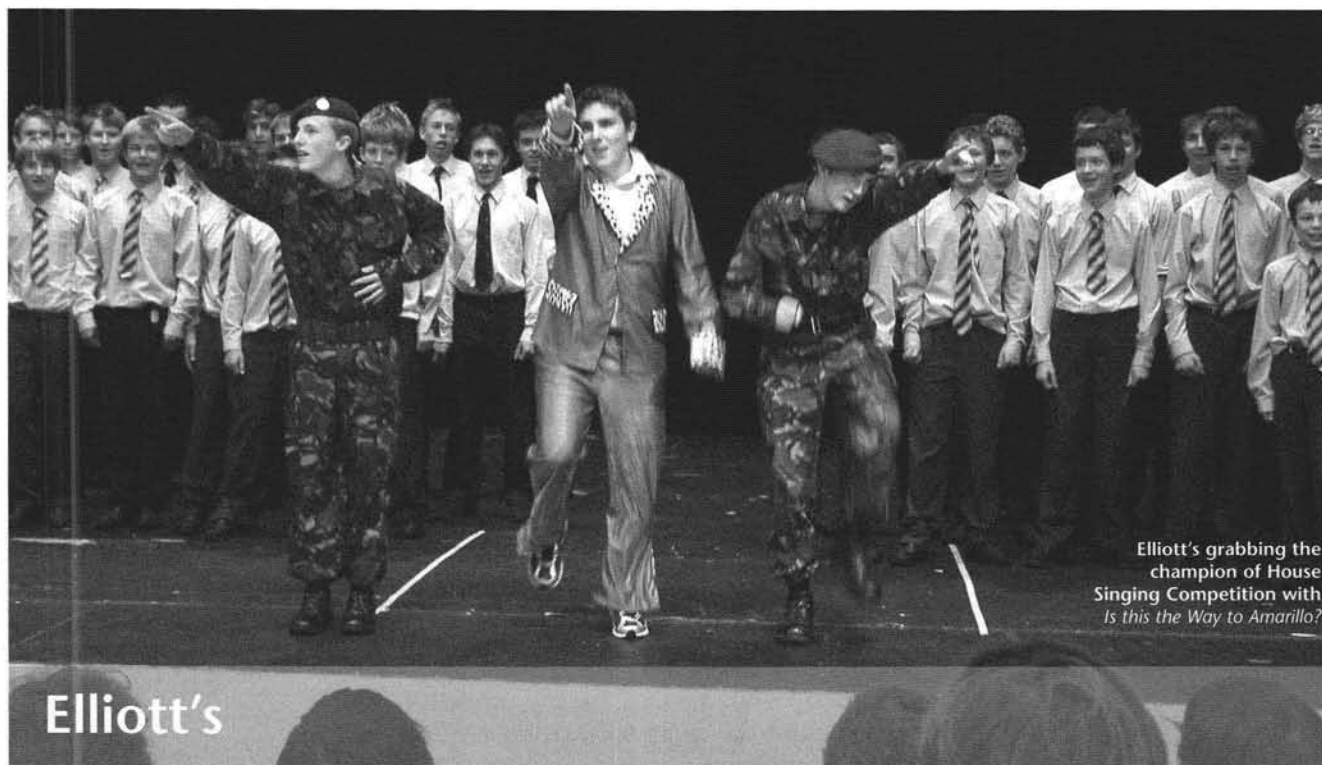
Academically, Boyd's House was 'on top of its game' in 2006, with GCSE success in the 5th form and five sixth-formers heading for places at Oxbridge.

Concerning the Other Half, Boyd's House also produced high achievers, our 'it's not the winning it's the taking part' reputation clearly being put well behind us with victory in the House Cricket Competition where we won convincingly in the final battle-to-the-death against bitter rivals Gooding's. On all levels, in all year-groups, Boyd's House has this year produced a large number of team players, representing the School to a high standard throughout the three terms in the major sports.

As this year has shown, Boyd's House is able to produce the typical Abingdon School all-rounder, demonstrated by our academic achievements, through the Other Half, but also through our continuous attempts to strive to do more on a House and individual basis. A great example of this determination and inspiration is through the effort of **Dr May's** Third Form and their consistent support for community service and charity fund-raising. Through a number of extremely triumphant House socials, weekly doughnut sales as well as the School Charity Walk, Boyd's House has been able to contribute an enormous amount to our House charity, *Agape*, based in Moldova, which will no doubt make a huge difference to the lives of many Moldovan children.

Overall, another good year at Abingdon School for members of Boyd's House, and as we look into this new year with further development of the houseroom being considered, and the growth of the Boyd's House 'Council' well under way, all there is left to do is to thank **Mr Evans**, **Mr Schofield**, **Miss Henderson**, **Dr May** and **Mrs Payne** for their commitment to the House, as well as to bid farewell to **Mr Townsend**, **Mrs Hankey** and **Mrs Soper**, who leave the School, after contributing so much to the House in the past.

Ben Allen (Head of House) 6 DE



The year got off to a flying start, as always, with the Inter-House Singing Competition. Rehearsals, which were mainly short and concentrated, got under way early in the Michaelmas term, and the immediate enjoyment of this year's song, *Is this the Way to Amarillo?*, was palpable. To our delight, the adjudicator, Mr David Evans, thought so too, commenting on the vitality of our performance as well as on the quality of our accompanying band. The Upper Sixth, under the guidance of **Finola Donovan** and **Simon Whalley**, produced a choreographic routine that will not quickly be forgotten and, for the first time in a number of years, Elliott's swept to victory with the trophy. To rest on our laurels is never the

Elliott's way, however, and at the beginning of the Lent term we were once again proud to be victors of the day in the Inter-House Hockey Tournament, despite difficult conditions and circumstances. Particular thanks here are due to **Joshua Ogle** and **Andrew Cole** for being able to operate so deftly in the event. Our other notable success came on Sports Day. Sadly, we were not able to retain the overall trophy, but coming runner-up to the boarders still made us the most successful day-boy house. I must particularly pay tribute to the prowess of the fifth-form tutor group, who stomped to a magnificent victory, ably led by **Simon Edwards**.

Simon Edwards, Sports Day 2005



Elliott's House knows how to party well. There has been an agreeable round of different social gatherings during the year, framed by parents' events at the beginning and end of the year. As ever, true to form, the sun shone on our main House social, as if to give its blessing to the occasion. Earlier in the year, **Tim Gunn's** tutor group spent a very convivial evening at a BBC Prom in the *Royal Albert Hall*, preceded by a pleasant meal at an Italian restaurant in Kensington. Many boys also enjoyed an exciting trip to the rugby Cup Final at Twickenham. We were delighted to welcome **Finola Donovan** into the House at the beginning of the year, and her group also spent more than one evening in the company of their excellent tutor.

I constantly remind myself how lucky I am to have such a splendid group of tutors. As many will know, I had a period of absence earlier in the year, owing to ill health. I am grateful to all my tutors for keeping the ship on course, and to **Chris Biggs** in particular for steering it so admirably. This year's Head of House, **Oliver Burnham**, also acquitted himself splendidly in his post. His quiet efficiency was appreciated by all of us, not least in his deft chairmanship of the House Committee that put forward a number of useful innovations. The House Charity Table Tennis Tournament was a particular success, and my thanks are due to many senior boys in the House for their support in this, and the many other events and competitions during the year. Their enthusiastic response to requests for help of all kinds makes everything worthwhile.

At both School Prize-Giving and the final House Assembly of the year, it was once again pleasurable to look back over the year with pride. The excellent number of Housemaster and Headmaster Praise slips alone spoke of a thriving, energetic group of boys who are successful in many areas of School life. We were sad to see the temporary departure of **Estelle Slatford**, as she moves towards the exciting prospect of motherhood. We wish her well and eagerly await her return.

Richard Elliott



The year began brightly with a return to a refurbished house room: apart from running repairs, there was fresh paint on the walls and a brand new carpet. Our particular shade of blue marks us out as an elevated sky-dwelling breed, distinguished from the earth tones of the soft lowlanders. The pool table had unfortunately fled the disturbances and was lost forever, but a replacement was soon to be summoned by our upraised voices: which brings me to the House Singing Competition.

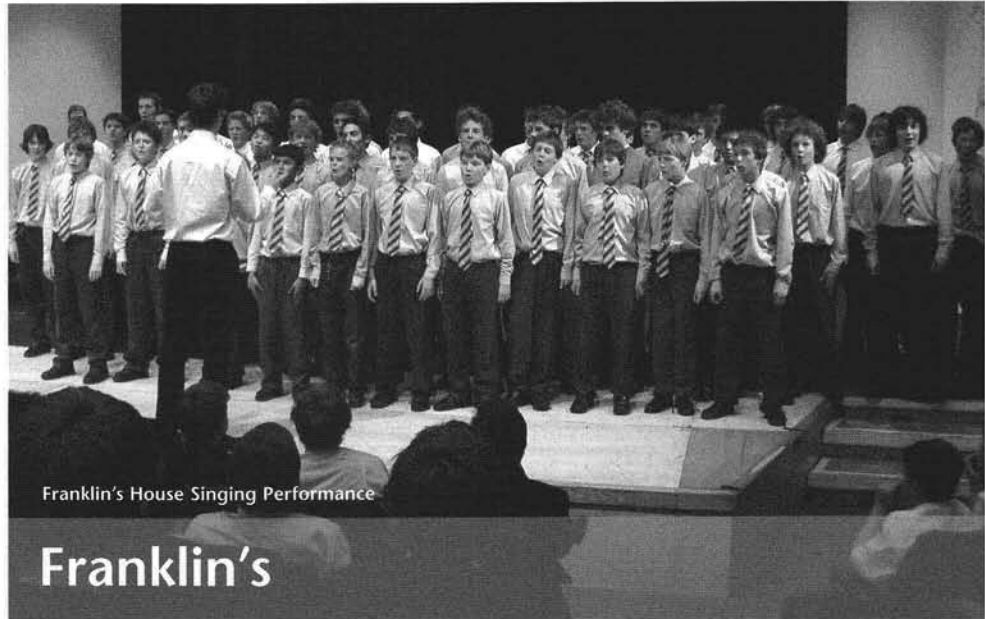
**Matthew Smith** was quite brilliant as director, teaching us to produce some extraordinary noises, appropriately reminiscent of a romantic hippopotamus, on the way to mastering the Flanders and Swann classic. Our performance was widely acclaimed as second to none for musical accomplishment, but the visiting judge daringly placed us second to the visually flamboyant Elliott's. Cue the new pool table as reward and consolation.

**Ben Harris** returned as Head of House and was as impressive as ever. He was a model of hard work, enthusiasm, tact and good humour, which he needed in introducing me to the role of housemaster. Amongst his many contributions, he wrote and began to direct the *Panto Which Was Not To Be (PWWNTB)*. He and many other boys put a great deal of talent and effort into it, but the demands of Oxbridge application made the original end-of-term date impossible for the producers so we re-scheduled for an Easter Panto. New problems now arose with the availability of the Amey Theatre, however, and the final blow was the discovery that two key actors would not be here for the only possible date of production. We reluctantly had to shelve the *PWWNTB*, but look forward to next year's production with heightened excitement.

Sporting activity began with the House Hockey Competition, and we did ourselves great credit. **Chris Newman** led our challenge with commitment as well as legendary talent; **Tom Cleo**, **Ed Barrett** and **Nam Seok Jo** were also impressive, and **Alex Veale** stood out as the rookie. Agonisingly, Chris was literally hamstrung during the competition, and although he showed great spirit in carrying on, he wasn't able to dominate as he normally would. We set a new record for the number of posts struck, but my suggestion that each post should count as half a goal was disappointingly brushed aside. We went far, but did not reach the prize.

The Road Relay did credit to the memory of the great-running **Kris Spencer**, (previous Housemaster). All of our teams put in fine performances, with us coming out as champions of the Sixth Form (**Neil Housby**, **Philip Hatzis**, **Douglas Graham**, **Iain Marsh**) and Third Form (**Alex Muir**, **Tom Watkins**, **Joe McDonagh**, **Alex Veale**); amazingly, the second team in our third-form group (**Richard Meadows**, **Philip Gardner**, **Robbie Winearls**, **Joel Collins**) was the third-fastest in the year. **Neil Housby** was (again) the fastest in the School by a distance, **Philip Hatzis** and **Douglas Graham** proved again how talented they are, and **Alex Muir** and **Tom Watkins** ran terrifically quickly, promising more individual and team glory in the future.

The House Cricket Competition was rendered difficult by the absence of our most striking talents such as the brilliant **Robbie Winearls**, who was captaining the As for the School. Nonetheless, there was a great team effort: **Tom Watkins** reached a classy 35 not out, and **Matt Stafford** scored a glorious unbeaten 33.



Franklin's House Singing Performance

## Franklin's

**Scott Henley** was made School Captain of rugby, and surely inspired younger members of the House to emulate his achievements. He also helped organise our team for the House Athletics competition, and again our talented runners put in impressive performances in wet and difficult conditions.

Our teams performed well in the House Public-Speaking Competition, in two cases making the final of their year-group. **Phil Gardner**, **Tom Watkins** and **Jamie Holland** came very close to winning the third-form competition, and **Dan Harris**, **Oliver Boddie** and **Jianghao Zhu** were runners-up in the Fourth Form. **Will Hall** was sardonically magisterial, and the laconic **Neil McFarlane** also impressed.

Many members of the House had individual successes throughout the year: **Chris Newman** was trialled at national level for hockey; **Jianghao Zhu** won a science-writing competition; **Alex Corps** excelled in a geography quiz team; **Matthew Smith** won a prestigious music scholarship; **Neil Housby**, **Philip Hatzis**, **Douglas Graham**, **Tom Watkins** and **Alex Muir** all shone in the School's cross-country running team, and Philip, Tom and Alex were all selected to run for the county; **Will Hall** was a leading light in House and School debating; **Iain Housby** began to prove himself as a rower; **Simon Crowther** turned into a seriously good squash player; **Tom Stanley** and **Chris Parker** earned warm praise for their work on Tech Crew. Apart from the plaudits in so many areas, I would particularly like to thank all the boys who have made a contribution to charities, services and other socially rewarding work.

I am fortunate in having such capable tutors in the House, who on many occasions deftly prevented me from capsizing the ship; my thanks go to them all. This report has to culminate with the retirement from the House of **Richard Hofton**. The fact that his tutor group clubbed together to present him with a generous gift is indicative of the respect, enthusiasm and affection he inspired in the boys he tutored. He certainly inspired them in me when he taught me history as a boy in Bristol, and his help and friendship have been hugely appreciated as we have worked as colleagues. The House bids him a warm farewell.

David Franklin

Gooding's at the House Singing Competition

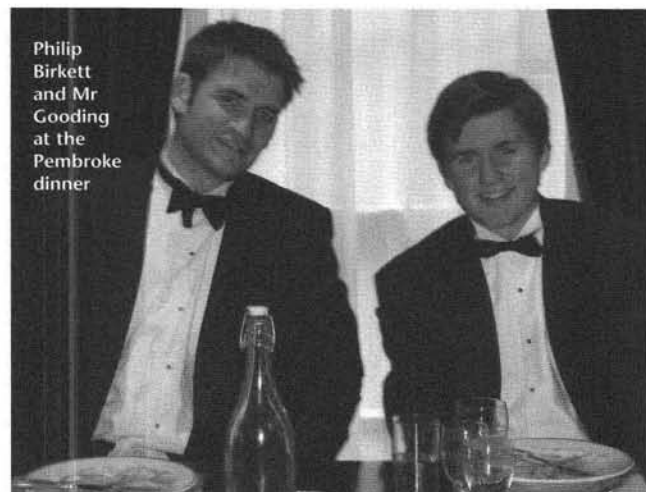


## Gooding's

In January 2006 **Paul Gooding** took over from **Ian Fishpool**. After a long era 'Fishpool's' became 'Gooding's', although some suggested that during the interregnum the house should be called 'Fish-ings' or 'Good-pool's'! Nevertheless, 'Gooding's' House is now up and running and I am pleased with the way in which the tutors, parents and boys have supported me during the hand-over period.

One of the challenges in running a day house is to create an effective community which the boys feel a part of.

On the sporting front, the boys reached the final of the Inter-House Cricket Competition and made a sterling effort in the Inter-House Hockey, Singing and Athletics. What has been particularly pleasing is the way in which all the boys have adopted a 'can do' attitude and have got stuck in to inter-House competitions. This



Philip Birkett and Mr Gooding at the Pembroke dinner

has been most encouraging. Particular sporting praise must go to **William Fotherby** for his success in National Schools' Fencing, **Matthew Coffey** in athletics and **Tom Raftery** and **Mark Williams** for their commitment to 1st VIII rowing.

There has also been a strong commitment to music within the House and I am encouraged by the way in which many boys juggle a full Other Half programme of both sport and music. **Nicholas Ereaut** deserves special mention as he has done extremely well to be playing in First Orchestra. On the Charities and Service front, **Charles Tucker** and **Gregory Salmon** made a huge impact on the summer trip to Moldova, where they helped to organize activities for young Moldovan children from very deprived backgrounds.

No House runs smoothly without the hard work of the tutors. Particular thanks to **Anna Patrick** who, sadly, is leaving us to work in Greece. She has been a particularly strong tutor and I have valued her support and efficiency within the House. Thanks also to **Andrew Swarbrick**, **Athol Hundermark**, **Nick Revill** and **James Nairne** – who has proved that he is a match for the most able table-tennis opponents!

I would like to also thank **Philip Birkett** who has been an outstanding Head of House, juggling school prefect duties and Oxbridge applications as well as participating in debating teams and running House singing.

The upper sixth-formers in the House had the chance to dine out at Pembroke College, Oxford in May, which proved to be a great success, one I hope to repeat. This provided a good opportunity for the House leavers to celebrate and reflect upon all they had achieved at Abingdon.

Visit to RAF Brize Norton



May also saw the coming together of parents and tutors at the house social event. I would like to thank parents for their support on that evening; the magic tricks and 'fine wine' seemed to go down well.

I am pleased to note that there has been a strong commitment to the Combined Cadet Force within the House. The Easter recruit camp was a good opportunity for me to spend time with those in the House who are members. Congratulations to **Luke Parker** for winning *Best Cadet on Camp*, **Charlie Robertson** and **Luke Abbott** for winning *Best Cadet in Section* and **Charles Quarterman** for leading the *Best Section*.

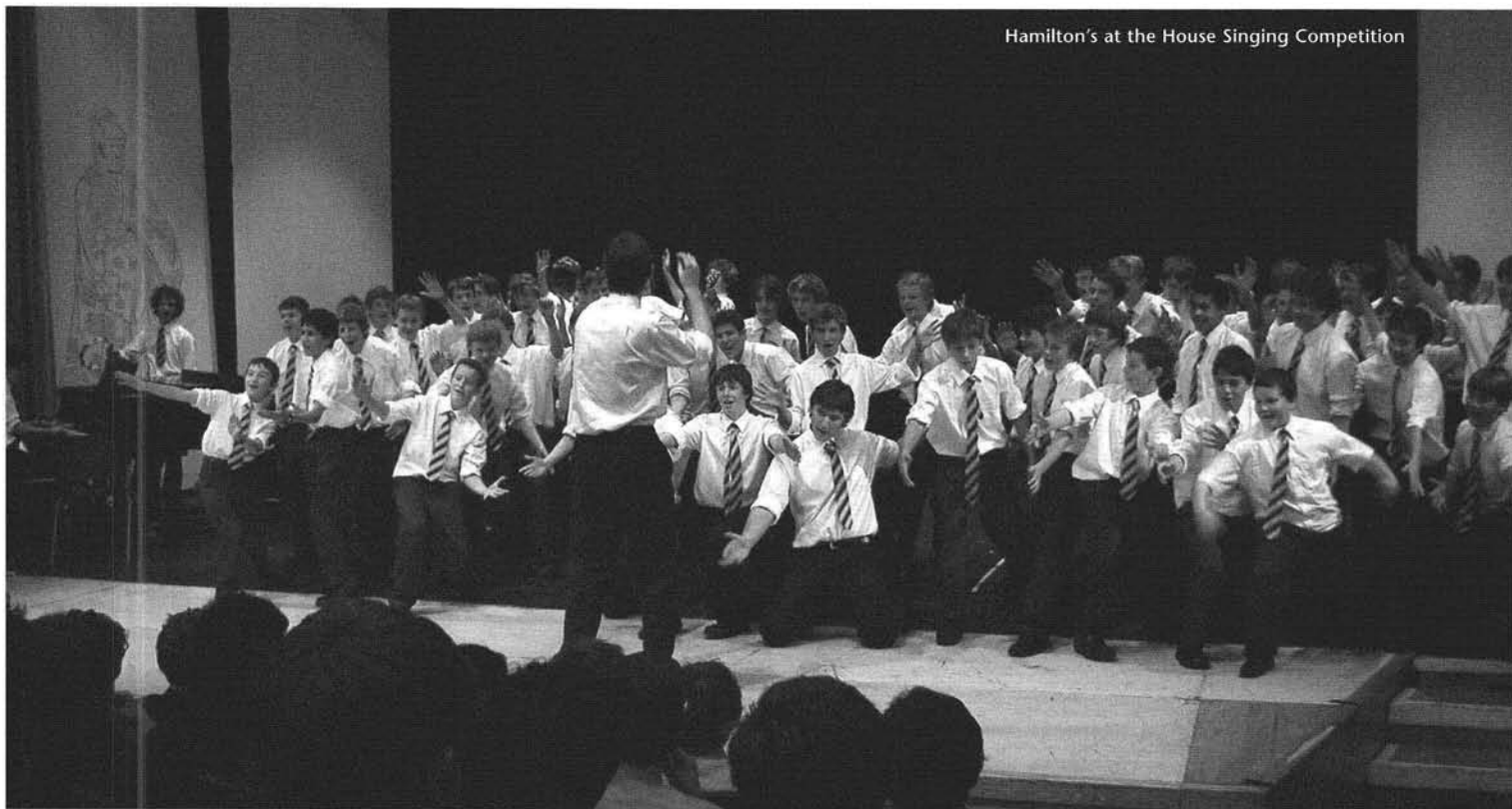
Continuing the Combined Cadet Force theme, we had a chance to take a House trip to Royal Air Force, Brize Norton. Boys enjoyed visiting the air-traffic control as well as looking inside various refuelling and transport aircraft. The highlight was riding in fire engines spraying the water cannon (as you would expect!), although the Housemaster did dive for cover at this point!

I am pleased to announce that for the forthcoming year **Charles Tucker** will be taking over the mantle as Head of House and **Jason Davison** as Deputy Head of House. I wish them every success as they lead the boys.

Lastly, thanks to the boys of the House. It is you who make it the community that it is. I have certainly found it a cheerfully happy and relaxing place to be. This makes a huge difference. Well done to you all.

Paul Gooding





## Hamilton's

It has been an eventful year in Hamilton's House. At the end of the year, after five years of being Housemaster, **Mr Hamilton** moved from Abingdon to his role of Boarding Head of House at King's School, Bruton. Mr Hamilton has changed the houseroom layout over the years, from rearranging the lockers to adding the work surface in the corner of the room to create space for fun and work. Most of all, he managed to bring all members of the House together, breaking the divide between all years of the House and setting up the perfect foundations for **Mr Webb**, the new Housemaster from September 2006.

Hamilton's House won the Inter-House Chess Competition with valiant soldiers **James Gibson, Charles Lester** and **Arjun Kingdon**. Having been one of Hamilton's only successes in the inter-House tournaments, this was a monumental win for the House. We took part in inter-House rugby, hockey, cricket, badminton, athletics, debating and charity football, with courageous attempts in all events. However, last year was only practice. During the holidays we shall have been training hard, ready for sweeping in a gallant victory over the coming year in each and every event.

The Inter-House Singing Competition was a particular highlight of last year's Michaelmas term. The upper sixth-formers chose the song *Build Me Up Buttercup*, led by **Henry Carter**. The song was sung with tuneful enthusiasm and clicking of fingers. Up against stiff competition, we came fourth. The middle school team of **Timothy Middleton** and **Jun Tao** performed respectably in the Inter-House Badminton Competition, putting them in good stead for the year ahead.

The House is full of keen sportsmen, musicians and thespians making full use of the Other Half opportunities. Members of the House have taken part in excursions to Boston for rowing, Hong Kong and Beijing for the Far East music tour, Paris for the French tour as well as Duke of Edinburgh Award bronze and gold expeditions.

**Joseph Canlan-Shaw** must be credited for being in the 1st XI hockey team and the 1st XI cricket team. He also swam at national level in his own free time, practising before and after the start of school each day. It is this level of commitment to create extra-curricular activities in which Hamilton's House excels.

**Dr Zawadzki**, after a long career as a Hamilton's House tutor, has retired to be replaced by **Mr Crook** in the coming year with **Mr Bliss, Mr Brooks, Mrs Walker** and **Mr Middleton**, who still manage to endure the ongoing cruelty of having to register tired, grumpy tutees first thing in the morning.

Edmund Perou 6 IM



Max Hutchinson and Huw Parmenter in *Pericles*

## Older's

The academic year 2005-2006 was my first full year as a housemaster but already I am starting to feel like an old hand. I have certainly lost a few more precious hairs and had one or two sleepless nights but there is no doubt that overall the experience continues to be a great pleasure. How can it be anything but? There is such a wealth of talent within the House that it is difficult to write a report such as this without running the risk of omitting some crucial achievement but I will do my best to summarise the year's events.

September brought the usual delight of the House Singing Competition and, after a great deal of work by **Henry Scarlett** and **Joe Mason**, we produced a very respectable performance of *It Must Be Love* by Madness. The half term that these tuneful strains beckoned in was also the opportunity for a much-needed redecoration and renovation of the Houseroom. Out went the battered and bruised old lockers and notice boards and in came a more open-plan layout with new, green (of course) carpet, lockers and bag storage. The second half of term also brought success in the Inter-House Tag-Rugby Competition with the sixth-form team coming away as champions. Good performances in other year-groups showed the strength in depth the House possesses on the rugby field. In drama, **Max Hutchinson** and **Huw Parmenter** took leading roles in the Christmas production of *Pericles*.

The Lent term began with the challenge of the fifth-form mocks and, as ever, the realisation of the imminent arrival of the public exams. This did not prevent strong contributions from the House to School hockey and rowing. **Toby Roche** was made captain of hockey for the second successive year and **Christopher Cowan** was once again a permanent fixture in defence. In rowing we



Older's House winning the Lower Sixth Challenge

were particularly strong: **Marcus Nurton** was made Boat Club secretary (and all round 'Mr Fixit') and shared a 1st VIII berth with **Chris Edson** and **Max Wood**. **Christopher Halls** also deserves mention for his long-standing commitment to the 2nd VIII and the Boat Club in general.

There was success in the public-speaking competition with the sixth-form team of **Jamie Innes**, **Anthony Preston**, **Max Wood** and **Max Hutchinson**, and the third-form team of **Henry Kibble**, **Joe Kempton** and **Ted Thompson**, both victorious. The Summer term marked the beginning of the exam season and also the Inter-House Athletics, a competition that was marked by particularly strong performances by the Third and Fourth forms.

So far no mention has been made, house-singing aside, of the musical talents within the house. Throughout the course of the year a huge number of the House have contributed to School music in just about every orchestra, band and ensemble. Special mention should be made of **Joe Mason**, **Anthony Lloyd** and **Andrew Doll** in the Third Form, and **Will Stephenson** and **Henry Scarlett** in the Lower Sixth, who seem to have been at more or less every concert! We continued this contribution with a significant number of boys taking part in the Far East tour.

Mention must be made of **Felix Wood**, whose continued success with the sabre takes him ever higher up fencing's national U17 rankings; **Will Stephenson**, who was crowned county champion at high jump once again; and **Will Peskett**, who achieved his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Older's House boys made up roughly half of the World Challenge expedition group to Peru and all came back a little wiser! The contributions of **Alex Ingham Brooke** and **Tom Wakeling** to the Film Unit should also be mentioned as they leave the Upper Sixth.

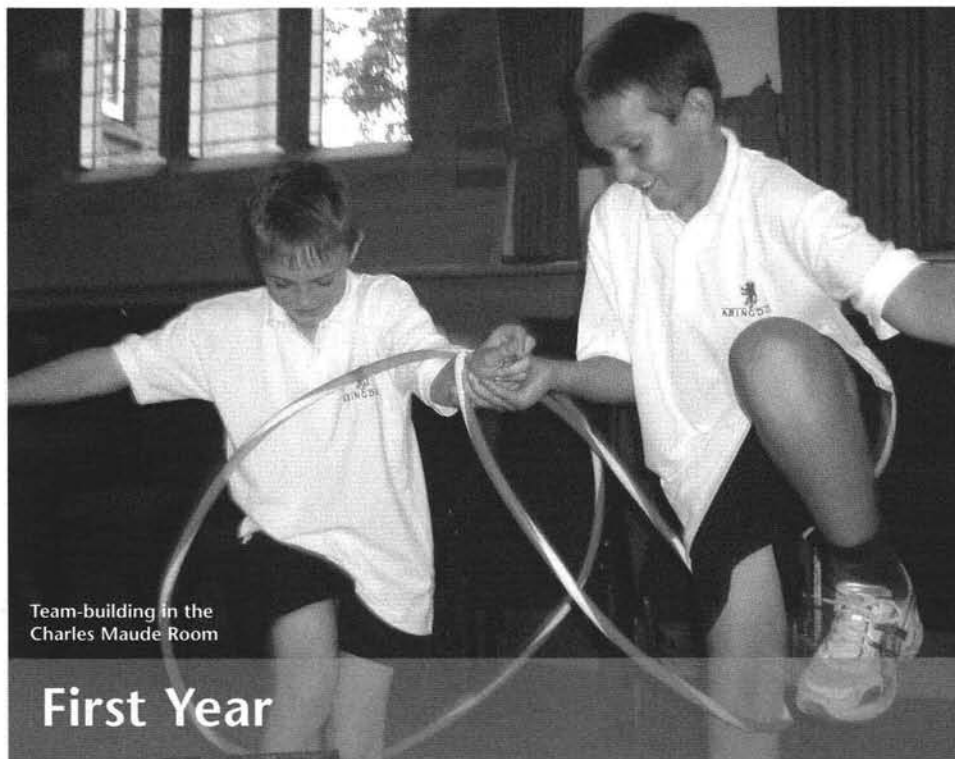
Those leaving at the end of 2006 were: **Christopher Cowan**, **Ben Davis**, **Toby Durant**, **Chris Edson**, **Christopher Halls**, **Alex Ingham Brooke**, **Jamie Innes**, **Marcus Nurton**, **Will Peskett**, **Toby Roche**, **Tom Wakeling**, **James Wartke-Dunbar**, **Kang Zang**, **Patrick Collins**, **Robbie O'Neill**, **Robin Wartke-Dunbar**. We wish them success in all that they do.

Jamie Older

In September 2005, sixty-four boys began their Abingdon School careers when they became members of the First Form. They entered their first day with the normal mixture of excitement and some trepidation, but it soon became clear that this was going to be a group that would quickly settle in and feel part of the School community. They were helped by a particularly good batch of Lower School Assistants, fifth-form boys, chosen to spend time with Lower School boys and act as a peer-support mechanism. There was also a team-building day run by Corporal Haythorne from the RAF, which provided each tutor group with a series of fun activities designed to help them get to know each other (and which also allowed tutors to spot some of the characters in their group!).

Initial reports from staff were very encouraging and showed that the year-group had made a pleasing start from an academic point of view, whilst the Other Half was entered into very enthusiastically, with all boys contributing to a wide range of activities, with rugby and debating in particular being popular after school in the first term. The new boys also quickly made notable contributions to the musical side of life at Abingdon, with the vast majority having musical instrument lessons and with the whole year-group making a very spirited rendition of some carols at the Christmas concert.

The nerve of this new year-group was tested to the extreme by their Housemaster, who decided that he needed to recreate his own youth and do some pastoral research by becoming a first-former for the day. **Toby Warren** (1S) was the unlucky victim chosen to have to put up with **Adam Jenkins** stalking him



Team-building in the Charles Maude Room

## First Year



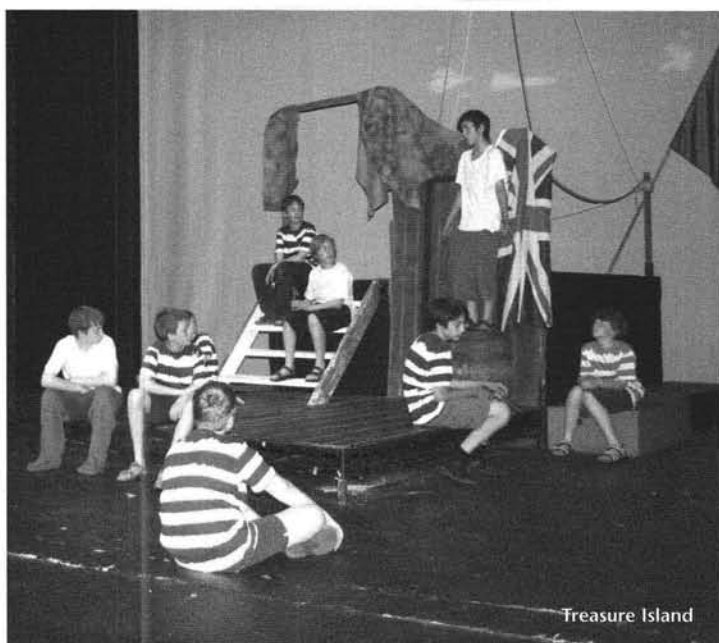
Charles Studdy's winning Christmas Card design

for the whole day (including on his bus trip from Oxford) – much was learnt from this experiment, although rumours abound that some prep is still outstanding from the new boy.

The adrenaline rush of life at Abingdon did perhaps start to wear off towards the end of the first term as days started to get shorter and shorter, and the Christmas holiday was definitely a welcome break for most.

The boys returned in January ready

to hit the ground running, however, especially those in the Cross-Country Club who managed to win both the U13 Vale and County Championships, with **Alistair Duff** (1B) becoming the individual County U13 Champion. The rugby season ended well with several first-formers playing in second-year teams and well over half the year-group representing the School in at least one match. The Lent term also saw some socialising with the School of St Helen and St Katharine in the inaugural joint Quiz Night – a somewhat raucous but well contested affair which saw the team, made up of **Thomas Salt** (1W), **Calum Smith** (1W), and **Jamie Ward** (1B), triumph overall. 1W were the winners of the first-form Public-Speaking Competition.

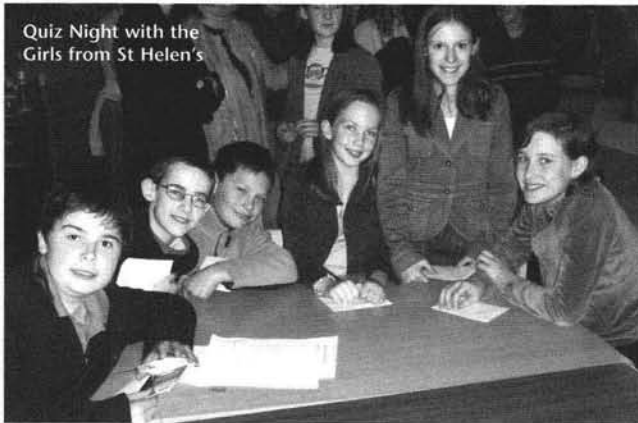


Treasure Island



Giant Swing, Isle of Wight





Quiz Night with the Girls from St Helen's



Floor Puzzle, Isle of Wight



High Ropes, Isle of Wight

The Easter holiday saw the annual first-form adventure trip. Fifty-two boys and six members of staff spent five days on the Isle of Wight at the PGL Little Canada Centre. They took part in a wide range of activities including quad biking, abseiling, dragon boat racing, and orienteering. The highlights for many were the High Ropes, which included the infamous Leap of Faith, and the mysterious Matrix (the contents of which cannot be revealed!). All the boys enjoyed the holiday and learned a great deal about themselves and their classmates in the process. As always, it was also a great opportunity for the boys to see some of their teachers in a somewhat different light!

The Summer term is always a busy one, but this year it seemed to be even busier than usual for the First Form, with trips to Warwick Castle, tutor-group bowling outings, summer concerts, a production of *Treasure Island*, and the little matter of their first real set of examinations. These last were handled well and with a minimum of alarm – particular congratulation should go to **Edward O'Brien** (1B), **Peter Barnshaw** (1S) and **Thomas Salt** (1W) for winning the first-form Academic Prizes as a result of their excellent performances.

Other notable achievements came from **Thomas McDonald** (1B) who won the Junior Layng Reading Prize; the U12 cricket team who had an excellent first season together and who will clearly be a team to watch as they go on up the School; 1S who won the inter-tutor group sports day event; and **Charles Studdy** (1B) who won the School Christmas Card Competition.

One of the highlights right at the end of term was part of the School's 750th celebrations. The entire First Form, kitted out in period costume and hats, trooped down to St Nicolas' Church for a 19th century morning service before proceeding to the Roysse Room to experience a morning in the life of an Abingdonian from the past. After getting over the problems of writing with chalk on slates and the fact that those at the back of the room had no chance of reading what was on the blackboard, the boys had lessons in maths, Latin, and history – without a colourful handout, DVD, or interactive whiteboard anywhere to be seen! After recreating a photograph from the School Archives, in which the gloomy expressions of the original sitters were easily achieved owing to the by now unbearable heat, the morning ended with some public declamations and a prize-giving attended by the Mayor of Abingdon – it was a thought-provoking morning and one which, I suspect, has made the boys appreciate 21st century education a little more!

It has been a highly busy and highly successful year – what has pleased me the most about this particular group is the way that they have been so quick to settle in and get on with each other. They have approached everything that has been thrown at them in a cheerful and willing manner and will no doubt go on to great things as they make their way up through the School.

Adam Jenkins



# Clubs and Societies

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There is some evidence to suggest that Abingdon School had a bell-ringing (or campanology – to use the technical term) society in the 1950s, but aside from a handful of boarders learning to ring a few years ago, it was not until earlier this year that this most traditional of English hobbies was added back into the Other Half. As a result, several members of the Lower School started to learn how to chime the chapel bell for morning services and then progressed to learning how to ring 'full-circle' bells at the nearby church of All Saints, Sutton Courtenay, thanks to the kind support of the Tower Captain, John Napper.

Ringling bells is not a skill that can be mastered quickly – indeed many very experienced ringers would claim that they are learning all the time – but the boys have been committed to the bi-weekly practices and have all made good progress in acquiring the basic techniques. Initially they learnt



## Campanology

on 'tied' bells so that no noise could be heard outside, but after a few sessions they were good enough to be allowed to ring 'open', so that they could hear how much noise they were really making! The final session of the academic year saw the band joining the regular ringers at Sutton Courtenay for a practice night at which they experienced ringing on a full octave of eight bells for the first time.

It is hoped that next year some more beginners will be recruited and that the band will be able to ring bells to mark special events in the School's year.

Adam Jenkins





**Ben Macintyre at  
the History Society**

The History Society opened this term's programme of events for the 750th celebrations with an enlightening and informative address and question-and-answer session with **Ben Macintyre**, OA and columnist for *The Times*. Beginning with an enjoyable meal – during which Ben chatted to many Society members – the evening moved on to the main event in the CMR.

Having started with a brief analysis of journalism and the many ways in which it relates to historical study, Ben rapidly progressed to his own philosophy. It was fascinating to hear how journalism – which he termed “the first draft of history” – can shape our opinions and prejudices for many years, and the audience also appreciated a brief but illuminating résumé of Ben's career, from publishing, whence he alleges he was “fired for gross and systematic incompetence”, to life as a parliamentary sketch writer (the House of Commons, he informed us wryly, is “a very weird place”).

The evening eventually evolved into a discussion of current events, in particular the recent publication of the Mohammed cartoons – an interesting case study in any examination of the interface between journalism and history since, as Ben reminded us, the debate has its roots firmly in journalism, but cannot be understood without the aid of history. It was certainly intriguing for the members of the audience to hear about such issues from someone at the heart of unfolding events.

Questions from the floor were fielded with thoughtful openness and tremendous energy. Advice on how best to break into the notoriously competitive world of journalism was, for me at least, especially welcome (Ben's advice? “Just go for it!”), though those considering a career in journalism were advised to think laterally since Ben feels that ‘newspapers’ per se will not be around for a great deal longer.

As the evening drew to a close, I found myself reflecting on the interesting viewpoints that Ben had presented: what is the role of journalism in an information-saturated society such as ours? Is the study of history vital to a journalist and should historians strive to maintain some of the immediacy of narrative journalistic techniques? Difficult questions, and while no easy answers were forthcoming, this was an enjoyable evening and we are greatly indebted to Ben for finding time in his busy schedule to share his ideas with us. It was inspiring to glance outside the world of the A level syllabus to see a historian ‘in action’, and a privilege to listen to such a dynamic and engaging talk.

Andrew McGrath VI FAD

On the night of the lecture, 3 February, 2006, there were large demonstrations in London protesting against the publication of the Mohammed cartoons..

Ed.

## The Edmund Society

Lectures, in the general area of philosophy and theology, were given by:

Dan Evans, OA, art historian: The Sistine Chapel Cracked

Roger Trigg, Professor of Philosophy, University of Warwick: Does morality matter?

Nicholas Ross, art historian: Aristotle, Plato, Theology and Art

Stephen Law, Philosopher, Heythrop College, University of London: An Argument for Atheism

Lucie Baird, art historian: Caravaggio's Religious Art

Father Gerard Hughes, SJ, Master of Campion Hall, Oxford: Fatalism and Freedom

The Reverend Alister McGrath, Professor of Historical Theology, Oxford: The Twilight of Atheism

The Reverend Professor Jeremy Begbie, Ridley Hall, Cambridge: God and the Arts

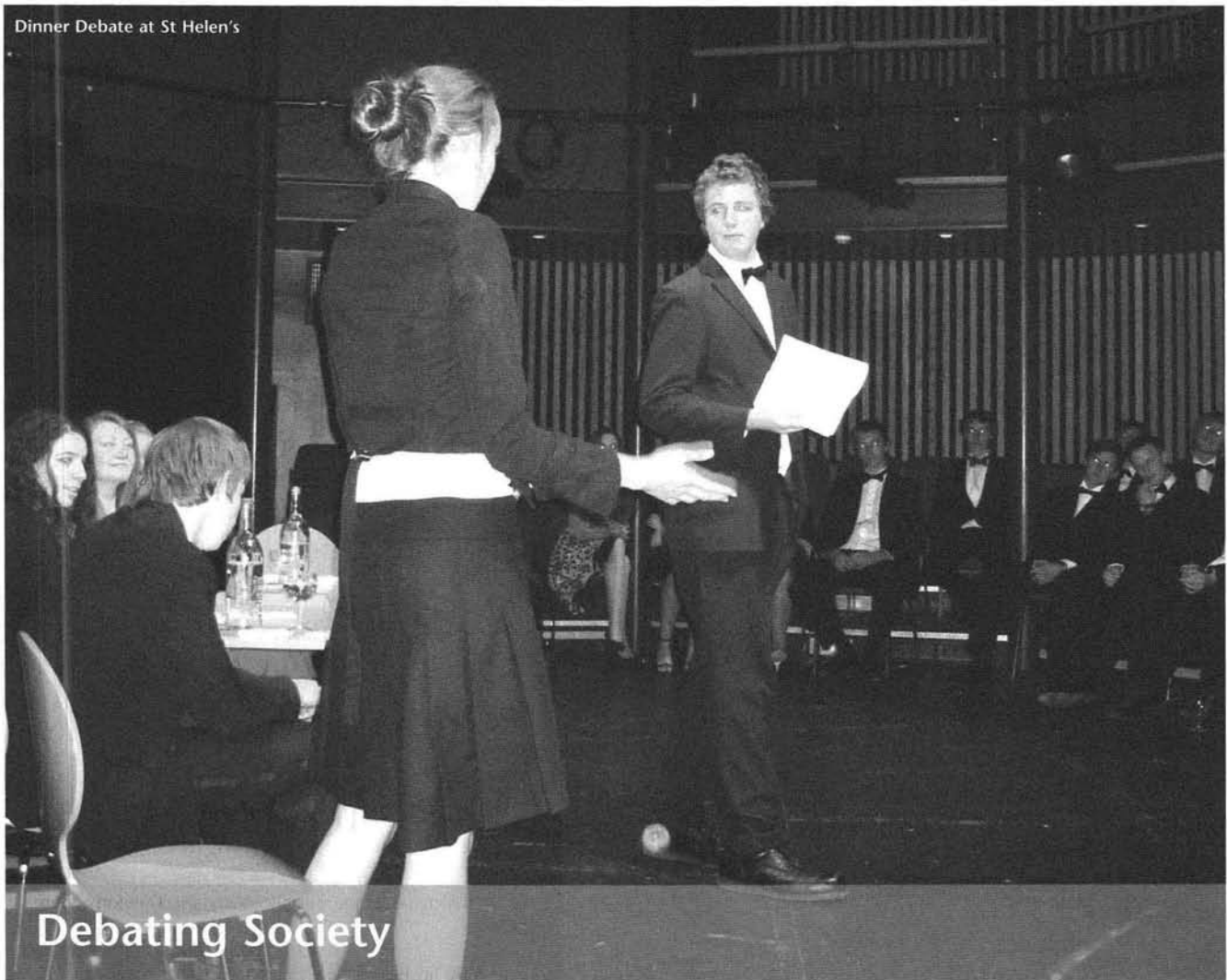
John Hedley Brooke, Professor of Science and Religion, Oxford: Did Darwin Kill God?

Christopher Lillycrop (Orator) and Alistair McGrath (Secretary) gave splendid service as the Society officials.

Henry Kirk



Dinner Debate at St Helen's



This has been a very significant and successful year for the Debating Society, the first year for a very long time that the Society has operated without **Dr Zawadzki** at the helm. However, **Mr Boyd**, who took his place, has proved to be an extremely able replacement. The new Society Chairman was **Christopher Lillycrop** and the Secretaries were **Oliver Bennett** and **Andrew McGrath**.

The start of the year saw many well argued motions, some with more gravitas than others. Despite **Matthew Coffey** getting undressed in front of a very large audience, *This House Would be Gay* was defeated by the narrowest of margins. Other motions addressed more sober themes, and on Remembrance Day, the House decided that it would not die for its country. As the Michaelmas term drew to its conclusion, the Debating Society was fortunate enough to be invited to the School of St Helen & St Katharine for a dinner debate. Before a large and eager crowd, members of our two fine schools discussed *This House Believes that Men are Better than Women*. With strongly held opinions on both sides and an initial vote in favour of the proposition, the motion was ultimately defeated – much to the relief of our hosts.

In the second half of the year, the committee increasingly aimed to stage a succession of debates on significant political or School issues, in order to encourage informed debate within the School, amongst sixth-formers especially. They were helped in this aim by the **Headmaster**, who kindly agreed to join with Society

Chairman **Christopher Lillycrop** in proposing the motion *This House Would Invade Israel*. After a session of pleasingly learned debate, the motion was passed, proving once again the high esteem in which the School at large holds the senior management. Many other fascinating motions were debated, contributing to what came to be regarded as a very successful year – so much so in fact that in our final motion of the year, the House declared the committee to have been the best ever.

The highlight of the year though was undeniably the second dinner debate, when we were delighted to play host to Wycombe Abbey School. The debate was extremely successful, and the high quality of the rhetoric a tribute to both schools. Afterwards, dinner provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate the past year, to announce the new committee, and to make the appropriate farewells to Dr Zawadzki. **William Hall** and **Timur Ryvkin** were chosen as Chairmen, and the Secretaries are to be **Alexander Hyde** and **Anthony Preston**. They will no doubt preside over another successful year.

The Debating Society wishes to thank all those who have contributed in any way to its success over the last year. The committee is delighted to announce the inauguration of the Zawadzki Trophy in honour of our great departing master, Dr Z, to be awarded each year to the most improved debater.

Christopher Lillycrop VI DRM

# Service Activities

## Duke Of Edinburgh's Award



### Trip to Jura, West Scotland August 2006

Four boys flew up to Glasgow and then caught the bus to Oban on the west coast of Scotland. Because it was a Sunday, there were no buses from Oban to the starting point of their expedition, Easdale on the Isle of Seil. The boys resorted to taking an expensive taxi ride and arrived at Easdale around 5 pm. Dr Ian Barrow and his son **Jonathan Barrow** drove up via Durham, while **Tim Gunn** towed the kayak trailer with the sea kayaks on from Abingdon to Easdale.

After paying a donation to the village hall rebuilding fund, we were allowed to camp on the football field in Easdale. Kayaks were unloaded, tents organised and routes planned for training. The area round Seil and Jura offers a myriad of routes between the many islands and sounds through which the tide flows at a great speed. Plans must be carefully made so that the tide is flowing with us, as it is often too fast to paddle against. So the tide may mean an early start, or a six-hour wait in the middle of the day while it flows

the wrong way. There are two famous races in the area. One of them is the Corryvreckan, the fastest tide race in the United Kingdom, which has a whirlpool at certain states of the tide. It is an awesome place and quite safe at slack tide.

The first day saw the group paddle round the islands of Scarba and Lunga, gaining experience of tidal flows and relating the distant scene to the maps carried on the kayaks. This is always nearly impossible to teach in the classroom, so it was good to see the boys picking up these skills in the beautiful highland scenery.

The next morning, kayaks were packed with five days of food, fuel and camping equipment, and the group set off to try to circumnavigate Jura and Islay. A weather forecast had been obtained from Radio 4's shipping forecast, and all seemed set fair in our sea area of Hebrides. The group paddled across the sound of Seil and tried to go through the Grey Dogs tide race to get on to the outside (the western coast) of Scarba and Jura. Unfortunately, the tide turned and was far too strong to allow passage through, so they decided to go south down the sound of Jura and so

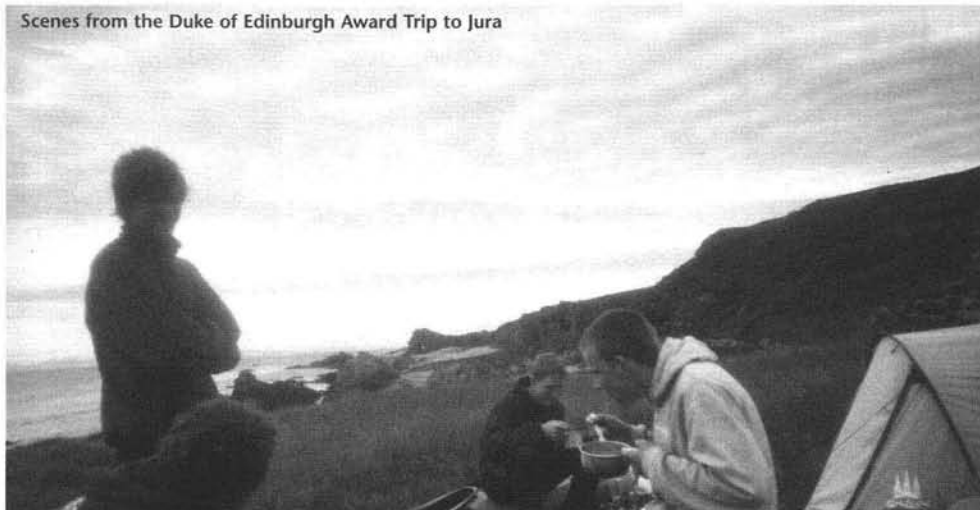
round the islands clockwise. It is always a risk to have to wait a couple of days before venturing round the exposed west coast of Jura and Islay – the weather can change so rapidly that you are left stormbound for a day or two. Throughout the day, progress was made past the Corryvreckan, which was also flowing against our original direction. The cloud was down on the hills, and it rained a little. Lunch was taken on the windy point of Rubh'an Truisealach, and a campsite was found at the relatively sheltered Lussac Point. This delightful place has a resident herd of huge red deer stags that come fearlessly round the tents on the scrounge for food. There was a forest experience of midges at Lussac Bay – not recommended!



On day two, the group used the tide to continue south down the sound, passing the Small Isles to lunch on Rubha Laimhrige, and then on to the southern end of Jura. At this point the group had to decide whether to go for the 'big one' and paddle on round Islay, or head up the Sound of Islay and so only circumnavigate Jura. They chose the latter, wisely working out that they were just not paddling fast enough to do the 25 miles a day required to round both islands! Aided by the tide, steady progress was made up the sound between Jura and Islay, but the group was tired with the unaccustomed long day of continuous exercise. Tim and Ian even had time to stop for cream teas in the hotel at Port Askaig on Islay, and very welcome it was too! The group went past and persuaded a large container ship to sound its horn at them, which woke every one on Islay up! Leaving the Sound of Islay, the group turned north-east to paddle along the west coast of Jura and began looking for a campsite as it was already late afternoon. They eventually found one that necessitated everyone carrying their kayaks over rocks and up a small cliff to reach the site. Millions of midges made cooking not much fun, and the weather forecast promised higher winds in the night – we hoped our being on the eastern edge of the sea area, coupled with the fact that nearby Mull generates its own weather, would protect us from the gales out west. The sun set as we looked out to the northern point of Islay and across to the island of Colonsay, some 15 kilometres away. The light shone on the underneath of the clouds to light up the whole sky with a deepening red glow. Everyone just sat and watched the spectacle and even the seal, which had spent an hour and a half watching us put up tents and cook, went into the glowing sea in search of fish. Everyone was very tired, and rightly so as the group had paddled 25 miles that day – not a huge distance, but far enough when you are out of paddling condition.

The Mull weather machine had done its best and we had no high winds, so the group paddled off the next morning to continue up the Jura coast, a steady day's paddle with deer and goats to be

Scenes from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Trip to Jura



seen on the hills and beaches. Ian and Tim took lunch on one of the wonderful white sandy beaches, while the group sat on an off-shore rocky islet, having displaced twenty seals from their rest. The boys were paddling on their own, with us around in case of difficulty, which was unlikely in such good weather. The only slight problem was the slow rate of progress as tiredness and lack of sleep kicked in. The group was late reaching the Corryvreckan and the tide had just changed. They were cajoled and cursed as I led them across the Gulf of Corryvreckan

against a rapidly increased tidal flow. They just made it across – another 15 minutes and they would have had to go back and camp on Jura. A midge-infested campsite on the south end of Scarba saw us all in bed early after a meal of mackerel caught during the day.

A flat calm morning saw the group paddling across the Sound of Jura to go north up the Sound of Seil. Another steady day's progress and a campsite for the group halfway down the sound with few midges, and flat grass – luxury!

**Hugh Graham** caught more mackerel, and they were cooked, supplemented with some pollock caught by Tim. The assessors then paddled to the end of the sound and camped opposite the *Bridge Over the Atlantic*, which happened to serve good beer. The pub is so called because the island of Seil is linked by a bridge over the narrow Sound of Seil which is, after all, part of the Atlantic Ocean!

A group photograph in front of the bridge was taken the next morning and a paddle round the northern end of Seil saw the group returning to Easdale in the afternoon with more mackerel and some large pollock. A fresh fish starter on the football field, followed by local Aberdeen Angus steak, washed down by Easdale-brewed beer in the Oyster Bar concluded an excellent paddle. Next year round Mull by sea kayak?

Tim Gunn



## The Year in Summary

The 2005-2006 academic year saw a large increase in the number of boys participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Abingdon School. Twenty-eight fourth-formers undertook the bronze level training and a further forty-two third-formers joined in the Summer term. The silver level, which had not run in the previous year, was completed by six members of the Fifth Form. In total, twenty-six boys participated in the gold level, with most of them on course to complete the award this coming year.

We also said good-bye to a number of boys leaving from the Upper Sixth with completed Gold Awards. **William Peskett, Andrew Kyprios, Simon Crowther, Matthew Smith, Jamie Miller, Dominic Beale and Philip Cope** all provided valuable service to the wider community, and inspiration and guidance to younger boys in the early stages of the award. They also stewarded the annual Oxfordshire Duke of Edinburgh's Awards ceremony with aplomb.

## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme



The view down Glenn Meadail

## Gold Level Expedition to Knoydart

In what has been a year of significant change for the Award, the undoubted highlight of the year was the gold level expedition to Knoydart in the Highlands of Scotland. The area, popularly known as the 'rough bounds', is seen as one of the last wilderness areas in Western Europe. In fact it is a man-made wilderness, as nearly four hundred families were removed from the area during the Highland clearances. Knoydart offers some of the roughest terrain but also some of the finest scenery in the UK and was chosen to give the boys a genuine experience of remoteness from civilisation.

The qualifying expedition was a four-day, three-night venture in wild country with no external assistance. The boys arrived at their start point in Inverie on 24 June 2006 by ferry, after some eighteen hours of travel from Abingdon!

It was particularly noted by the assessor that Abingdon boys were extremely polite and courteous throughout the expedition and that many of the locals had positive comments to make about them. Despite a few blisters and more than a few ticks, the boys came through in style, with all passing comfortably.

Alastair Summers

The boys participating were:

Group 1: **Tom Blakey, Ben Taylor, Chris Checkley, Huw Parmenter, Mike Watts**

Group 2: **Chris Kerr, Bilal Yassine, Alex Hyde, Gareth Cadman, Kenny Cruickshank**

Group 3: **Oliver Morrison, David Ridley, Henry Freeland, Richard Parker, Ed Pattison, Tom Keogh**

Practice Group: **Jack Ambler, Charlie Tucker, Graham Forrest, Adam Withnall, Harry Wimborne, Bruce Christiansen, Charlie Lester**



Initial Briefing by the assessor



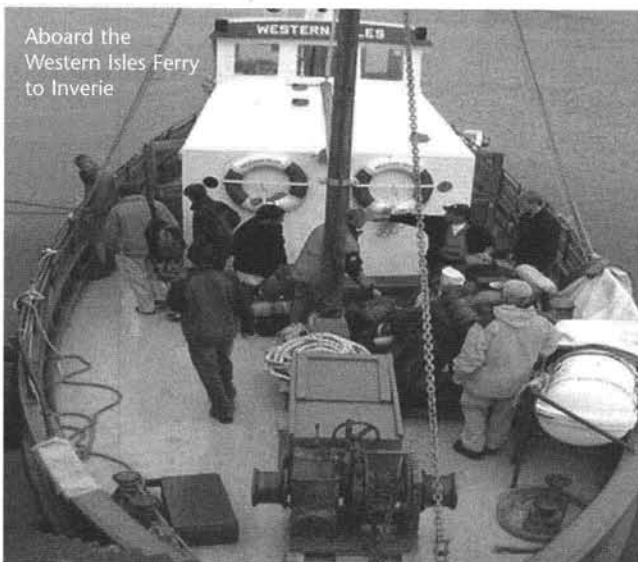
Glenn Unndalain



The camp at Barrisdale



Waterfalls on the River Carnach



Aboard the Western Isles Ferry to Inverie



## Alton Barnes, Wiltshire 10-12 March 2006

The aim of this exercise was to teach the fourth-form cadets valuable survival skills which they could use on other exercises, and to provide a leadership opportunity for the new fifth-form NCOs.

The scenario: a British peacekeeping force had been deployed to the central European Republic of Altonia. In Altonia the government army was fighting a civil war against soldiers loyal to the communist ex-leader, General Scarfadin. An attack on the British force (4th Form cadets) had resulted in their capture, and they were left at the mercy of General Scarfadin and his followers (Upper Sixth). Their equipment was confiscated and they were imprisoned for the night. They also underwent morale-lowering exercises such as not talking, which some of them found very difficult!

Day two commenced with a march along a track for the fourth-formers with General Scarfadin. At an apparently deserted crossroads, Altonia government forces, operating deep inside rebel territory, staged an ambush and freed the prisoners. They were quickly evacuated to a rendezvous point where they were supplied with essential survival material such as water and food. The escapees were then told the location of various stands where they would learn survival techniques, including camouflage, building shelters and how to cook using food which could be found in the surrounding fields. A fifth-form partisan, to help them evade the hunter force (out searching for them), accompanied each group of three escapees.

The night was spent in a harbour area, from which a night recon patrol was sent to an enemy base. Both patrols managed to sneak up to the base, learning about the weapons and numbers of the hunter force, and leave without being seen. The morning revealed two unwelcome surprises for the fourth-formers and accompanying partisans: first, it had snowed, and second, there was an attack by the enemy! This meant a quick escape to the canal, where the Navy should have been waiting to evacuate the escapees. However, with the Navy failing to show up, they instead learnt how to float their bergens across the canal without getting them wet.

The last task was a break for freedom to British-held territory and safety. All four groups of escapees managed this successfully without being detected by the enemy, marking the end of the survival exercise.

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

Junior Captains John Morgan 5 DAB and Joseph Delo 5 DAB





Despite the driving rain, Abingdon's Combined Cadet Force put on an impressive show for the Biennial Inspection Parade, which was conducted by Brigadier Patrick Davison-Houston CBE, late of the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry. The parade was watched by a large crowd of CCF parents, who were invited to a reception in the Charles Maude Room afterwards. The evening culminated with a dinner for more than sixty guests in the Dining Hall. Among the guests were Old Abingdonians with service connections, both serving and retired, and representatives from the University of Oxford OTC.

Sarah Wearne



There has been a wide range of charity events this year, organised by both individual boys and the Charities Committee, and I would like to thank everyone for their support. We started off with a cake-stall run by the Lower School on Open Day. With many delicious treats on offer, we raised £190 for Helen & Douglas House, a local charity. Following this, we held a 'Mufti' day, raising £820. This money was split between two overseas

charities, *Light for the Blind*, providing care in India, and St Andrew's School in Sierra Leone, where an Old Abingdonian has spent part of his gap year.

The focus of our charity events then shifted to raising funds for the Film Unit's trip to Cambodia with the Landmine Disability Trust. The 'Make a Difference' day raised £1,180 and the annual Charity Football Competition raised £577. A re-enactment

of the 1966 World Cup Final provided much amusement and £100 towards the target of £30,000 needed for the trip.

We have collected thousands of Sainsbury's and Tesco's vouchers throughout the year, and passed these on to several primary schools in Abingdon. Once again, may I thank all those who have given generously this year.

Anna Patrick



Sixth-Form Students Participating in Community Service



### Abingdon Hospital

After starting my second year of hospital visits, I ask myself why. Why I am spending my Wednesday afternoons visiting the patients of Abingdon Hospital, when I could be watching television, playing on my computer or chatting to friends? To convince myself that I started hospital visiting because 'I wanted to help people' would be naïve; in all honesty it was simply something else to put down on the form when I applied to study medicine at university. Yet apart from this selfish benefit, are there any other reasons to visit the hospital?

The answer is, of course, yes: although the original interest in visiting the hospital came from my aspirations to be a doctor, my experiences at the hospital have helped in many other ways. Visiting the hospital provides a valuable insight into life on a hospital ward and therefore a good opportunity for anybody interested in medicine to decide if such a career is right for him or her.

From a non-medical aspect, hospital visits are extremely rewarding. Even knowing that you may have brightened up one person's day is enough to get a great sense of satisfaction and achievement. With hospital visits, what you get out is what you put in: the necessity to strike up conversation with a patient is excellent practice in people skills and has certainly built my confidence.

The conversations with the patients are not only rewarding and beneficial, they can often be very interesting. The hospital wards are primarily occupied by geriatric patients and I am sure many teenagers would dread spending an hour talking to people from such a different age-group. However, it is this difference that can make the conversations so diverse and stimulating: topics range from childhood and wartime experiences to school life and holidays!

Hospital visiting: rewarding, satisfying, beneficial, confidence-building and interesting – I'd recommend it to anyone.

Joseph Delo 5 DAB

### Community Service at Long Furlong Primary School

During the past academic year, I helped Miss Elleby and her class at Long Furlong during my free periods. I was set a good range of tasks such as helping the children to read and write and to do arithmetic. I also helped with rehearsals for the nativity play – even making parts of the costumes. I found it particularly interesting when I took a step back and realised the progress the children had made since I first saw them at the start of the year. It has taught me a lot about interacting with different groups and helping much younger children to learn, something about which I had no previous experience as I normally play a different role, that of the pupil not the teacher. I value my experiences at Long Furlong and what they have taught me, which will hopefully be of use in later life.

Mark Williams VI APS

### 3rd-Year Community Service

Every Tuesday, as part of the third-form community service scheme, we visited Cygnet Court, which is a retirement home in the town centre. Each week, we have been either cooking or preparing activities for the residents. During our visits, we brought the cakes which we had baked, as well as the quizzes and games we had prepared and, over cups of tea, we talked to them about what they had been doing recently.

I have really enjoyed the scheme: my communication skills and confidence have improved remarkably. I believe that it has also been worthwhile for the residents, since they tell us that we have brightened their day.

Liam Smith 3 NJO'D

I really liked community service, which helps a lot of older people in Abingdon. I particularly enjoyed cooking and going to Cygnet Court. The people we visited also seemed to enjoy our quizzes. One of the best quizzes was 'guess the face'. We had to cut out half of the faces of famous people and stick two of them together. Then the residents had to guess who they were.

The tea party was brilliant. We played games and quizzes and had the choirs singing for us. **Jason Davison**, in the Upper VI, performed magic tricks for the guests and a musical ensemble played some excellent music for us all.

Gabriel Ling 3 DPS



Jason Davison performs card tricks

## Discovering Community Service

What is more enjoyable than giving time for others?

Through community service, Abingdon School offers young people this great opportunity. Nowadays, there are not many occasions when different generations can meet and spend quality time together, learning from each other.

The links between the community in Abingdon and students from Abingdon School are very impressive. Students are indeed very keen to visit people in the town. Every Wednesday, those who are involved in Community Service spend time in different places: visiting private homes, patients at the hospital and joining the Older and Bolder Club. For example, the volunteers join in some communal activities, make the tea and organise a quiz. It is a simple task, but really appreciated by everyone. I went there and was very touched by a woman who told me that the club activities are very important features in her week.

Community service is really an exchange between young and elderly people, and the Abingdon volunteers learn to be conscious of what they can offer to others by simply giving their time.

Pauline Secher, PGCE student.

## Visiting Cygnet Court

As part of community service I have been visiting Cygnet Court. Our visits, consisting of afternoon tea and entertainment, take place on alternate weeks. On the week we are not visiting we split into two groups: one goes and creates a quiz or game while the other bakes cakes and biscuits. This was my favourite part. We ended up making quite a range of different treats, from plain sponge cakes to scones. We took all these cakes and quizzes with us the following week; some people found our quizzes challenging, others did not. We then passed the treats round which got eaten very quickly.

At the end of term, we had a big party at School with all the community services groups coming together. On this day we had a quiz, cakes and treats, magic tricks and music. It was quite obvious the residents of all the homes were having fun. The day was rounded off by a raffle, which went down a treat. This day completed a really good and enjoyable term for both the Cygnet Court residents and me. Richard Meadows 3 RGH

During the Summer term, I have spent my Tuesday afternoons visiting Cygnet Court. Community Service has not only been a learning curve for me, but also very enjoyable with our brainteasers, quizzes, light teas but most of all with the talking to some of the elderly. One thing that really



Once a term, residents of the various retirement homes that the boys visit are invited to tea at the School

surprised me was how intelligent and competitive the majority of them were. It's good to learn about their generation and backgrounds, and of how they were brought up and the mind-set of their childhood. I also think it's important that they learn about our generation too and of how we are taught at school (to which they all listen attentively).

Dylan Robinson 3 NJO'D

## Visiting Old Station House

Every afternoon during the Lent term we visited Old Station House, a retirement home in Abingdon. Usually we played board games with the residents such as snakes and ladders, dominoes and card games.

At the end of the term, we organised a tea party in the School dining hall, to which we invited all the elderly people from different houses such as Cygnet Court, Lady Eleanor Court and Old Station House.

**Alex Deas** and **Ben** made a quiz and **Lewis Swain** and **Matthew Hinkins** prepared a raffle. It was a great success and spread joy through the community. Unfortunately, no one from Old Station House won anything in either the raffle or the quiz.

Lewis Swain 3 RGH, Alex Deas 3 PKHR and Matthew Hinkins 3 PKHR



## Service Activities

The ongoing link between Abingdon and *Agape*, a charity working with young people in Moldova, the poorest country in Europe, was further strengthened over the summer holidays. A group of seven sixth-formers from Abingdon along with four girls from Our Lady's Convent Senior School and three members of staff, travelled out to Moldova to participate in a summer camp – the fourth such trip in as many years.

For the last three years, we have taken the overnight train from Bucharest to Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. This year, **Adam Jenkins** decided we would fly all the way to Chisinau via Vienna which should have been more comfortable and faster – if we had not lost our luggage! From the airport we travelled to the village of Ialoveni, where we met the families that we would be staying with for the next nine nights. As always we were soon made to feel extremely welcome in their homes and were treated to mountains of fresh, home-grown food and drink – indeed the first Moldovan phrase that was mastered by one member of our group was “No more food, please – I am completely stuffed!”

Our group spent the first few days in Moldova sight-seeing and planning for the camp. On the first day, we visited Chisinau and saw the outdoor military museum and the ethnographic museum where we learnt much about the history and culture of Moldova. We then had an evening meal in an Irish pub. The next day, we went on a trip to see Capriana Monastery and the archaeological site of Orheiul Vechi, followed by a traditional Moldovan lunch accompanied with singing and dancing. Our last visit was to Milestii Mici, a vast underground wine cellar with over 1.5 million bottles stored in 55km of underground galleries that was recently awarded a Guinness World Record for being the biggest wine collection in the world – suffice to say, there were slightly fewer by the end of our tasting session!



Visit to the Military Museum

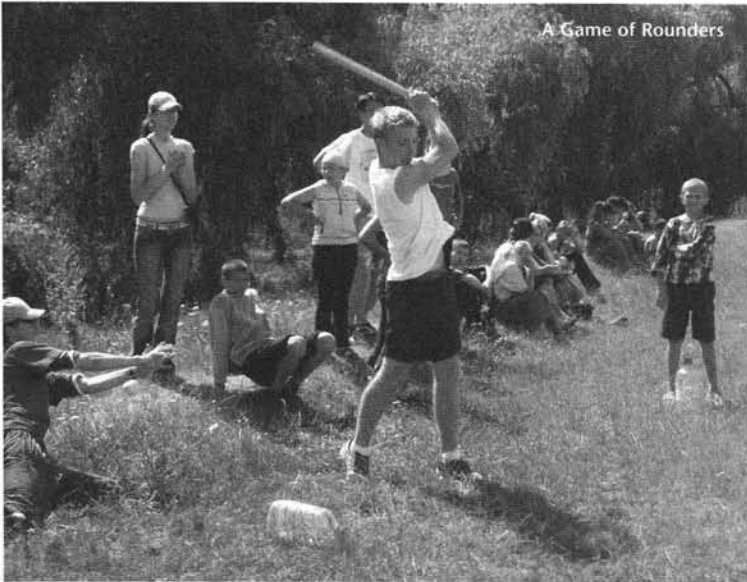
## Summer Camp in Moldova 2006



John Beyer (OA),  
the new UK  
Ambassador to  
Moldova

During these first few days, we also spent time getting to know the older Moldovan children with whom we were going to organise the camp. This was experimental for *Agape* and in many ways the most significant element of the arrangements. Community service is quite an alien concept in Moldova – in general people are too busy worrying about their own problems and do not have much time to think of others. At the moment the vast majority of young Moldovans leave the country to work abroad, which has had a terribly stagnating effect on the society. *Agape* are working hard with young people to make them understand that they have to stay in their country and contribute in order to improve their homeland. It was therefore great to see that twelve young Moldovans were prepared to give up a week of their summer holiday and work with our group to arrange the activities of the camp.





The camp lasted five days and took place at the *Agape* Community Centre in Ialoveni. About twenty-five children from Ialoveni, aged eleven to thirteen, attended. Most of children came from very poor families – some saw little of their parents because they were working abroad during the week; others suffered various forms of abuse at the hands of their parents. In the mornings there was a round-robin of activities: **Mr Mansfield's** woodworking sessions proved a particular hit with some of the boys, who would have stayed making their wooden decorations all day! Papier-mâché mask and bandana-making under the watchful eye of **Zhongjie Dong** also went well. The photography workshop was carefully managed by **Charlie Gill** and **Paul Godsmark**, who were most impressed by the imaginative and unusual photographs that were produced by their students. **Tom Blakey**, **Charlie Tucker** and **Ben Allen** taught English every day and helped the younger children to do comprehensions on simple stories, play word games, and teach them I-spy! **Greg Salmon** meanwhile helped co-ordinate fun and games sessions, although he made a tactful withdrawal when it came to learning some more dance steps.

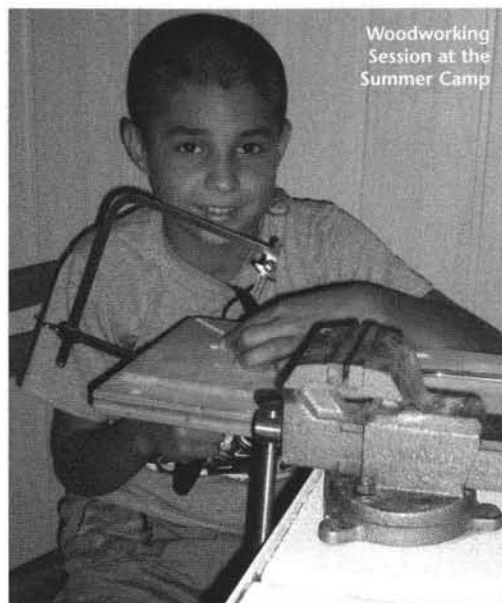
The afternoons were spent playing sports, including a mammoth football match on a pitch that probably would not meet FA guidelines. We also played a rounders match on the last day. The match was made more amusing by the fact that there was a river directly behind the batter (**Tom Blakey** did well to let only one ball get past him!) and also by the fact that, owing to a breakdown in translation, the Moldovan children decided that when batting they could wait at a base until they had several of them in one place and then all run round the pitch together to claim their points!

On the penultimate day of the camp, we welcomed a very special guest – **John Beyer** OA, the new UK Ambassador to Moldova, who took up his post in January. He left Abingdon in 1968 and responded very willingly to an invitation to come and see the camp. A heavy downpour of rain that morning caused some anxiety and a team was dispatched to clear as much mud as possible from the entrance way, while all the children



were given strict instructions to clean their shoes very carefully. Fortunately the weather cleared up by the afternoon. Ambassador Beyer was afforded the traditional Moldovan welcome of bread and salt on his arrival and then toured round the Community Centre and talked to both our team and the young Moldovans. He left impressed with the work of *Agape* and very proud of the link that his old school has with Moldova.

As well as the activities of the camp, Nicu, the head of *Agape*, also asked us if we would help out with some work *Agape* were co-ordinating at the home of the Besvesnicu family. This family lived in a small one-room house which had been deemed to be of such a poor standard that the two children, Dima and Diana, had been taken away from their parents and were now attending a state-run boarding school some distance away from home. *Agape* had decided to direct some funds towards helping the family improve the house. With this in mind, some of our team went to help put mud and straw insulation in the roof space and to help fit some new windows. Whilst our manpower in itself was useful, more important was the boost our help gave to the morale of the family – it meant a great deal to them that people from the West cared about them – and also the hope that their children will be able to return home in September.



The whole camp was a huge success and will live long in the memory of all who took part – the openness and warmth of the younger children and their desire to spend time with us all was incredibly moving, as was watching the older Moldovans giving something back so willingly to their community – something that *Agape* now hopes to foster for the future. It was incredibly hard to say goodbye to all of the friends we had made, but already our minds are turning towards next year's summer camp when, thanks to the support of the **Headmaster**, it has been agreed that *Agape* will bring a group of sixteen young Moldovans to Abingdon to use the School's facilities – a very exciting opportunity indeed.

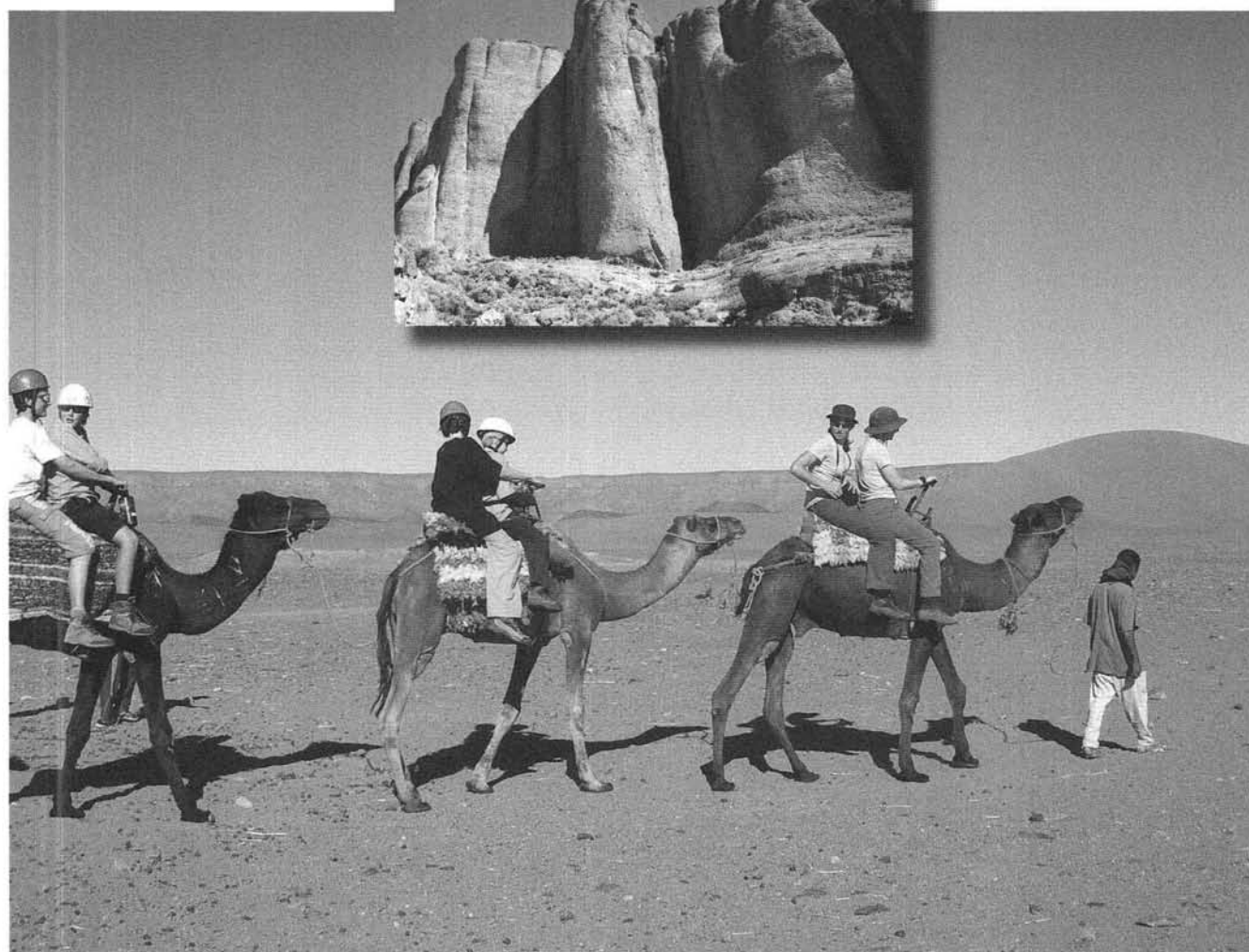
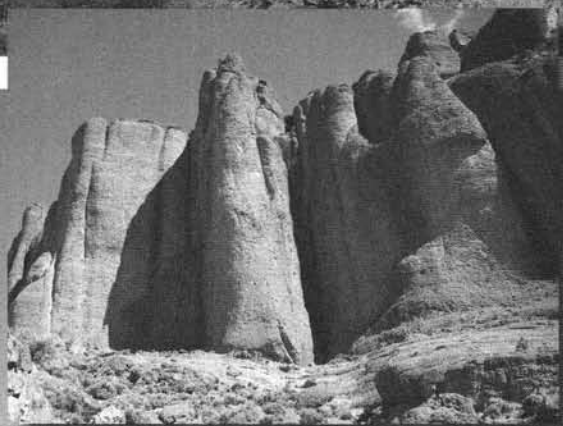
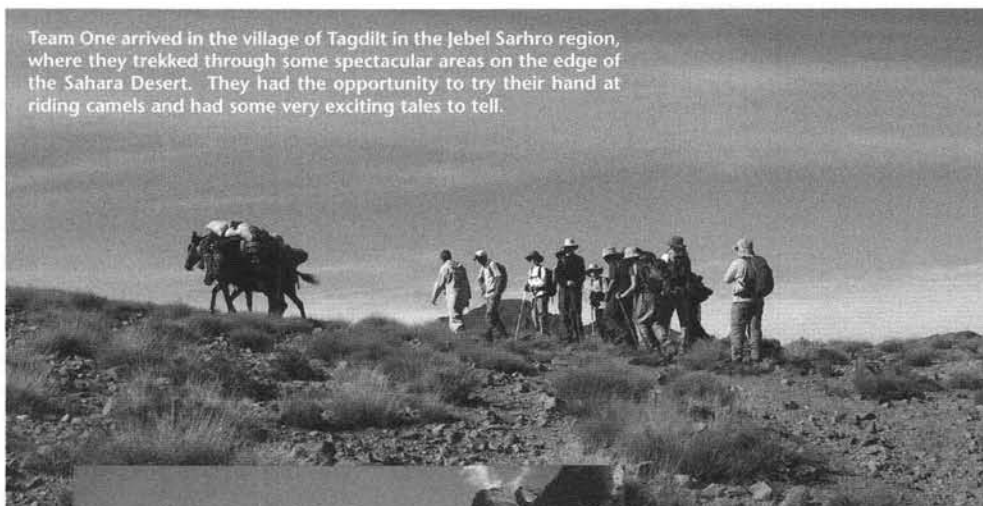
Adam Jenkins

# Abroad

Thirty-eight boys from the Third and Fourth Forms, along with six staff members spent the first part of the Autumn half-term trekking in the Atlas Mountains. The party was split into three groups, who each went their separate ways after spending a night together in Hotel Farouk in Marrakech.

The teams travelled south-east out of Marrakech, passing through beautiful rugged countryside and dramatic mountain passes, each team ending up in their separate destinations to take on their challenge, which consisted of a four-day trek.

Team One arrived in the village of Tagdilt in the Jebel Sarhro region, where they trekked through some spectacular areas on the edge of the Sahara Desert. They had the opportunity to try their hand at riding camels and had some very exciting tales to tell.



## World Challenge Expedition to Morocco 19 – 26 October 2005



Team Two were introduced to the beauty of the Todra Gorge, not only enjoying the magnificence of the Gorge itself, but also making their way onto the pathways above the Gorge, which allowed them to get a true feel for the area. Passing the site where *Gladiator*, the Hollywood blockbuster, was filmed made it that much more exciting.



Team Three started and finished their trek in the village of Tamlakoute, in a remote area south-east of Marrakech. Their trek took them through some unique villages, allowing them to get a real feel for the culture of the country. Their challenge was to reach the summit of Jebel Siroua, a beautiful mountain, which peaks at 3305m. Even more impressive was the fortitude of the boys on the final day, when they had to trek 27km back to Tamlakoute.



On returning to Marrakech, everyone gathered in the Hotel Ali. The boys simply bubbled as they related their stories to the other groups. Haggling in the Souqs was a highlight for some. It was a real eye-opener to experience a culture so different from our own. A lasting impression will be the way in which our guides went about their task in very hot conditions, mile after mile, without any complaint.



During the holy time of Ramadan, nothing is allowed to pass their lips between sunrise and sunset. Under those circumstances, this was a truly inspiring feat to witness.

Andrew Hall



## World Challenge Expedition to Northern Peru 7 July – 7 August 2006

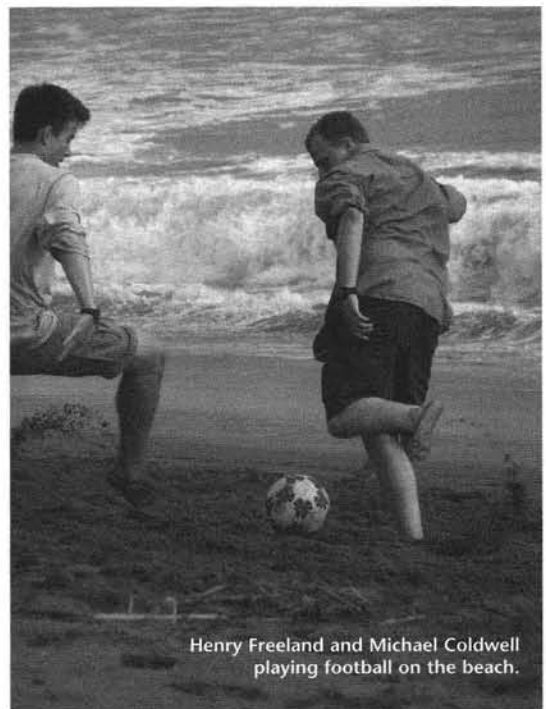
### The World Challenge Group:

Matt Halls, Tim McKenzie, Alex Freeland, Henry Freeland, Will Stockdale, Max Derbyshire, Richard Lai, Max Wood, Sam Welch, Dean Walker, Alex Hamilton, Johnny Hughes, Richard Worth, Ed Pattison, Phil Hatzis, Michael Coldwell, Jack Hammett



A group of seventeen intrepid Abingdon boys, accompanied by our leader, Robert Molnar, **Andrew Hall** and myself, took part in a World Challenge expedition to Northern Peru last summer. Not only did the trip offer us the opportunity to explore the Amazon Jungle, but also to appreciate and experience the grandeur of the Cordillera Blanca mountain range. Probably the most poignant memories for the team, however, will be the time we spent in the remote community of La Jalca, where we were given the tasks of redecorating an infant school and the local hospital. It was not so much the tasks themselves that we will remember but rather the way in which we were accepted into the community and made to feel like *amigos* rather than *gringos*.

Grandeur of the Cordillera Blanca mountain range



Henry Freeland and Michael Coldwell playing football on the beach.

Day	Details
<b>7 July:</b> Abingdon - Build up day	Finalising kit lists, discarding excess baggage rejected by WCE leader, discussing rules.
<b>8 July:</b> In transit	Depart 4.30am for Heathrow, flight to Lima via Madrid.
<b>9 July:</b> Lima	Organising transportation, preparation for next phase.
<b>10 July:</b> Huaraz (3090m)	Long bus journey but entertainment provided. Spectacular scenery.
<b>11 - 13 July:</b> Huaraz	Acclimatisation – short trek to 4000m and first night camping.
<b>14 - 16 July:</b> Cashapampa	Main Trek for most of team, weekend relaxing in 5* hotel for a select few.
<b>17 - 18 July:</b> Huaraz	Rest & recuperation in Huaraz (operation team purge) Overnight bus to Trujillo.
<b>19 - 20 July:</b> Huanchaco	R&R in Huanchaco, sight-seeing around Chan Chan, Temple of the Moon and the Sun.
<b>21 July:</b> Chachapoyas	Morning of organizing project and buying materials. Travel to La Jalca
<b>22 - 26 July:</b> La Jalca	Project sites in La Jalca.
<b>27 July:</b> Kuelap	Back to Chachapoyas via Kuelap Ruins
<b>28 July:</b> Tarapoto	Travel to Tarapoto via Pedro Ruiz
<b>29 July:</b> Tarapoto	R&R – White Water Rafting
<b>30 July:</b> Yurimaguas	8-hour bus journey on dirt roads in <i>Grease Kelly</i> , minor breakdown.
<b>31 July:</b> River Marañón	River journey to Lagunas (cargo boat, sleeping in hammocks accompanied by herd of cattle).
<b>1–2 August:</b> Pacaya Samiria Reserve	Jungle expedition in dugout canoes, night under mosquito nets on jungle floor.
<b>3–4 August:</b> River Marañón	Cargo boat on to Iquitos.
<b>5 August:</b> Iquitos	Morning of leisure. Flight back to Lima.
<b>6 August:</b> Lima	Morning of leisure and last minute gift shopping. Team Lunch.
<b>7 August:</b>	Return to Heathrow.

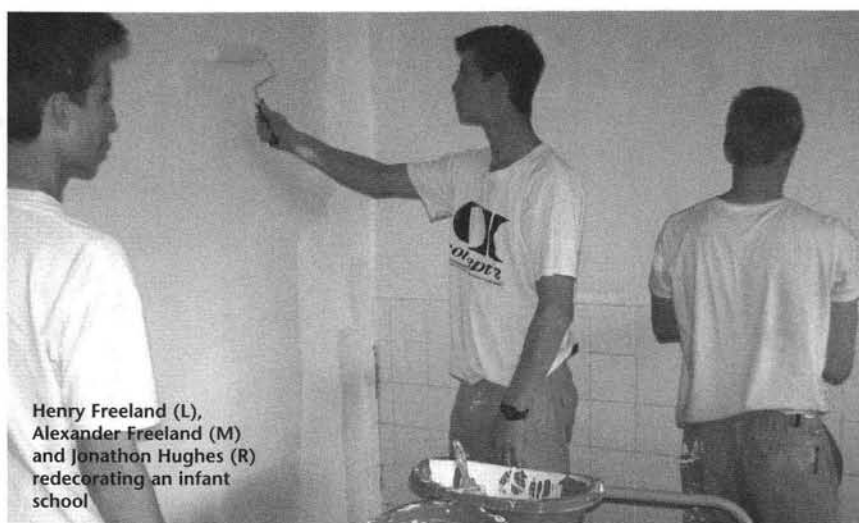
The itinerary itself may not always have been particularly demanding on a physical level, but the constant need to move from one place to another in order to cover vast distances made it logistically challenging, a challenge with which the boys coped extremely well. They must be commended for their hard work, co-operation and mature approach throughout the trip. It was agreed that the whole expedition had been a success, despite – or perhaps, in part, because of – the obstacles encountered along the way. Illness and travel problems, rather than creating factions within the group, served to foster team spirit and friendship. It is also, I think, fair to say that as a team we learnt a great deal, not only about travelling, and about a culture so different from our own, but also about ourselves.



We all took something away from Peru: we had the opportunity to interact with a community that had encountered few strangers before, and to witness true poverty; we came back with amazing memories of walking through spectacular mountain scenery, watching the sun set over the Amazon, eating guinea-pig and finding poisonous snakes at our feet, as well as countless ponchos, alpaca wool hats, Peruvian football shirts and gallons and gallons of Inca-cola.

Special thanks must go to Andrew Hall for both organising and accompanying the trip, and to our leader, Robert Molnar. We hope that both Rob and Andrew Hall will join one of the trips planned for 2008, either to the Indian Himalayas or to Madagascar.

Patricia Henderson



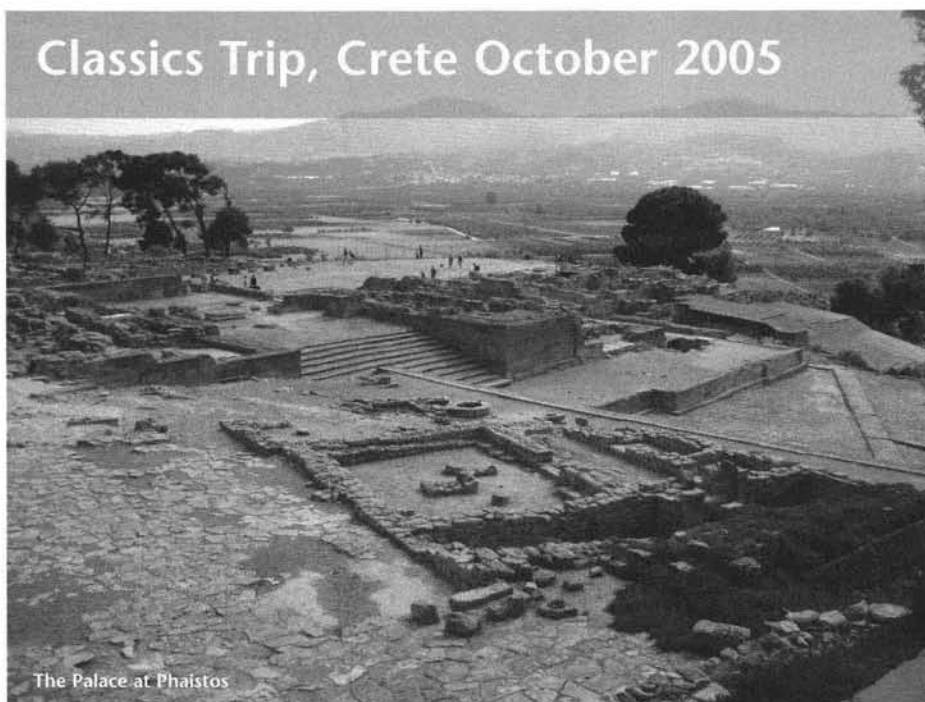
Henry Freeland (L), Alexander Freeland (M) and Jonathon Hughes (R) redecorating an infant school

We classicists were greeted by the rain, which has become a customary mark of the beginning of our annual Michaelmas half-term trip abroad. We flew from Heathrow to Athens and waited four hours for our connecting flight to Heraklion, Crete. After arriving on the island, which lies in the Mediterranean south of mainland Greece, we set off by coach to our base for the next week, the coastal tourist town of Aghios Nikolaos, located in the north-east. Since we arrived at the Apollon Hotel at around midnight, everyone was keen to get to bed.

The next day we left 'Ag-Nik', as we came to call it, and returned to the island's capital, Heraklion, to visit its museum. It contained a wealth of Minoan artefacts and heavily restored, but nevertheless fantastic, frescoes (paintings made directly on wet plaster). One item, which was particularly stunning, was a beautifully frescoed sarcophagus from Aghia Triada. We also got our first chance to see tablets inscribed with Linear A and B (syllabic scripts dating from as early as 1700 BC). In addition, **Mr Price** introduced us to the Phaistos Disc, a circular tablet with lines of hieroglyphics running around it in a spiral, narrowly avoiding arrest by the frequently hissing museum curators. After having a lunch-break in the centre of the city, we returned westwards to Elounda to take a boat trip to the ex-leper-colony (previously a Venetian fortress) on the small island of Spinalonga. After climbing over the site, we boarded our vessel again and sailed to a remote beach where, after some swimming, we had a barbecue on the boat.

On Sunday, we drove to Lato, a picturesquely remote settlement dating from the Classical Period. Then we went on to the Lasithi Plateau, a fertile plain located in the mountains, after stopping at Kritsa and at the superb frescoes in the Panaghia Kera, a church whose walls were painted around AD 1200-1300 with biblical scenes for the illiterate congregation. At the Lasithi Plateau we climbed a hillside and descended into the depths of the Diktaean cave where Zeus was supposedly born. Here **Mr Jenkins** enlightened us on what is known about Minoan religion and its

## Classics Trip, Crete October 2005

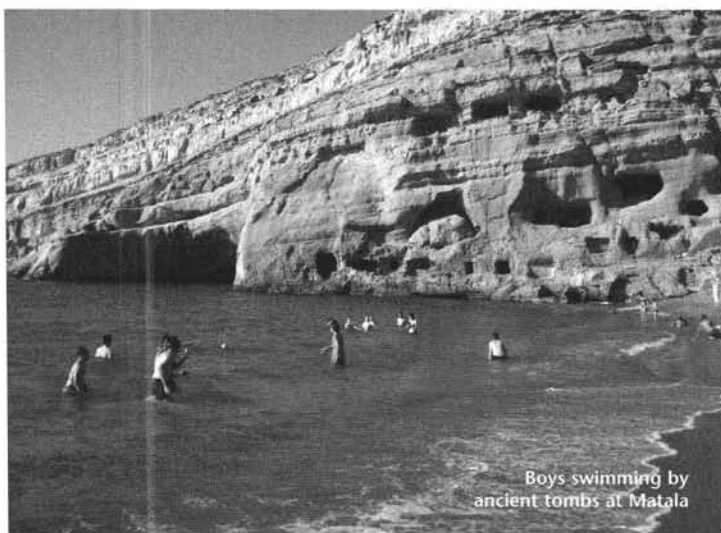


The Palace at Phaistos

tales of human sacrifice. We then continued by a roundabout route to the Trapeza Cave, a much more remote, small and gloomy cave which the British archaeologist, John Pendlebury, cleared and where he found many Bronze Age offerings.

On our fourth day, the halfway point of the trip, we spent most of the morning at Gortyn, which was the capital of the island when it was a Roman province. We enjoyed seeing the ancient law code on display near the Odeon and also the tree under which Zeus supposedly enjoyed Europa. We also witnessed just how far **Dr Burnand** was willing to go to see some ruins when he climbed the fence separating the parts of the site under excavation from the part open to the public. Next, we were taken to the first of the Minoan palaces, Phaistos, where the famous disc was discovered. At the palace, Dr Burnand familiarised us with the layout of an average Minoan palace, with the theatral area, main court and entrance, storerooms and lustral basin as well as the superb drainage system which the Minoans were excellent at constructing. Then we went along a ridge to see the smaller palace of Aghia Triada, where we found many shops, storerooms and the evidence of destruction by burning. After a break at a tomb-lined beach named Matala, we returned to our hotel for an evening exploring the cafés and small shops which Ag-Nik has to offer.

We started Tuesday morning by visiting a settlement overlooking the sea: Gournia. Here we encountered our first kernos, a stone with man-made holes, which is supposed to have been used for sacrificial purposes, although many members of the party thought it had to be some kind of ancient board game. While walking through the very tight streets, trying to imagine what these ordinary houses must have looked like, we were repelled by the pungent smell of a particular tree which we came across in several sites; even members of staff were not willing to venture too close to this foul flora to inspect their treasured ruins. After being picked up by our coach, we were dropped off at the mouth of a gorge, which we trekked through to reach the restaurants by the bay of Zakros for our lunch. After our meal, we visited another palace, surrounded by a Minoan town situated by the bay. There we found the usual cisterns and lustral basin but this time they were flooded and occupied by turtles. More interesting finds



Boys swimming by ancient tombs at Matala





Boat trip to the ex-leper-colony on the small island of Spinalonga

were a metal-working furnace and a notably clear engraving of a double-headed axe which is to be found in many Minoan sites. After supper, we returned to the hotel for the long-awaited trip quiz. This quiz, written by the Department, was a combination of Classical cryptic clues, picture rounds and trivia and was won by the team of **Ben Cooke, Alex Boxell, Jack Woods and Julian Thorn**. The wooden spoon was awarded to myself, **Guy Lomax, Lewis Davis-Poynter and Oscar Hird**, after losing because of woeful knowledge, mute team members and internal disagreements.

Some of us dubbed Wednesday as the 'Big Day' because that was the day we visited the palaces of Malia and Knossos (the latter attracts around half a million tourists a year). Although having a similar layout to Phaistos, Malia is a larger site and the palace is more spread out. There we found some more storerooms or magazines, which Mr Price suggested to be bowling alleys of some kind. Knossos itself, according to legend, is the palace of the famous King Minos, who features in the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. The site was excavated by Sir Arthur Evans, the keeper of the Ashmolean Museum from 1884-1908, at the beginning of the twentieth century. The site is heavily restored to recreate what it could have looked like in its day, although this method of archaeology is questionable. After being guided around the site by Dr Burnand, we were led across the valley, overlooked by the palace, and up the opposite hill for the stunning view of the palace and its surrounding area.



Souda Bay, the site of the Commonwealth War Cemetery

The next morning we went to the coastal city of Rethymnon, on the west side of the island, to visit its museum which displays superb examples of Minoan pottery, sarcophagi, pithoi, later coins and other artefacts. We then were taken to Souda Bay, the site of the Commonwealth War Cemetery for those who lost their lives in battle on the island during the Battle of Crete and its aftermath. Before entering the grounds of the cemetery, **Mr Shaun Hullis** gave us an overview of the German airborne invasion and the retreat of the Commonwealth forces to the south of the island for

evacuation. He also told us the story of John Pendlebury, a former pupil of Winchester College buried at Souda, who carried out the excavations at Lasithi and who set up much of the resistance in Crete after being approached by the British Government. Pendlebury was wounded by a German unit while driving into the mountains to bring Cretan partisan reinforcements for the defence of Heraklion. After being captured, he was taken to a local house, where he was stripped of his uniform and where his wounds were cared for by Cretan women. When another German unit found him, with his uniform discarded, they believed him to be a spy and executed him under this false belief. The visit to the cemetery was a very moving experience

indeed for us all. We finished the day at Chania, another town in the west, and visited its archaeological museum. There were some superb Roman mosaics as well as a great display of Minoan items. After the visit, we were given time to spend our last euros buying gifts of questionable desirability for relatives in the shops of Chania. The week was extremely fun and enjoyable for all involved and thanks should go to Dr Burnand, **Mrs Fishpool**, Mr Jenkins and Mr Price for making the week more than just another Classics trip.

Henry Scarlett 6 SAE

## Kayak Club, Whitewater trip to Norway June – July 2006



Nine boys, and up to five coaches, spent three and a half weeks paddling the exciting and challenging whitewater rivers of mid-Norway.

A Land Rover and minibus, each towing a trailer of kayaks, drove out in advance of the group by taking the ferry from Harwich to Esbjerg in Denmark, driving across the Great Belt Bridge which takes 25 minutes at 50 mph to cross. A second ferry saw them cross the Kattegat from Helsingor in north Denmark to Helsingborg in south Sweden. It was then a day and a half's drive north round Gothenberg and Oslo to Otta, our base for the next three weeks.

The boys, accompanied by Mr Mike Devlin, Director of Coaching of the British Canoe Union, flew from London to Oslo and then took the train northwards to Otta, a four-hour journey through pine trees and alongside rivers and lakes.

A base camp was made on a strip of land by the river Lagen immediately below Dovreskogen Kro ('kro' is

Norwegian for motel/restaurant/garage all-in-one) where we had stayed two years previously. As long as drinking water is fetched from above the kro's septic tank outlet, all remains well on the convenient campsite, which is well placed to access a number of rivers within an hour's drive.

The group began paddling on the Lagen, a pleasant river and an ideal venue to revise whitewater skills. Paddling in two separate groups, one led by Mike Devlin and **Tim Gunn**, with the other managed by Dave Booth, Ben Gunn and James Bellin, skills and rescue techniques developed quickly.



The Otta River provided the next step-up in difficulty since it is a larger-volume, glacial-fed river giving failed rollers a long swim to the bank. It was some of the boys' first experience of big waves on rivers: everyone much enjoyed it. By now their skills and techniques were much better and the groups were able to move onto more challenging water. A long drive took us to the river on the other side of the massif. The journey itself was spectacular, taking us above the tree-line, with a long-distance vista



of the mountains seen from a rocking vehicle bouncing along dirt roads. The river was a magnificent paddle with some challenging sections. One of these sections necessitated the leading of the less confident paddlers down the right route to avoid a very nasty stopper on the right hand side of the river. These stoppers are circulating waves (vertical eddies), which can hold a kayak and paddler, subjecting them to a violent washing machine action if they cannot extract themselves! The final section of the river was a longer rapid with a surf wave under the bridge at the get-out. There were a few swimmers, but much fun was had on the last wave!

The Sjoa is Norway's most famous and popular whitewater river, and rightly so! We paddled several sections from the middle part, which is relatively gentle, to the canyon, which was only for the coaches, and the so-called 'play section' which is just that. Towards the end of the trip everyone was tackling the play section with confidence – still swimming occasionally, but enjoying themselves. The Sjoa has many rapids, quite a big volume and few, if any, nasty stoppers to miss. It has a beautiful gorge section in which you feel miles from civilisation with just the river to follow. A very picturesque paddle, and one to return to! The top section of the Sjoa, which is just on the tree-line, offers spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Not as difficult as some of the other sections, but a well worthwhile section nonetheless.

We had one day on the Driva, an hour's drive from camp. The Driva, flowing in a deep gorge, offers water as difficult as you wish to go. Our section is one of the rafted parts of the river, and



so is not too difficult. Nonetheless, it was the most exciting and demanding river we paddled. The combination of drops, rapids and the speed of the water made for a fun day. We had bank support on the first drop, which is where one person stands on the bank with a throwline to rescue swimmers and prevent them from going down nasty parts of the river. As always, we had positioned safety kayakers below each section of the rapid to rescue the kayaker, kayak and paddles. Hopefully, the kayaker holds on to his paddle: but not always! This can result in a long chase of several kilometres to retrieve them! It is very difficult for one person to rescue a paddler, kayak and paddles, so we work in teams to make rescues faster and safer. At one point, brave **Oliver Mumby** became separated from his kayak, which was downstream on the other side of the Driva leaving him at the top of a small gorge. He had to jump back into the river he had just extracted himself from and swim down to Dr Gunn's kayak to be reunited with his own boat: no mean feat, especially since he had to do it again later in the trip on the Sjoa! There was one portage on the Driva where one side of a waterfall was lethal, and the other had a fine line. Only four of us paddled that one as it was late in the day, and the rest of the group had to climb a little and then lower their kayaks down the side of the gorge to a safe launch point.

The campsite saw us drying kit on improvised washing lines, sitting by fires as the sun went behind the hills, but it did not get fully dark until the last few days of the trip. We saw huge elk grazing in a marshy area on the back road to Otta: wonderful beasts!

We had a rest day when Ben, Dave, **David Weston**, and **Robert Haley** went to paddle the Uri and had great fun. The rest of the group with Dr Gunn climbed up several thousand feet to a television mast on the mountain behind the campsite. Lunch was taken on a patch of snow looking down on the very small campsite, and the views from the top allowed us to see the tens of miles across valleys and rivers we had paddled to the Jotenhiem massif in the west.

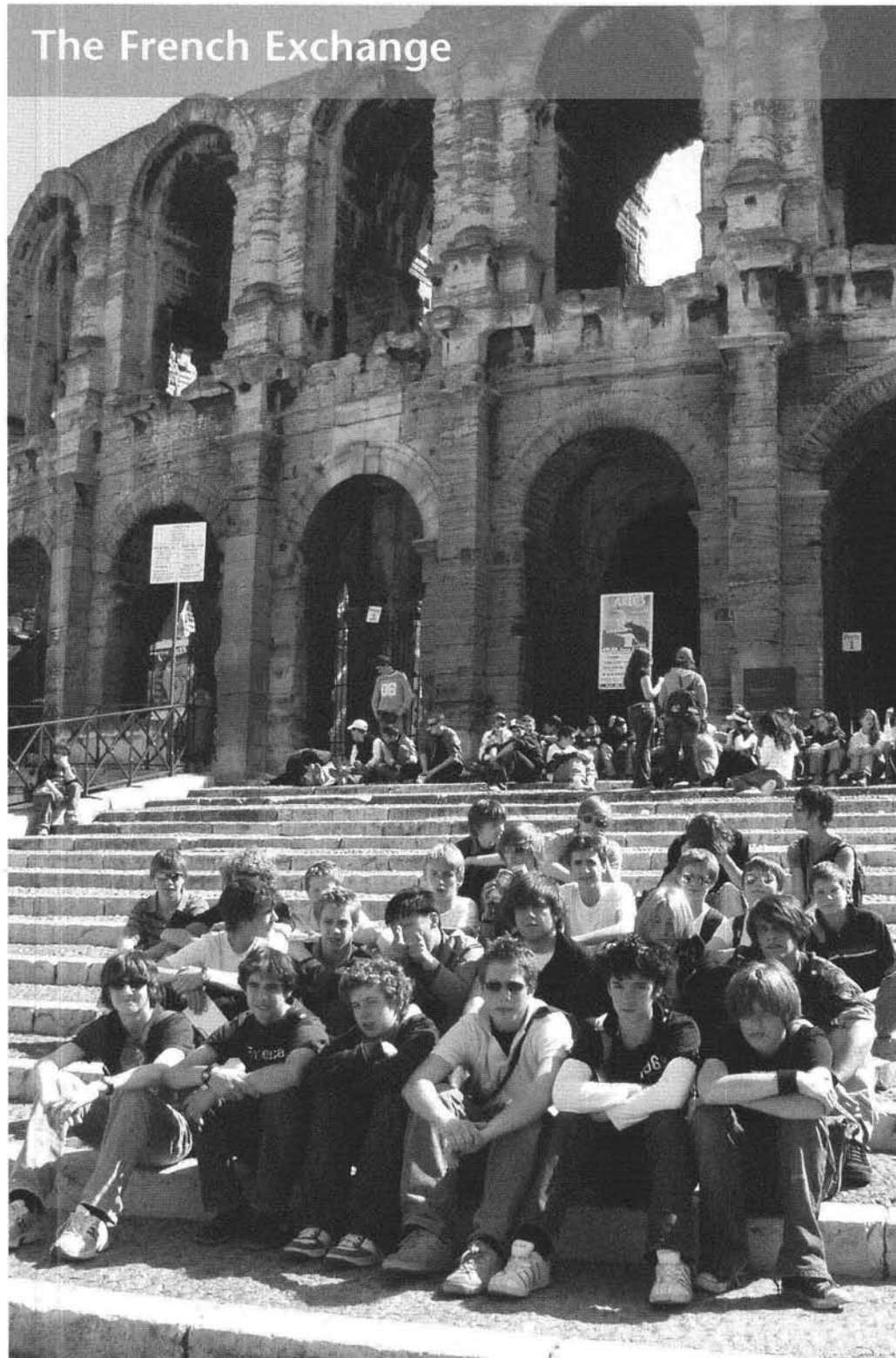
The last night saw us in the Otta Hotel, trying to feast the Eat-As-Much-As-You-Like buffet supper. Seeing the lads trying to get past ten platefuls was very amusing – even **Rob Haley** and **Paul Scopes** had to give up.

A 4 am start the next day got the boys to Oslo's Gardermoen airport and their plane back to London, while Bill, Dave and Dr Gunn drove south back through Sweden and Denmark to the ferry home.

All in all a wonderful trip with many memories – and we will return next year!

Tim Gunn





## The French Exchange

Having hosted the French party at Abingdon (where they enjoyed such excitements as a visit to Stratford upon Avon and a breakdown on the M4 on the way to the Globe Theatre!), it was our turn to go to them. We flew to Marseilles, where we were greeted by our host families and whisked off to Aix-en-Provence and the first daunting night.

Since their English was vastly superior to our French (they were studying *King Lear* in their English lessons!), it was often tempting to slip into English when in a group, though at home we communicated almost exclusively in French. I for one found this incredibly useful and that it hugely developed my French.

We visited many attractions across Provence, including Le Pont d'Avignon, the port of Marseilles and Le Pont du Gard, to name but a few. All of these were thoroughly enjoyed and were followed by free time before we returned to our families in the evening.

The trip as a whole was a great success and all the French families complimented the School on the boys' behaviour and manners. It was not only an extremely enjoyable trip but also an extremely useful one in terms of improving our linguistic skills. Great thanks must therefore go to **Mrs Slatford, Ms Hicks** and **Mr Aitken** for giving up their time to organise and supervise the trip.

Tim Deeks 4 PEH

This year, the French Department organised an exchange with a school in Aix-en-Provence, the *Collège-Lycée La Nativité*. The French party came to stay for a week in February during what must have been one of the coldest weeks on record and did not cope particularly well with the climate, to say the least! They were very impressed by our School and enjoyed a wide range of outings. Everyone got on very well and looked forward to the second leg of the Exchange. We then went to stay in France for the first week of the Easter holiday and had fantastic sunshine every day. The Exchange was a great experience for all. We hope it can continue in future years.

Estelle Slatford



On 5 February, a group of German language students from Abingdon and St Helen's embarked on a ten-day visit to their exchange partners' families in Bielefeld, the 39th exchange trip between our two schools.

We arrived in Germany after a long journey to find a beautiful landscape covered in snow. Our first action was to meet our exchange families and to get some sleep. Many of us were in deep shock following our awakening at 6 am, which would be 5 am for us with the time difference. Getting out of school at 12:30 was a welcome compensation for this. Our tour around Bielefeld, which was intended to be factual, eventually turned into a giant snowball fight.

On the second day, we enjoyed a break from going to school when we went on an eventful trip to Münster. We watched a 500-year-old astronomical clock in the reconstructed cathedral and learned about the Peace of Westphalia; afterwards we had an hour for shopping.

We played the traditional football match between Abingdon and the Ratsgymnasium, which last year was a draw, and was won this year by our hosts. The highlight of the week, however, was Armenia Bielefeld's 2-1 win against Stuttgart. We also made trips to Paderborn and Bremen, and visited the largest computer museum in the world and a technical university, both of which were good fun. On Friday, we went ice-skating: this was especially exciting since so many people fell over.

The 39th Exchange to Germany was a very successful one and I would recommend the next Exchange to any interested boys.

Gregory Craven 4 NMR

A party of sixteen Abingdon boys and five girls from The School of St Helen and St Katharine landed on a dark, snowy runway at a tiny airport somewhere in the middle of Germany on Sunday 5 February for the German Exchange programme. We had departed from St Helen's at midday, arrived at Stansted two hours later, then waited three hours at the airport and spent another hour on the plane. It took us yet another hour after leaving the airport before we pulled up in Bielefeld and met our host families.

We spent several days at their school: the Ratsgymnasium in Bielefeld, which is roughly equivalent to a grammar school. The schooling there generally has a more relaxed approach than at Abingdon. Although they get up very early on a school day, at about half-past six, and go to school from 7:45 to 13:00 for six forty-five minute lessons, they do only a small amount of homework afterwards, then have the rest of the day free. One afternoon we went to the Oetker Ice Rink, which was a highly enjoyable experience. Another afternoon we went back to the school for the annual football match between the two sets of exchanges, which we comprehensively lost.

On other days we went out of Bielefeld on a variety of excursions. These destinations included: Bremen, where we visited an interesting science museum and saw many famous old buildings; Münster and its old Cathedral with an astronomical clock; Paderborn, and lots more churches and Cathedrals. We also popped into the Schloss Neuhaus. At other times, in these towns, we were allowed to wander around on our own.

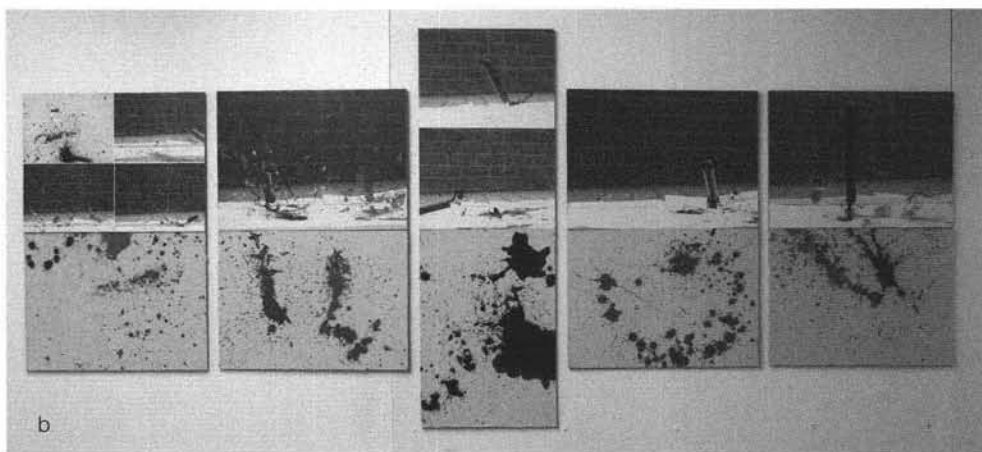
At the weekend a large number of us went to the Schüco Arena in order to watch Armenia Bielefeld beat Stuttgart 2-1. Then I went on a long walk around Bielefeld and the surrounding area with my host family. We also took part in other communal activities such as going bowling, playing trans-national computer games, going to cafés and playing pool.

By Wednesday it was time to go home after our eleven-day exchange and although no one would have thought so before we went, many of us were somehow disappointed to be leaving.

Andrew Phillips 4 SEB

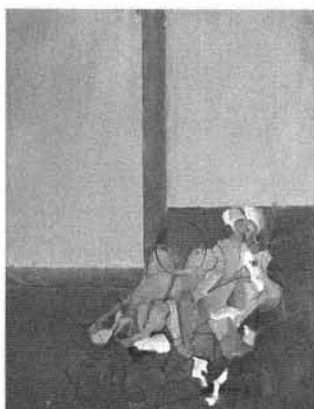


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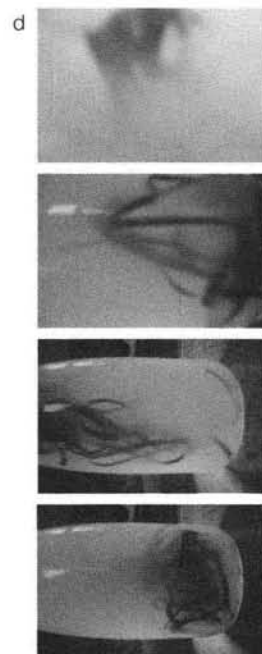


b

## A2 ART



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e

The following pages show a selection of the art shown in the examination exhibitions of Summer 2006. Further work by all involved can be seen at [www.abingdon.org.uk/go/gallery](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/gallery). All sizes are approximate.

James Nairne

a	Life drawing	A1	charcoal and chalk	James Gibson
b	'Five one second drawings'	6'x3'	mixed media	Bayly Shelton
c	Moving figure	each 30"x40"	oil on canvas triptych	Andrew Kyrios
d	'Taepe'	stills from video	video	Paul Antony
e	Life drawing	A1	charcoal	Andrew Kyrios
f	'Over the trees'	20"x30"	oil on canvas	Joe Canlan-Shaw
g	Abstract	5'x4'	acrylic on canvas	Joe Canlan-Shaw

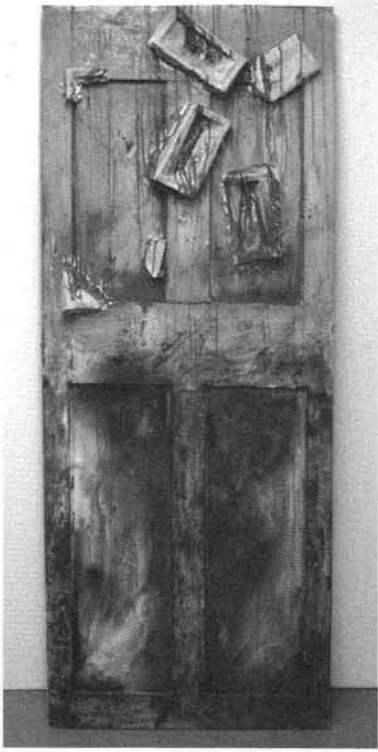


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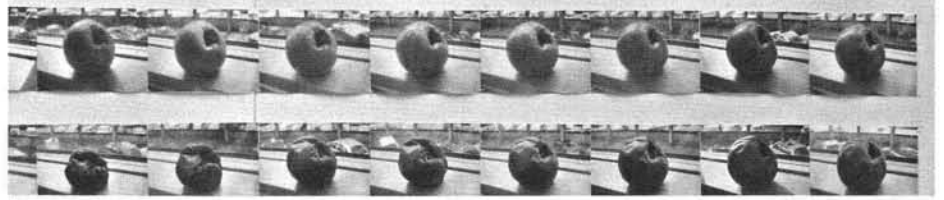


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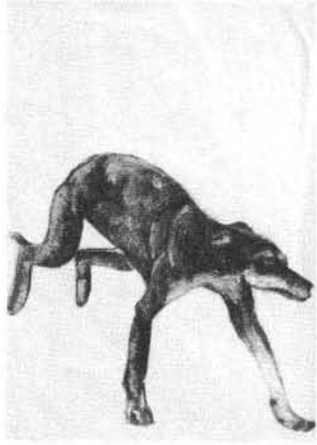




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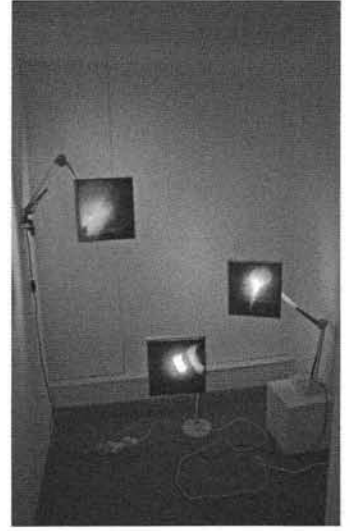
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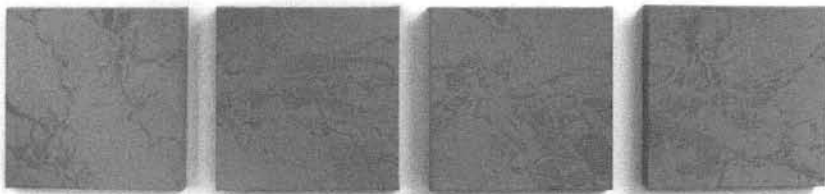
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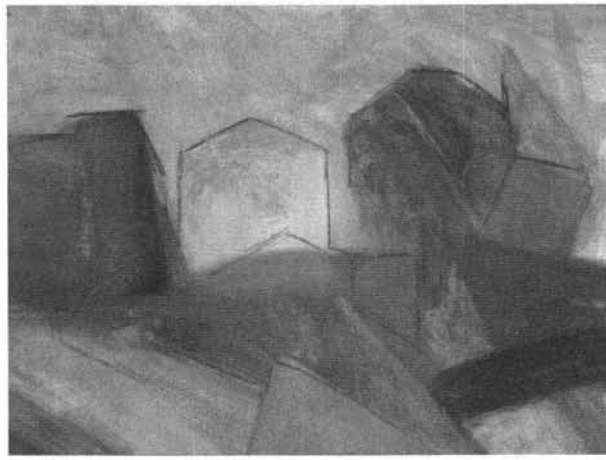


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|---|---------------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------|
| h | Fire door                 | 6'x2.5'  | door, plaster, acrylic | Bayly Shelton      |
| l | Decaying apples           | stills from video  | video                  | Philip Thomas      |
| j | Double                    | projector, noise feedback, 2-colour anaglyph, installation |                        | Alex Ingham Brooke |
| k | Lights                    | lights, lasertran coated canvas, installation              |                        | Paul Antony        |
| l | Tron retinal installation | each 20x20cm   | acrylic on canvas      | Alex Ingham Brooke |
| m | Running hound             | A1   | charcoal               | Stephen Lawrence   |
| n | Church view               | 20"x30"  | oil on Canvas          | James Gibson       |
| o | Figure drawing            | each A1  | charcoal and chalk     | Stephen Lawrence   |
| p | Self portrait             | 6'x5'  | mixed media            | Philip Thomas      |



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## AS ART

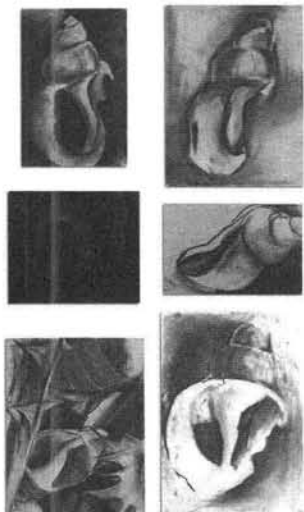
- a Self Portrait A1
- b French landscape 30"x40"
- c "anguish" A4
- d Flowers 40"x30"
- e Still-life 40"x30"
- f Still-life through to garden A1
- g Orchard 40"x26"
- h Shells each approx A3
- i Still-life 40"x30"
- j contast 30"x25"x20"

- charcoal
- oil on board
- drypoint intaglio print
- oil on board
- oil on board
- charcoal and collage
- oil on board
- charcoal
- Oil on Board
- fired ceramic, wire

- Bex Roberts
- Kemble Woodley
- James Garrard
- Edmund Perou
- Bob Purinton
- Philip Probert
- Tom Chambers
- Christopher Kerr
- Joey Wu
- Richard Worth



g



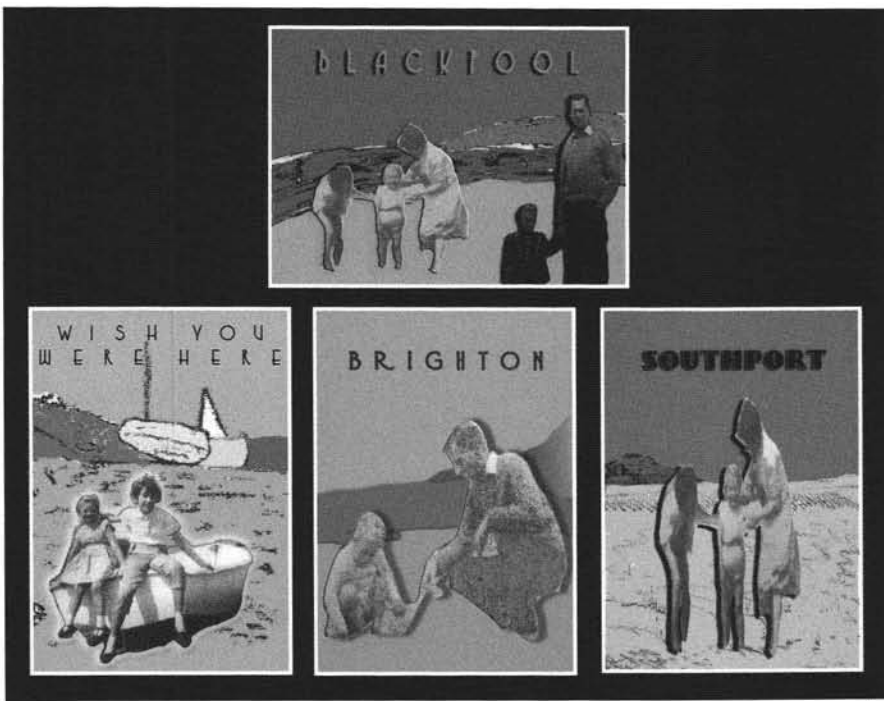
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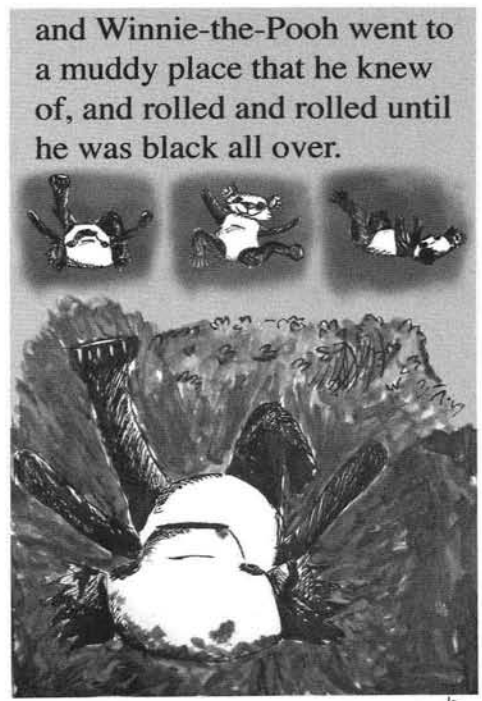
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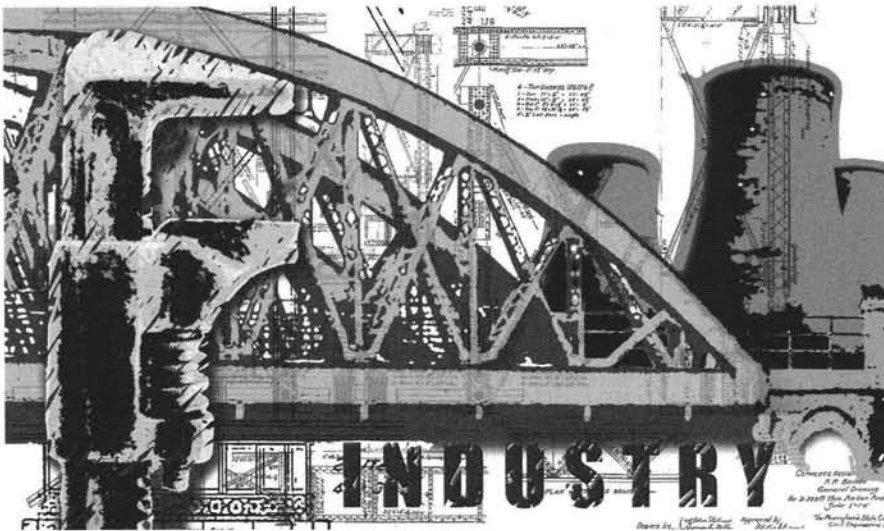


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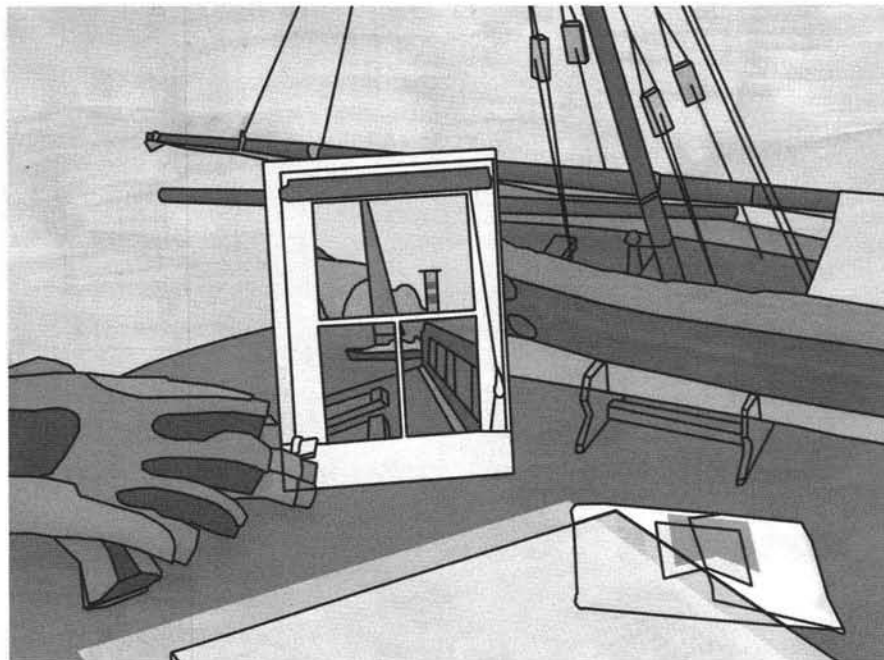


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## GCSE Graphics



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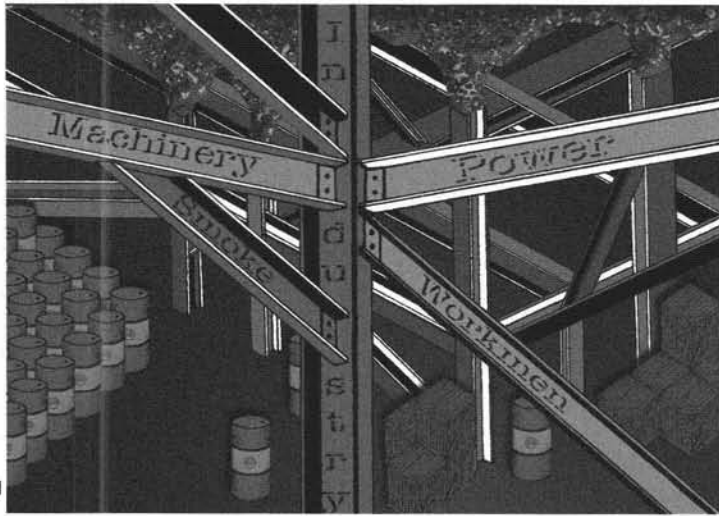
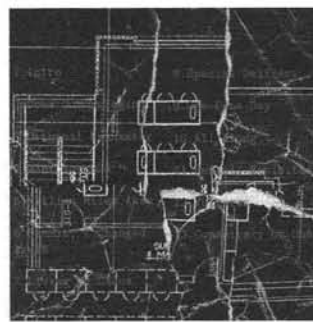
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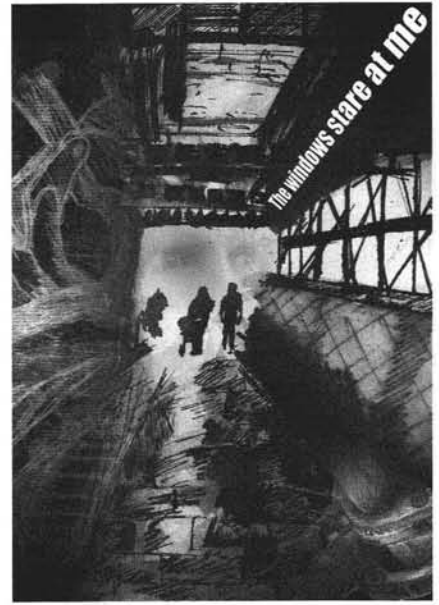
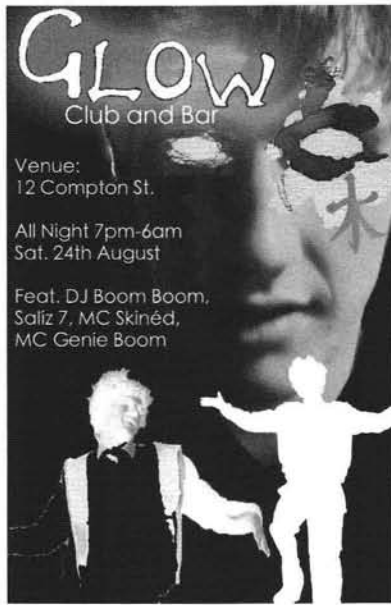
- |   |   |                              |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| a | 5 "vintage" postcards<br>monotype, photoshop                    | each A6<br>William Stockwell |
| b | Illustration to Winnie the Pooh<br>pen, ink, gouache, photoshop | A3<br>Gus Raftery            |
| c | Industry – editorial illustration<br>photoshop                  | A3<br>Edward Barrett         |
| d | Personal collection - illustration<br>gouache, photoshop        | A3<br>Theo Hoole             |
| e | Character<br>monotype   | A4<br>Sebastian Howard       |





- |   |   |                           |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| f | Personal collection – illustration<br>pencil, photoshop       | A3<br>Tommy Ip            |
| g | Industry – edictorial illustration<br>photoshop               | A3<br>George Fisher       |
| h | photographic essay<br>digital photography                     | A2<br>Robert Woods        |
| i | Chameleon – Children's book illustration<br>pencil, photoshop | A3<br>Paddy Gervers       |
| j | The Offspring – cd design<br>collage, photoshop               | 12x25cm<br>Theo Hoole     |
| k | Zpac- cd design<br>acrylic, photoshop                         | 12x25cm<br>Josh Ogle      |
| l | Athlete – cd design<br>pen, photoshop                         | 12x25cm<br>Edward Barrett |
| m | Funk Lore – cd design<br>photoshop                            | 12x25cm<br>Luke Powell    |



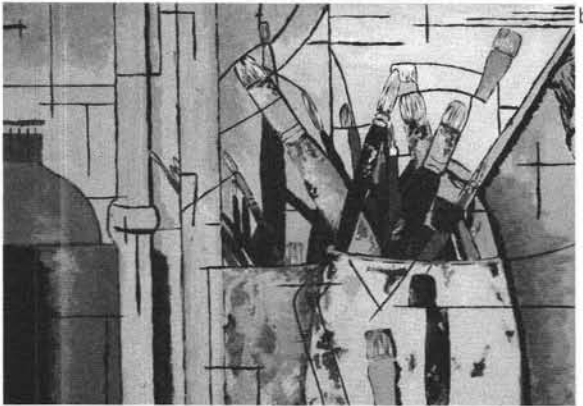
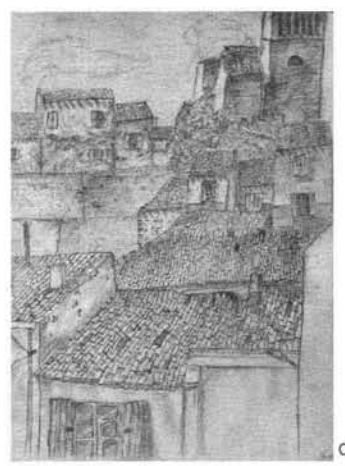
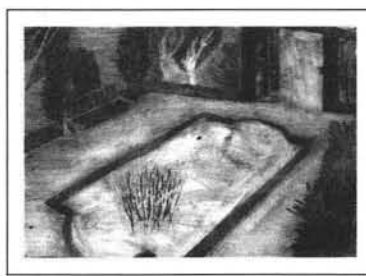
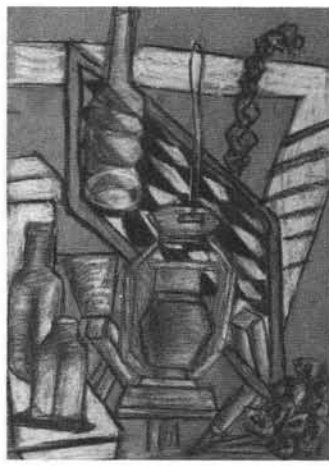


o 'no other bear' – children's book illustration  
 p Glow – poster  
 q 'The windows stare' – illustration (detail)  
 r Digital Fashion – poster  
 s Warcraft – poster  
 t Horror pops – poster  
 u Big Man- poster

A3 watercolour, photoshop  
 A3 photoshop  
 A3 ink, photoshop  
 A2 photoshop  
 A3 watercolour, photoshop  
 A3 digital montage  
 A3 pencil, photoshop

George Fisher  
 Josh Ogle  
 Gus Raftery  
 William Hicks  
 Tommy Ip  
 Robin Wartke-Dunbar  
 Gus Rogers

# GCSE Graphics



# GCSE FINE ART

a	Cubist still-life	each A2	charcoal and chalk	Jonathan Lau
b	Paint pots	A1	acrylic on board	Tom Skeer
c	Garden	A4	intaglio print	Nam Seok Jo
d	Hill Town	A3	pencil	Oliver Cook
e	Autumn landscape	120x40cm	acrylic on board	Robert Morris
f	Players	A1	acrylic on board	Young Sang Lee
g	Still-life	A1	acrylic on board	Jun Tao







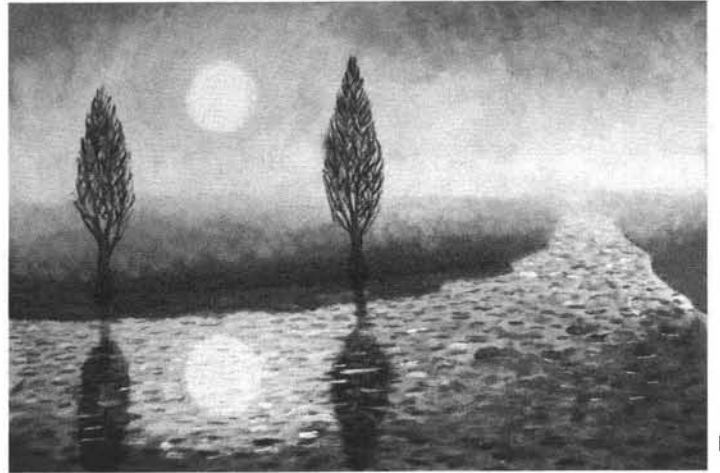
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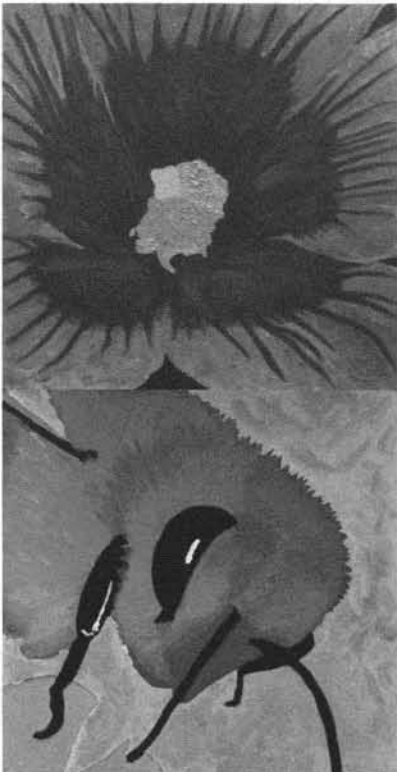
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## GCSE FINE ART

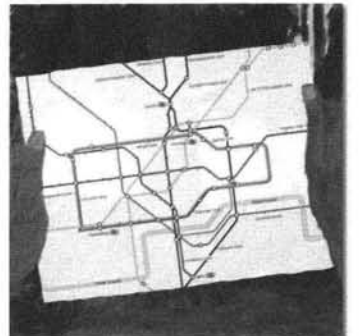
h	River landscape	A2	gouache on paper	Alexander Fisher
i	Bridge over river	A2	watercolour, pencil on board	Richard Lai
j	Summer fields	A1	acrylic on board	Jamie Soames
k	River landscape	A1	acrylic on board	Matthew Halls
l	Flowers	Each 45x45cm	acrylic on board	Mark Pluck
m	Dubai	120x78cm	acrylic on board	Matthew Halls
n	Time passes	each 40x40cm	acrylic on board	James Lloyd



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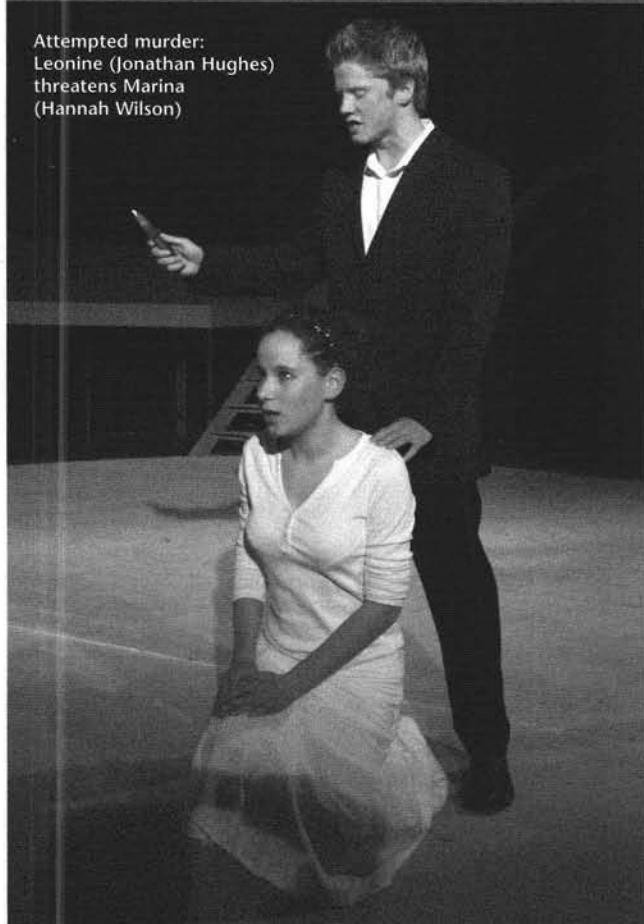


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# Drama

## Pericles

Attempted murder:  
Leonine (Jonathan Hughes)  
threatens Marina  
(Hannah Wilson)



Shakespeare's *Pericles* is a magical tale of love and loss that is relatively rarely performed, so it was a delight to witness **Alison Quick's** beautiful production on the stage of the Amey Theatre for three nights in November and December 2005.

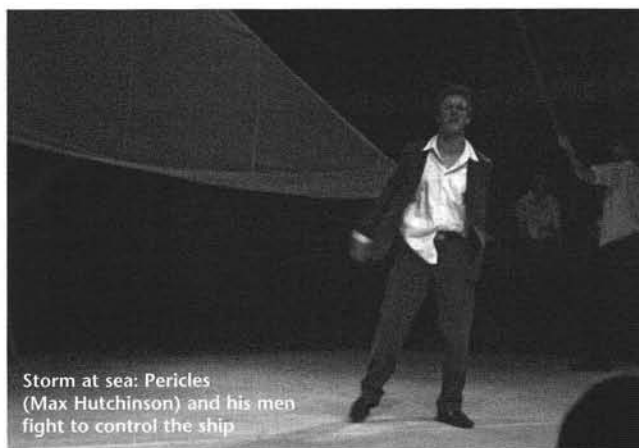
The play follows the mixed fortunes of Pericles, the Prince of Tyre, after he discovers the incestuous secret of the Greek emperor Antiochus, and takes to the sea to save his own life. He survives a shipwreck and weds Thaisa, daughter of the King of Pentapolis. After Antiochus is killed by a bolt of lightning, Pericles sails for home but is again caught in a storm, during which Thaisa gives birth to a baby girl, Marina, and appears to die. She is buried at sea but washed ashore and revived, to enter the service of the Goddess Diana, believing her husband to be dead. Time passes and Marina, now grown up, is captured by pirates and forced into a brothel in Mitylene, where her unwavering virtue preserves her from would-be seducers. In the last scene, she is reunited with her father, and a vision of Diana leads Pericles to Thaisa so that the unity of the family is restored.

Pericles (Max Hutchinson) confronts Antiochus (Ben Lawson) over the riddle of his caged daughter (Lynette Hussey)



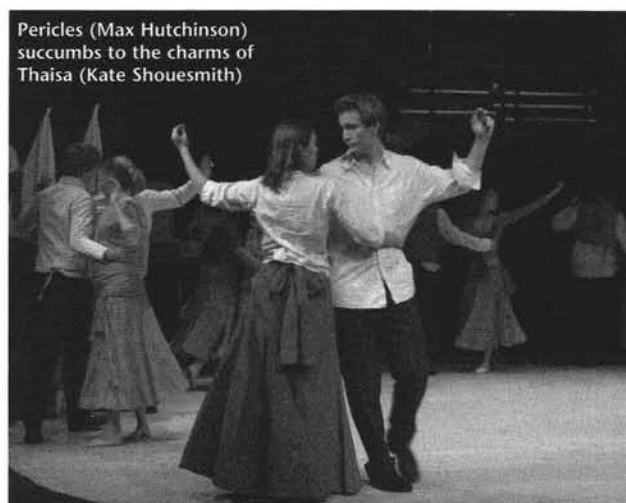
This play, an epic in every sense, produced some tremendous performances. Chief among them was **Max Hutchinson** as Pericles, who revealed a remarkable ability to connect with the inner life of this very demanding character and convey real depth of feeling. Max received strong support from the other members of his "family" – Hannah Wilson as Marina and Kate Shouesmith as Thaisa. Elsewhere, there were equally striking contributions, first from the booming larynx of **Ben Lawson**, who was a magnificently villainous Antiochus as he dominated the mute and caged figure of his daughter, played by Lynette Hussey. **Francis Gater** brought a warm and sympathetic quality to the figure of Helicanus throughout, despite the handicap of a broken collarbone sustained on the rugby field days before the first performance; **Edward Wilson** was imperious as Simonides, King of Pentapolis in a spectacular jousting scene that also involved the flashing blades of **Deepak Agrawal** and **Andrey Urevich Zhvitiashvili** as two of the Knights; **Jo Swarbrick** brought an upright dignity to the part of Lysimachus. The choric role of the poet, Gower, was ingeniously divided among four female actors and played with calm assurance by Daisy Balsdon, Alice Carr, Emma Hawkins and Caitlin Nairne. Finally, **Huw Parmenter** as Cleon, and Astrid Gunn as his wife, Dionyza, were strongly convincing in the other major roles.

Storm at sea: Pericles  
(Max Hutchinson) and his men  
fight to control the ship





Reunion: Marina (Hannah Wilson) and Lysimachus (Jo Swarbrick) watch as Pericles (Max Hutchinson) is reunited with his wife, Thaïsa (Kate Shouesmith)



Pericles (Max Hutchinson) succumbs to the charms of Thaïsa (Kate Shouesmith)



In Ephesus: Cerimon (Jenni Mackenzie) with her women (Hannah King and Martha Crawford)



Simonides (Eddie Wilson) admits Pericles (Max Hutchinson) to the contest for his daughter's hand

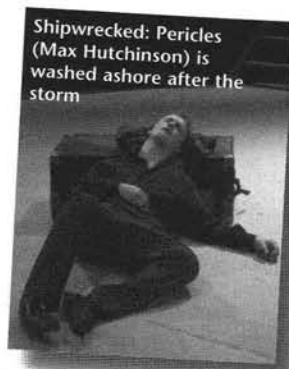
The play afforded opportunities for a large number of performers to shine in cameo roles. Nikki Buys was a compelling Lychorida and Jenni Mackenzie an enchanting Cerimon. **Finlay Taylor**, **Patrick Appleton** and **Paddy Gervers** added an appealing touch of the rustic to their portrayal of the three Fishermen. **Max Gander** (Pander), **Oliver Cook** (Bolt) and Eleanor Trotman (Bawd) were a delightfully sleazy trio in charge of the Mitylene fleshpots, while **Alex Kearley-Shiers** navigated his role as Master of the Ship with a fine sense of urgency. A strong collection of lordly figures was provided by **Philip Hatzis** (Thaliard), **Jonathan Hughes** (Leonine), **Edward Hallett** (Lord of Tarsus), **Alexander Hyde** and **Ben Hollins**. Eager and colourful support came from **Dan Harris** and **Mark Heffernan** as Pirates, and **Laurie Havelock**, Hannah King, Eliza Child, Martha Crawford, Holly Harris, Emma Nairne, Lizzie Napper, Eavie Porter, Lucy Stewart and Katie Prior in a variety of other roles. **Harry Bell**, **James Jenkins**, **Thomas McDonald**, **Alistair Duff** and **William Swarbrick** from the Lower School added a touch of youthful glamour to the scenes in Tarsus in their roles as Pages to the Lords.

Steering this kind of juggernaut production is no mean feat, yet public recognition for the backstage army of technicians and supporting players usually lags behind

that afforded to the actors. The latest in a long line of excellent Amey Theatre technical crews featured super efforts from a number of senior pupils who have contributed hugely to the success of many drama productions in their time at the School under the impeccable stewardship of their guide and mentor, **Chris Biggs**. These included **Tom Stanley** (set design and building), **Phil Norris** (lighting design), **Chris Parker** (sound design), **Matt Smith** (Stage Manager) and his assistant, **Will Drazin**. **Chris Hornsey**, **James Harrison** and **Richard Oastler** also provided sterling support as did the octet of stylish make-up girls from St Helen's. **Simon Whalley** and **Tom Bennett** contributed a marvellously effective original music score, recorded by some of Abingdon's finest musicians. **Charmian Hart** ran the wardrobe (and front of house) in her unfailingly calm, hard-working and helpful manner. OA **Matthew Hawksworth** returned to the stage on which he starred at the end of the nineties to choreograph the dance scenes and **James Nairne** conjured up an ethereal and haunting image for the poster.

All of this was co-ordinated and driven by the passionate vision of the director, Alison Quick and her tireless assistant, **Jon Barker**, to whom thanks and congratulations are due in abundance for what was a truly impressive production of a complex and moving play.

Jeremy Taylor



Shipwrecked: Pericles (Max Hutchinson) is washed ashore after the storm



*If I were a rich man*  
Sam Johnson as Tevye



A new opportunity was provided for senior pupils in December 2005 when staff at St Helen's decided to mount a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* alongside the production of *Pericles* in the Amey Theatre. For perhaps the first time, students could choose whether to audition for a musical or a straight play. Those who opted for the challenge of music theatre enjoyed the opportunity of working under the direction of **Ash Verjee** (OA 1997), whose fine directorial debut this was.

The Studio Theatre at St Helen's is a beautiful space, smaller in scale but somewhat akin to the shape of the reconstructed Globe on London's Bankside. Perfectly suited to the demands of intimate A Level productions, some nevertheless wondered beforehand how well it would cope with the large cast of 28 performers that had been recruited for this favourite of the musical theatre repertoire. They need not have worried, for this was a production that harnessed invention and visual spectacle in equal degrees and delivered many memorable moments.

Eviction from Anatevka  
– Zhongjie Dong (Constable)  
with Tevye (Sam Johnson) and  
the Jewish villagers



## Fiddler on the Roof

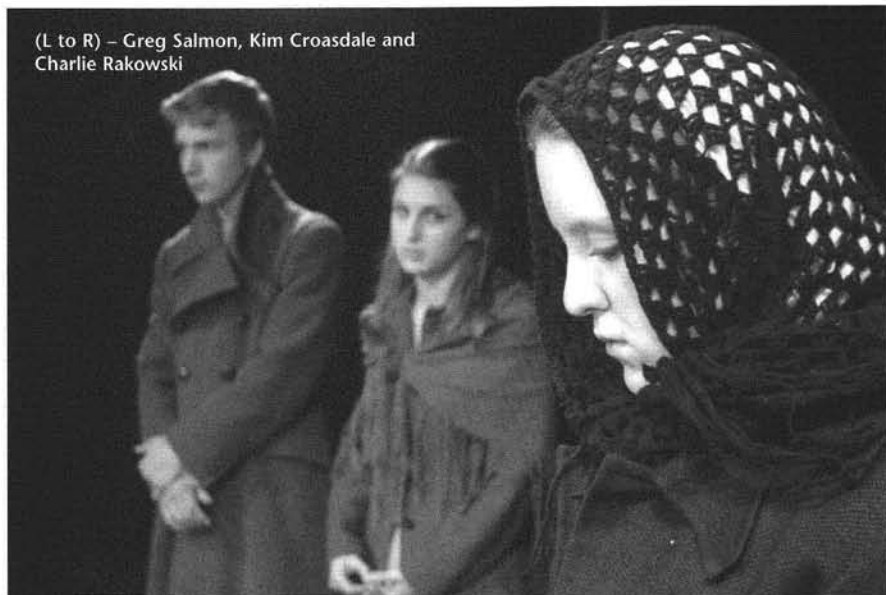


Ghosts in the night – Charlie Rakowski  
(Golde) and Sam Johnson (Tevye)

At the head of a fine and committed cast, **Sam Johnson** was a revelation as the careworn dairyman, Tevye. We knew his infamous dishevelled look would be perfectly suited to a man firmly under the thumb of his strident spouse, Golde (played with gusto by Charlie Rakowski). Yet few can have anticipated his confident singing, since this was a skill he had hitherto kept firmly under wraps at Abingdon. Tevye is a man with the weight of the world

on his shoulders, or more specifically, his sizeable family. Five daughters would sink many a man, but the combined avoidupois of Kim Croasdale (Chava), Lucy Evans (Tzeitel), Azzie McCutcheon (Hodel), Louise Zuzarte (Shprintze) and Mel Spencer (Bielke) ensured that Tevye never for a moment lost a convincing

hang-dog air, that amused as much as it tugged at the heartstrings of brow-beaten fathers in the audience. Happily for Tevye, the small community of Anatevka boasts a thriving cottage industry in the form of Yente the matchmaker (Rachel Pearmain), who quickly sets about relieving Tevye of some of his burdens as suitors arrive in number. **Edmund Caird** created a good sense of the older man in his portrayal of Lazar Wolf, the butcher; **Alex Mugnaioni** was the perfect choice as Perchik, the youthful student; **Tim West** was touching and effective as Motel, the tailor; **Pete Statham** played Mendel, the Rabbi's son, with confidence; **Max Roberts** was appropriately dusty as Avraham, the Bookseller; **Oliver Foster** was a convincing pillar of the community as Mordcha, the Innkeeper and **Greg Salmon** sounded a believably chilly note as Fyedka, the Russian. The romantic ups and downs of the plot were stiffened by the menace of **Zhongjie Dong's** Constable, whose trashing of the wedding feast was a moment of real nastiness, yet comedy came to the rescue in the form of **Jason Davison's** sepulchral Rabbi. Other leading roles were played with aplomb by Meriel Flint as the fearsome Grandma-



(L to R) – Greg Salmon, Kim Croasdale and Charlie Rakowski



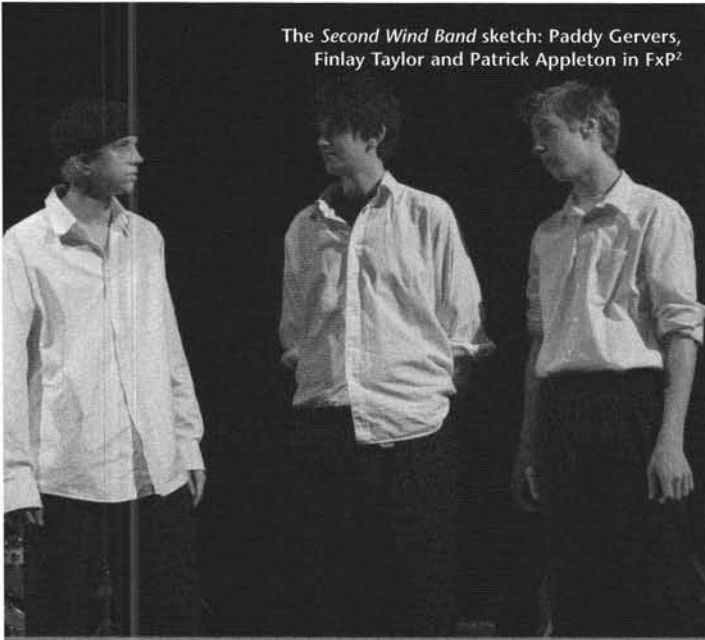
(L to R) – Max Roberts, Rachel Pearmain and Oliver Foster

Tzeitel, Cathy Hall as Shaindel and Cam Spence as Fruma-Sarah.

All in all, this was an excellent production that contained moments of delightful visual invention. The ghost scene was a tour de force, involving puppets designed by Caitlin Nairne and a mobile double bed made from one of the caretaker's trolleys, for example. Then there was the powerful final exodus from the village, played out beneath fluttering snowfall. The floor of the theatre had been covered in real autumnal leaves to enhance the impression of a community in the grip of a harsh winter and the faded hopes of an even harsher social, political and economic climate. Chief among the very many who contributed to the successful shaping of this production were, of course, Helena Rakowski, whose marshalling of the musicians was deliciously light-handed and effective, and **Ash Verjee**, whose design and direction of the piece revealed a combination of insight and visual flair that made for a compelling evening.

Jeremy Taylor

The *Second Wind Band* sketch: Paddy Gervers, Finlay Taylor and Patrick Appleton in FxP<sup>2</sup>



## F x P2

F x P2 is the collective name of three young comedians who in November 2005 took over the role of guardian of the annual Phelps House panto from **Tim Dawson**. They joined the growing line of writers and performers of original comic revues inspired by the loose but inspiring stewardship of Abingdon's king of mirth, **Will Phelps**.

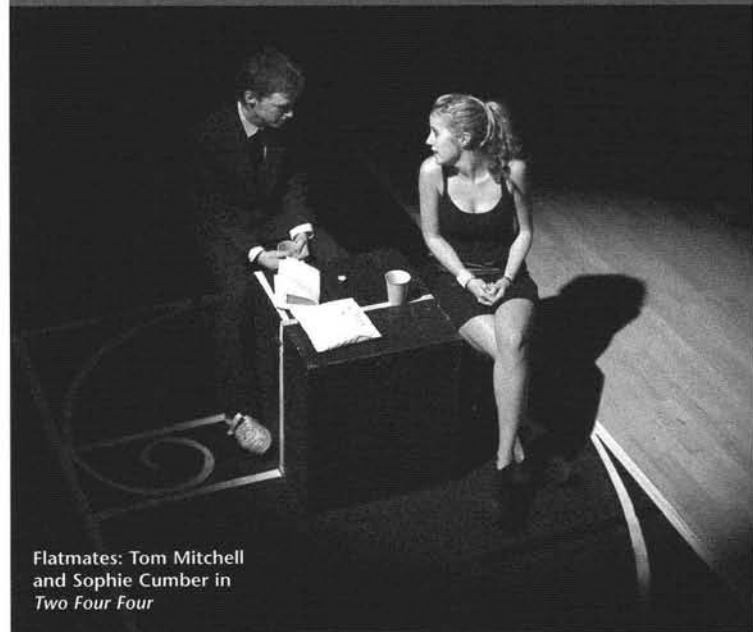
The CMR was the packed venue for the debuts of **Finlay Taylor**, **Patrick Appleton** and **Paddy Gervers**, who were aided and abetted in good measure by Lynette Hussey from St Helen's. The show started with some effective ice-breaking stand-up before diving headlong into a series of ever zanier sketches and comic characters that allowed each performer to shine while registering several satirical direct hits. My own favourites were a Welsh TV rugby bore and the Ray Charles-inspired blind soul man (Finlay); the *Headmaster's Welcome* sketch and the one about the lycra-clad oarsman with a divine package ("God sent it, I signed for it."), both performed by Patrick; together with Paddy's epic ramblings as mad Magnus Dimitri Martin, the Scots biology teacher who knows no fear and stops at absolutely nothing. Like a number of other sketches (*Second Wind Band* and *The Guitar* for example), this betrayed the inspiration of everyday school life and assured the performers of some ready responses from their audience. The finale was a rampant deconstruction of the popular *Coldplay* song *Fix You*, in which Patrick endured the hostile attentions of his co-stars in the form of attacks with torches, matches, lighters, hammers, buckets of water and finally, a pair of electric drills. Thank goodness there wasn't a sketch about health and safety.

This talented trio were backed throughout the performance by *Funk Lore*, an equally talented quartet of musicians: **Aidan Thorne**, **James Moulds**, **Hugh Graham** and **Laurie Havelock**.

The bulk of the audience departed into the night much cheered, whilst Phelps headed for his study to take legal advice and write letters of apology once again. Meanwhile, the creative and commercial efforts of the comic trio had helped to raise over £400 for *Cancer Research UK*.

Jeremy Taylor

## A2 Devised Work



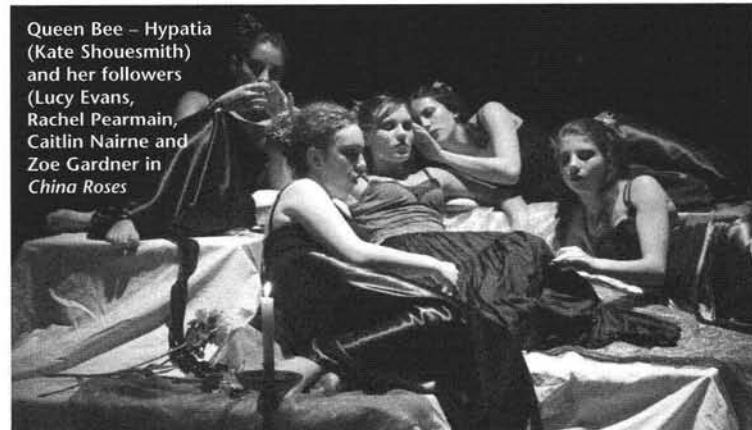
Flatmates: Tom Mitchell and Sophie Cumber in *Two Four Four*

The first performances of the academic year are usually pieces devised by the Upper Sixth A Level Theatre Studies sets as part of their course. On 15 and 16 November 2005, four of these original plays were presented in the Studio Theatre at St Helen's.

*Two Four Four* drew inspiration from films such as *Pi*, *21 Grams* and *Final Destination* to explore the idea of one seemingly insignificant choice affecting someone's life in a huge way. Set in modern-day London, it told the story of a husband lured away from his wife by a temptress, with devastating consequences. The group used mathematical concepts such as the Fibonacci sequence to inform the shaping of every aspect of the play, including dialogue, music, costume and stage design (by Rachel Dent). The result was a most effective piece in which **Tom Mitchell** (Ant) and **Ben Lawson** (Max) featured strongly alongside Scarlett Nash (Eve), Sophie Cumber (Eve), Emily Watts (Elle) and Astrid Gunn (Hannah).

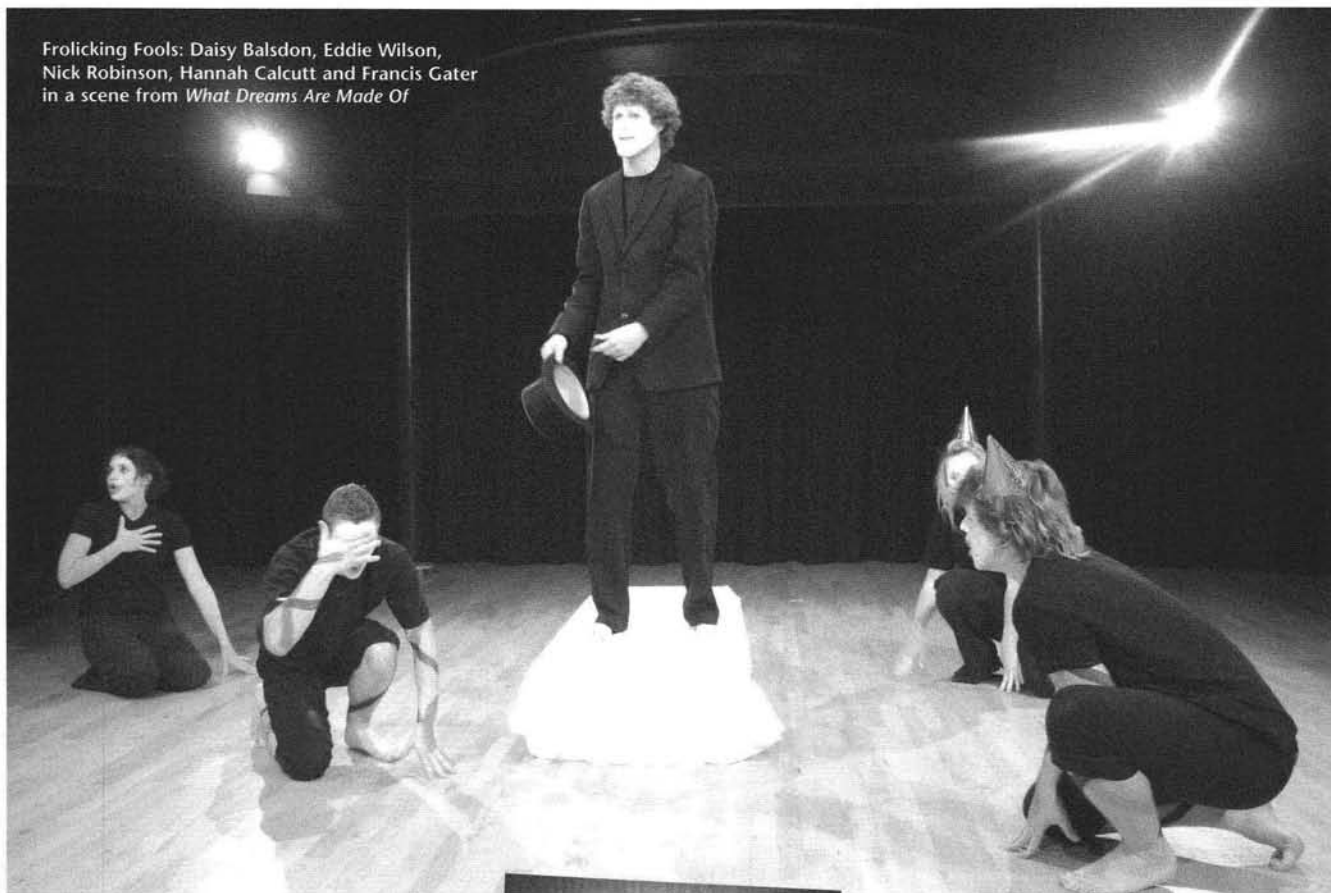
*China Roses* imagined a matriarchal society of the future in order to challenge the patriarchal world of the past. Hypatia (Kate Shouesmith) presided over a group of concubines who followed a strict code of behaviour that classed men and any kind of dissident thinkers as obsolete. Soft silks and candlelight created a powerfully feminine atmosphere in which the concubines, played by

Queen Bee – Hypatia (Kate Shouesmith) and her followers (Lucy Evans, Rachel Pearmain, Caitlin Nairne and Zoe Gardner in *China Roses*)



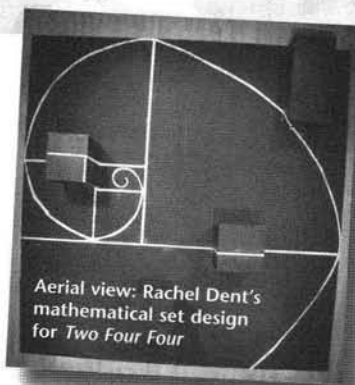


Frolicking Fools: Daisy Balsdon, Eddie Wilson, Nick Robinson, Hannah Calcutt and Francis Gater in a scene from *What Dreams Are Made Of*



Lucy Evans (Anezka), Rachel Pearmain (Elina), Caitlin Nairne (Neysa) and Zoe Gardner (Kaethe) purred seductively around the Queen bee figure of Hypatia. Inevitably, the outcast men (**Jo Swarbrick** and **Bayly Shelton**) and a lapsed female character in rags called Meg (Meriel Flint) stirred audience sympathies rather more than the satin perfection of the women, but the overall impact of the piece was achieved through the effective combination of both sets of characters.

*Here to Entertain You* might have been the first of a new television sitcom series by the writers of *It Ain't Half Hot Mum*. Set during the Second World War, this was the story of a troupe of entertainers struggling to keep up spirits on the home front as the bombs fell. This play achieved

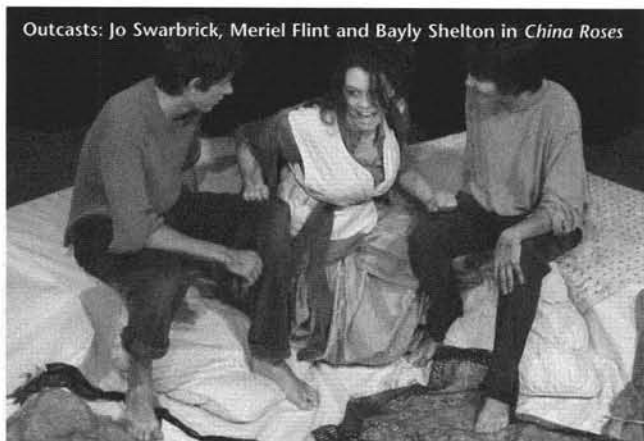


a terrific sense of period detail, particularly in the costumes and hairstyles of the girls, and in the splendidly retro comic routines of 'cheeky chappy Charlie Cheeseman', aka Alfred West, a lacklustre stand-up comedian convincingly portrayed by **Tim Dawson**. **Sam Johnson** played another failure in the form of Jack Benson, singer and louche ladies' man, whose leather flying jacket was a fine metaphor for this wolf in sheep's clothing. The revelation of the evening was Charlie Rakowski's marvellous comic turn as May Williams, a new recruit to the troupe, whose hapless dancing incurred the wrath of Barbara Hopkins, the company's choreographer and manager. The rest of the company contributed strongly, too, with Elly Veness (Elizabeth Smith) as a perfectly hard-edged chorus girl, vying for the attentions of Jack Benson with the sensitive Sophie Hurst (Ariana McCutcheon), who in turn was consoled by Margaret McCarth (Jenni Mackenzie) and Poppy Jones (Francesca White).

*What Dreams Are Made Of* took us on an altogether different journey to Zoppo's travelling circus, an Artaudian environment of jugglers, tumblers, day-glo painted satyrs and the vulnerable white-clad figure of Sleeping Beauty (Jessie Liddle). This was 'theatre of the senses' at its challenging and vibrant best, as the dreams and subconscious fantasies of the sleeping princess were acted out to a pulsating soundtrack as a series of imprisoning nightmares from which she could only be released by death. The exuberant physicality of **Edward Wilson** was a particular delight alongside the energetic contributions of Daisy Balsdon, Hannah Calcutt and **Francis Gater** as the 'Frolicking Fools', whilst **Nick Robinson** was a chillingly effective Master of Ceremonies.

Jeremy Taylor

Outcasts: Jo Swarbrick, Meriel Flint and Bayly Shelton in *China Roses*



## A2 Productions

Temptation: Faustus (Ben Lawson) is promised riches by a trio of devils (Jessie Liddle, Sophie Cumber and Tom Mitchell)



In March 2006 the A2 Theatre Studies students gave the last of their examination performances. This time the task involved choosing a published play and editing, interpreting and presenting it to an audience. One of the main challenges, in addition to the acting of the play, is in formulating a clear directorial concept for the production. This year, the plays presented at the Studio Theatre in St Helen's were *The Tempest* by Shakespeare, *Dr Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe, Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller and *The Comedians* by Trevor Griffiths. Together, they took us on an epic theatrical journey.

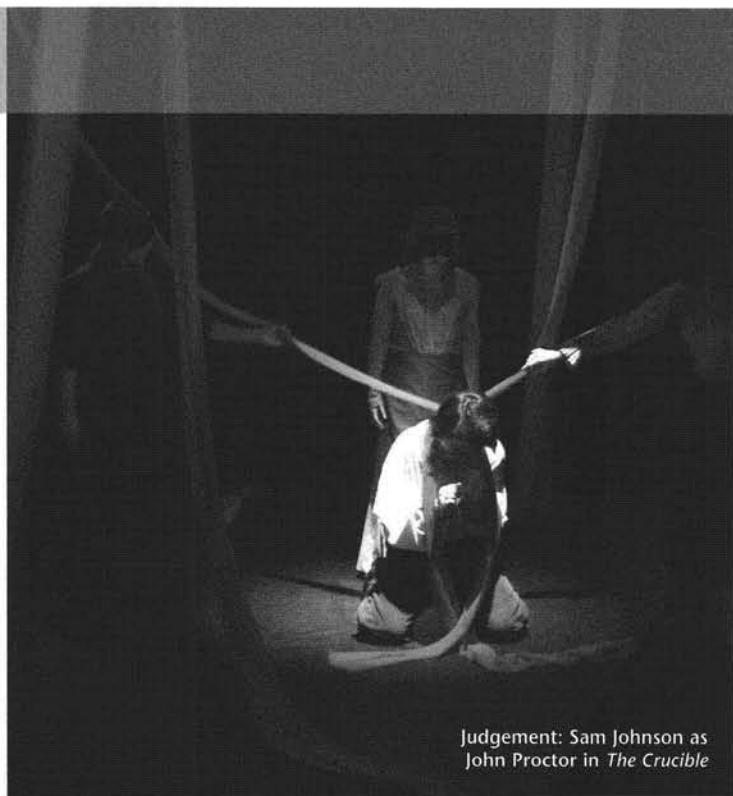
*The Tempest* is a play famously open to different interpretations but it cannot often have been viewed as a struggle for power by female mafia bosses in a 20th century Italy run as a matriarchal society. However, the exchange of Prospero's magic for a gun, and thus a more physical manifestation of power, served the performers well and paved the way for Rachel Dent, the first Theatre Studies



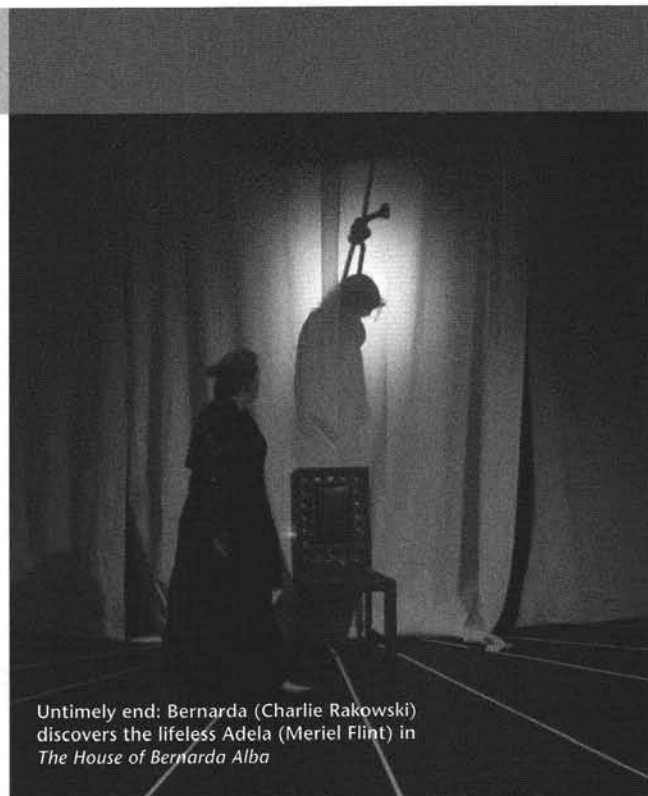
Community in conflict: Jenni Mackenzie as Abigail Williams and Lucy Evans as Mary Warren in *The Crucible*

design candidate, to create a stylish stage space combining domestic and professional environments, in which Daisy Balsdon impressed as Prospero alongside Emily Watts as Miranda, **Edward Wilson** as Ariel, **Francis Gater** as Caliban and Ferdinand, Scarlett Nash as Alonso and Trinculo and Astrid Gunn as Antonio and Stephano.

Marlowe's *Dr Faustus* deals with the legend of a man who surrenders his soul to the devil in return for worldly pleasures. In this modern interpretation of the story, young Faustus fell prey to the temptations of drug culture and its attendant devils. The concept worked well and allowed **Ben Lawson** (Dr Faustus), Sophie Cumber (Mephistopheles), **Tom Mitchell** (Lucifer and the Pope), Jessie Liddle (Beelzebub and the Empress), **Nick Robinson** (Bad Angel and Cardinal) and Hannah Calcutt (Good Angel and Cardinal) to deliver strong performances on a stage set whose litter of candles and computer discs convincingly evoked the student bedsit of a computer nerd.



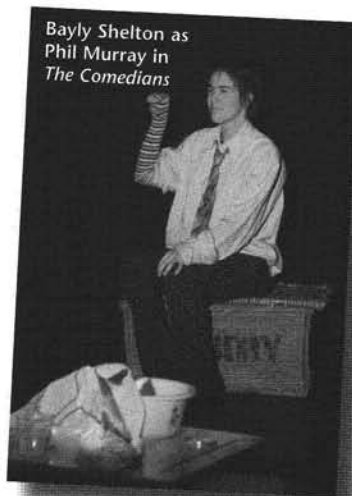
Judgement: Sam Johnson as John Proctor in *The Crucible*



Untimely end: Bernarda (Charlie Rakowski) discovers the lifeless Adela (Meriel Flint) in *The House of Bernarda Alba*

The third play to take the stage was Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba* in which we were transported to the heat and passion of Spain via the powerful scent of oranges that filled the theatre before the performance began. Attention to detail was much in evidence here through a simple yet effective design for the stage floor that utilised the lines of a flamenco dancer's fan to suggest a spider's web in which the characters were caught and prevented from expressing their true feelings. All the performers did well here: Bernarda was played by Charlie Rakowski, Angustias by Elly Veness, Martirio by Kate Shouesmith, Adela by Meriel Flint and Poncia by Azzie McCutcheon.

After the oranges we were prepared for anything, yet the Artaudian interpretation of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* that followed still took the breath away, even without the smell of incense that now pervaded the space. A 'forest' of intertwining red silk strands hanging from the roof of the theatre was used throughout the production to show the location of the wild dancing by the young women of Salem accused of witchcraft, yet it also helped to suggest the insidious nature of the hysteria



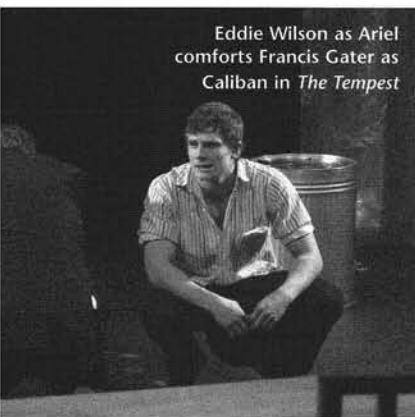
Bayly Shelton as Phil Murray in *The Comedians*

that engulfs the community and finally does for John Proctor. The young women were outstanding. Jenni Mackenzie (Abigail Williams), Lucy Evans (Mary Warren), Katherine Hagan (Judgement) and Zoe Gardner (Elizabeth Proctor) combined to create a real sense of the madness taking hold of the town, whilst **Sam Johnson** (John Proctor) managed the difficult task of making us believe we were watching a 17<sup>th</sup>-century New World farmer sliding towards destruction.

After the intensity of these performances, the promise in the title of Trevor Griffiths' *The Comedians* that we might be in for a lighter theatrical ride seemed sure to be fulfilled when the theatre floor was covered with the chairs and tables of a nightclub, and bottles of wine were placed upon them for the audience to sample. Yet once again, the theatre of the senses that had begun with the smell of oranges in *Bernarda Alba* now alerted us to a more pungent reality as the stench of stale cigarette smoke made the eyes wince just as much as the succession of increasingly questionable jokes told by the trainee comedians in Griffiths' Brechtian exploration of the politics of humour. The cast was excellent. **Bayly Shelton** saved his best performance till last as Phil Murray

in a wonderful and deliberately disastrous ventriloquist double act with Rachel Pearmain as his partner, Jen. **Jo Swarbrick** as Sammy Samuels stepped up to the microphone in a crumpled suit and impressively creased northern accent that suggested he's familiar with life beyond Watford Gap services. Caitlin Nairne's leg-shaving antics at the start were a fine metaphor for the razor-sharp comic barbs she fired at the audience as Carol Price, while Francesca White's delightfully sour expression as Challenor suited the play's uncomfortable message well. Last but not least, this was the final hurrah for **Tim Dawson**, whose interpretation of the Irishman Mick Connor brought to an end a long line of comic performances at Abingdon that have not only delighted audiences but have revealed his passion for the genre and helped to place his foot on the first rung of the professional comedy ladder. Before the year ended, Tim was to find himself on the books of the same agent as Harold Pinter and Alan Ayckbourn and with his first commissions for television already under his belt.

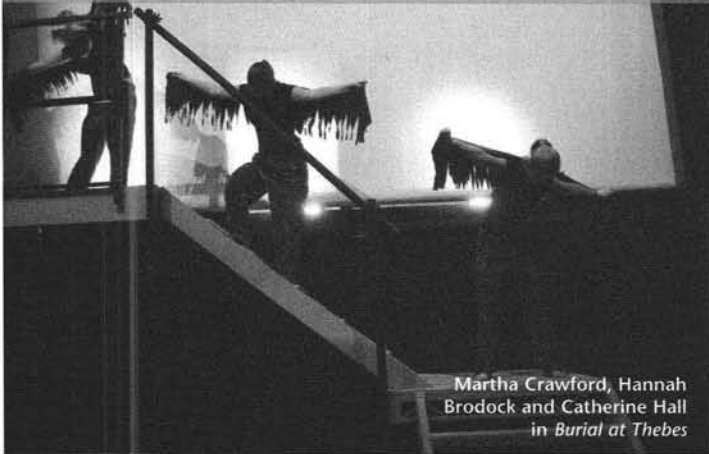
Jeremy Taylor



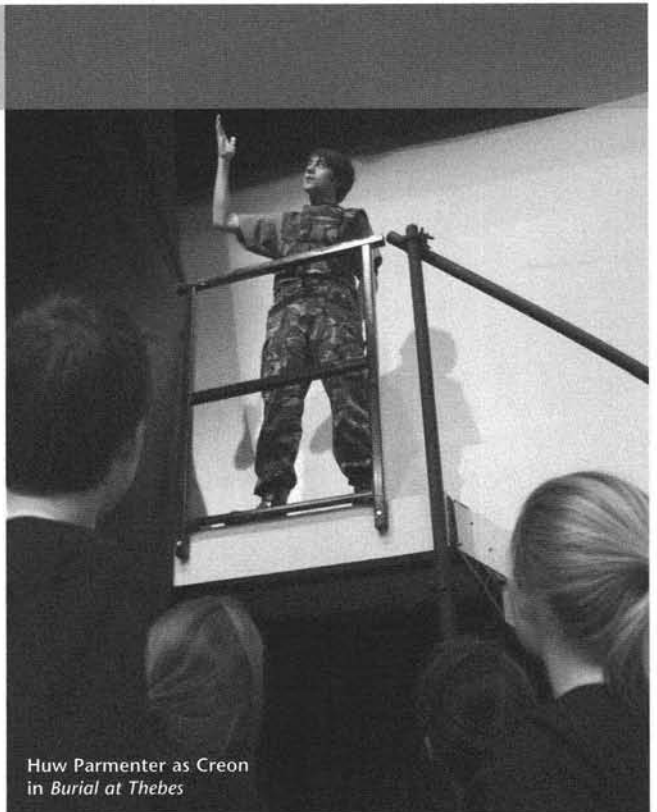
Eddie Wilson as Ariel comforts Francis Gater as Caliban in *The Tempest*



## AS Productions



Martha Crawford, Hannah Brodock and Catherine Hall in *Burial at Thebes*



Huw Parmenter as Creon in *Burial at Thebes*

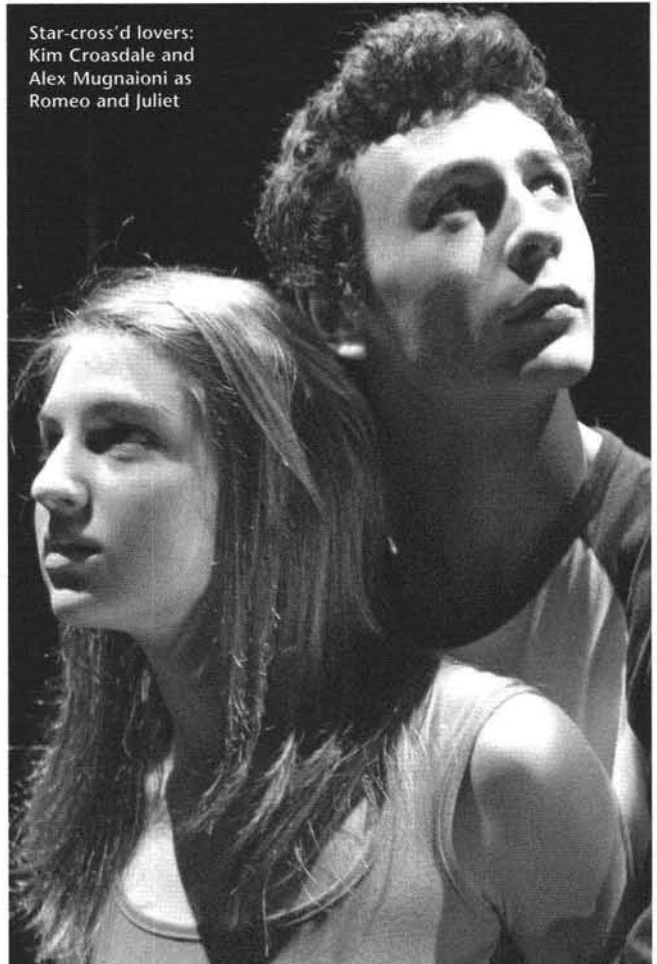
The ever-increasing numbers of students taking A Level Theatre Studies ensured that March 2006 was another very busy month for the combined drama departments of Abingdon and St Helen's. Once again, four sixty-minute versions of plays were presented on two consecutive days as part of the AS Theatre Studies examination, but this time one of the plays was performed in the Amey Theatre and three were presented in the Studio Theatre at St Helen's.

First came Seamus Heaney's translation of Sophocles' *Antigone*, called *The Burial at Thebes*. **Alison Quick's** bold and powerful staging of the play featured **Huw Parmenter** as the misguided and inflexible Creon and **Jason Davison** as the tortured Haemon. Both gave compelling performances alongside Martha Crawford (*Antigone*), Katherine Harris (*Ismene and Eurydice*), Hannah Bronock (*Tiresias*), Eliza Child (*Guard*) and Catherine Hall (*Messenger*), all of whom also doubled as the Chorus. The imaginative and successful use of the Amey Theatre stage as performance space and auditorium owed much to **Phil Norris's** technical savvy and tireless efforts alongside the visual flair of **Alison Quick**.

After this striking opening, the theatrical marathon moved to St Helen's for more tragedy in the form of *Romeo and Juliet*. Pared down to bare essentials, this version, directed by **Jeremy Taylor**, demanded immense versatility from all bar the two protagonists, played here with considerable skill by **Alex Mugnaioni** (*Romeo*) and Kim Croasdale (*Juliet*). Thus, **Max Hutchinson** undertook the dual challenges of Mercutio and Capulet, **Adam Paxton**



Anna Wright (*Benvolio*), Alex Mugnaioni (*Romeo*) and Adam Paxton (*Tybalt*) in *Romeo and Juliet*



Star-cross'd lovers: Kim Croasdale and Alex Mugnaioni as *Romeo and Juliet*

tackled the polar opposites of Tybalt and Friar Laurence (with occasional forays as Paris, too), Anna Wright crossed the gender gap to play both Benvolio and Lady Capulet, and Katy Prior did the same in her roles as Gregory, the Nurse and a postman (formerly Friar John). All turned in excellent performances and also shared the role of a Chorus, made from the opening and closing lines of the play. This was a production of great energy, enhanced by some strikingly contrasting pieces of music.

The third play was a very powerful production of Timberlake Wertenbaker's *The Love of the Nightingale*, directed in Brechtian style by Jo Watt. Based on an ancient Greek myth that tells the story of two sisters, the play explores the treachery and violence of men. Here, **Greg**

**Salmon** was excellent as the brutal Tereus who rapes Philomele (the 'nightingale') before silencing her by cutting out her tongue. Strong support was provided by **Zhongjie Dong** (Soldier, King Pandion and Thracian Chorus) and **Max Roberts** (Soldier, Captain, Thracian Chorus). Louise Goodman was outstanding as Philomele, the first and most obvious victim of male rage and desire. Sophie Durham was also affecting as her sister Procne, the wife Tereus deserts, while Lynette Hussey helped to create one of the most chilling moments in the production as her character Niobe calmly mapped out the future for Philomele whilst her offstage screams continued to rend the air. Rosie Glass provided the critical distancing of a Chorus in the guise of a modern television commentator who challenged the audience to ask questions about the behaviour they witnessed in the play.

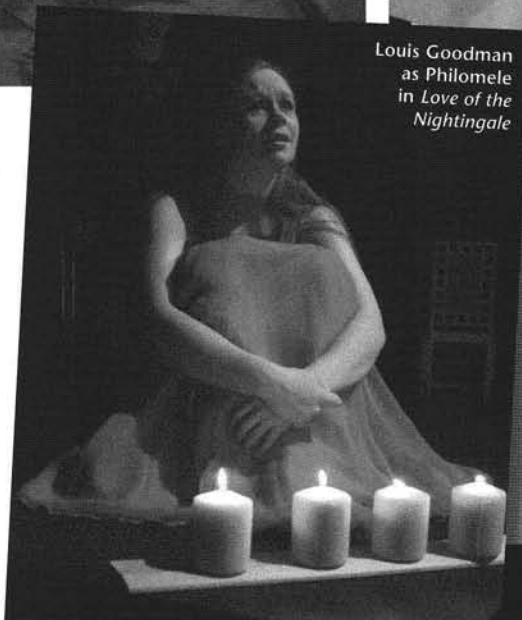
The last of the four plays to take the stage was well worth the wait, as it was a production of *Macbeth* but not as most of us knew it. Olly Hogben's masterful transposition of the action from medieval Scotland to feudal Japan was a triumph based on his deep interest in, and knowledge of Japanese theatre styles. An ingenious combination of *kabuki* and *Noh* was employed to striking effect in a production that was mesmerizing and intense. **Edmund Perou** made an effective stage debut as the protagonist; **Tom Keogh** played both Duncan and Macduff with warmth and sincerity alongside a clutch of other roles, and **Oli Foster** shone in his principal characters of the Porter and Duncan's son, Malcolm. The swirl of kimonos, ceremonial swords and painted faces provided a visual feast, albeit one in which nothing was



Oliver Foster as Malcolm in *Macbeth*



Emily King in *Macbeth*



Louise Goodman as Philomele in *Love of the Nightingale*

superfluous. Niki Buys' portrayal of Lady Macbeth was incredibly intense; Hannah King delivered fine characterisations as Banquo and Seyton; Alice Carr swapped a number of roles with quick and deft changes of voice and physicality (Lord, Spirit, Sergeant) and Emily King was striking as a solitary witch, a murderer and Siward. This was a memorable production and brought to a close two days of vibrant and invigorating theatre from an excellent, committed group of students.

Jeremy Taylor

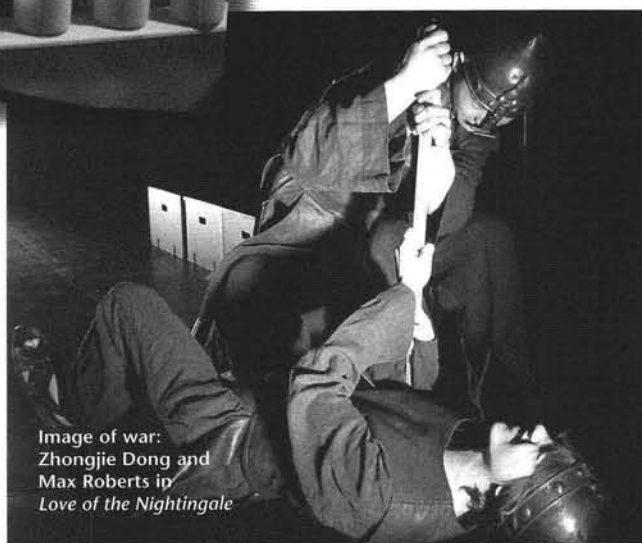


Image of war: Zhongjie Dong and Max Roberts in *Love of the Nightingale*

## Bouncers and Abigail's Party at the Edinburgh Fringe

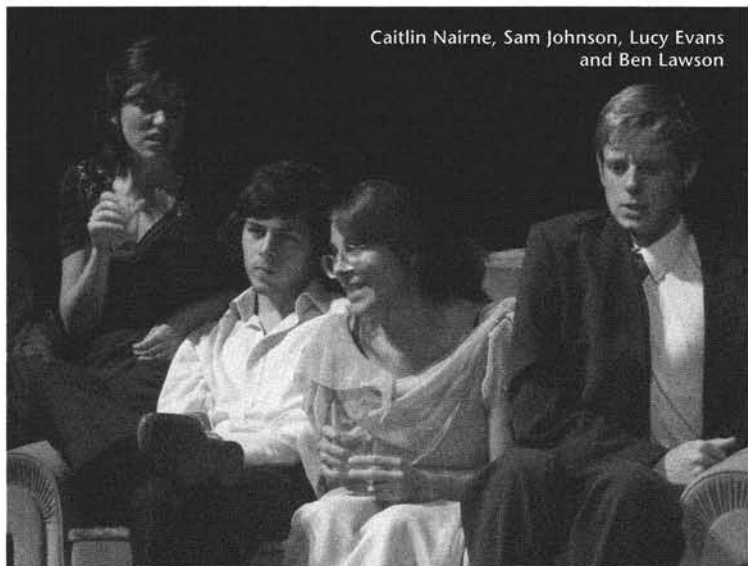


**Jon Barker's** terrific production of John Godber's *Bouncers* (reviewed elsewhere) broke new ground in several ways. It was the first full production to grace the new drama studio at Abingdon over three sold-out nights in February 2006. Yet such was the demand for tickets that it returned for a second run there in July, before heading north for a two-week stint at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the longest spell at the Fringe of any Abingdon production to date. The play very much lends itself to the impromptu theatre venues of the Fringe, with its cast of four dinner-jacketed actors, no set and virtually no props, and so it was a very compact unit that travelled by train and car to Auld Reekie at the start of August. In terms of staff, Jon Barker was joined by **Simon Dickens** as his assistant director and provider of technical (and emotional) support, whilst the sixth-form cast once again comprised **Francis Gater, Max Hutchinson, Huw Parmenter** and **Eddie Wilson**.

When I caught up with the production at its fourth performance, the directors were already fully employed trying to prevent **Max** from losing his voice completely. The rigours of performing at the Fringe are legendary, and can test the youthful larynx to destruction, since not only must it survive a far longer run of performances than school productions usually achieve, but it must



Sam Johnson, Caitlin Nairne and Lucy Evans

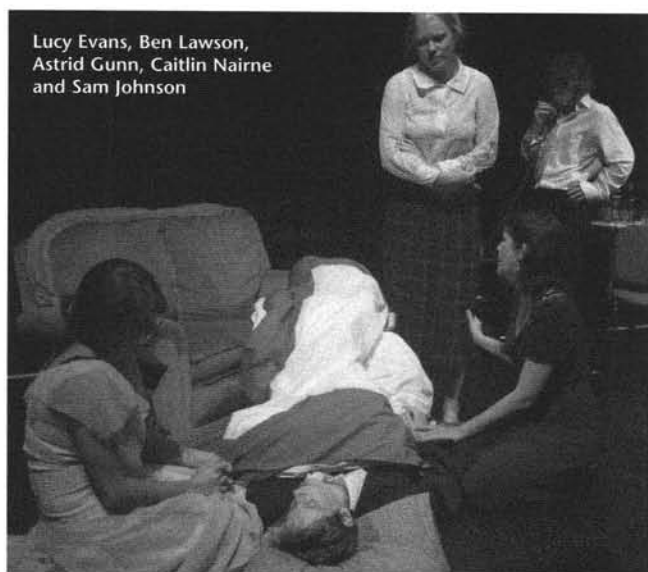


Caitlin Nairne, Sam Johnson, Lucy Evans and Ben Lawson





Caitlin Nairne and Ben Lawson in *Abigail's Party*



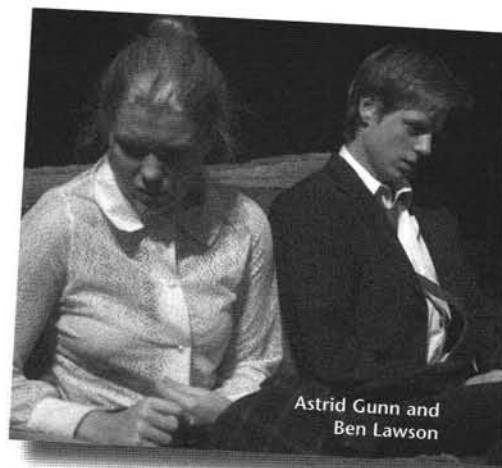
Lucy Evans, Ben Lawson, Astrid Gunn, Caitlin Nairne and Sam Johnson



*Bouncers* on the streets of Edinburgh

also be deployed daily in the cause of advertising the show along the Royal Mile to pull in the punters. A further challenge to all four of the actors was having to do battle with a particularly noisy air-conditioning unit in the basement bar that was the otherwise perfect venue for their tale of urban nightlife in nineties Britain. Happily, **Max's** voice survived that day and for the rest of the run, and all four of the performers and their directors achieved richly deserved ovations, large audiences and rave reviews in newspapers and other critical arenas.

Another aspect of *Bouncers'* innovation was the encouragement it gave to a second group of sixth-form students at Abingdon and St Helen's to take a production to the Fringe entirely independently. This meant that for the first time, Abingdon was represented at the Fringe by not one, but two shows.



Astrid Gunn and Ben Lawson

**Ben Lawson and Sam**

**Johnson** showed real entrepreneurial courage by investing their own funds in a joint venture with three girls (Lucy Evans, Astrid Gunn and Caitlin Nairne), and mounting a successful one-week run of Mike Leigh's classic 1970s play *Abigail's Party*. Although I was not able to stay in Edinburgh long enough to see their production, I heard plenty of good things about it afterwards, and realized that Abingdonians past and present have now caught the Fringe bug in no small way, for as I meandered down the Royal Mile in search of the venue for *Bouncers*, I was handed a flier for an original play by **Alec Garton Ash** (OA 2004), which he was performing with some fellow-students from Oxford. Then I heard the dulcet tones of **Tom Gatten** (OA 2004) performing on a makeshift stage in the middle of the road with *Out of the Blue*, a fine close-harmony group drawn from the ranks of current Oxbridge choral scholars. At that point, it did indeed seem a small, yet exciting world.

Jeremy Taylor

## Bouncers

Max Hutchinson, Eddie Wilson,  
Francis Gater and Huw Parmenter



Acting is about communication: its sole aim is to get across an idea, be it through vocal or physical methods. In a play like *Bouncers*, both are required, and it is easier said than done to really hit the spot in all aspects of your act. Add the fact that *Bouncers* is performed by all of four actors, who are on stage almost constantly for an hour and a half, and the challenge of acting it out becomes an incredible test of talent.

*Bouncers* serves as a fast, fluid comedy that doubles as a commentary on the nightlife of Britain. As you watch the quartet opening their spectacle with a rap concerning dance, drink and dames, it is immediately clear where the play is coming from, and the tone is apparently set for an evening of laddish humour. Quickly, we become acquainted with the twelve main characters, and by the time the lads, lasses and bouncers themselves have been introduced, the talent of the four actors has already become evident.

However, just as we get comfortable with the tone, and begin to get an idea of where the play is heading, the lights dim and **Max Hutchinson** steps forward to deliver the first of four speeches. The deafening silence that accompanied each of the monologues was in itself testament to **Max's** abilities, as he delivered every word with a punch that sobered up the audience to a point where the comedy became nothing but a memory. We are no longer laughing along at the Brits making fools of themselves on a Friday night; suddenly, we are forced to see the more gritty, more 'real' side of British culture, the side that we don't like to acknowledge.

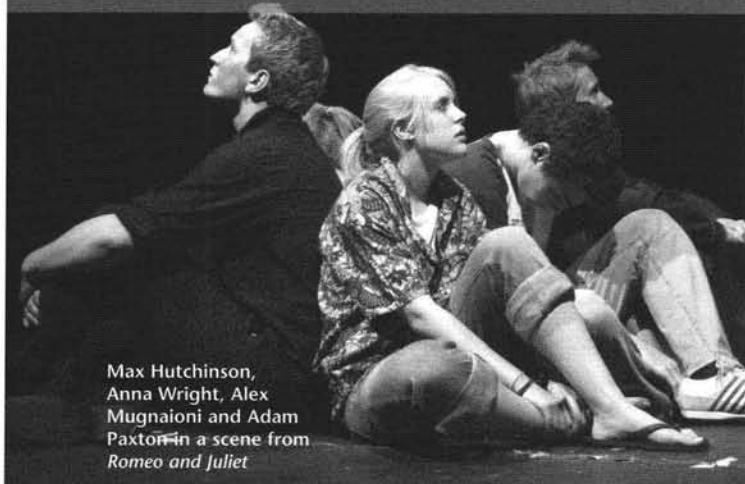
And suddenly the lights are back on, and the comedy is being launched at us again from the rapidly rotating base of characters. And it's in the constant swapping of personality that the hats really must come off to the cast; almost as if a switch has been flicked, the four stern bouncers standing out in the cold suddenly become the quartet of lads out for a drink and a skirt or two, and suddenly a pair of ladies is introduced to the mix in the blink of an eye. The seamless transitions between these personalities – plus the fact that the audience has no trouble in keeping up with who's who – really serve to showcase the talent of the four actors. The chemistry between the actors and their characters is wonderful, allowing for stand-offs between two bouncers, a cringingly funny dance scene, and an outright hilarious porno re-enactment.

With so much praise, it may well seem that there could be little to fault in the play. Incredibly, in the case of *Bouncers* this was actually the truth. The production was truly slick – the lighting simple yet effective, and the music employed to just the right level to enhance the experience without becoming a dominant factor. The acting itself was superb, with all four cast members perfectly complementing their lines with shameless and often outrageous body language. Hats go off to **Francis Gater, Max Hutchinson, Huw Parmenter** and **Eddie Wilson** for providing a brilliantly orchestrated and slick performance.

In all, *Bouncers* was a highly entertaining evening, providing an incredibly funny – yet at times chillingly accurate – portrayal of British nightlife.

Dan Buttar 6 IM

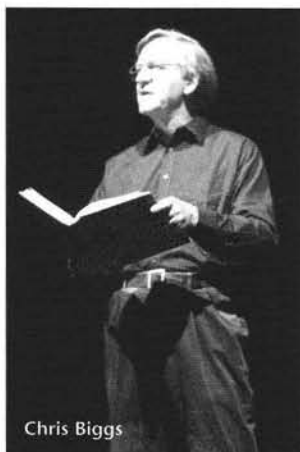
## Sound and Fury



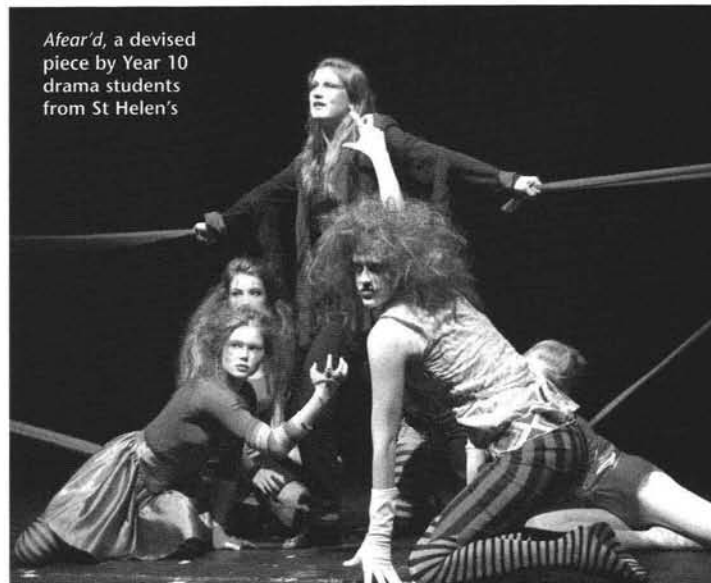
Max Hutchinson, Anna Wright, Alex Mugnaioni and Adam Paxton in a scene from *Romeo and Juliet*

The idea for *Sound and Fury* started with last year's spectacular celebration of the mid-winter solstice, *Dark Lights*. Just as that had combined songs, readings, fire displays, extracts from plays and films in exploration of the themes of light and dark, so *Sound and Fury* sought to do the same in the context of sound, albeit with more than a passing nod in the direction of Abingdon's noisy and exuberant celebrations of its 750th anniversary year. The cornerstones of the performance then and now were **Tristram Bainbridge's** (OA 2005) amazing outdoor fire sculptures. The event took place in the Amey Theatre and on Lower Field on the evening of 30 June 2006, with performers drawn from many year-groups at Abingdon and St Helen's.

The evening was divided into three parts. The first was called *The Fury* and grouped together material that dealt in various ways with the idea of loud and often discordant sounds. The opening fight between the Montagues and Capulets seemed an appropriate launching pad and was performed with gusto by **Max Hutchinson, Adam Paxton, Alex Mugnaioni, Kim Croasdale, Anna Wright and Katie Prior**, all from L6. Two fine devised pieces (*The Island* and *Be not afraid*) by Year 10 students from St Helen's maintained the link with Shakespeare, but this time the starting point was the "strange music" of *The Tempest*. One of our own 4th-form drama sets took up the baton with a tense extract from Peter Shaffer's *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, in which the sounds of the jungle added to the soldiers' sense of terror. **Chris Biggs** painted an oral picture of the building of Pandaemonium in a cultured



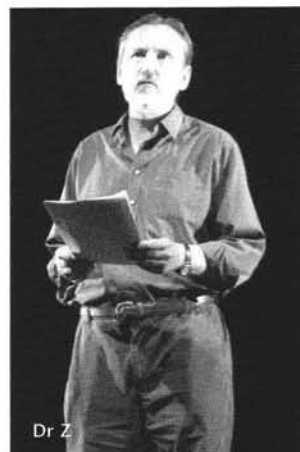
Chris Biggs



*Afear'd*, a devised piece by Year 10 drama students from St Helen's

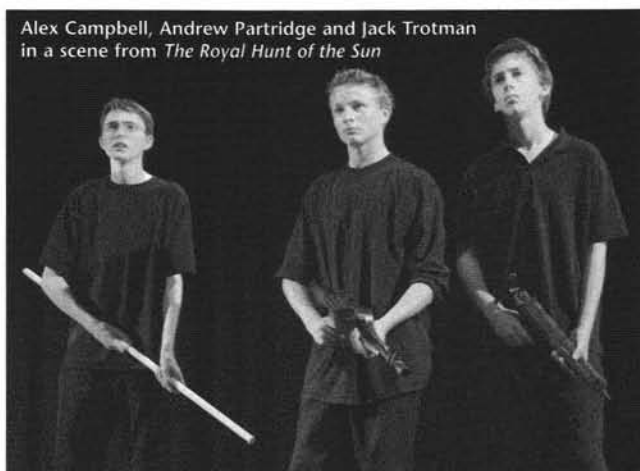
reading from *Paradise Lost*, before an extract from **Michael Grigsby's** (OA 1955) 1962 film *Tomorrow's Saturday* showed how the industrial revolution had made the cotton mills of Blackburn into an all too palpable form of Milton's nightmare vision. Lucy Evans from St Helen's took us to another world of constant noise in a masterful reading from part of Samuel Beckett's play *Not I*, in which a solitary mouth spouts words in apparently random volleys that hint at the speaker's hysteria. From this constant patter, we were relieved by the gentle beauty of an extract from Nicholas

Philibert's documentary film *In the Land of the Deaf*, which began with a quartet of figures performing a piece of 'silent music' through the use of arm and hand gestures. This section of the entertainment was completed by the first of two readings by Abingdon's favourite historian, **Dr Zawadzki**, the first of which was drawn from the Polish epic poem *Pan Tadeusz*.



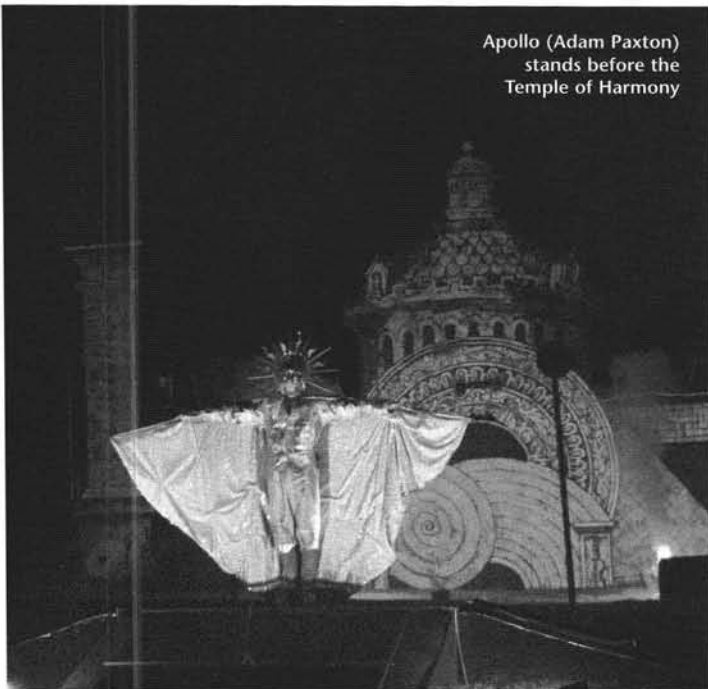
Dr Z

After an interval, the second part of the evening commenced under the title *The Triumph of Harmony*. Naturally, music was a key feature of this section, although the opening chorus of 'Here we go, here we go, here we go' by the cast of *Bouncers* is unlikely to have impressed the judges at the annual House Singing Competition. Not that they were aiming for that kind of success, of course. Instead, **Francis Gater, Max Hutchinson, Huw Parmenter and Edward Wilson** were as good as their word and took us on a brief tour of Britain's urban nightlife, complete with disco beats and the fragile harmony of dancing bodies. Then came the first of several contributions from Abingdon's



Alex Campbell, Andrew Partridge and Jack Trotman in a scene from *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*





Apollo (Adam Paxton) stands before the Temple of Harmony

acclaimed House band, *Funklore*, featuring **Aidan Thorne**, **James Moulds**, **Luke Powell**, **Laurie Havelock** and Annie Lydford. A repeat performance of the popular *F x P2* comedy sketch, *Second Windband*, by **Finlay Taylor**, **Patrick Appleton** and **Paddy Gervers** kept matters musical in the foreground before Dr Z limbered up for his retirement by reminding the assembled ranks how to achieve harmony in life through his reading of *Rules for Behaviour* from a 1701 publication, *The School of Manners*. The last act of this section was a scene from Tom Stoppard's play, *The Real Thing*, in which ideas of concord and the harmony of eloquence were applied to the writing of literature, as **Ben Lawson** and Astrid Gunn debated the merits of two very different approaches to writing plays in entertaining fashion.

The spectacular finale that brought the evening to a close on Lower Field, and featured **Adam Paxton** as a gold-clad Apollo and **Alex Mugnaioni** as Marsyas, was admirably explained by **Tristram Bainbridge** in his programme note, an extract from which is reprinted below:

*The tradition of firework sets or 'machines' built during the months and weeks leading up to a great event, started in the early fifteenth century. From then until the late nineteenth century, giant structures of timber and canvas were built across Europe... Amidst the sparks and fire a symbolic tableau was often presented in which evil was vanquished and discord banished by good kingship or divine justice.*

*Today, on our 'Temple of Music', adapted from engravings in Robert Fludd's 'Macrocosm' (1624), musical aspects are explored. Depicted are tables of consonances, architectural representations of octaves and a clock of note values. In front of the façade examples of perfect solids – the dodecahedron and the tetrahedron – are illuminated.*

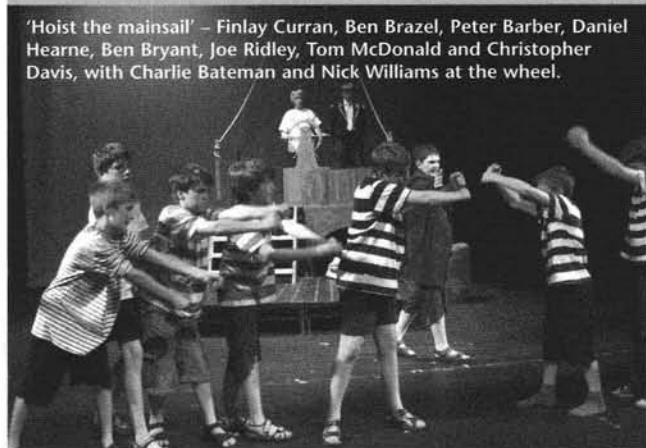
Jeremy Taylor



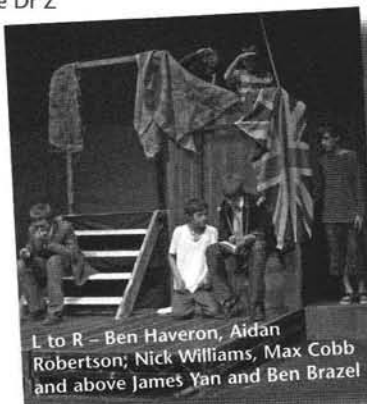
Tristram Bainbridge in front of his firework sculptures

## Treasure Island

'Hoist the mainsail' – Finlay Curran, Ben Brazel, Peter Barber, Daniel Hearne, Ben Bryant, Joe Ridley, Tom McDonald and Christopher Davis, with Charlie Bateman and Nick Williams at the wheel.



At the end of the Summer term, the Junior Drama Club performed *Treasure Island* in the Amey Theatre. I was very fortunate to gain the role of *Long John Silver*, the lovable rogue. In previous performances I had never played a 'bad' character, so it was fantastic fun having a character with a lot of ego and 'edge'. The cast were – on the whole – very good at learning their lines and developing their characters. Even the members of the cast who only had a few lines put an enormous amount of work into them with the singing and stage directions.

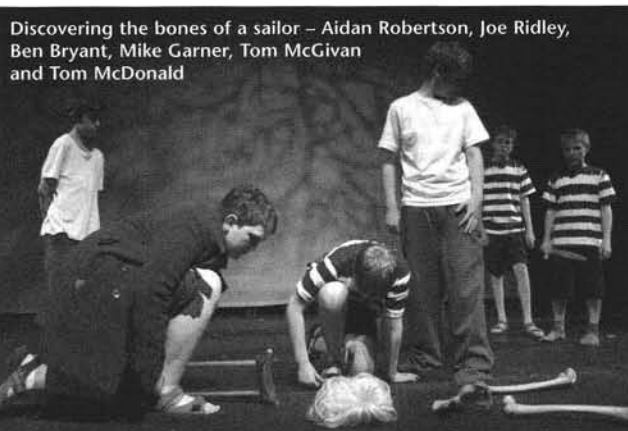


L to R – Ben Haveron, Aidan Robertson; Nick Williams, Max Cobb and above James Yan and Ben Brazel

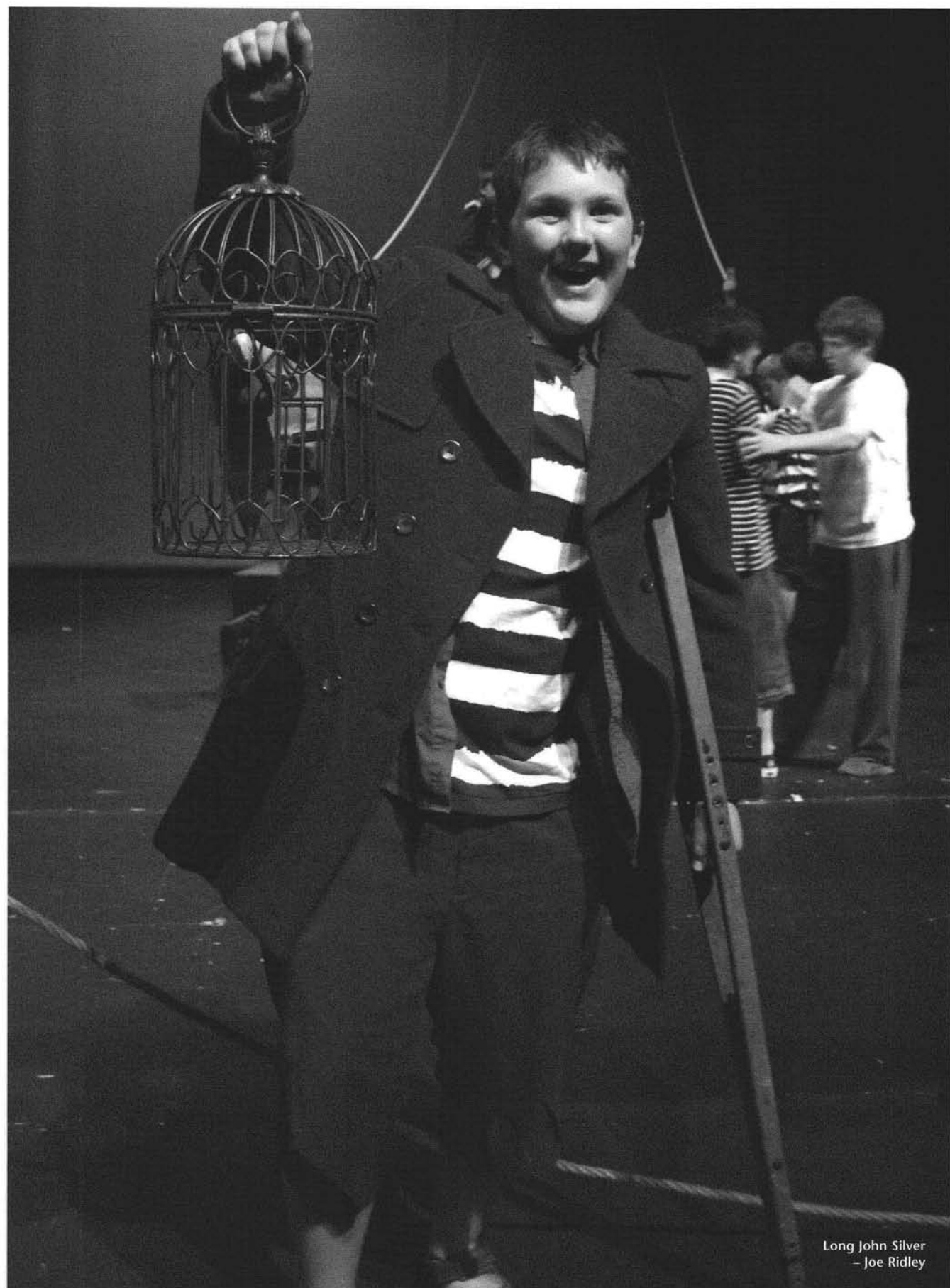
We first managed to get into the Amey Theatre on the Sunday before the first performance. When we arrived, we found a fantastic set, designed and built by **Mr Biggs** and the Tech Crew, with a raised platform that could switch between representing a ship and a fortress. The first performance went very well acting-wise, with some (occasionally hilarious) sound glitches. The second night was much smoother, even with the loss of two cast members to illness. Other cast members stood in and made a seamless substitution.

I speak for the entire cast in saying a great big 'Thank-you' to all who supported us, and of course a great big 'Thank-you' to **Miss Donovan**.

Joe Ridley 2 IAM



Discovering the bones of a sailor – Aidan Robertson, Joe Ridley, Ben Bryant, Mike Garner, Tom McGivan and Tom McDonald



Long John Silver  
– Joe Ridley

Film Unit training weekend at Dungeness



## Abingdon Film Unit

The third annual programme of work by the Abingdon Film Unit in May 2006 saw a record number of thirteen new films and brought to twenty-six the number of original films created by the AFU since its inception in 2003. One of the most exciting developments during the year was the addition of an animation section and we were particularly grateful to Mrs Joanna Harrison and **James Nairne** for overseeing this area of the Film Unit's activities.

It was often hard to believe that the AFU had been part of the School's life for only three years. It was a year in which all connected with Abingdon School were unusually aware of time as we marked the 750th anniversary of Abbot John de Blosneville's bequest to support 'the education of twelve poor scholars' in Abingdon. Yet despite its youth, it seemed the Film Unit had rapidly established itself at the heart of the ancient school and given many involved with it the illusion of having been around for longer. Whilst

Still from Edward Hofman's *A Short Journey*



that perception may have had something to do with the inordinately time-consuming nature of filming and editing, perhaps it also arose because the business of making films always involves making connections.

"Only connect", wrote E. M. Forster in his novel, *Howard's End*. His words were quoted by Lindsay Anderson in an essay on Humphrey Jennings, the director Anderson described as "the only true poet of the English cinema". For Anderson, the phrase summed up Jennings' sublime ability as a filmmaker to link one event with another, the past with the present, person to person. Throughout the year, all involved in the AFU had been making connections, both old and new.

Commuters' coffee – a still from Alex Mugnaioni's *Breakfast*



Point and shoot – an on-location tutorial with Mikkel Eriksen

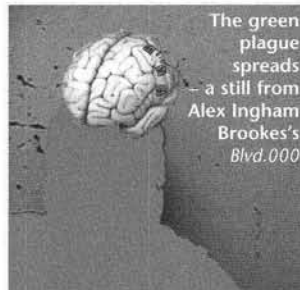


a joy to meet some of the people involved in those films, whether on screen or as members of the crews that made them. The same feeling was evoked in October, when Abingdonians from the thirties and forties gathered to see the Unit's *Days in June*, a thirty-minute film about four Old Abingdonians killed in action in Normandy in 1944. In both cases, the films acted as catalysts for bringing the generations together and stimulating lively discussions about the way we lived then and the way we live now.

In April, for example, at a reunion of former pupils, the Film Unit screened new versions of two films made by its 1950s/60s predecessors, the Abingdon School Photographic Society (ASPS). One of these was *Tumbled House*, directed by the young **Michael Grigsby**, whose lifelong work in films started here as a pupil after he had been inspired by the documentaries of Humphrey Jennings that were shown in the old gym on Saturday evenings as part of the entertainment for boarders. Now, fifty years on, it was

In February, further links were made when several members of the Unit travelled to the National Film Theatre in London for a special screening to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first *Free Cinema* programme, an event organised by Lindsay Anderson in 1956 that was followed each year until 1959 with further programmes, the last of which included Grigsby's first film after leaving Abingdon, *Enginemen*. Mike told the audience how Anderson sent him a telegram offering his congratulations.

The green plague spreads – a still from Alex Ingham Brookes's *Bld.000*



Still from *Identity Crisis* by Tian Ji





## Abingdon Film Unit Programme, May 2006

1. <i>Of His Guest</i>	Edward Hofman (director), Andrew McGrath (camera), William Drazin (sound)
2. <i>Breakfast</i>	Alex Mugnaioni (director), Tom Wakeling (camera), Sam Johnson (sound)
3. <i>Identity Crisis</i>	Tian Ji (cut-out animation)
4. <i>As Young As You Feel</i>	Henry Dunbar (claymation)
5. <i>The Blue Man</i>	Henry Dunbar (claymation)
6. <i>The Children of Doctor Hopeful</i>	Ben Hollins (director), Matthew Copson (camera), Andrew McGrath (sound), Aidan Thorne (music)
7. <i>Four Tracks</i>	Paul Antony & Tom Mitchell (directors, camera, sound), Alex Campbell (editing)
8. <i>A Short Journey</i>	Edward Hofman (director), Lewis Swain (camera), James Harrison (sound)
9. <i>Busker</i>	Max Hutchinson (director), Paul Godsmark (camera), Daniel O'Neill (sound), Patrick Reece (editing)
10. <i>Blvd.000</i>	Alex Ingham Brooke (animation)
11. <i>Falling</i>	Max Roberts (animation)
12. <i>Food for Freddy</i>	Bill Dagul (animation)
13. <i>Dyslexia – Mind Your Ds and Qs</i>	Bayly Shelton (director), Richard Oastler (camera), Laurence Krall (sound)

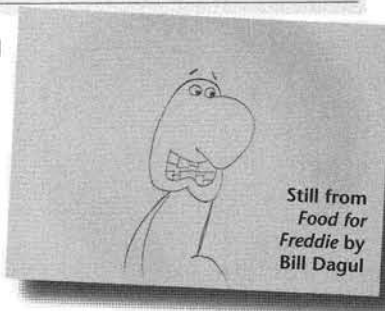
In the Autumn term, the Film Unit's year began with a series of screenings designed to open minds, eyes and ears to a range of ideas and stylistic approaches. We watched a number of the *Free Cinema* films on a beautiful old 16mm projector and read the manifesto of the movement.

"Implicit in this attitude is a belief in freedom, in the importance of people and in the significance of the everyday..."

*No film can be too personal. The image speaks. Sound amplifies and comments. Size is irrelevant. Perfection is not an aim. An attitude means a style. A style means an attitude."*

One of these films, Lindsay Anderson's *O Dreamland*, prompted a trip to Bognor Regis for a weekend of training exercises on the beach and seafront. Back at Abingdon, we watched a host of more recent films, including a stylish documentary by our AFU tutors, Mikkel Eriksen, Jonas Mortensen, Arvid Eriksson and Nikolaj Larsen. We travelled to the NFT again to see the premiere of Mike's new film about Northern Ireland, *Rehearsals*. We welcomed

Larry Sider from the National Film and Television School, and Melissa McCarthy from *Shooting People*, the web-based network of Independent Filmmakers, both of whom offered invaluable feedback to the students on their first edits. We were introduced to animation by James Nairne and Joanna Harrison, inspired by **Simon Whalley's** session on the use of music in film and informed and entertained in equal measure by Chen Ji's presentation on Chinese cinema, *Electric Shadows*. Some of us drove up to London's Wardour Street to collect a beautiful but hefty Steenbeck, a device for editing 16mm film that was donated by one of Mike's colleagues, David Naden. Finally, we travelled to Wheatley Park School to take part in the first Oxfordshire Schools Film Festival alongside students from Wheatley Park and Cherwell Schools, at which one of the Unit's films won a prize. In January, we were delighted to welcome students from Wheatley Park, who presented some of their animation work before training with the AFU tutors in the use of sound equipment. "Only connect..."



With all this activity, it is hardly surprising the Unit seemed to have been around for a while. The connections Anderson reminded us we need to make not only stretch back in time but radiate outwards into the present and future. Anyone who takes on the challenge of making a film, no matter how short, is making connections between their initial idea and its final form, between the members of the filmmaking team and, above all, with the world around them. The audience at the screening in May made the most important connection of all. Film industry professionals, students from Wheatley Park School and Abingdon, parents and current pupils all sat down together to watch the work of our students in what was an uplifting programme to crown a tremendous year.

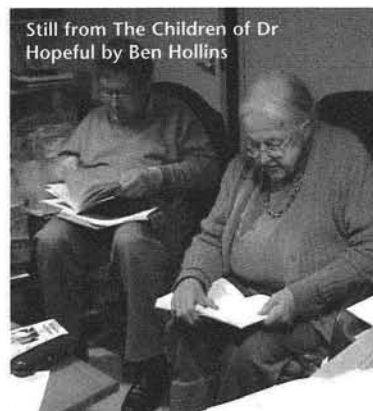
Jeremy Taylor

## The Abingdon Film Unit 2005/6

Paul Anthony (U6)
Alexander Campbell (4 <sup>th</sup> year)
Matthew Copson (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
Bill Dagul (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
Henry Dunbar (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
Paul Godsmark (U6)
James Harrison (4 <sup>th</sup> year)
Edward Hofman (U6)
Ben Hollins (5 <sup>th</sup> year)
Max Hutchinson (L6)
Alex Ingham Brooke (U6)
Tian Ji (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
Sam Johnson (U6)
Laurence Krall (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
Andrew McGrath (L6)
Tom Mitchell (U6)
Alex Mugnaioni (L6)
Richard Oastler (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
Daniel O'Neill (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
Edmund Perou (L6)
Patrick Reece (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
Max Roberts (L6)
Bayly Shelton (U6)
Lewis Swain (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
Tom Wakeling (L6)

## Film Composer's Group

Tom Bennett (5 <sup>th</sup> year)
Edmund Caird (U6)
Henry Carter (U6)
David Emerson (U6)
Joe Mason (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
Aidan Thorne (5 <sup>th</sup> year)



# Music

As **Michael Stinton** sets out on his twentieth year as Abingdon's Director of Music (has it really been that long?) he hopes to highlight the musicians' achievements by a providing a number of glimpses at some of the year's musical events.

The main focus of our musical endeavour was the series of monthly events designed to celebrate 750 years of Abingdon School, the highlight of the year being the Far East Orchestra Tour, reports of which appear elsewhere in the *Abingdonian*. It goes without saying that the timing of this most ambitious musical tour coincided most fortuitously with the School's anniversary year, since the orchestra reached an expected peak in standard in 2005 – 2006, a fact reinforced later in the summer when it emerged that all five A level musicians gained A grades.

2006 was an important year for other reasons – it saw the 450th anniversary of the granting of Abingdon town's Royal Charter (marked by a Twin Towns' Concert on 9 June), Josca's 50th anniversary (our Joint Gala Concert on 28 June was a particular success this year) and the 250th anniversary of the birth of Mozart. This anniversary will be the focus of the Michaelmas term, when there will be a production of *The Magic Flute* in November and other Mozart delights in our Christmas Concerts.



The Michaelmas term saw the arrival of our first graduate music assistant, **Jonathan Wagstaff**. He stayed for just one term and was replaced in January by **Roderick Morris** OA. This arrangement proved a great success, enabling a long-awaited series of weekly lunchtime informal concerts to become a reality. They have been taking place every week on a different day in rotation, allowing parents, music staff and tutors to drop in and hear their boys perform in the relaxed setting of the Amey Theatre foyer. Another great improvement has been the supervision of music practice for the boarders in the Music School during the evenings; this will be extended to every weekday evening 5 – 7 pm in the coming year. An extra pair of hands to help with administration, piano accompaniment and aural classes has been of incalculable benefit.

The installation of two grand pianos at the start of the academic year – one in the Amey Theatre foyer and another excellent Yamaha instrument in the Charles Maude Room – has increased the flexibility for rehearsal and performance and much enhanced the opportunities for the boys. It will also alleviate some of the

difficulties that we face each year as we prepare for our annual House Singing Competition.

This year's House Singing Competition was, perhaps, our most successful to date, with a good standard achieved across the Houses, logistics working at their smoothest ever (no mean feat with some seven hundred boys and staff rotating between warm-up stage and audience) and held this year in a very positive atmosphere on the eve of half term. It was adjudicated by Mr David Evans, Director of Music at Uppingham School, which has one of the country's leading music departments. The result was, as ever, shrouded in controversy. Elliott's were judged the winners with a strong performance of *Is this the way to Amarillo?* by Tony Christie, the music enhanced by a slick dance routine and some colourful costumes fronted by **Lucas Hall**. Hamilton's *Build me up Buttercup* was a very deserving runner-up with strong leadership and direction from **Henry Carter**.

At the Christmas Concerts in December, notable performances were given by the First-Year Choir, the Second Wind Band, Brass Band, First Wind Band and Big Band, but this was also a platform for the orchestra to show what was in preparation for the China Tour the following summer. **Timothy Chu** gave a marvellously virtuosic account of Schumann's *Piano Concerto*, together with the orchestra, who also performed Walton's *Crown Imperial*, Wagner's *Mastersingers Prelude* and Moross' *Big Country*, an exciting and evocative film score that was to become the signature tune of the Far East Tour.



January saw the first of our monthly celebrations of the School's 750th Anniversary – the New Year Concert, on 20 January, was an event tasked to help *Oxfam* in their work of helping to alleviate the suffering caused by the South Asia Earthquake. The concert raised £600 for their emergency appeal, matching a similar sum generously donated by parents and friends at the Christmas Concerts.

## Snapshots of Another Year of Musical Feasts

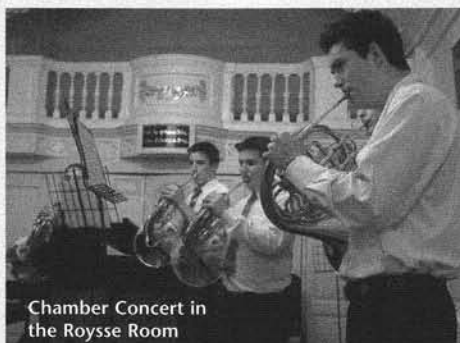
### Chamber Concert in Abingdon's Old Schoolroom 8 February 2006

The venue chosen for a special 750th-anniversary chamber concert for this year was the Roysse Room, in what is now known as the Guildhall on the other side of the Market Square near the site of the former Abingdon Abbey. It proved to be an ideal location in many ways. Despite its linear design and its ornately plastered barrel-vaulted ceiling (a later addition), it provided to be a very pleasing acoustic for chamber music and delighted the capacity audience of about eighty.

The school's new Yamaha grand piano was specially brought in for the occasion and enabled the full range of the department's chamber music to be performed, including those works that required a piano element.

Brass playing at the school was well represented by an outstanding Senior Brass Quintet who played a piece of music attributed to Henry VIII, *Pastime with Good Company* and by Paul McCartney, *Yesterday*. Four of the five musicians were studying for AS music, (**William Stephenson, Timothy Fegan, Ben Cooke, Alexander Mugnai** and **Aidan Tierney**) and the playing was assured throughout. A horn octet was another striking feature of the concert and filled the venue with the warm sound of Wagner's *Pilgrims' Chorus*, the players including **Felix Wood, Patrick Appleton, Joseph Delo, Jonathan Thomas, Lucas Hall, Ben Cooke, Joe Mason** and the indefatigable **Miss Parker**. A horn quartet, earlier in the programme, gave a most moving account of an arrangement of Faure's *Pie Jesu*.

The woodwind department provided both Junior and Senior Flute Ensembles under



Chamber Concert in the Roysse Room

the direction of Mrs Hobbs-Smith in music by Holst, Tchaikovsky and Quantz whilst Sixthformer, **David Emerson**, directed the Double Reed Ensemble in an anonymous eighteenth century concerto for oboes and bassoons. The Clarinet Ensemble played Mendelssohn's *Andante and Presto* in a most effective arrangement.

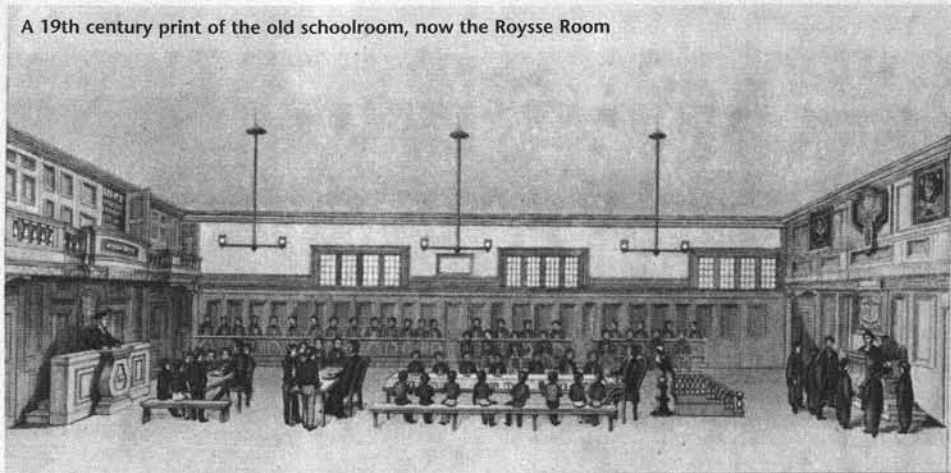
As ever, it was the string section, under the direction of our Head of Strings, Mariette Pringle, who provided the real meat of the evening, with glories from the 18th and 19th-century repertoire. These included quartets by Mendelssohn and Strauss,

quintets by Mendelssohn and Dvorak and concluded with Mendelssohn's famous String Octet, effectively a substantial double string quartet, written when the composer was a precociously gifted sixteen-year-old. The exciting performances of these latter two gave an early indication of the national chamber success that came later in the term.

The whole evening was a most memorable affair, enhanced by the fascination of the venue and the speculation of what it must have been like to be a 16th-century Abingdon schoolboy soon after the destruction of the great Benedictine Abbey. The Roysse Room was used as the School's classroom from 1563 to 1870 when it moved to Albert Park. It was an outstanding and memorable concert, providing significant illumination of the hard work going on from day to day in music which, while coached in rehearsal, becomes self-directed in performance – congratulations to all involved!

Michael Stinton

A 19th century print of the old schoolroom, now the Roysse Room



The concert ensembles included the Second Orchestra, who played music by Brahms, Mascagni and Bizet. The Chamber Orchestra accompanied **Henry Carter** (oboe) in a concerto by Haydn, and the First Orchestra played music by Elgar and Borodin, whose *In the Steppes of Central Asia* provided a powerful evocation of the wide-open spaces and big skies of the Mongolian Steppe.

The annual Joint Schools' Choral Society Concert took place this year on a Sunday in the uplifting space of Christopher Wren's Sheldonian Theatre on 5 March. The work chosen was Haydn's *Creation*, a work that was hugely popular in the composer's

lifetime, and served to resonate with the creative intentions of Abbot John de Blosneville in 1256 when he created his endowment for the support of thirteen poor scholars. The soloists included Lianne-Marie Skrinier (soprano), **Andrew Yeats** (tenor) and Henry Herford (bass), with a "cameo moment" from **David Pope** (counter-tenor) in the last chorus. All four soloists have links with our Foundation, through New College (from where we often attract our choristers), an ex-parent, our singing teacher and a member of staff, respectively. The performance was led by **Mariette Pringle** (Head of Strings) and directed by **Michael Stinton**. A review by **Gaynor Cooper** appears overleaf.





Haydn's *Creation* at the Sheldonian Theatre

## Haydn's *Creation*

What a treat for a Sunday evening: Haydn's oratorio, *The Creation*, in all its magnificence and lyricism and in such a traditional place of musical celebration!

On Sunday 5 March, as part of Abingdon School's 750th Anniversary, the Sheldonian resounded to a joint performance by Abingdon and St Helen's Joint Schools' Choral Society with their interpretation of *The Creation*. Staff, boys, girls and parents intermingled in the chorus and orchestra, and although the soloists were the official stars, it was hard to define as the chorus soared through the performance the orchestra accompanied the story and **Michael Stinton's** conductor's baton drew them together in beatific harmony.

As a complete novice to this inspiring piece, I was struck by the interpretation of the score by all three soloists: Lianne-Marie Skrinari's soprano sparkled in her joint roles of Gabriel and Eve; **Andrew Yeats'** tenor painted a picture of colour and vivacity; and Henry Herford's beautiful bass tones brought a mahogany warmth to Raphael and Adam.



In addition, the logistics of organising this event were remarkable: drawing all the component parts together from their separate rehearsals to form such a cohesive whole. The finale left the audience, walking out into the Oxford night, with a lovely uplifting glow of well-being and pleasure, still evident as members of the audience and performers reassembled in assorted hostelries!

Gaynor Cooper

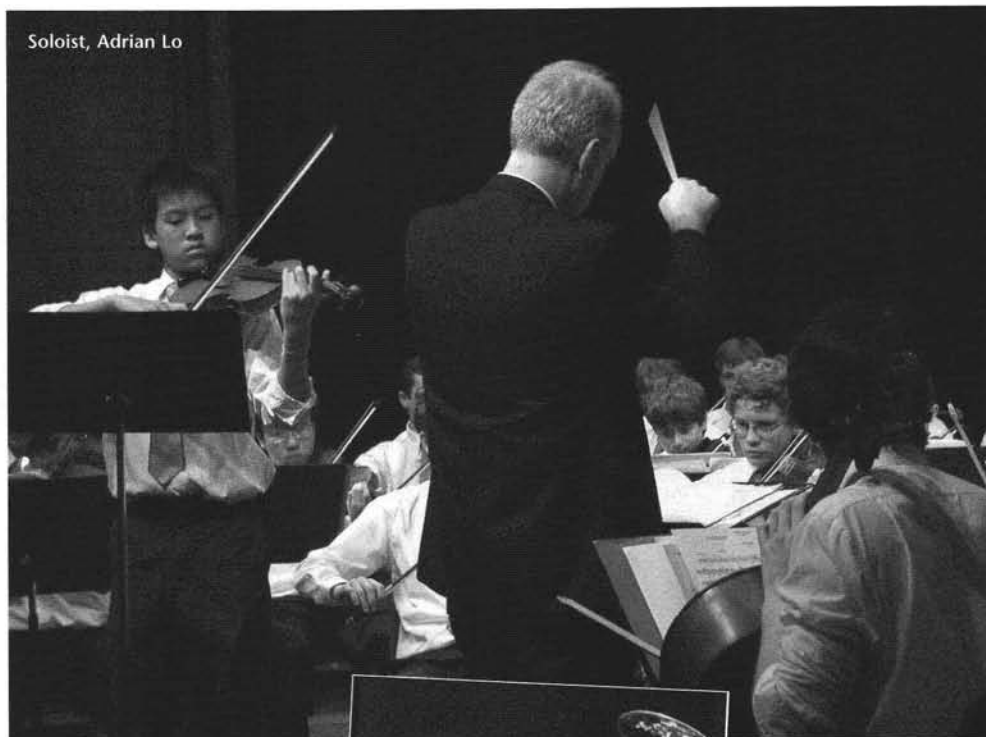


By the Summer term, there were preparations in abundance for our epic tour, such as the procurement of over ninety visas – but school business, with public examinations and regular concerts, had to prevail.

The Summer Orchestral Concert saw our orchestras presenting other tour pieces, including Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* by solo cellist, **Timothy Barrow**, Shostakovich's *Second Piano Concerto* by soloist **Nicholas Ereaut**, and Saint-Saens' *Havanaise*, with solo violinist, **Adrian Lo**. Second Orchestra, led by **Guy Cutting**, had also learned some new repertoire by Handel, Fauré and Schubert.

However, it was the Bands Concert that was the designated 750th event for the month of May and this concert saw the School bands in their customary fine form under the direction of **Nigel Somerville**, **Fiona Parker** and **Simon Currie**. This concert was to have given an opportunity for our star trombonist, **Neil Houlsby**, to show his mettle in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Concerto* for that instrument. Unfortunately, his illness delayed this performance until the final concert of our tour, when he played it with great panache in Beijing at the Chen Jin Lun Middle School on Friday 14 July.

Abingdon hosted and organised the Town Twinning Association's Band Concert on 9 June. This was a very well attended occasion at which both the School's Brass and Big Band performed, along with Abbey Brass, the town's own brass band, and a colourful



Soloist, Adrian Lo



band from Schongau in Bavaria, complete with folk costumes of bibs and lederhosen.

The Junior Scholars' Concert of 12 June was an exciting affair, featuring some stunning performances by some of our younger stars, including **Ozy Tack** (piano) with Chopin's *A flat Polonaise*, **Caspian Mitchard** (violin) in *Severn's Polish Dance* and a self-coached performance of Britten's *Canticle Still Falls the Rain*, given by **Joe Mason** (horn) and **Guy Cutting** (tenor).

The featured event for June was *Jazz on a Summer's Evening*, held on Friday 23 June. The intention was to draw together distinguished OA jazzers to present a joint concert with our own Big Band, preceded by a buffet supper. In the event, we did not attract all the players we had hoped to; nevertheless it was wonderful to see some of our OA stars of yesteryear: **Michael Spencer Chapman** (2000), **Ed Mason** (2000), **Nick Shaikh** (2004),



The Twinning Association Concert

Jazz on a Summer's Night



**Will Burn** (1997), **George Potter** (2004) and **Lee Dickinson** (1997). The concert was sensational and hugely enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience – definitely something we want to repeat! A DVD recording was made of this memorable event.

The Lower School and Josca's Joint Gala Concert on 28 June was the best ever. It is testament to the strength of our Lower School and the ever-growing profile of music at Josca's that there were some thirty-four items with ensembles, choirs, solos and bands. We started in confident style with a huge joint wind band of Lower School and Josca's boys under **Nigel Somerville's** direction in *Tequila* and *The Addams Family*. Other highlights included **Ozy Tack's** Chopin *Etude*, **James Van's** Chopin *Waltz in D flat* and **Jay Jung's** Saint-Saens *Allegro Appassionato*. The finale saw the Lower School Piano Trio (**Charlie Hall, Jay Jung** and **Ozy Tack**) play Tchaikovsky's *Baba Yaga*.

An orchestral playing day on Friday 13 June preceded the final UK performance of the year, the Pre-Tour Concert held at St John's, Smith Square on Monday 3 July - a final hurdle, it might be said, before we flew to the Far East less than two days later. The concert gave us invaluable practice of mustering our forces and getting boys and instruments on and off buses, and the excellent performances filled us all with confidence for the tour ahead. **Joseph Delo** reports on our London day elsewhere, while **David Rawcliffe** and **Henry Scarlett** provide us with a diary of our 'Far East Odyssey'. This, together with a 'full house' of five A level grade As, provided a fitting end to a memorable musical year.

Michael Stinton

Joint Lower School and Josca's Concert





## St John's, Smith Square Concert



St John's, Smith Square during the interval of the concert

A sure sign that the ambitious concert tour to Beijing and Hong Kong was looming closer was the pre-tour concert at St John's, Smith Square on Monday 3 July 2006. At nine o'clock in the morning all the members of Abingdon's First Orchestra, with instruments, descended on the coach park; as you can imagine, packing the coach took some time! After the traditional schoolboy style of shoving everything in had failed, a number of helpful sixth-formers took control of the packing and we were ready to go.

It soon became clear that the trip would not only provide valuable musical experience for future concerts in the Far East, but also an opportunity – owing to the hot weather that day – to acclimatise ourselves to playing in the heat and to test the rigorous system of registration that would be needed when on tour. Near the end of the coach journey, we were treated to an incidental tour of London: the Houses of Parliament, the Headquarters of MI5 and the London Eye were among the sights.

St John's, Smith Square is an old Wren church that was virtually destroyed during the Blitz, and has now become one of London's major concert venues. However, on entering the building it was obvious that fitting an orchestra of our size onto the stage would be a tight squeeze! Nevertheless, half an hour later we had managed it and were ready to rehearse.

As a result of the hours of practice the orchestra had done in the run-up to the tour, and especially the playing day held the previous Friday, many of pieces for First Orchestra only required a play through and a few bits touched up to get them ready for performing that evening. After a pleasant morning of rehearsing, we stopped to enjoy lunch in and around St John's Church, which gave the boys a chance to stretch their legs by exploring the surrounding area of Westminster.

Following lunch, the Chamber Orchestra was able to rehearse the *Oboe Concerto* and, later in the afternoon, First Orchestra had the

last rehearsal before the concert proper. The boys then changed into concert dress (white shirts, black shoes and First Orchestra ties) before going for dinner in the *Footstool* restaurant in the crypt of the church, which offered a good value chicken curry.

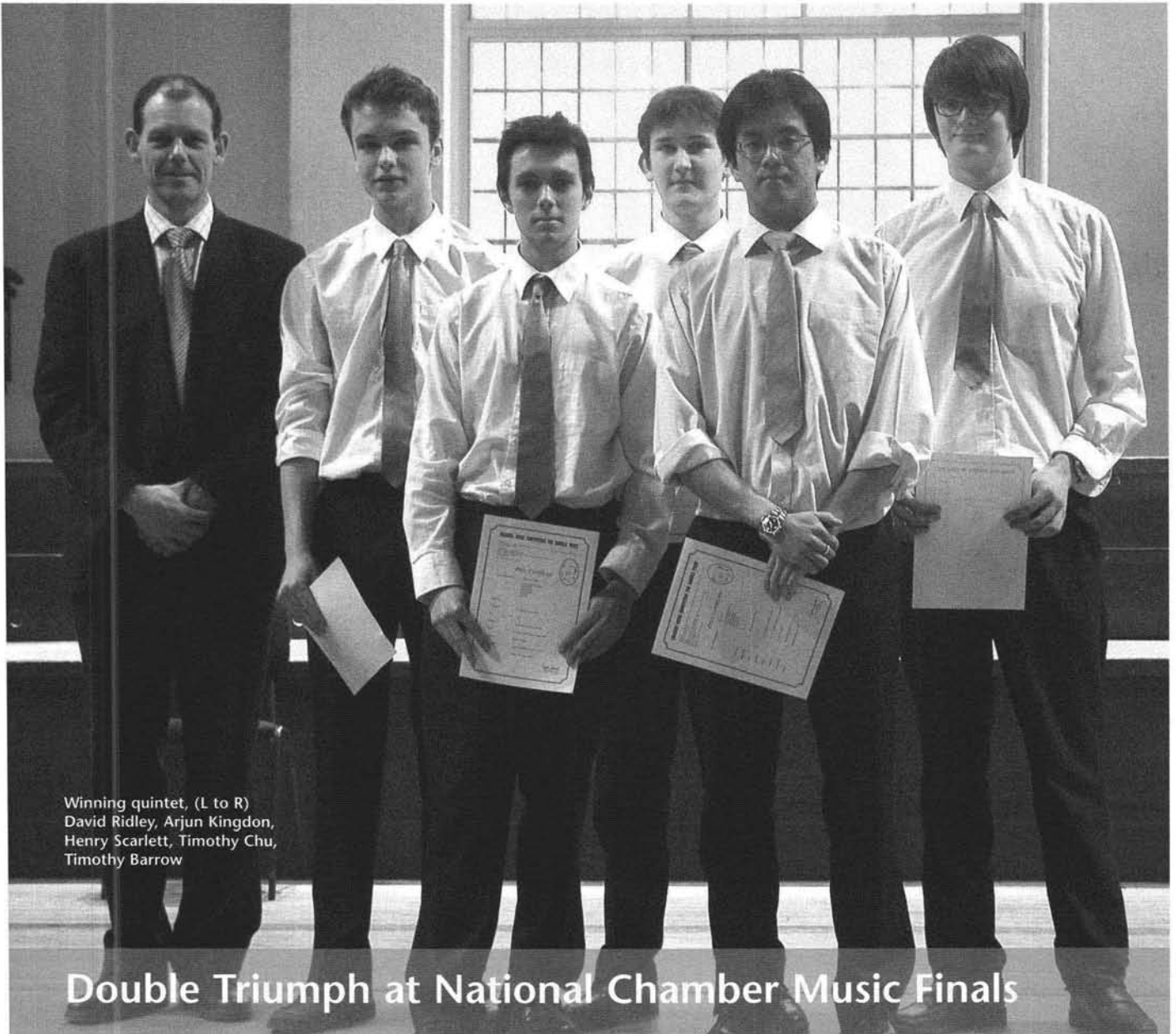
The excitement began to mount as the audience started to arrive. The concert was open to the general public as well as to boys' families, many of whom came to London in the coach organised by the School. Among the audience were the **Headmaster**, the **Second Master**, the **Registrar**, and the **Bursar**.

At six o'clock – an early start to ensure that the younger boys got back home at a reasonable time – the concert began. The programme consisted of many fine pieces, including the *Mastersingers Prelude* by Wagner, the *Symphony No 8* (the *Unfinished*) by Schubert, and the *Big Country* – the orchestra's signature piece for the tour – by Moross. The concert went extremely well, as the orchestra was in peak condition for the tour, though particular congratulations must go to the soloists – **Henry Carter** (1st movement, Haydn's *Oboe Concerto*) and **Nicholas Ereaut** (Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No 2 in Fb*) – and also to the leader of First Orchestra, **Sam Wylie**.

After a slight delay with the buses, the orchestra headed back to School and home. All the boys were, inevitably, tired but delighted that the concert had gone so well. Thanks must go to all the teachers who supervised during the day, but especially to **Mr Stinton** for organising the concert. We are also grateful to all the kind sponsors of the tour to the Far East, particularly Smiths Group Plc.

The whole day was a great success and certainly augured well for the tour to the Far East, which was to begin on the Wednesday.

Joseph Delo 5 DAB



Winning quintet, (L to R)  
David Ridley, Arjun Kingdon,  
Henry Scarlett, Timothy Chu,  
Timothy Barrow

## Double Triumph at National Chamber Music Finals

Following their success in the qualifying rounds, two chamber ensembles from Abingdon, comprising some nine musicians, were successful this year in winning prestigious places in the finals of the National Chamber Music Competition for Schools, held at St John's, Smith Square, London, on Sunday 19 March.

The ensembles included a Mendelssohn String Octet in the U19 category (led by 13-year-old **Adrian Lo**) and an U17 Dvorak Piano Quintet (led by **David Ridley**, with pianist, **Timothy Chu**). Later in the year, the boys were able to perform these works at the Residence of the British Ambassador in Beijing, Sir William Ehrman, in front of many distinguished guests and ambassadors from other nearby embassies as part of the Music Department's Orchestra Tour to the Far East in July.

Abingdon's chamber music, under the direction of Head of Strings, **Mariette Pringle**, is particularly strong. Nine Abingdon ensembles have appeared in the Competition finals in the last eight years and **Adrian Lo** has made it a hat-trick, winning through with different ensembles in each of the last three years.

Michael Stinton

### The Abingdon Academicals

*The Abingdon Academicals*, a close harmony group of six boys and two members of staff, gave a performance of folk and popular songs to a hundred and forty-five distinguished guests at the Mercers' Company Livery Dinner at Mercers' Hall on 2 March 2006.

Any nerves that existed within the group were soon dispelled by the beautiful solo voices of **Edmund Caird** and **David Emerson**. The reassuring bass voices of **Tom Bennett** and **Peter Statham** joined with the impeccably tuned chords offered by **Joe Mason** and **Henry Carter**, with a top line provided by **David Pope**. In the words of a member of the Mercers' Company, the overall effect was "breathtaking", and the *Abingdon Academicals* obviously made a strikingly good impression, as they have been invited back!

David Pope

May the Abingdon Band *Funk Lore*, comprising fifth-formers **James Moulds** (guitar), **Luke Powell** (drums), **Hugh Graham** (saxophone), **Aidan Thorne** (bass) and **Laurie Havelock** (saxophone), were outright winners of the Battle of the Bands, a charity event organised and hosted by students at the European School in Culham.

The event, which was judged by professionals from the music industry, attracted an audience of over 600 students from local schools. Other bands competing included groups from Didcot Girls' School, the European School and the Downs School, Compton.

The event was a huge success and raised over £1,000 for the charity *Water Aid*. The boys have been playing together for a couple of years and have earned useful pocket money by playing at parties and functions locally, as well as at School concerts.

Michael Stinton



## Abingdon's Funk Lore Wins Battle of the Bands

*Funk Lore playing in the TASS tent at Open Day 2006*

## Is Singing an Academic(al) Pursuit?

### The Story of The Abingdon Academicals

You frantically tear open the brown envelope, you read all the way down your Grade VIII Singing Certificate to the word 'Distinction', then you find an application form for The Royal Academy of Music! So, are you going to be a singer or an academic? Are you going to have your cake or eat it? What do you do next? My application form went in the bin. I found the best of both worlds by becoming a professional singer, or an Academical Clerk, at Oxford.

Years later, I found a niche for pursuing academic singing at Abingdon School. Forming the group was easy: there were plenty of keen singers around the School who were bright enough to cope with the intellectual demands of our kind of music. Naming the group remained much more difficult until I discovered the existence of the Radley Clerks. "If Radley has the Clerks," I reasoned, "then Abingdon must have the Academicals!" Our improving results and increasing Oxbridge admissions have shown this was an apt choice.

We exist primarily to provide singers – Academical Clerks – for the professional college choirs at Oxford University, but have extended our reach to Cambridge and other universities: essentially 'AbAc's' is an educational mechanism to gain the experience and techniques required by professional singers performing in these places, every day. We have had a tremendous amount of fun along the way, and our bank balances have occasionally grown too!

What have we done over seventeen years? Weekly rehearsals have led to many School appearances: Foundation Dinners, Community Service Tea Parties, Remembrance Day assemblies,

concert intervals, riverboat cruises and a recent appearance for the Mercers' Company at one of their Livery Dinners in London. We have entertained the Women's Institute and raised money for ailing churches in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and further afield. We released a recording a few years ago, in Oxford, with some invited young female singers at the start of their careers.

Academicals and other composers have written for us, but invariably this has provided the hardest music we have had to learn. We only dared to perform Ian Miles' *Spread a Little Happiness* once in public, since whistling the melody over several bars easily led to lockjaw, as I recall...

We have had our successful alumni. Many young men like **Derek Wilcox, Philip Saxon, Jerome Finnis, Tom Herford, Johnnie Herford, Tom Gatten, Matthew O'Donovan, Paul O'Donovan** and others have used their singing experience with us to achieve their choice of university place and beyond: a recent success story is the appointment of **Matthew O'Donovan** to the Head of Academic Music at Eton.

STOP PRESS! Oxford has just done the unthinkable: it has changed our name! The Academical Clerk no longer exists – we are now all Choral Scholars, just like the choirs at Cambridge and other universities. So perhaps we should all apply to the Royal Academy? No need. The academic pursuit of singing continues in our small corner of Oxfordshire. Long may *The Abingdon Academicals* flourish!

David Pope



One of the most frequently asked questions of the last eighteen months has been along the lines of "Why have you chosen to take the orchestra on a concert tour to the other side of the planet?" I suppose that, because we were living and breathing the idea of this tour over the eighteen months or so of planning, the answer started to seem too obvious – but now, with the benefit of hindsight, I can see that it must have looked like an audacious plan, even foolhardy in its ambition. Here is an attempt to explain how it came about...

The Music Department had taken eight music tours abroad since 1995 and so we felt quite confident that we could manage this one with success. We had entertained and billeted the orchestra of Scotch College Melbourne twice during that decade and had enjoyed presenting joint concerts with them. The latter, in January 2005, afforded a fascinating opportunity to see the two orchestras alongside each other. The initial idea was to take our orchestra to Australia on a reciprocal basis, stopping in Hong Kong en route and linking up with Abingdon friends and families there.

We knew, too, that the orchestra was going to be playing at a very high standard this year and it is always important to know that we can give a good account of ourselves. The long orchestral repertoire that we took with us gives some indication of this: it includes piano concertos by Schumann and Shostakovich, together with music by Schubert, Borodin, Mendelssohn, Wagner and Walton.

In 2002 we had taken our symphony orchestra on a tour to Budapest, Vienna and Prague, flying Austrian Airlines and hiring double basses, timpani and percussion when we reached Vienna. The rationale that if we could fly an orchestra to Vienna we could fly anywhere else, now seems rather naïve in retrospect, especially as, in reality, it proved to be a much more complex endeavour than envisaged.

When we costed the tour, however, it soon became clear that the financial commitment was going to be challenging. Our friends in Melbourne are used to budgeting for large sums in order to travel from their continent, whereas here in England we can explore different cultures within the continent of Europe for a fraction of this sum. It also occurred to us that July is winter-time in Melbourne and not the best time of the year to enjoy this part of Australia.

Meanwhile, Ian Wylie and Sian Griffiths OBE, the parents of our orchestral leader and subsequent Head of School, **Sam Wylie**, strongly encouraged a different and less costly plan to give concerts in Hong Kong and mainland China. This looked more feasible, so we invited quotations from competing specialist tour companies. Even so, the projected cost of £1,200 looked daunting and this was after we had cut the section of the tour that included Xian, the home of the famous terracotta warriors. Parents and boys were consulted – and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Each boy had eighteen months to save but we still had to raise the costs of the infrastructure of the tour (transport, concerts, sightseeing, supervision), since the price quoted was the cost price of flights, food and accommodation only.

We sent requests for help and were thrilled that Smiths Group Plc stepped forward in December 2005; they could see the merit of the plan and pledged us £20,000. This willingness to share the vision meant that we really were in business. Various others joined

Smiths in offering support: TASS, the Abingdon Music Society and *Infiniteum*. We are so grateful to these and many others for their help in making our dream a reality.

In February, the Director of Music spent his half term in Hong Kong where he stayed with the Wylies, met other contacts and viewed hotels and concert halls. It was wonderful that Mr Peter Chan, father of **Michael Chan**, a pupil in the fifth form, was also willing to help us with the hiring of cellos, double basses and percussion and the booking of concert halls. He also offered us a joint concert with one of the schools in Beijing that he and his father had founded and built in recent years. We are indebted to him for all his generosity and his commitment to making these aspects of the tour work so well.

The tour itself was able to provide a focal point for the School's 750th Anniversary celebrations whilst, at the same time, linking us more firmly with Hong Kong, a place which has been a source of so many able Abingdon pupils in recent years. A reception at the Hong Kong Club, prior to our first concert at the Sheung Wan Civic Centre, was kindly arranged by another parent, Dr Ko Wing Man – this gave us an opportunity to meet many parents, friends and OAs who were able to share in our celebrations.

**The Headmaster** joined us in Beijing and this presented an ideal opportunity for making contact with the principal of the Chen Jing Lun High School in the year that Abingdon has

begun offering Mandarin as a language option. Our first concert in mainland China was hosted by the British Ambassador, Sir William Ehrman, at his Residence there. This was a real highlight, attended by many distinguished guests including ambassadors and their wives from other embassies. Mendelssohn's *Octet*, Dvorak's *Piano Quintet* and Bach's *A Minor Violin Concerto*, under **Mariette Pringle's** direction, made for a programme that seemed to delight the audience and prompted a warm speech by Sir William.

For us all, the tour was an intense, thrilling and unforgettable experience. The concerts were all highly successful and with good audiences, the travelling worked well with Air China; the accommodation was first class; and the warmth of welcome was greater than we could possibly have expected – matched only by the impeccable behaviour of the boys throughout the tour.

I am grateful to so many, almost too numerous to mention, who helped with this music tour: the parents for subscribing to the idea and for digging deeply into their pockets; the boys for their hard work, wonderful playing and outstanding behaviour; my colleagues tolerating a sometimes distracted and overloaded Director of Music; the Music Secretary, **Caren Hardiman** (who deserves a sainthood!); to **Jane Jorgensen** and **Tom Ayling**, who were so very supportive; and for all our tour benefactors, particularly to parent, David Lillycrop of Smiths Group Plc, the Wylies and Mr Chan. My particular thanks must go to my wife, Clova, and to all the other staff who accompanied the tour and looked after the boys so magnificently: **Douglas Aitken**, **David Dawswell**, **Richard Elliott**, **Simon Whalley**, **Edward** and **James Mitchard**, Music Assistant and OA, **Roderick Morris**, and our Head of Strings, **Mariette Pringle**.

Michael Stinton

## Far East Orchestra Tour 5–15 July 2006

One Wednesday evening in July, two coaches, resplendent in the familiar orange and black Tappins livery, pulled out of the School coach park, ninety-seven musicians and their instruments on board. Two days and more than five thousand miles later, we touched down, tired but still (just) smiling, in the humidity and heat of Hong Kong. The incredible views of the harbour as we came in to land excited even the weariest of us.

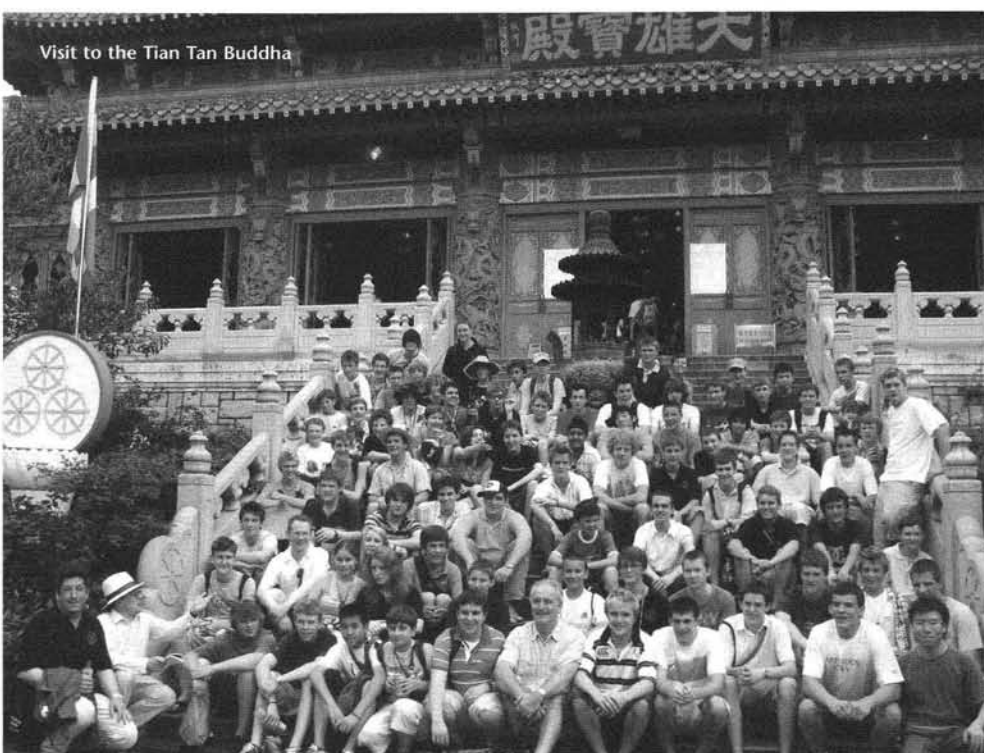
On our first day we visited bustling Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong's principal port, where we saw the Bauhinia Blossom, a giant golden statue of a flower. We went on to the fishing villages of the Aberdeen district, and then to Hong Kong's main tourist beach, 'Excuse Me Beach' – so-called because it gets hugely crowded at popular times. At the Stanley Silk Market we got our first chance to haggle with shop owners, which resulted in people claiming to have bought ten silk ties for 60 p each and silk dressing gowns for 6 or 7 pounds. Bartering proved to be extremely popular throughout the tour. After lunch at the renowned *Jumbo Floating Restaurant*, decorated in strikingly garish colours – where we saw the fish swimming before they were cooked – we went on to our first venue, the Sheung Wan Civic Centre, and rehearsed for the concert the following evening. Before supper, we had time to go round the Night Market in Kowloon, a vast and lively market selling watches, T-shirts, and much more – at "a good price, but poor quality", as our guide told us.

Saturday was the day of our first concert. After breakfast we set out to visit the Tian Tan Buddha, a large bronze statue of the Buddha (34 m high and 250 tons) at Ngong Ping on Lantau Island. Also known as the Giant Buddha, it is the world's tallest outdoor, seated, bronze Buddha and the centre of Buddhism in Hong Kong. Unfortunately, when we arrived the statue was covered in fog but luckily, by the time we had returned to the bottom of its 268 steps, the fog had cleared and we were able to marvel at its size and beauty. Afterwards we went to the Buddhist monastery in which the

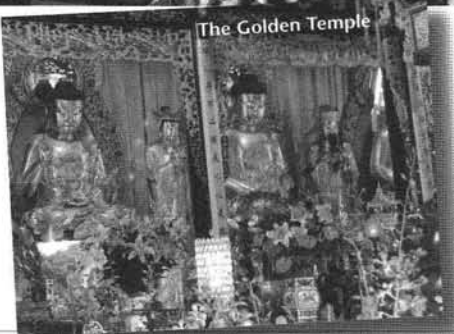
## First Orchestra Tour to Hong Kong and China



Hong Kong Harbour



Visit to the Tian Tan Buddha



The Golden Temple

Buddha is set and, after seeing its golden temple, we ate a vegetarian lunch, meat being forbidden in the monastery. On our return we took the famous Star Ferry across the bay. We had a brief rehearsal before the concert and then, at last, the moment that we had spent six months preparing for arrived.

Our concert was extremely well received, with excellent solo performances from **Nicholas Ereaut** and **David Ridley**, playing Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No 2*, and from **Timothy Chu**, who was playing Schumann's *Piano Concerto* in his (Timothy's) home city. We ended the concert with what became our tour's signature tune : *Big Country* by Moross.



The next morning was our first free morning to explore Hong Kong for ourselves. Many people took the tram to the peak and walked down the hill to the centre of Hong Kong. We reunited in the afternoon and went on by coach to the so-called 'middle level view' of Hong Kong from Victoria Peak. After enjoying the breathtaking view, we took the Star Ferry and drove to the Chi Lin Nunnery, a nunnery built in the 1930s in the style of the Tang Dynasty. Our second concert in Hong Kong took place at the Academic Community Hall of the Baptist University in Kowloon. We had a fuller audience than the previous night and enjoyed outstanding performances by **Henry Carter** playing the Haydn *Oboe Concerto*, **Adrian Lo** playing Saint-Saens' *Havanaise*, and **Sam Wylie** playing the Bach *A minor Violin Concerto*.

Monday was spent at Hong Kong's Ocean Park, one of the largest marine parks in the world, lying between Aberdeen and



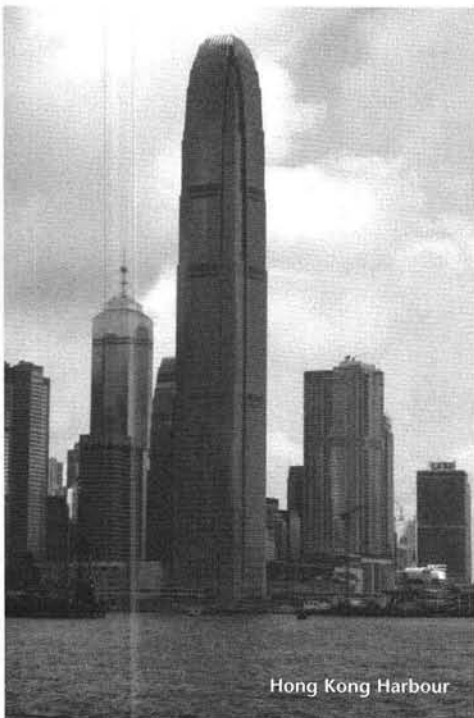
Repulse Bay, which is split into two parts by hills and linked by cable car. This was a welcome chance to let off steam and relax. For many of us the highlight was to see a live panda for the first time. That evening, Dr James Wu, one of the most successful businessmen in Hong Kong, entertained us royally at the *Chiuchow Garden Restaurant*. The menu included 'double-boiled whole wax gourd soup', 'smoked sliced silver cod' and 'fried veal cutlets with vegetables' – just three courses of the eight-course feast he provided. This was a fitting conclusion to a splendid stay in Hong Kong.



On Tuesday we checked out of our hotel. After an anxious time when we saw our cases baking in the sun on the runway just as we were about to take off – **Mr Stinton** halted the flight till he was satisfied they would follow us safely – we flew 1,200 miles to Beijing, where we were taken straight to a martial arts demonstration at the Red Theatre. I think it is fair to say that none of us had seen anything like this display, other than in an action sequence in a Jackie Chan film. It was breathtaking – with the performers balancing their chests on steel pikes and breaking steel bars with their hands. This show made us put aside any doubts we might have had about our stay in Beijing.

The next day we were joined by the **Headmaster**, who had just arrived in China, and went to the Badaling part of the Great Wall, the world's longest man-made structure, which stretches over a formidable 6,352 km. Words cannot describe our amazement when we saw this great monument, which is supposedly visible to the naked eye from space (along with the M25). Having climbed to the highest point, we could see the Wall going on for miles, peak after peak, into the mountains in the distance.

Afterwards the party split into two, with the Chamber Orchestra and string ensembles going to the British Embassy and the rest of the group going to the Ming Tombs, the mausoleums of thirteen emperors of the Ming Dynasty, 50 km



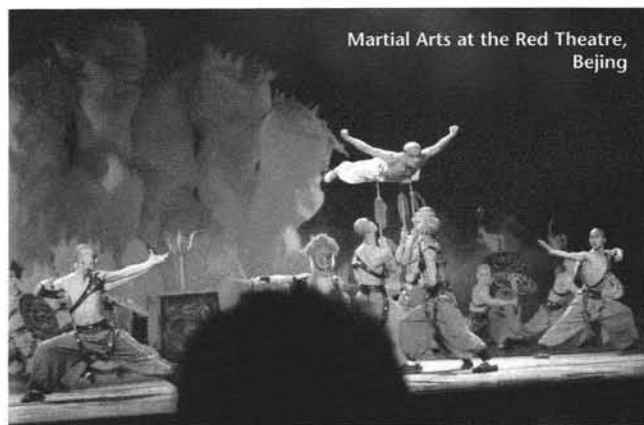




The Badaling section of the Great Wall



Ocean Park, Hong Kong



Martial Arts at the Red Theatre, Beijing

north-west of Beijing. I went with the former group but heard that the tombs were incredible and an impressive part of China's history. On arrival at the Embassy, we were shown to the Ambassador's newly refurbished drawing room in which we held our reception. After a short rehearsal and supper, we played for other ambassadors and diplomats for almost an hour, receiving a warm response from the audience and the Ambassador himself. We then stayed for an hour or so to chat with the guests before joining the rest of the orchestra back at the hotel.

On our ninth day, we went around the stunning Summer Palace, dominated by Longevity Hill (60 m high) and the Kunming Lake, covering about 3 square km. After a traditional Chinese meal,



Panda, Ocean Park, Hong Kong

we continued to the venue for our third concert at the *Central Music Conservatoire* in Beijing. **Tim Barrow**, our principal cellist, gave a very moving performance of Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei*, and our Chinese audience were so struck by his playing that they refrained from talking throughout the performance (which otherwise seems customary in Mainland China during concerts).

Our last full day in China was spent at Tian'anmen Square, the largest public square in the world, and in the Forbidden City. The Square was absolutely packed with people visiting both the Square itself and the mausoleum containing Chairman Mao Tse-Tung's corpse. We were terrified about getting separated from the group and put a lot of effort into dodging the



men trying to sell us Mao's *Little Red Book*. We walked through this vast Square, so big one can hardly see one side from the other, and arrived at the Forbidden Palace. At the entrance is a huge portrait of Mao, which is replaced every year on China's National Day, 1 October. The palace was the imperial palace during the mid-Ming and the Qing Dynasties and its extensive grounds comprise 720,000 sq m, 800 buildings and more than 8,000 rooms. It

featured in the film, *The Last Emperor*. The interior of the great palace is unbelievable – and the Starbucks café inside the palace amusingly incongruous.

We went next to Chen Jing Lun High School, a school founded by Mr Chan, for our last concert. A tunnel of pupils greeted us and presented us with badges bearing the School's



Chen Jing Lun High School

name. Everyone was extremely welcoming and lots of e-mail addresses were exchanged. The performing area was quite small for our large orchestra so we were rather squashed on stage, but this was more than made up for by a marvellous banner which, with our 750th Anniversary crest in its centre, read: "The Musical Get-Together of Beijing Chen Jing Lun High School and Abingdon School".

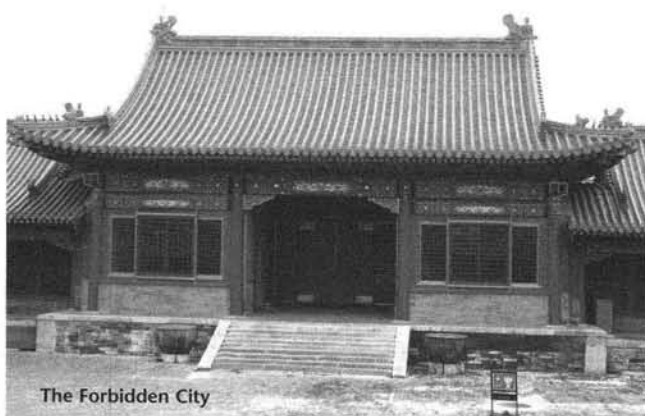
**Neil Housby** performed Rimsky-Korsakov's *Trombone Concerto* with great virtuosity under difficult conditions, as the hall was by this time extremely hot. We performed for the first half and were entertained in the second half by the High



Chamber Orchestra at the British Embassy



Tiananmen Square



The Forbidden City

School, which provided us with a mixture of dancing, traditional Chinese music, and choral performances. The event was extremely interesting and enjoyed very much by us all.



Our last Chinese meal was courtesy of Mr Chan, the founder of the

School, and was a splendid end to a wonderful and memorable experience in a very different part of the world. This was the Music Department's most ambitious tour and was a resounding success: we saw wonderful sights, played marvellous music, had fantastic fun and built lasting friendships with our Chinese hosts. Moreover, we performed an extremely challenging and wide-ranging repertoire in four concerts, over 5,000 miles from home in a very different part of the world.

Mr Stinton and the Department must be thanked for all the vast amount of preparation they did and for their leadership in China, which ensured that the tour was not only disaster-free but a tremendous success.

Henry Scarlett 6 SAE  
and David Rawcliffe 6 DAB



## Practical Music Examination Results 2005 – 06

Associated Board Practical Examinations Passed = 236  
Distinctions gained = 23, Merits gained = 42

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

Tristan Mitchard	Organ	8	140
Max Dooley	Double Bass	1	137
Fergus McIntosh	Singing	8	137
Caspian Mitchard	Singing	7	137
Guy Cutting	Singing	8	135
Hugh Graham	Jazz Alto Sax	4	135
Charlie Uden	Alto Sax	1	135
Adrian Lo	Viola	8	133
Joseph Mason	Horn	8	133
Caspian Mitchard	Piano	6	133
Caspian Mitchard	Organ	5	133
Tristan Mitchard	Piano	8	133
Anthony Lloyd	Flute	8	132
Joseph Mason	Organ	5	132
Thomas Earl	Alto Sax	5	131
Arjun Kingdon	Violin	8	131
David Ridley	Violin	8	131
Harry Strong	Cello	7	131
Campbell Baum (J)	Alto Sax	4	130
Henry Carter	Singing	8	130
Guy Cutting	Violin	7	130
Nicholas Ereat	Piano	8	130
Thomas Wilson	Tuba	6	130



# Sport

## 1st XV Rugby

A tough but enjoyable pre-season tour to France, involving over 80 boys and 8 staff, was the prelude to a very successful first half of term for the 1st XV. To coin an old cliché, the season was most definitely 'a game of two halves'. The first half of term will be remembered as a very successful one. Seven games played, six won and only one defeat. Defeat to St Paul's by 8 points to 3 was nothing to be ashamed of and this followed victories against The Oratory School and Shiplake College, the latter in the first round of the Daily Mail Cup. A comfortable victory against Henley College in the second round of the Daily Mail Cup, followed by victories against Bedford, Magdalen College School and Stowe, meant that we were in very good heart as we approached the second half of the season. The Bedford game was particularly exciting: the team came up against a very strong side and the game seemed destined to be a very close affair. Abingdon fell into a 7-point deficit early on, but the team showed immense character to improve their performance in the second half. A brilliant try by the forwards before half-time got Abingdon right back into the contest and the game was settled with a last-minute penalty kick by **Matthew Watkins**.



The second half of the term was a mixed affair. Following a good victory against John Hampden Grammar School in the third round of the Daily Mail Cup, we suffered a narrow reverse away to Pangbourne



College. Then, against Bedford Modern School, our whole season seemed to be summed up in one game. We played excellent rugby in the second half of the match

in complete contrast to our first-half performance, which was tired and inept. In the fourth round of the Daily Mail Cup we once again came up against Magdalen College School. Whereas the first match, which we managed to win, was a rather brutal affair, the second match

### 1st XV Results

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts For	Pts Against
14	9	0	5	187	144
Oratory				W	19 - 13
Shiplake				W	23 - 3
St Paul's				L	3 - 8
Henley College				W	33 - 0
Bedford School				W	8 - 7
Magdalen College School				W	13 - 3
Stowe				W	13 - 7
John Hampden Grammar School				W	13 - 0
Pangbourne				L	0 - 3
Bedford Modern				W	20 - 14
Magdalen College School				L	12 - 17
St Edward's				L	5 - 47
Radley				L	7 - 17
Marlborough				W	18 - 5



saw Magdalen concentrate more specifically on playing rugby. A close encounter saw Magdalen take the game by 17 points to 12. We then suffered two defeats to St Edward's and Radley College, but played exceptionally well to beat Marlborough College in the last game of the season down in Wiltshire.

Throughout the season there were some excellent and consistent performances from **Matthew Halford, Scott Henley, Oliver Waite, Andrew Cole** and **Matthew Watkins**. Younger players such as **David Mills, Adam Paxton, Christopher Checkley, William Clegg, Chris Halford** and **Huw Parmenter** will surely figure prominently in next year's 1st XV. Overall, the season provided a good deal of enjoyment for all those involved. The team showed great spirit and commitment and at times a 'never-say-die' attitude, to clinch some superb victories.

This was the last season that **Stuart Hamilton** was both Master in Charge of Rugby at Abingdon and 1st XV coach. Over the years he has shown huge commitment and dedication and we would like to thank him for all his help and support over the many years that he has been involved in rugby at the School.

Those who played for the 1st XV:

**Scott Henley, Matthew Halford, Rowan Wheeler, Jonathan Thomas, Sam Wylie, William Clegg, Tom Davie, Chris Checkley, Andrew Cole, Oliver Waite, Bilal Yassine, Matthew Watkins, Adam Paxton, Stephen Lawrence, David Mills, Ryan Bucke, Craig Fraser, Huw Parmenter, Greg Palmer, Douglas Graham, Chris Halford, Francis Gater, Harry Moore, Angus Muir, Charles Quarterman.**

Alun Watkins

## 2nd XV Rugby

After a good performance on tour in France, we were expecting a good season and we were rewarded with one. Unfortunately, you will notice from the results that we lost more games than we won. However, many of these games were close and could easily have swung either way. Pangbourne, for example, was an extremely close game, which we felt we should have won. Another close game was Marlborough, which, owing to a breakaway try, we lost in the last few minutes. By far the season's most impressive victory was against Magdalen College School, where we won 52-0. Points were scored by **Huw Parmenter, Elliott Jones, Christopher Halford, Bilal Yassine, Oliver Burnham** and **Christopher Halls**. **Michael Watts** was the season's most prolific point-scorer. All the team played really well and with great passion throughout the whole season, only suffering one poor result, in the match against Radley. The relationship between the forwards, led by captain **Edward Wilson**, and the backs, led by **Toby Roche** and **Oliver Burnham**, enabled the team to string together some excellent manoeuvres.

Towards the end of the season, performances were weakened owing to some injuries in the 1st XV. Having said this, many of the members of the 3rd XV who took their places, such as **Richard Worth**, performed excellently. The team is looking promising for next year with some impressive players in the Lower Sixth such as **William Stockdale**, though some of the 2nd XV's old-timers, like **Iain Marsh, Alexander Grant** and **Charles Gill**, will be missed next season.

Edward Wilson VI APS

## 2nd XV Results

Oratory	W	8-7	Pangbourne	L	6-7
St Paul's	L	3-12	Bedford Modern	L	3-10
Bedford	L	10-19	St Edward's	W	6-5
MCS	W	52-0	Radley	L	7-41
Stowe	W	27-19	Marlborough	L	10-15

## 3rd XV and 4th XV Rugby

At the start of the season, **Andrew Crofton** and I could see that we had many players who, ordinarily, should have been in the 2nd XV. We rubbed our hands at the prospect of taking these boys to Radley late in the season. However, as the early encounters took their toll on the 1st and 2nd XV players, a steady migration of our best players began.

We started our campaign against The Oratory School and played some good rugby, provided by our quick backs and strong forwards. The contest was effectively over by half time for the 3rd XV, while the 4th XV blew the opposition off the park with a fine performance from **Arthur Verdin** at fly-half. We looked forward to a sterner test from St Paul's but unfortunately for both 3rd XV teams the official made sure that neither side was capable of sustaining any quality. The 4th XV played with enthusiasm but couldn't hold out against a well organised St Paul's side, especially without captain **Philip Birkett**, who was out for most of the season with ankle ligament damage.

Another tough encounter awaited us at Bedford where we played some of the best rugby I've seen by a 3rd XV pack, (led by **Nicholas Li**). The 4th XV played valiantly, led by **Richard Worth**, plus a great debut from **Nicolai Jürgens**.

Stowe was the last game we could muster for the 4th XV, as **Nicholas Li, Bruce Christiansen** and **Timothy Fegan** were called to the 2nd XV. They went out in style, battering the opposition to a 48-0 defeat as a result of great performances from **Benjamin Taylor, Gor Mouradian**, and **Bhavesh Amin**. **George Fenton**, at fly-half, and **Matthew Coffey**, at inside-centre, ran the show for the 3rd XV and **Henry Freeland, Stuart Robertson** and **Bob Purinton** played well at outside-centre, wing and front row respectively.

**James Arrowsmith** returned as captain for the Pangbourne game, after having had his appendix removed. **Zhongjie Dong** and **Tobias Durant** had good games in the forwards whilst **William Stephenson** and **Christopher Halls** were impressive in the backs. Bedford Modern played a competitive and good-natured game but were respectfully dismissed with commanding displays from **Robert Haley** and **Richard Worth**.

St Edward's was a bruising encounter for the forwards, especially after we had been effectively weakened by the loss of another captain and a flanker to the 2nd XV. **Thomas Dean** played very well at scrum-half and there were great performances from **Philip Hatzis** and **Philip Thomas** in the backs. We saw an excellent game of rugby against Radley, although we tired late in the second half. **James Gibson** and **Alexander Locatelli-Malacrida** again showed excellent commitment in the back row.

Against Marlborough we had a feisty game and had to stand together with strength and commitment to earn the right result in a 0-0 second half. **Timur Ryvkin** gave a powerful performance as flanker. This ended a hard but hugely enjoyable season and the most successful in my time at Abingdon. The teams have shown skill, dedication and loyalty at all times and I thank them for representing the 3rd and 4th XV Abingdon rugby teams in 2005.

Mark Schofield

## 3rd and 4th XV Squad

**Jack Hammett, Rob Hayley (c), Bob Purinton, Toby Durant, Zhongjie Dong, Timur Ryvkin, Alex Locatelli-Malacrida, James Gibson, Tom Dean, George Fenton, Matthew Coffey, Stuart Robertson, Henry Freeland, Will Stephenson, Phil Thomas, Chris Halls, Nick Li, Ben Allen, Tom Phillips, James Arrowsmith, Phil Birkett, Richard Worth, Bhav Amin, Bruce Christiansen, Ben Taylor, Arthur Verdin, Tim Fegan, Gor Mouradian, Bayly Shelton, Edmund Lo, Aaron Mak**

## Senior Colts A XV Rugby

So often we measure the success of a team by the results of the previous season. However, it is important that some sort of improvement, regardless of results, is achieved. This season has proved that for us. During the early stages, the Senior Colts showed tremendous potential. Last season as a Junior Colts side we lost to St Paul's 0 - 43, and to Bedford 0 - 29. The aim was to turn these results around – and we came so close. Against St Paul's, we lost by 3 points, 17 - 20, and against Bedford, having



been 11 - 0 up, we lost the game 11 - 12. These were fantastic results when making comparisons with last season, but, in reality, games that we could and should have won.

In retrospect, these were pivotal games: had they gone the other way, the team would have oozed with the confidence that would have taken them on to greater things. Our true strength this season has been our pack. In every single game, we dominated up front, winning the ball from scrums and line-outs. Unfortunately, we failed to use that possession to our advantage, squandering opportunity after opportunity. In our match against Marlborough, where we aimed to rekindle some of that early-season magic and finish the term with a convincing victory, alas, we lost 8 - 29. The award for the most valuable player, for his consistent effort and focus during training and matches, must go to **Joe Buckley**.

Andrew Hall

## Senior Colts A XV Results

Oratory	W	8-7	Pangbourne	L	13-15
Oratory	L	3-18	Bedford Modern	W	22-8
St Paul's	L	17-20	St Edward's	L	3-7
Bedford	L	11-12	Radley	L	11-31
MCS	W	17-14	Marlborough	L	8-29
Stowe	W	18-0			

## Senior Colts B XV Rugby

This has been an excellent season for the Senior Colts B and our first match, against The Oratory School, set the tone. Although we got off to a shaky start, as the game wore on we became increasingly confident, managing to score six tries while conceding only two, giving us a comfortable 36 - 10 win.

The next match, against St Paul's, brought memories of last year's thrashing. However, now on home turf with a full-strength team firing on all cylinders, we aimed to do better. A try from **James Cookson** and a penalty from **Patrick Shephard** gave us a half-time lead of 8 - 0 - we were ecstatic. But St Paul's applied the pressure after the break and by full time the score was 19 - 8 to St Paul's.

A positive Abingdon side met Bedford next. Superb play from **Simon Jeffreys** and **Toby Ojo**, and another late first-half try by **James Moulds** gave us a comfortable 17 - 0 lead at the break. Bedford were unable to get into the match and at full time we were 38 - 0 with tries from **Tim Gower**, **Max Kibble** (2), and another from **Toby Ojo**.

We were not expecting a testing game when, two days later, we met Magdalen College School. However, they were better than we had expected and we had to play inventively and skilfully before we were able to cruise to a 26 - 0 victory.

After a shaky start against Stowe, Abingdon proved themselves the better side. **Luke Himpson** played well and eventually we secured a relatively easy 36 - 0 win. There were notable performances too from **Michael Caldwell** and **Tom Durrands**.

A tame Pangbourne side were our next opponents; conditions were very wet, which increased the number of dropped passes, but not even the rain could stop us from obliterating them 44 - 0.

We were a confident team that met St Edward's and despite some early mistakes we soon found our groove again and managed to coast to an easy 42 - 7 victory, with notable efforts from **Alec Plint** and **James Cookson**.

Against the old enemy, Radley, an early lead of 7 points evaporated under relentless pressure from our opponents and despite the tries from **Luke Himpson** and **James Moulds**, together with some fine play by **Patrick Shephard**, we were defeated 14 - 28.

The last game of a rewarding season was against a top-drawer Marlborough side. The game went from end to end as both teams were well matched, and at one point two penalties from **Patrick Shephard** gave us a 6 - 0 lead. However, we were unable to maintain the pressure and Marlborough came back to beat us 8 - 6.

The players who consistently played for the Senior Colts B XV were:

**Michael Caldwell, Henry Locatelli, Richard Martin, James Bedford, James Cookson, James Moulds, Tom Durrands, Josh Turrill, Simon Jeffreys, Alec Plint, Patrick Shephard, Jamie Graves, Tim Gower, Max Kibble, Luke Himpson, Toby Ojo** and **Alex Sharp**.

Dean Evans

## Senior Colts B XV Results

Oratory	W	36-10	Pangbourne	W	44-0
St Paul's	L	8-19	St Edward's	W	42-7
Bedford	W	38-0	Radley	L	14-28
MCS	W	26-0	Marlborough	L	6-8
Stowe	W	36-0			

## Senior Colts C XV Rugby

It was a season with many highlights from a very skilful C team. The statistics tell of success: six matches won, two lost; 186 points for and 40 against. The term started with a 45 - 7 victory over The Oratory showing both the degree of individual talent within the team and the necessity for improving our teamwork—as well as one of the fastest opening tries I have ever seen. Fine performances came from **Alex Lewington** and **Oliver Hampson**. The match against St Paul's showed us what teamwork was all about. Nevertheless, our team showed a tremendous spirit, and **Eddie Barrett** a quick pair of heels, to score our only try: 7 - 25.

Bedford always seems to be a marker for the rest of the season, so it was promising that we beat them 14 - 0 on their home ground: a tough game with hard running from **Joshua Steeples** and hard tackling from **Alexander Kearly-Shiers**. A couple of teams elected to withdraw from their fixtures with us, especially after our 70 - 0 drubbing of Pangbourne (space does not allow to list all the try-scorers!). The most exciting and impressive matches were towards the end of the season: against St Edward's a mighty performance from the pack, particularly with **Luke Powell** as pack-leader, and a startling try from **Harry Lee** contributed to the final victory: 43 - 5, our total reflecting the improved interplay between the forwards and the backs. The score might have been greater, but we were lacking the very reliable kicker, **Patrick Collins**. **Samuel Johnston** and **George Collier** on the wings showed great finish, as they did throughout the season.

Radley was always going to be tough, but victory seemed possible as we had about 80% of the possession and played much of the match inside their 22-metre line. It was not to be and at the final whistle there was a stunned silence as both teams tried to work out how Radley had won: 7 - 8. **Thomas Metcalf's** try was a taster of what the team should have been repeating throughout the match.

It is always great as a coach to see a team improve as the season goes on: and some of the passages of play in the match against Marlborough were the best I have seen from a C team. Support from the forwards was outstanding, particularly from **Max Kibble** and **Luke Powell**, who exploited it to pick up crucial tries. **Dean Walker** was powerful in the rucks; **Mark Pluck** also provided heavy tackles, an area in which he has improved greatly. **Samuel Welch** showed that size is not everything as he crashed through opposition formations. Defence in the back line was crucial against dangerous wingers and centres, so **Joshua Ogle** and **Oliver Hampson** worked tirelessly, encouraged by daring running and kicking from the captain, **Patrick Appleton**: 19 - 10.

These results show the tremendous effort that the boys put in this season and the pride with which they played.

Hugh Price

## Senior Colts C XV Results

Oratory	W	45-7	St Edward's	W	43-0
St Paul's	L	7-25	Radley	L	7-8
Bedford	W	14-10	Marlborough	W	19-10
Pangbourne	W	70-0			

## Junior Colts A XV Rugby

Everyone on the side looked forward to the Michaelmas term. It heralded the start of the Daily Mail Cup and a season of tough fixtures. We also had a new coach, **Mr Phelan**, who put every effort into getting the most he possibly could out of a promising team. We started our season with some intense fitness sessions and were soon feeling the benefit, with the whole team running considerably faster around Albert Park.

Our first match against The Oratory exposed some weaknesses in the team and though we drew 14 - 14 we came off knowing we should have done better. Our next game was against Cokethorpe (Daily Mail Cup round one) and the score, 52 - 0, showed that the practice we'd put in since the last match had really paid off.

This good start came to an abrupt halt; we suffered quite heavy defeats against a physically big St Paul's team and a pacy Bedford side. This showed us how much we needed to work on our defence and the next game, against Stowe, saw us put it all together to beat them by 28 points. From that match onwards, the team got stronger: impenetrable defence was now the main feature of our game. The only team to score more than once was Bedford Modern, a game we won with fourteen men: 21 - 14.

The season finished with two big games against teams new to us, Colston's (Daily Mail Cup round five) and Marlborough. We travelled to Colston's to encounter a tough game on a cold, rainy day. Towards the end of the game we were behind by 7 points to 5 but a try by **Sherif Sam-Sadeen** not only won us the game but also ensured that there would be rugby after Christmas!



Against Marlborough, the team got stuck in right from the whistle and the match was won with all aspects of our game fitting together well. It was a tribute to the effort put in all season by both Mr Phelan and the team as a whole.

After Christmas, our defeat at the hands of an unbeaten Wellington side saw us out of the Daily Mail Cup in round six. However, we had gone into the match as the best side in the South-West and we are the first Abingdon team ever to have got so far.

George Bone 4 ASH, Captain

## Junior Colts A XV Results

Oratory	D	14-14	Bedford Modern	W	21-14
Cokethorpe	W	52-0	MCS	W	21-7
St Paul's	L	0-36	St Edward's	W	29-5
Bedford	L	2-8	Radley	W	8-0
Stowe	W	29-0	Colston's	W	10-7
Pate's	W	43-0	Marlborough	W	17-8
Pangbourne	W	24-0	Wellington	L	9-25

## From the Coach:

The Junior Colts A have had a good season with some great individual performances but essentially it has always been a team effort. This was capped at the end of term by the team being named 'team of the moment' on the National Schools' Rugby website.

The following deserve special mention and an award:

Highest Scorer/The 'Golden Boot' award: **Michael Shaughnessy**

Best Player: **Tom Green**

Most improved player/The 'Good Hands' award: **Ross Muir**

Captain's Prize: **George Bone**

Will Phelan

## Junior Colts B XV Rugby

The Junior Colts B XV had another successful season, building on the back of an unbeaten run from the year before. Changes in the line-up meant that many key players from last season were no longer in the squad, so others had to play a more prominent role.

The season began with a convincing win over The Oratory School, but lack of organisation cost us against Bedford and St Paul's. After these two games, however, we enjoyed an all-but-unbeaten run, save for a final loss to Marlborough at the very end of the season. We had some close-fought wins over Radley and Stowe, with more comfortable victories against Bedford Modern, Magdalen College School and St Edward's.

**Nick Howe** was the motivation behind the team, applying the same standard he sets for himself to the rest of the boys. The pack responded well to the challenge of fronting up to many larger sides, with **Benjamin Kemp** and **Rex Carter** showing big improvements. **Timothy Deeks** orchestrated a dangerous back line, with **James Manasseh** and **James Burford** making all the difference. The most improved player was **Ben Clayphan**, whose continued application saw him step up every aspect of his game.

Steve Brenchley

### Junior Colts B XV Results

Oratory	W	46-0	Bedford Modern	W	36-10
St Paul's	L	0-17	MCS	W	48-5
Bedford	L	7-22	St Edward's	W	48-7
Stowe	W	24-19	Radley	W	17-10
Pangbourne	W	46-0	Marlborough	L	5-15



## Junior Colts C XV Rugby

This was a successful season for our Junior Colts C team. Of the eight matches we played, we came out victorious in six. To start the season we played The Oratory – a reasonably easy start to the season with a 35-0 victory. Next was St Paul's, which was always going to be tough, and in the end we lost 7-10 to an experienced team. Then we had the trip to Bedford. We were expecting a very talented opposition but we found out that our opponents were scrappy and disorganized. Unfortunately we still lost 6-22. Our next outing was the trip to Stowe. We saw the sights and then played a fast-flowing game of rugby, which we won 34-17.

In the second half of term we had a very good run of results, starting with a 54-0 win over Bedford Modern. We were expecting a better opposition. St Edward's were our next opponents and this was an entertaining match in which we overcame them and managed to win 34-12. Then came the rivalry game against Radley, to which we had long looked forward. In the end we won 43-7 in a match that was very one-sided. We ended the season with a resounding 54-5 win over Marlborough to make it five wins in a row. Both Radley and Marlborough fielded their 4th XV's against us. We have politely invited them to send out their 3rds next year.

Our policy has been to field as many players as possible, although a core team has inevitably developed. Players of note have been **Dale Barker** as captain, showing vision and increasing ball-sense, and **Tertius Alberts** for his grit and commitment. **George Palmer**, **Alex Baboolal** and **Oliver Verdon** have been noticeable and to the fore whenever they have played.

Joss Williams

### Junior Colts C XV Results

Oratory	W	35-0	Bedford Modern	W	54-0
St Paul's	L	7-10	St Edward's	W	29-12
Bedford	L	6-22	Radley	W	45-7
Stowe	W	34-17	Marlborough	W	61-5

The team was chosen from:

**Tertius Alberts**  
**Alex Baboolal**  
**Samuel Badenoch**  
**Dale Barker**  
**Oliver Boddie**  
**Christopher Brash**  
**Jamie Brown**  
**Patrick Child**  
**Timothy Clarke**  
**Nicholas Croft-Simon**  
**Guy Cutting**  
**John Davies**  
**George Dugdale**  
**Christopher Dunster**

**James Fergusson**  
**Oscar Hird**  
**James Hunter**  
**James Manasseh**  
**Ryuichi Murase**  
**George Palmer**  
**Rory Spriggs**  
**Oliver Verdon**  
**Robert Walker**  
**Benjamin Warwick**  
**James Wilder**  
**James Wilkinson**  
**Matthew Winters**



## Juniors A XV Rugby

The Juniors A started the season poorly, losing a tight game 12 - 13 to a decent Oratory team. After a bit of re-jigging, we went into the St Paul's match quite confident, but despite moments of excellent rugby, we never quite got close enough to them and eventually lost 12 - 24.

These two early defeats didn't unduly worry us, because we believed that we had a group of players who would improve as a team, so that by the time we went into the Bedford match we were feeling confident again. Bedford fielded a very strong team, but our forwards were exceptional, and our back line, although still not up to the standard necessary, showed signs of promise and we came out victorious, 34 - 17.

A good performance enabled us to win the match against Rugby comfortably, not conceding a single point. The final result was 29 - 0. The next two games were against Pangbourne and Bedford Modern, which were won 24 - 0 and 52 - 0, respectively. We continued to defend well, the pack dominated their rivals and the backs started to gel. The last four games of the season were very important to us, determined as we were to keep up the winning sequence. Although it was quite a scrappy game, we played fairly well against Magdalen College School, winning 28 - 0, to the delight of the players. Next came St Edward's, who could see that we had a considerably bigger and better pack. We used this to our advantage and we played brilliant rugby, backs and forwards combining to score some fine tries. We won 66 - 0.

Radley was the big game of the season and we pulled out a brilliant performance, to the extent that it was probably our best of the season. Every player gave his best in the game and this resulted in our winning 45 - 0. The final match of the season was against Marlborough. The opposition had a big and versatile pack and with our vice-captain injured we knew that it would be a hard game. We played exceptionally well and finished the season with another victory, making it eight on the trot.

In the last seven games we did not concede a point, which is extremely pleasing, considering the strength of the teams we played. The reason for such a successful season was down to skill, team spirit and good coaching from **Mr Evans**.

Nathaniel Watkins 3 EMTS

### Juniors A XV Results

Oratory	L	12-13	Bedford Modern	W	53-0
St Paul's	L	12-24	MCS	W	28-0
Bedford	W	36-17	St Edward's	W	66-0
Rugby	W	29-0	Radley	W	45-0
Pangbourne	W	24-0	Marlborough	W	38-0

### From the Coach

This season produced a major contrast between the start and the finish. When I compare my feelings following the first match defeat against The Oratory with the final win against Marlborough, the difference is quite extraordinary. I will be eternally grateful to the boys for turning it all round in such a striking fashion. They developed from a very unpromising start into a most effective, powerful team, and I will be very interested to see how they progress from now on as they move through the School. Here's the team line-up:

**Joel Collins:** (Full-Back) Moved from wing to full-back and it turned out to be a key change. His defensive tackling, often one on one, was outstanding. He never missed a tackle. His attacking running was also a real asset.

**Henry Mills:** (Wing) Lots of talent; settled into the wing position and was a very effective finisher. Much improved through the season.

**Michael Summers:** (Wing) The outstanding try-scorer in the side; blistering finishing power and excellent attitude; always listened sensibly to advice; defence improved greatly.

**Nathaniel Watkins:** (Inside-Centre; Captain) Unassuming, dependable, made good decisions and kept the midfield together. A natural ball-handler and distributor and a vital cog in a successful machine.

**James Edwards:** (Outside-Centre) Reliable and deceptively quick; formed an effective partnership with **Nathaniel**. Improved his game during the season.

**Josh Smith:** (Fly-Half) Started in the B team but came on as sub in first game – and never looked back. Grew in stature and confidence – and allowed us to play the attacking game we wanted to. Tough, competitive; good when the pressure was on. Brilliant performance in dreadful conditions against Bedford turned the season round.

**Charlie Redman:** (Scrum-Half) His superbly reliable and fast service set up all the good things the backs did. An exceptional talent and another vital link in the overall set-up.

**Josh Jackson:** (No 8) Significant physical presence both in attack and defence. Took a few games to get into his stride – but was immense in the big games e.g. Radley where he really took on the powerhouse role.

**Richard Milford:** (Open-side Wing-Forward) Developed very well during the season; excellent tackler and support runner. Brave in the loose. Excellent fitness and stamina.

**Richard Parkin-Mason:** (Blind-side Wing-Forward) A class act in the back row. Good ball-winner around the fringes and very effective support-runner, finding clever angles. Two superb tries against Rugby.

**Maksim Makarov:** (Second Row) Another who grew in stature through the term. Tremendous work-horse who loved taking on the opposition. Very effective line-out jumper.

**Liam Smith:** (Second Row) On the fringe of things at the start, and forced his way into the team; great attitude, very effective taking the ball into contact; Player of the Season Award!

**Ben Juffkins:** (Prop) Great improvement through the term, peaking in final match v Marlborough; brace of tries and man of the match.

**James Humberstone:** (Hooker) Worked hard at his game; good in the loose; took a few against the head. Enjoyed taking on the opposition.

**Tom Hughes:** (Prop) Quietly very effective; very strong both in tight and loose. Powerful tackler! Excellent performance in final match v Marlborough.

**Hugo Morrison:** (Back Row) the perfect super-sub for the back row. Uncomplaining and very skilful; courageous; very quick to the breakdown.



To summarise: a squad blessed with talent, a great spirit developed through the term. They were a privilege to coach. The record speaks for itself. Could they become one of the great school teams of recent years? I believe they could.

Finally, many thanks to **Ian Middleton** for his invaluable help in coaching the squad – particularly his expertise and experience with the forwards.

Also, sincere thanks to all the parents and friends who have come along to watch the matches. Your touchline presence has been much appreciated.

Stuart Evans

## Juniors B XV Rugby

The Juniors B had an incredible season, one worthy of going down in Abingdon rugby history. If someone had told us at the beginning of the season that we would be undefeated, with victories against Radley and Marlborough, and concede only fifteen points, we would have been astounded.

The new team blended together well in the match against The Oratory but though we won 38 – 5 we knew there were still improvements to be made. The following week we worked really hard in the build-up for the match against St Paul's, whom we defeated 38 - 0, the only team in the School to win that day.

Strangely, our toughest match was against Bedford, where we only racked up 19 - 0. This was an excuse for **Mr Middleton** and **Mr Evans** to work us extra hard, but it was worth it. Our hard training sessions meant that our fitness was higher than most schools, and

it showed. We went on to defeat the next four schools we played and scored over fifty points in each. Rugby, the birthplace of the sport, were beaten 58 - 0, even when we played without our fly-half, **James Plumb**. Pangbourne similarly couldn't cope and lost 0 - 51. We went on to beat Bedford Modern 54 - 5 and Magdalen College School 64 - 0, **Freddy Howe Howe** and **Edward Howe** performing to their best ability.

Although we defeated St Edward's 49-0, the score did not reflect their team's ability to tackle and make some good breaks. Radley was next and perhaps our toughest match yet. However, thanks to our countless tackling drills they couldn't break through our defence, which enabled us to run away 36 - 0. The final match of the season was against Marlborough and this match was one we had to win at all costs to secure our unbeaten season. At half-time, we were 7 - 5 up, having been defending for most of the half. But we stormed home eventually with a 29 - 5 win, playing our best rugby of the season in the second half.

During the season we racked up 436 points and only conceded 15. A large chunk of this success was due to Mr Middleton and Mr Evans, who coached us brilliantly. In the team there were many outstanding performances individually and collectively. In the forwards, **Frederick Humfrey** was always in support of the ball-carrier and was inspiring to many others. **Dylan Robinson**, despite being injured for a few matches, also made a big impact and **Edward Howe** made crucial breaks. In the backs, **James Carter** more than filled **Alex Beech's** shoes at scrum-half when he was injured and **James Plumb** at fly-half used his boot with great efficiency. **Callum Keown** and **Sam Newman** formed a strong centre partnership, both capable of running at clever angles. **Bobby Aigbogun**, **Harry Gray**, **George Rossiter** and **Freddy Howe** all showed immense flair and pace at wing and full-back and often made those vital tackles. This team was a sight to behold and one to look out for in the future.

Euan Campbell 3 VMW

## The Squad

**Alex Ward, Jack Rogers, Frederick Humfrey, Euan Campbell, Jonathan Barrow, Jamie Cook, Dylan Robinson, Jamie Holland, Edward Howe, Joseph McDonagh, Alex Beech, James Carter, James Plumb, Callum Keown, Sam Newman, Harry Grey, Charlie Brampton, Bobby Aigbogun, George Rossiter, Freddy Howe.**

## Juniors B XV Results

Oratory	W	38-5	Bedford Modern	W	54-5
St Paul's	W	38-0	MCS	W	64-0
Bedford	W	19-0	St Edward's	W	49-0
Rugby	W	58-0	Radley	W	36-0
Pangbourne	W	51-5	Marlborough	W	29-5



## Juniors C XV Rugby

This was a hugely successful season from a highly motivated, skilled and improving team. The notable features of the term were the fitness and the great team spirit displayed, especially in the only defeat against a very strong St Paul's side. The forwards were fit and mobile and increasingly played as a unit, their rucking improving with experience. The backs were athletic runners, who moved well at pace and learnt to choose better lines of attack.

The season started well at The Oratory with a 22 - 5 victory; it was difficult to get selection right in the early weeks, but the team progressively became stronger. The fixture against St Paul's came too early for our developing side, but despite a 0 - 24 defeat, the team showed a spirit and determination that would become their trademark for the rest of the season. Good wins against Bedford and Rugby meant that half-term was reached with three wins to one defeat. During the second half of the match against Rugby, the backs began to show their handling skills at pace: this was to be a consistent feature in the second half of term. After beating Bedford Modern 70 - 0 and St Edward's 37 - 0, we were in fine form going into the tough Radley and Marlborough fixtures. Motivation was very high and there was a significant elevation in the precision of our play. The boys were delighted with their 58 - 0 demolition of Radley and the forwards saved their best game for last where their power and fitness helped to overwhelm Marlborough 47 - 0.

**Benedict Edwards** was the motivator in the team. A very athletic second row, including **William Fotherby, Nicholas Ereaut** and **Ali Ibrahim**, consistently made good ground, although the back row were quick to the break-down. Three boys played as scrum-halves but **James Carter** demonstrated great improvement and earned a call-up to the B XV. **Stephen Poland** captained the team from the centre, carving through most defences. Top try-scorer **Robert Fife** was a strong finisher and **Robert Winearls** a hard-running, hard-tackling full-back.

The team conceded only five tries in the whole season. The boys trained with enthusiasm and quality and they improved significantly as individuals over the course of the season. In victory and occasional defeat they were gracious and always accepted the referee's decisions, despite not understanding them from time to time.

They were pleasure to coach, and I wish them every success in the Colts.

Nick O'Doherty

## Squad:

**Benedict Edwards, Benjamin Hogan, Christopher Edwards, Ali Ibrahim, Nicholas Ereaut, William Fotherby, Richard Meadows, Henry Kibble, Peter Brombley, Oliver Read, James Carter, Thomas Watkins, Ben Read, Henry Beggin, Stephen Poland, Luke Parker, Timothy Richards, Robert Fife and Robert Winearls.**

## Juniors C XV Results

Oratory	W	22-5	Bedford Modern	W	70-0
St Paul's	L	0-24	St Edward's	W	37-0
Bedford	W	24-0	Radley	W	58-0
Rugby	W	51-0	Marlborough	W	47-0



## Juniors D XV Rugby

Despite being badly affected by unavailability and injury in the higher teams, the Juniors D showed flexibility and resilience to secure a highly successful season. The whole team improved greatly, especially the forwards, who became a powerful unit capable of holding their own against most C teams.

St Paul's was not the ideal first fixture and a lack of organisation and tackling were responsible for a huge half-time deficit. The second half was much improved and subsequently was won 7 - 5. The next challenge for the team was Bedford School. Abingdon started very sharply, scoring three first-half tries. Ten minutes of madness during the second half saw Bedford come back and, despite spending the last ten minutes in their twenty-two, the match was lost 17 - 22. The first win of the season was recorded 12 - 0 at Rugby School: this lifted the spirits of the boys and left them free for a relaxing half-term. The performance of the season was against St Edward's (52 - 0) where the much-improved team showed their ability to dominate a game. Radley were soundly beaten 26 - 7 and Marlborough comfortably dispatched 29 - 0 to complete an unbeaten second half of term.

**Robert Henley, Oliver Read** and **Geoffrey Penington** all had strong seasons. **Dan Boddington** and **Jacob Fries** improved and became pivotal players within the team. **Andrew Dart** picked up the Most Improved Player award, showing that determined training can reap its reward. In the backs, **John Bartlett** improved as scrum-half, **Adrian Lo** showed potential on the wing and **Bobby Howe** put in some strong tackles at full-back. Player of the Season, **Tom Watkins**, played in a variety of positions for the C and D teams, brought others into the game skilfully and tackled well above his weight.

Nick O'Doherty

### Squad:

**Andrew Dart, James Pickard, Jonathon Ient, Tommy Pritchard, Robert Henley, Daniel Boddington, Geoffrey Penington, Peter Ryan, Jacob Fries, Harry Strong, John Bartlett, Oliver Read, Thomas Watkins, Joseph Oldham, George Constable, Robert Hussey, Daniel Butterworth, Thomas Wilson, Adrian Lo, Bobby Howe, Thomas Jenkinson, Jasper Marlow, Thomas Finch.**

### Juniors D XV Results

St Paul's	L	7-38	St Edward's	W	52-0
Bedford	L	17-22	Radley	W	26-7
Rugby	W	12-0	Marlborough	W	29-0

## Minors A XV Rugby

The Minors A XV season was full of highs and lows. It started in late September with a cracking win against Cokethorpe, 14 - 0, followed at the end of the half-term with a hard-fought, physical victory over Josca's.

We all came back from the break with high hopes, but they were dashed when we came up against an extremely strong Bedford Modern team, going down in the end 10 - 22. We bounced back well, though, with two wins against Bromsgrove and Magdalen College School. Then we came to the final game of the term against Warwick, who were a very strong pack, and having some key players missing we lost 14 - 31.

After the Christmas break we got straight into the action, albeit in losing fashion, being defeated by less than five points on two occasions by Summer Fields and Cothill. This was the turning-point, after which we set ourselves the target of 3 wins from 3 games. It started well, with a 26 - 0 win over Berkhamsted. This we followed up with an excellent victory over St John's, Beaumont, 14 - 0. Then we got to the final game of the season against Moulsholme. We were down for most of the game, only getting on the scoreboard through penalties, until we were awarded a penalty try and we hung on for a thrilling 13 - 7 victory.

It rounded off the season brilliantly and gives us some real promise for next season. Thank you very much to **Mr Broadbent** for all the hard work he put in to making this a successful season.

Mark Francis 2 AJM

## Football

The Abingdon School 1st and 2nd XI football teams boasted formidable records last season. Captained by **Greg Salmon**, the 1st XI was unbeaten in all of their fixtures. There was never a shortage of goals for Abingdon, with several games running to double figures. The opposition always struggled to penetrate a sturdy Abingdon defence, which only conceded a handful of goals over the whole season. Our most rewarding results were against the teams for which football is an official school sport. Comfortable victories against such schools are a great accolade to the enthusiasm, skill and commitment of our team, which had been playing together for only a couple of months, as opposed to the oppositions who had often played together for years. The team has gone from strength to strength and is looking set to enjoy another successful season in the Lent term 2007. However, this time they won't find it quite as easy because a few highly talented local comprehensive schools have been added to the fixture list and will represent a real challenge.

Hugo Besterman

## 1st XI Hockey

Following a mediocre season last year, the team was determined to improve and show that Abingdon School is a strong hockey school. With only three players leaving the team from last year, there was a strong base to work from.

However, the season started disappointingly. The first match, against local rivals, St Edward's, started off very well, as we dominated the first half, not allowing the opposition to settle and, with a quick goal just after half-time, we were leading 3-0. However, fatigue and lack of concentration took their toll and allowed St Edward's back into the match. The final score was 3-3: **Christopher Newman** deserves a mention for scoring on his 1st team debut, having come up from the U16 side. **Rowan Wheeler** and **Adam Paxton** both made the score-sheet as well.

The following day allowed us to set the record straight against St Edward's and see what our local rivals would have in store for the coming season at the County Championships, which were held at Radley on a blustery Sunday morning. Our first match was again against St Edward's, and we imposed ourselves on them, coming out 2-0 victors, with **Rowan Wheeler** netting both goals. Our second game was against Magdalen College School, where the only goal of the game came from **Toby Roche** following a well-worked short corner. In the next match, against Bloxham, **Adam Paxton** used his pace to good effect and settled the game with a characteristic goal. Our fourth consecutive game was against Radley. We fell behind early on and a second goal came quickly for Radley. However, we came back strongly, reducing the deficit before the half-time break through **Rowan Wheeler**. Even though we had played three games in quick succession, the team rallied and put in a fantastic performance: **Andrew Cole** convincingly finished another short corner and we were back on level terms. The team put in a great performance and showed great heart and to grind a 2-2 draw. The supposed favourites, Radley, failed to beat Bloxham, meaning that we won the tournament for the first time in about ten years. The victory was made even sweeter as we lost two 1st team players to the Under 16 team as they attempted to win their County Tournament, which allowed **Teddy Brooke** and **Sam Wylie** to show themselves at 1st team level. Both of them performed exceptionally, leading to selection problems for the following game.

Pangbourne posed another challenge following the County Tournament. After a very disjointed game, Pangbourne won 2-0. This defeat fired the team up for the rest of the season and Shiplake were to feel the brunt of our anger. On a cold, wet, Wednesday at Tilsley Park, we were back to our winning ways,



the mid-field contributing heavily with three goals coming from **Christopher Newman**, two from **Toby Roche** and one each respectively from **Joe Canlan-Shaw**, **Rowan Wheeler** and **Rhys Cadman**, a Fifth-former who was making his debut in the team. The final result was 8-1.

Dean Close is a school known nationally for its hockey talent, regularly winning the National Cup and having a huge proportion of players in regional teams. **Adam Paxton** once again used his pace, latching on to a through ball and calmly placing it in the corner. **Matthew Halford** was his usual self, stopping any move developing down the right wing with well-timed tackles and important interventions. **Christopher Halford** had obviously been taking lessons from his brother, doing exactly the same job in central defence with equal quality. **Christopher Cowan** used his anticipation and knowledge of the game to command the defence and make multiple interceptions, releasing **Andrew Cole** down the right to cause problems and feed the front men. This emphatic win was probably the result of the season and demonstrated that Abingdon School hockey is growing in strength from year to year.

Following the success of the Dean Close game, we faced an unorthodox Stowe team. After struggling in the first half to break the deadlock, **Sebastien Wilson** received the ball on the edge of the D and coolly slotted it home. **Andrew Cole** confirmed the result with a well-taken penalty flick.

Unfortunately, our winning streak was brought to an end when we played Merchant Taylors'. In the first half we controlled the midfield and had some well-worked moves, but we were unable to convert any of these chances. In the second half the game began to degenerate. The pressure took its toll, leading to a scrambled goal creeping past the helpless **Douglas Graham**, who had previously excelled himself. **Rowan Wheeler** thought he had tied the game with a well-taken finish, only to find a free hit had been awarded as the ball hit the back-board. Unlike the Pangbourne game, we allowed our frustration to get the better of us and left holes at the back, leading to a breakaway goal and a very steep hill to climb. With five minutes to go we scored through a rare short corner and pressed hard for an equaliser. Unfortunately, we ran out of time and lost 1-2. This was another result which spurred the team on to make amends during the rest of the season.



Bloxham were the next opponents and were out to rectify their loss in the County Championships. On a blustery Wednesday afternoon, we proved our superior quality, winning 6-0, with 2 goals apiece from **Joe Canlan-Shaw**, **Rhys Cadman** and **Andrew Cole**.

A new fixture against Bradfield had been added this year: they were a good team and had three German players who had all received regional honours. This led to a very tight game where the defence, marshalled by **Christopher Cowan**, needed to be very strong. **Christopher Halford** and **Charles Lester** worked well, breaking up moves and marking tightly. We started poorly, conceding an early goal, but replied almost immediately through **Rhys Cadman**. As we continued to stop them playing, they grew frustrated and we capitalised, with **Rhys Cadman** scoring again, along with **Christopher Newman** and **Toby Roche**. This game also highlighted the strength of the mid-field: **Joe Canlan-Shaw** provided a good release ball and used his attacking skills well down the right wing; **Rowan Wheeler** did much the same down the left, winning multiple free hits and short corners from his weaving runs.

Magdalen College School provided a stiffer test, but **Bilal Yassine** was a brick wall in front of goal and never looked like conceding. It was not until the 68th minute, when **Rhys Cadman** waltzed through the D and slid the ball past the keeper, that the match was settled. However, this goal was the last for a four-game drought.

We went into the Regional Championships with a reasonable amount of confidence following our three previous victories. Our first match was against King Edward's, Southampton, but unfortunately the performance set the tone for the rest of the day: we created chances but we were unable to finish them, resulting in a 0-0 draw, a disappointing result. Next we played the favourites, Kingston Grammar School, who regularly win the whole competition, and their all-round class showed. With a national player up front they were razor-sharp and finished every chance that came their way: despite some last-ditch tackles and brave defending, we lost 4-0. Finally, we played Eton, who scored a last-minute winner, which knocked the wind out of our tired sails. Although the results did not go our way, it was a good experience for the team, particularly against Kingston Grammar School, and it put Abingdon on the regional map rather than just the county map. It also showed the players that some individuals have the capability to step up to the next level and go further in the sport than they had previously thought.

After the humbling Regional Tournament, we faced Radley and hoped to go one better than the 2-2 draw we had registered earlier in the season. At half time it was 0-0 and we knew the first goal would be key, but unfortunately it went their way and we were constantly chasing the game. This led to a breakaway goal and disappointment for us, but once again simple chances were missed and short corners were wasted.

Warwick suffered the team's wrath. After 4 goalless games, we determined to finish the season well. Within 2 minutes we were ahead from a slightly dubious goal from **Toby Roche**, but the goals did not stop there: the final score was 13-0, with the game called ten minutes short as it seemed pointless to carry on. Goals came from **Rhys Cadman** (4), **Adam Paxton** (2), **Christopher Newman** (2), **Rowan Wheeler** (2), **Toby Roche**, **Joe Canlan-Shaw** and even **Charles Lester**, who ran up to the back post to finish from close range. This provided a good confidence-booster for the team, although it is a shame these goals couldn't have come in previous games.

The last game of the season was against King Edward's, Southampton. We were keen to set the record straight following our disappointing display at the regional finals. On a water-logged pitch, we played at a decent standard considering the conditions, and the score was 1-1 at half-time, but a second-half hat-trick from

**Sebastien Wilson** settled the match 5-1; **Andrew Cole** and **Christopher Newman** also scored.

The team played some exceptional hockey at times, the highlights of the season being the victories over Dean Close and Warwick, as well as the County Championships.

**Douglas Graham** and **Bilal Yassine** both made some spectacular saves at times, helped by the determined defence lead by **Christopher Cowan**. The Halford brothers were both extremely effective. **Charles Lester** matured throughout the season and provided an extra option in attack. The mid-field was the power base of the team, with 'steady eddy' **Joe Canlan-Shaw** linking well with both the defence and attack. **Andrew Cole** and **Christopher Newman** were superb in defence and made good runs into the D. The strength of the mid-field can be seen in the goal tally, equalling that of the forwards at 25 goals. Up front, **Rowan Wheeler** used his silky skills to good effect, creating space for the other forwards to use their pace. **Sebastien Wilson** and **Adam Paxton** both did well, scoring important goals at critical times. **Rhys Cadman** was top scorer for the season with ten goals. **Christopher Newman**, **Sebastien Wilson** and **Rhys Cadman** did particularly well, as they were playing two years above themselves.

Thanks to **Mr Hall** for his hard work over the past years, he has made my job as Captain very easy and also developed the team's skill immensely.

Toby Roche VI JFH

## 1st XI Results

St Edward's	D	3-3	Bloxham	W	6-0
Pangbourne	L	0-2	Bradfield	W	4-1
Shiplake	W	8-1	MCS	W	1-0
Dean Close	W	1-0	Radley	L	0-2
Stowe	W	2-0	Warwick	W	13-0
Merchant Taylors'	L	1-2	KES	W	5-1





## 2nd XI Hockey

It was clear from the start of term that there was going to be quite tough competition for some of the places in the team this year since there was a surplus of mid-field players. It was good to see, as the season progressed, that players were prepared to work hard in new positions and make a success of them. As always, injury, illness, university visits and changes in the 1st XI brought changes to the team and we didn't often play the same XI twice in a row. After the heavy defeat by St Edward's in our first match, we switched the system to a two-man strike partnership of **Jared Kangwana** and **Harry Wimborne**, and to a four-man mid-field. **Harry** was always quick to run onto a loose ball and **Jared's** pace and increasingly good first touch put most defenders under pressure. The mid-field of four gave us a strong base from which to control a game. **Nick Li** was able to hold the ball well on the right, and **James Garrard's** aggressive runs from the left were often successful in gaining ground. **Teddy Brooke** was classy in the middle while **Richard Parker's** running and ball-winning helped us control the game. **Sam Wylie**, either up front or at left mid-field, looked assured and confident on the ball, while **Thomas Blakey** was an effective right-back or mid-fielder. **Alexander Hamilton** is the kind of player you are glad isn't spotted by the 1st XI coach, as his speed and dominance in defence got us out of trouble on many occasions. **James Gibson** and **Stuart Robertson** worked hard at the back, while **Alexander Francis** was always a good ball-winner and careful man-marker. **Thomas Rutland**, when self-disciplined, was a fine sweeper. **Bilal Yassine** was often fantastic in goal and made some stunning saves throughout the season, which kept us in the game against stronger schools like Dean Close and Merchant Taylors'.

By the end of the season we were ahead on the statistics, which on a fixture list that contains some very strong hockey-playing schools, was an excellent outcome. The team played some good possession hockey and began to move the ball quickly across and around the pitch and, despite my umpiring and coaching, managed to enjoy themselves.

James Nairne

### Those who played:

**Teddy Brooke** (Captain), **Sam Wylie**, **Bilal Yassine**, **Thomas Blakey**, **Alexander Hamilton**, **Alexander Francis**, **James Gibson**, **Richard Parker**, **Nick Li**, **Jared Kangwana**, **Harry Wimborne**, **Stuart Robertson**, **James Garrard**, **Tom Rutland**.

### 2nd XI Results

St Edward's	L	2	6
Pangbourne	W	2	1
Shiplake	W	7	1
Dean Close	D	2	2
Stowe	W	3	2
Merchant Taylors'	W	2	0
Bloxham	W	5	1
Bradfield College	L	1	5
MCS	D	1	1
Radley	L	1	3
Rendcombe 1st XI	L	3	4
King Edward's School, Southampton	W	5	0
<b>Goals total</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>

**Played 12, won 6, drawn 2, lost 4**

## 3rd XI Hockey

This season, the 3rd XI was filled with great team spirit and enthusiasm for the game, which made playing for them very enjoyable. Unfortunately, this did not come with the unbeaten record that the 3rd XI has come to expect. Sometimes we did not get the result we felt we deserved, and only against Stowe, where we won 2-0, did the result match our expectation. The problem was identified as the absence of an out-and-out striker to fill the role of **Sam Florey** who left last year. Here **Henry Freeland** deserves a mention since he adapted to a striking position for most of the season and ended as the side's top scorer with 4 goals (although this does contrast with Sam's 44). **Gareth Cadman** converted also, from defence to attack, providing some great expansive and offensive play, especially in the match against Magdalen College School. **Philip Birkett**, who on occasions had to act a stand-in captain, was the warrior of the team in mid-field. As captain, he carried the side to a memorable 2-0 win over Bradfield College with two powerful, perfectly placed undercuts into the top corners. This was one of the best results of the season. Alongside **Phil**, **William Stephenson** added some pace, while **Oliver Morrison** and **Jack Ambler** worked hard to help the defence and feed the attack. The defence was our pride throughout the season, rarely letting in more than one goal and always keeping us in the game. **Christopher Thomas**, aka 'the Titanic', was his usual solid self, and **Philip Cope** played with great commitment, resulting in a memorable run of the length of the pitch, which almost ended in his first goal in five years. **James Arrowsmith** pulled off some stunning saves whilst also managing to keep his defence in check.

The side had bad luck with injuries, mostly hockey-related, but thankfully the Cross-Country Club came to our rescue, providing **Matthew Coffey** and **Philip Hatzis** to help us out. Our season was tainted by a shock defeat by Pangbourne College, and a draw against Shiplake College, alongside some good results including victories over St Edward's and Dean Close in very hard-fought matches. Despite mixed results, we played some good hockey with a great atmosphere on and off the pitch and everyone enjoyed their season.

Thomas Scrase VI MS

### 3rd XI Results

St Edward's	W	2-0	Bloxham	D	1-1
Pangbourne	L	1-2	Bradfield	W	2-0
Shiplake	D	1-1	MCS	L	1-4
Dean Close	W	2-0	Radley	L	0-2
Stowe	W	2-1			
Merchant Taylors'	L	0-2			

## Senior Colts A XI Hockey

We all knew that the successful 2005 season would be a hard act to follow but we were determined to try. The opening fixture was against a good St Edward's team. After an even first quarter of an hour we took the lead thanks to a superb solo effort from **Rhys Cadman**. The goal raised our confidence and as a result our game, and we eventually ran out 5-1 winners with Rhys bagging a hat-trick. Special mention must also be made of **Thomas Clee**, who finished well for his first game of the season, and of **Jonathan Bayfield**, who scored in style with a delightful shot.

Our next opponent was a very strong Dean Close side. Unfortunately we never really got going in the match and ended up on the wrong side of a 6 - 1 score-line, Dean Close having an unstoppable short corner routine, which got them 4 goals! The following week we were determined for a better performance against a Stowe 3rd XI. Led by our captain **Hugh Graham**, we managed a 2 - 0 win but the score could have been far more impressive had we put more of our clear-cut chances away. The highlight of this match was the unstoppable drag-flick scored by **Robert Woods** in the second half.

The following fixture, against Merchant Taylors', was probably our best performance of the season. There had been rumours that they had a strong attack but our defence, consisting of **Joshua Ogle**, **Jamie Soames**, **Dylan Clive** and **James Cookson** was more than up to the job and stopped many edgy situations with some well-judged tackles.

After half term we had a long wait before our match against Bradfield College, a team we had not played before but as a result of promoted players and injuries we lost this match, together with the last two matches against MCS and Radley. However, in the County Championships we finished first, beating Radley 2 - 0 along the way.

As Oxfordshire champions we then went into the regional tournament where we again met Bradfield, whom we beat convincingly, 6 - 3. After losing to an excellent team from King Edward's, Southampton, 1 - 2, we needed to win our last match. Unfortunately, we could only manage a 2 - 2 draw, which meant we came second. Despite this, we felt that the season had been a good one and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The team would like to thank **Mr Moody**, our coach, who put in a lot of hard work and was fully committed to the team's success.

Dylan Clive S ALP

### Senior Colts A XI Results

St Edward's	W	5-1	Bradfield	L	0-3
Dean Close	L	1-6	MCS	L	1-3
Stowe	W	2-0	Radley	L	1-5
Merchant Taylors'	D	0-0			

## Senior Colts B XI and C XI

From several points of view, this was an unsuccessful season. The team lost more matches than they won and three defeats could and should have been avoided. Everything ended on a very unsatisfactory note with a silly result in the last match of the season.

The squad was smaller than it should have been, so gaps were not so easy to cover: add to that the captain's tendency to point out various umpires' failings rather too openly, and one or two avoidable injuries, and it might seem that the only solution would be to forget the term's hockey as soon as possible. But, of course, things are rarely quite as they seem.

The season began promisingly at St Edward's, despite a narrow defeat. The team's dominance of most of that match was followed by two wins – at Pangbourne and then at Shiplake, the latter being one of our highlights. The score was 3 - 1, with all goals very clinically taken from short corners, courtesy of **Joseph Buckley**, **William Cullen** and **Joshua Ogle**. It was also the occasion when goalkeeper **Harry Hole** took over the captain's armband in the second half from the injured **Oliver May**. The team met its first Waterloo at Merchant Taylors' with a resounding defeat, but bounced back four days later with a 7 - 0 win at Bloxham. The first half of this match was not the best advertisement for the game of hockey, particularly considering **Stuart White's** nasty injury, but after the break the team played some of its most fluent hockey, and by the end were scoring almost at will. **Joseph Buckley**, **William Cullen**, **Oliver May** and **George Collier** all did the business, but were all overshadowed by **Alexander Sharp**, whose goal would have made a Brazilian footballer proud. The next two matches were against stronger opposition and ended in two defeats – against Bradfield, 2 - 3, and against Radley, 1 - 3. In neither match were we disgraced: the Bradfield result could easily have been different, and even though we were second-best against Radley, the match was tight for long periods. The work-rate in both matches was impressive, and the Cs restored the balance a little with a draw against their Radley counterparts. Other commitments got in the way of anything like the normal B and C teams facing Rendcomb College, but otherwise, the least said about that trip the better.

Statistically, it was a losing season but despite that, this was a tremendous squad to work with. They worked hard at training, were always keen to improve, and all ended the season as better hockey players for it. Their good humour, seen during the worst of Tilsley Park February weather did them great credit, and many of them should make a great contribution to the senior squad. Nineteen boys played for the Bs at one time or another and fourteen different players represented the Cs, including one or two coming back from hockey retirement. In addition to those already mentioned in dispatches, **Max Derbyshire** picked up a Man of the Match award, **Robin Madden** always worked very hard, and **Samuel Johnston**, **Alexander Corps** and **Samuel Welch** all improved steadily over the season. Well done to the whole squad, and good luck on future hockey pitches. Particular thanks, though, goes to **Oliver May** – an industrious, often inspirational and always passionate captain.

Douglas Aitken

### Senior Colts B XI Results

St Edward's	L	0-1	Bloxham	W	7-0
Pangbourne	W	1-0	Bradfield	L	2-3
Shiplake	W	3-1	Radley	L	1-3
Merchant Taylors'	L	0-3			

### Senior Colts C XI Results

Pangbourne	L	0-3
Radley	D	2-2

## Junior Colts A XI Hockey

It is not often that, over the course of a season, you are able to witness improvements in every single boy in the team. The team that stepped onto the pitch for the first game of this season would have been unrecognisable from that at the end. Development in basic skills, and in particular in range of passing, allowed us to change the style of the hockey we were playing. In the latter half of the season, we controlled games by maintaining possession for long periods of time and remaining composed enough to wait for an opening. This style of play will stand us in good stead in the future, as our passing and movement improve further. The results do not reflect the manner in which the team played, and of course there were fluctuations in performance, but with only 2 losses out of 11 games there is much to be pleased about.

We hit the ground running with wins against St Edward's and Pangbourne, only to be brought down to earth with a 2 - 2 draw against Shiplake, after leading 2 - 0. We were physically out-muscled in a scrappy game, but some honest words after the game inspired us, and we battled superbly next match to narrowly beat a strong Dean Close side. We were under pressure for much of the game, with **Andrew Partridge** and his defence performing heroics to set up a last-gasp winner from **Nicholas Croft-Simon**. We then fought out a tough draw against Stowe, in which the boys were disappointed not to get a result, before a comfortable win and a good performance against Merchant Taylors'.

It was the game against Bloxham that really knocked us off course. We started well, going 2 - 0 up in the first half on a fine bright day. After a chat at half time about what to expect in the second half from a strong Bloxham team, we were geared up to not give anything away in the first five minutes, and to remain composed even if we did concede. Within five minutes the score was 2 - 2, we lost **George Palmer** and it began to snow. We eventually lost the game 2 - 4 and, I feel, learnt a great deal from it. It took us two games to recover from this, and we put in below par displays against Bradfield and Magdalen College School to limp to two consecutive draws.



Our confidence returned against Radley, where we held possession for long periods of time and should have won by a far more comfortable margin. **Cody Yellowlees - Bound** and skipper **Justin Robinson** put in great displays as everyone looked at ease on the ball. In the last game of the season we were strangely outplayed, despite having the higher percentage of the possession. We lacked penetration and were punished by a classy-looking King Edward's School, Southampton.

This last game of the season should not detract from what was a good season. **Matthew Pursell** and **Tom Green** were the driving force behind everything positive and **Michael Shaughnessy** was again dangerous up front. Special mention must go to **Timothy Deeks**, who now looks very accomplished on the left-hand side and **Justin Robinson**, who stepped his game up to lead by example.

Steve Brenchley

## Junior Colts A XI Results

St Edward's	W	4-2	Bloxham	L	2-4
Pangbourne	W	3-1	Bradfield	D	0-0
Shiplake	D	2-2	MCS	D	1-1
Dean Close	W	1-0	Radley	W	1-0
Stowe	D	1-1	KES, So'ton	L	0-5
Merchant Taylors'	W	6-2			

## Junior Colts B XI Hockey

This was a very mixed season for the Colts B XI. Throughout the season we suffered a loss of players from illness and sadly, in our biggest game of the season, we were forced to play a near full C team defence. The team, who showed passion and a willingness to learn under the guidance of **Mr Drummond-Hay**, played well as a unit throughout the season. There were some star performances.

**Guy Cutting** scored all the goals against Shiplake in a 4-0 win and **George Dugdale** scored a hat-trick against Bloxham. The side was captained by **Nick Howe**, who gave consistent performances in mid-field. Two other consistent performers were **Alex Kempell**, who broke his four-year nil-scoring duck this season, and **Tertius Alberts**, who produced some brilliant performances in goal. The top scorers were **Guy Cutting** with 12 and **George Dugdale** with 9. This was a remarkable achievement for **Guy Cutting**, who missed five matches through illness.

We hope to improve on this record next season and all our thanks go to Mr Drummond-Hay for his help this year.

George Dugdale 4 VEH





## Junior Colts B XI Results

St Edward's	L	1-2	Bloxham	W	5-1
Pangbourne	W	3-1	Bradfield	D	1-1
Shiplake	W	4-0	MCS	W	3-0
Dean Close	L	1-3	Radley	L	1-9
Stowe	L	1-2	KES, So'ton	W	6-4
Merchant Taylors'	W	5-1			

## Junior Colts C XI Hockey

With illnesses decimating the Junior Colts A and Junior Colts B teams, the Junior Colts C lost some key players for the course of the season. However, some changes resulted in a couple of players moving around and by the end of the season the complete Junior Colts C squad was fully capable of a resounding victory over the Junior Colts B team.

The crisis caused by absences was demonstrated by the number of goalkeepers used during the season. With **Mark Heffernan** – a key figure in the goal – unavailable at times, the team made its way through **Nicholas Ereaut**, **Ross Muir** and **Lewis Davis-Poynter**, all of whom did an excellent job in deputising for **Mark Lewis**, typically, was a key figure in attack, alongside **Harry Porter**, whose pace consistently troubled other teams; **Matthew Stafford** and **James Wilder**, who created the majority of the team's goals; and **Gabriele Caprotti**, who scored the only goal in the 1 - 3 loss to Radley.

The defence was a key part of the team. In front of the variety of goalkeepers, **Bob Kenworthy** at times was the rock at sweeper, keeping the defence intact and flirting with the goal at the other end. He was sorely missed in the game against Radley. Alongside

him, **Robert Crawford** played enthusiastically, as did **William Chang**, **Thomas Ryan**, **Benjamin Kemp**, **Nicholas Wilkinson**, **Dominic Berry** and **Oliver Boddie**, whose skills were eventually required in the Junior Colts B.

The team certainly showed progress from last year. There may have been only one win in five games, but five goals in total was a big improvement on the zero that they scored last year, and the Junior Colts C will undoubtedly remember their historic victory over the Junior Colts B team for years to come.

Jon Barker

## Junior Colts C XI Results

St Edward's	L	1-3	Bradfield	L	0-1
Stowe	W	2-0	Radley	L	1-3
Merchant Taylors'	L	1-4			

## Juniors A XI Hockey

An amazing team spirit with enthusiastic players brought success and fun to our season.

Our first match proved to be a great start. We came out on top, winning 2-1 against a competitive St Edward's side. As a team, we battled right until the end with goals from **Joe Kempton** and **Freddy Howe**.

Next, we came up against a perhaps less experienced Pangbourne team, winning convincingly with goals from the Howe brothers (2 from Freddy). A 3-0 victory boosted our confidence and we were beginning to improve our game in many ways.



Our unbeaten run did not finish there. On an unpleasant Wednesday afternoon, we played Shiplake. It was not the best game of hockey we have played but we managed to grab a win by 2-0.

Our next game was against Dean Close. We knew that this game was going to be one of the toughest of the season. With an injured goalkeeper and a lack of pace in defence, we were defeated by a better side.

We endured another loss against a swift and experienced Merchant Taylors' side but we played better as the game went on, only to concede two goals from slick set-plays.

With two consecutive losses, we all knew we had to improve and work harder in training sessions. We faced Bloxham, a team we knew would give us a tough game. The match was brutal, not only because it was a tough, physical game but also because we had to play in awful conditions: at one point it began to snow. But this did not affect our side's determination and in the end we won 2-1.

Bradfield College seemed a weaker side as we were able to win 2-0. Stunning performances from **Alex Veale** and **Eddie Howe**, together with a great team effort, won us the game.

Our last two games of the season were far from easy. Two very strong sides, one from Radley and the other from KES, Southampton, certainly tired our defence. We tried our hardest but walked away from the games knowing that we could improve our hockey at Abingdon.

Our thanks to **Dr Older** for his hard work in coaching us throughout the season.

Veeral Manek 3 CJM

## Juniors A XI Results

St Edward's	W	2-1	Bloxham	W	2-1
Pangbourne	W	3-0	Bradfield	W	2-0
Shiplake	W	2-0	Radley	L	2-3
Dean Close	L	0-6	KES, So'ton	L	1-8
Merchant Taylors'	L	0-2			

## Juniors B XI Hockey

At the start of the season, the aims of the Juniors B Hockey team were to improve our hockey, and to enjoy it.

Over the season these aims were most certainly fulfilled. Particular highlights included a 3 - 0 victory against Pangbourne with good attacking play from **William Lloyd** and **Joe Oldham** as the decisive factor. Wonderful attacking play on both flanks against Shiplake resulted in a 4 - 0 win for Abingdon. Against Bloxham, there was more attacking play but, despite a strong team performance, we lost 1 - 2. The most exciting and enjoyable match of the season was against Bradfield. A long coach journey meant that our heads were not where they were meant to be and soon we went two goals down. After a strong team-talk at half time, we came out in the second half and **Robert Aigbogun** scored a well-taken goal. With our heads up and time closing in, we got a short corner, and with some slick play by all the forwards, **Oliver Read** managed to put away a planned short corner move. It was a wonderful game for everyone on and off the pitch.

My congratulations go to the whole team who fought hard throughout the season, with a final tally of three wins, one draw, and six losses. **Robert Aigbogun** was the highest scorer with five goals, and Man of the Match awards were won by **Henry Kibble**, **Oliver Read**, **Jasper Marlow** and **Robert Henley**.

Our team contained a strong back line, held together by **Richard Moon** and **Edward Callow**; a tough mid-field, spearheaded by **Joe Oldham** and **James Carter**, and impressive forwards led by **William Lloyd** and **Robert Aigbogun**. It was certainly a good season with much promise for the future.

Oliver Read 3 CJM

## Juniors B XI Results

St Edward's	L	0-1	Bloxham	L	1-2
Pangbourne	W	3-0	Bradfield	D	2-2
Shiplake	W	4-0	Radley	L	0-3
Dean Close	L	0-3	KES, So'ton	L	0-1
Merchant Taylors'	L	1-3			

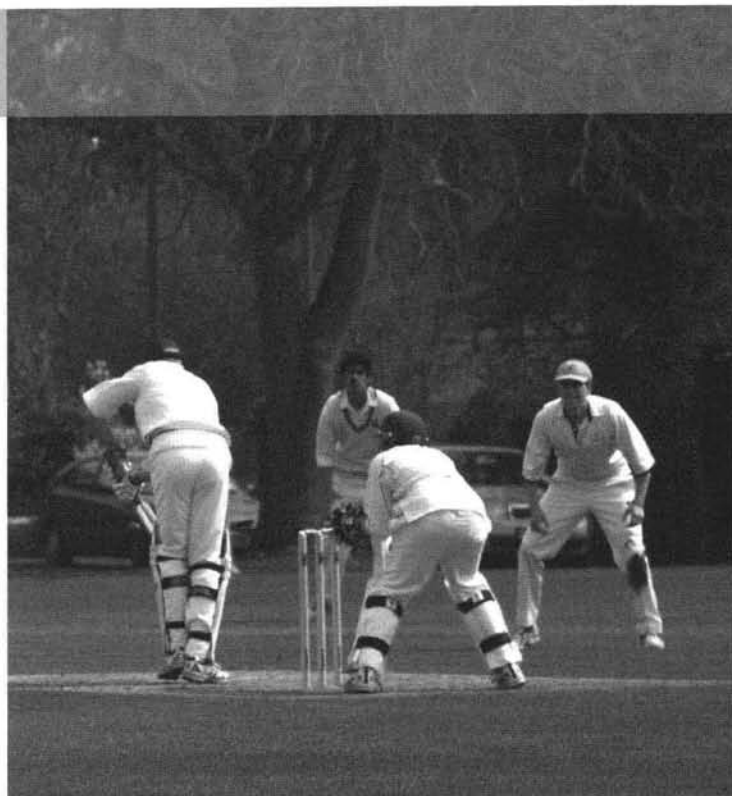
## 1st XI Cricket

2006 promised to be a difficult season for the 1st XI, following what had been a tough year in 2005 and the loss of the premier batsman from that side, **Paddy Stern**. Indeed, in the first half of the season results were poor and the batting in particular did not come up to scratch. However, it is a testament to the application and talent of the boys involved that by the end of term huge progress had been achieved and there were some notable scalps to celebrate. This was in part due to some talented youngsters being promoted to the team, but much can also be put down to the senior members of the side who helped the younger players to settle, whilst setting high standards in their own play.

The first match of the season was, as usual, played against Eton's second eleven, and although a narrow victory was achieved, it set a pattern for many of the games to come. Abingdon batted first and, at 19 for 3 were soon in trouble. However, **Joe Canlan-Shaw** held the innings together with a fine 62, as we finally struggled to a total of 150 all out. Otherwise there was too little application, and too many batsmen gave their wicket away with a rush of blood to the head. It must be stated at this point that the pitches at Abingdon were not good enough for batting throughout the season, but – to use a time-honoured cliché – it was the same for both sides. However, we seemed, perhaps understandably as the home side, to find more demons in the pitch than visiting teams, and our away record was vastly superior, with our batsmen averaging twice as much away as at home.

At first, Eton was a case in point. They recovered from an early loss to reach 80 for 1, apparently cruising to victory. However, **Toby Roche** ripped out their middle order, taking 4 for 30 with his off-spin, and **David Mills** was brought back to administer the coup-de-grâce, taking five wickets for only five runs in six overs, and finishing with figures of 5 for 12. This gave us victory by twelve runs.

This success was followed, however, by a series of disappointing batting performances: a narrow loss to Stowe (where **David Mills** again shone with the ball, taking 3 for 27); a fairly comprehensive defeat by The Oratory's strong side; a draw away to Bloxham, where **Nathaniel Watkins** bowled well to take 3 for 29 and a shambolic batting display was only rescued by **Joe Canlan-Shaw's** 52 not out and the heavens opening. The nadir was reached just before half term as we were thrashed by St Edward's, when we were bowled out for 76, after being set a target of 200.



The renaissance began with another heavy defeat, but one from which some cheer could be drawn. Against Berkshire Gentlemen's very strong adult side, we had our best batting display of the season so far, with **Joe Canlan-Shaw** scoring 38, before our two youngest players, **Nathaniel Watkins** (54) and **Joshua Smith**, enjoyed an unbroken partnership of 71. This was sadly terminated by a kamikaze declaration, and the visitors' strong batting line-up won the game with an hour to spare. However, 146 for 3 was unheard of riches for us, and the influx of new blood had given added vitality to our performance. **Nathaniel Watkins** built on his fine form in the next match with a second consecutive fifty (62), as we reached 200 for the first time in the season, away to Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe.

A string of five defeats and one moral defeat was not ideal preparation for a game away against Radley, but at least we had some batsmen in form. In fact, only **Nathaniel Watkins** made a sizeable contribution, scoring 49 out of a total of 169, as we failed to bat out our 55 overs, and they managed to bowl 49 extras at us. However, our season was kick-started by a dynamic display in the field as we reduced Radley from 71 for 1 to 159 all out. **Matthew Halford**, the captain, produced his finest performance of the season, taking three wickets, which was matched by **David Mills**. However, the fielding was the key, with **James Manasseh** completing a crucial run-out and others a series of great catches, most notably **Joe Canlan-Shaw** with two in the slips – where he didn't drop one all season. We suddenly looked like a cricket team, and everyone had made a significant contribution.

This marked the beginning of an excellent week, as we went on to beat the South Oxford Amateurs narrowly, almost entirely owing to an unbeaten 44 by **Sam Fletcher**, who batted throughout to see us home by one wicket. The following Saturday, against Magdalen College School, provided our most exciting match of the season. They were probably the strongest English school side we played all season, and we got off to a dreadful start with the bat after winning the toss, to be 57 for 6. However,





**Toby Roche**, who was leading the side in **Matthew Halford's** absence, and **Matthew Pursell** turned our innings around with some excellent batting. **Toby Roche** eventually saw us to a respectable score of 180 for 9 off 40 overs with his 56 not out, in what was perhaps the innings of the season. Our bowlers kept tight rein on a very strong opposition batting line-up, with **Jamie Graves** in particular putting in his usual miserly performance, bowling his eight overs for only 15 runs. The fielding was also excellent, although a few difficult catches were spilled. The match concluded amid great tension with MCS needing 12 to win off the last over: they managed only 11, leaving the match tied.

Two further home defeats followed, first a very low-scoring affair against the MCC on another tricky pitch, and then a rather heavy defeat against Kloof, a touring South African school, when we were missing a couple of key players; **Sam Fletcher** and **Joe Canlan-Shaw** again scored some runs albeit in a losing cause. The match was remarkable for **David Mills'** figures of 5 for 19, an excellent effort when the opposition have scored 266!

All that remained was the festival, which was hosted in London by University College School. On the first day we played King Edward's School, Lytham, and we got off to rather a sluggish start in the field, allowing them to reach 179 for 3 before **Jamie Graves** finally took the wickets which he had deserved all season, taking five in the space of 3 overs to bowl them out for 217. This was still by no means an easy target, but our two star batsmen produced their best performances of the season, with **Joe Canlan-Shaw** scoring 85 and **Nathaniel Watkins** 114, to put on an unbroken partnership of 198 to see us home by a comfortable 9 wickets. The next day, which was to prove our final game of the season, also witnessed our best performance, as we put a Birkenhead team to the sword, an effort all the more remarkable for the fact that very much the same side had crushed us the previous year. Our fielding was scintillating and all our bowlers were on target, though **Matthew Pursell** stood out with a very hostile burst to earn the figures of 3 for 20. Our batting comfortably saw us home to reach the target of 127 for the loss of only 4 wickets. Our final game, against UCS, was rained off at lunch, but as the only side to have won both games played, we had won the festival, an achievement which showed how much potential this young side has for the coming years. Our final record was therefore:

**Played 15   Won 5   Lost 7   Drawn 2   Tied 1**

I would like to thank **Gary Palmer** first and foremost for the expert coaching he was always keen to offer the individual boys over the course of the year; **Nick O'Doherty** for helping at

the festival (not least with his stunning performances on the slip cradle), but above all, all the boys who made this such an enjoyable season, even during the hard times. It may be invidious to single out individuals, but I shall. **Matthew Halford** led the team ably and with good humour, despite enduring a tortured season personally. His vice-captain, **Toby Roche**, was the main source of wit and passion within the group, as well as contributing vital runs and wickets. **Nathaniel Watkins** belied his years as our premier batsman and by the end of the season was our leading run-scorer. **Jamie Graves** and **David Mills** were not only keen competitors for the coveted number eleven spot, but were also the outstanding bowlers and leading wicket-takers, the latter finishing with a total of 28 wickets at an average of 13.7, as well as being the only individual to play every game. However, the player of the season was without question **Joe Canlan-Shaw**, who scored 408 runs at an average of 34, often when all around were losing their heads, and was probably the best slip-fielder I have seen at school level. He will be hard to replace next year, but we can look forward to next season with more confidence at this level than we have done for a while.

Chris Burnand

## 2nd XI Cricket

The 2nd XI had a successful season this year with five wins, one draw and only two losses. Even then, the draw was due to an unfortunate burst of rain when we were pressing on to victory.

We started the season with a trip to Eton, where we bowled first and **Greg Salmon** removed two batsmen for only 7 runs. A spirited comeback brought Eton up to 54 for 2, before our bowlers found their rhythm and the wickets started to fall again, leaving Eton 127 for 9 after 30 overs. We started our innings well with a strong opening stand of 45, when a flash to point dismissed **Charles Quarterman**. However, his partner **David Spencer** carried on regardless to reach 50. This brought us home with two overs to spare and our first win was on the board.

The next game for the 2nd XI was a trip to Stowe, where we elected to bat first. Another strong start was achieved with 47 runs being scored before our first wicket fell, and again **David Spencer** scored exactly 50 before coming down the wicket and being stumped. Then we collapsed, losing 5 wickets for five runs but we were saved from a pitiful score by a 49-run partnership between **Christopher Newman** (18) and **Greg Salmon** (31). This left us with a final score of 158 for 9.

Stowe then gave chase but never looked like reaching the target despite one of their openers making 57 not out. **Greg Salmon** took 3 wickets, as did **Philip Thomas**. Both **Joshua Ogle** and **Alex Francis** bowled economically, each taking a wicket.

We then travelled to The Oratory School. This was to be the closest match of the season. It started well as we won the toss and elected to bat. Another great opening partnership saw us at 57 before **Sam Fletcher** was bowled out, but **Philip Thomas** did not let that stop him as he went on to hit 59 runs before being bowled out himself. **Sahaj Sethi** then blasted his way to 30 from 18 balls before being bowled out. This left us with a very respectable score of 166 for 9. The Oratory fought back well and were on course to win when it came to the final over with only 8 runs needed and only 1 wicket in hand. **Dylan Clive** frustrated the batsman, who became impatient of his accurate line and length. The patience paid off as the batsman skied the ball for a catch by **Christopher Checkley**. A mention must also go to **Arthur Verdin** for an excellent spell of spin, taking 4 wickets for 30 runs.

Three out of three and all was looking well for our first home match against Magdalen College School. Electing to bat first, we managed to get 155 all out despite most of our batsmen failing to convert their good starts into big innings. We started well with **Jamie Graves** taking three quick wickets, leaving Magdalen 60 for 5, but a deluge of rain stopped play and we were unable to continue, although we might claim a moral victory.

Bloxham were our next opponents. In spite of the loss of an early wicket, **Sam Fletcher** went on to reach 82 and could have reached his hundred were it not for a rash shot. A late flurry from **Greg Salmon** brought us to a huge 184 from 30 overs. Then followed a demolition of their batsmen with their total reaching only 63 before they were all out. **Greg Salmon** and **Huw Parmenter** took three wickets apiece and **Alex Francis** another two.

Next was yet another close match, this time against St Edward's School. A shower of rain disrupted the start but eventually we got under way and elected to bat first. No one made a big score but a good 32 from **David Spencer** and quick 25 from both **Joshua Ogle** and **Sahaj Sethi** meant we finished on 127 after our 30 overs: not bad in tough batting conditions, but it could have been better. Extremely tight opening spells from **Huw Parmenter** and **Dylan Clive** meant that St Edward's were always chasing and **Huw Parmenter** was often particularly unlucky not to take a wicket. St Edward's, needing 10 off the last over to tie, faced a tall order, but they had just got 10 off the previous over so it was by no means impossible. The field was dropped back and they only managed 5 runs to complete their innings at 122 for 4, giving us another win.

Unfortunately our season did not finish as well as we had hoped and on the day of the England versus Paraguay football match we lost our unbeaten record to Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe in a scrappy match. Then we fell again at the final hurdle, losing to Radley in our last game of the season, when we had to make a lot of changes owing to exam commitments. However, this could not take the gloss off what had been a strong season, with many good results achieved in spite of frequent changes in the make-up of the team.

Charles Quarterman 6 ATH



## 3rd XI Cricket

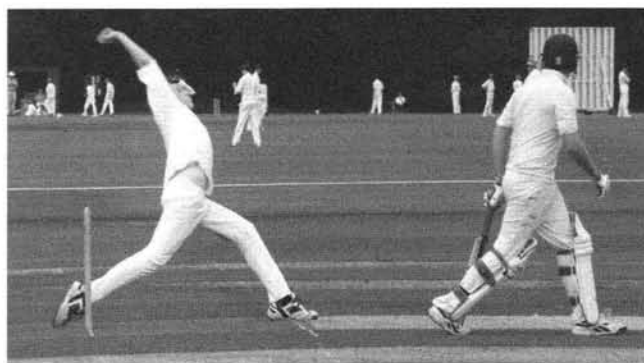
2006 has been a most enjoyable year for the 3rd XI. The team was led by the inspirational coach, **Mr Drummond-Hay**, and captained by opening bowler and leading wicket-taker, **David Emerson**. The side showed consistently good team spirit and a high standard of cricketing ability throughout the season. The successes began with a match against Eton with a solid bowling performance from all. This restricted Eton to 112 for 7, which was easily matched by the opening partnership of **Phil Thomas** (68 not out) and **Oliver Minton** (28 not out). This enabled us to win by 10 wickets. In the second match, against Stowe, we bowled first again and managed to bowl them all out for 125. **Phil Thomas** had been promoted to the 2nd XI, but all the remaining batsmen were in top form. A superb 50 not out from 23 balls by **Sahaj Sethi** guided us to an 8-wicket victory.

Our third game saw us travel to The Oratory, where some poor fielding let them set a high total for us to chase. Nevertheless, the batsmen shone again, this time led by **Jonathan Swarbrick** (73 not out) and **Chris Cowan** (57), helping us to 179 for 2 and another 8-wicket win. Next was a game against a strong side from Magdalen College School and, for the first time, we batted first. Despite a tail-end collapse, **Jonathan Swarbrick's** second fifty and 35 from **Graham Forrest** took us to 167 all out. The match was abandoned, owing to a thunderstorm, 15 overs into Magdalen's innings, in which time the score had reached 57 for no wicket.

The next challengers to our unbeaten record were Bloxham. Once again we fielded first, getting a great start, with **David Emerson** taking 4 for 2 in his first 4 overs. Bloxham were eventually all out for 80 runs. 34 runs from **Jack Ambler** guided us to 82 for 2 and this gave us another win by 8 wickets.

Our next two matches, against Pangbourne and St Edward's, were both called off, leaving us with one match remaining to protect our unbeaten season, which was against Radley. The onset of examination leave meant that the team was missing some key players and so **Julian Thorn** and **James Edwards** were called into the side. Some excellent bowling and catching, particularly **Robin Madden's** 4 for 13, restricted Radley to 112 all out. When it was our turn to bat, the top and middle order did not perform as they had done on previous occasions and before long we had slumped to 78 for 7. However, showing a great fighting spirit, which was evident in the 3rd XI throughout the season, number 8 batsman, **Sam Barton** and number 9, **Charlie Lester**, each batting patiently to make 16 not out and 18 not out respectively, saw us safely to a win by 3 wickets with one over to spare. Everyone involved with the 3rd XI this season should be very proud when they look back on this year, an unbeaten season and a team that was extremely enjoyable to play in and to captain. The number of names mentioned above shows that the whole team contributed well in every match to make a brilliant season.

David Emerson VI DRM



## Under 15 A XI Cricket

The season started positively with a resounding victory at Eton thanks to excellent knocks from **James Manasseh**, **Joshua Smith** and a quick-fire innings from **Andrew Partridge**. Unfortunately, in the following game at Stowe, having restricted the opposition to a very gettable score, thanks to a 5-wicket haul from **James Manasseh**, the side were unable to recover from an early-order collapse and fell short of their target, despite the resilient efforts of **Guy Cutting** lower down the order.

Next came the all-important first round of the national section of the Lord's Taverners Cup away to Dr Challoner's Grammar School. Unfortunately, another under par performance with the bat, having elected to bat first, meant we didn't give ourselves enough runs to play with and, although we bowled and fielded valiantly, they reached their target with 4 overs to spare.

Then came The Oratory: an excellent spell of bowling by **Matthew Pursell** and 3 wickets from **Nicholas Croft-Simon** restricted them to a very modest total and, despite another mini-collapse, we managed to hold out to record a deserved victory by 3 wickets. Bloxham followed and, thanks to some lusty blows, they posted a challenging total, but an excellent partnership between **James Manasseh** and **Matthew Pursell** laid the foundations for a good run-chase and another 3-wicket victory.

St Edward's were the final opponents of the first half of term. **Matthew Pursell** was again in fine form with the bat but the side didn't make the most of a small pitch and, despite some excellent catches, St Edward's reached their target in the penultimate over with 4 wickets to spare.

Next were Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe: once again the top-order batting stuttered, but a swashbuckling partnership of 45 in the final 3 overs from **Parathan Rabindran** and **Robert Stevens** proved to be match-winning as RGS fell 19-runs short thanks to good bowling by **Matthew Pursell**, **George Dugdale** and **Timothy Deeks**. Pangbourne were next up in what proved to be a complete mismatch. Pangbourne were dismissed cheaply and Abingdon raced to a 10-wicket victory in quick time.

Radley, as expected, proved much tougher opposition and we soon found ourselves 7 for 3 on a good batting track, but good batting from **James Manasseh** and **Oliver Bouchier** gave us something to bowl at. The bowling was tight, and the team kept their composure in the field to gain 3 run outs in a tense finish, but unfortunately Radley scraped home in the final over.

The final game of the season was against Magdalen College School and the team were without several front-line batsmen who had been drafted into the 1st XI, so a target of nearly 200 looked rather daunting at tea, and even more so at 6 for 2! However, a solid innings of 59 from **Robert Kenworthy**, and a clean-hitting 60 from only 30 balls from **Michael Shaughnessy**, turned the game on its head and really had MCS panicking. Unfortunately both batsmen fell in quick succession and from a position of needing 36 from 12 overs with 6 wickets left, the inexperienced tail was exposed and the team fell an agonising 12 runs short of what would have been a memorable victory.

After the successes of last year, great things were anticipated this season, so the final record of 5 wins and 5 defeats has to be seen as a disappointing return. Nevertheless, they are a talented team who have worked hard, fought well, and have always played the

game in a good spirit. The batting has been their downfall this year so hopefully they will have learnt from their experiences and be more aware of the need to play themselves in properly and build partnerships, particularly on difficult wickets where the pace and bounce isn't true.

I hope the boys have enjoyed their season and wish them well in the senior teams next year. I would like to add a final thank you to the many parents who have turned out to support the side during the course of the season.

Andrew Broadbent

## Under 15 B XI Cricket

If you had told me at the start of the season that by the end we would have won most of our matches and beaten Radley, Stowe, The Oratory and Bloxham, I and indeed Captain **Bob Kenworthy** would have been pleased. Indeed, after an initial heavy defeat against Eton by 113 runs, we would have been very surprised! That first match certainly set the standard and left the team under no illusions as to the quality they would have to produce for success. This they did. The Oratory was beaten comfortably and Bloxham's score of 131 off 30 overs was knocked off for one wicket with eleven overs to spare.

The highlight of the season though was the defeat of an extremely strong and talented Radley team. This was made all the more satisfying considering that Abingdon were 6 for 3 before the best batting performance of the season from **Bob Kenworthy** (71 including 5 sixes) pushed our total up to 166. This was against a very strong bowling attack. We then bowled and fielded superbly with everyone contributing. However, the pick of the bowling was undoubtedly from **Fayaaz Ahmed** who bowled his spin superbly, bamboozling their third, fourth and fifth batsmen out, with figures of 6 overs, 3 maidens, 3 for 13. This was an outstanding performance. However, it was matched by the whole team which harried Radley into a defeat, just seven runs short of target. Brilliant!

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the team. Stalwart members who all produced timely performances were evident at every turn. **George Dugdale**, **Jack Trotman** and **Tom Bradfield**, **Julian Thorn**, **Bob Kenworthy** and **Fayaaz Ahmed** all pitched in with match-winning bowling performances, as did a number of the batsmen but, particularly impressive, was **Robbie Stevens'** 71 and 90 not out in successive weeks.

My thanks go to the whole team and particularly to **Bob Kenworthy** who could always be relied upon, not just to captain the side superbly, and with authority and confidence, but always be around to sort out the team kit and ferry it around. I really enjoyed my first season back in cricket.

William Phelan



## Under 15 A XI Results

Defeated Eton by 7 wickets

Eton 97/8	Howe 3/16
Abingdon 101/3	Edwards 55

Defeated Stowe by 26 runs

Abingdon 158/8	Edwards 80 n.o.
Stowe 132/9	Metcalfe 3/15

Defeated Oratory by 6 wickets

Oratory 116/6	
Abingdon 119/4	Edwards 67 n.o.

Defeated Bloxham by 32 runs

Abingdon 114/4	Winearls 39, Manek 30 n.o.
Bloxham 82/9	Read 3/12, Winearls 3/13

Defeated St Edward's by 3 runs

Abingdon 153/8	Edwards 38, Howe 35 n.o.
St Edward's 150	Winearls 3/15

Lost to RGS High Wycombe by 83 runs

RGS 164/9	Read 3/28
Abingdon 81	

Drew with Pangbourne

Abingdon 171/4 declared	Edwards 74, Baumgart 30
Pangbourne 124/8	Read 3/32, Rossiter 3/37

Tied with Radley

Radley 156/9	Poland 3/33
Abingdon 156/9	Smith 73 n.o., Poland 34

Lost to MCS by 3 wickets

Abingdon 170/3	Edwards 91 n.o.
MCS 171/7	

## LORD'S TAVERNERS COMPETITION

Defeated King Alfred's, Wantage by 10 wickets

King Alfred's 50	Read 3/4, Bouchier 3/8
Abingdon 52/0	

Defeated Oxford Community School by 9 wickets

OCS 13	Poland 5/8
Abingdon 14/1	

Defeated Lord Williams's School by 118 runs

Abingdon 150	Watkins 52
Lord Williams's 32	Poland 3/7

Defeated Chipping Norton by 2 wickets

Chipping Norton 132	Read 4/19
Abingdon 134/8	Watkins 65 n.o.

Defeated MCS by 84 runs

Abingdon 174/9	Watkins 83
MCS 90	Rossiter 5/17, Winearls 3/11

## Under 14 A XI Cricket

The team had an enjoyable and successful season. Fittingly, the best cricket was played in the final match of the season when a splendid win was recorded over Magdalen College School to win the Lord's Taverners Colts County Final for the second consecutive year.

Other highlights were the semi-final win against Chipping Norton School by 2 wickets; defeat of St Edward's by 3 runs with only one ball remaining; a tie with Radley (including a 9th-wicket partnership of 58 in 8 overs) and a victory at Bloxham, which was ended by a downpour of rain.

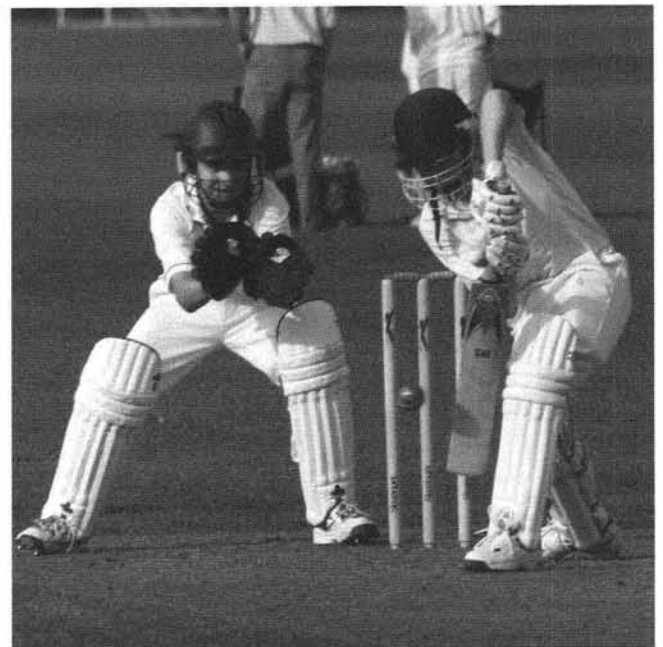
The batting depended largely on **James Edwards** (468 runs, average 78), who was one of three astute captains. In the Lord's Taverners matches, **Nathaniel Watkins**, from the 1st XI scored 208 runs (average 69.3), including a great skipper's innings in the Final. **Freddy Howe** (102 runs, average 25.5) was the best of the middle- and lower-order batsmen. His running between the wickets was as colourful as his 'whites' and filled the team with alarm.

There was greater depth in the bowling – **Ben Read** (23 wickets, average 9.7) had the simple but effective technique of bowling line and length. **Stephen Poland** (18 wickets, average 14.4) was a fast opener. **Jonathan Bouchier**, one of three talented U13 cricketers who played in the Taverners' matches, had the best bowling average (6 wickets at 6.8).

Two team members enjoyed all-round success: **Robert Winearls** who was an inspiring captain and **George Rossiter**, even though he was out injured for 5 matches.

**Callum Keown** was the most improved player, hurling himself around the field, as if on a rugby pitch. The boys are super lads and played in excellent spirit throughout. They are also most grateful for the inspiring coaching of **Gary Palmer**.

Henry Kirk



## 1st VIII Rowing



There is no doubt that the season ended on a bit of a downer with a Henley defeat by Phillips Andover Academy, USA on the Friday of the regatta. Snatching defeat from the jaws of victory is always a bitter pill to swallow and it seemed to put a dampener on our whole season. That is until too many people started talking about our poor season. It made me re-evaluate and ready to defend the record of the crew and the squad.

One defeat does not define a season – neither does one surprise win. Any reasoned analysis of the School 1st VIII's performance would show a very different picture.

We started our campaign with another trip to the USA in October to grab some training and compete in the Head of the Charles Regatta – the world's largest single one-day regatta, they say (although it has spilled over into two days now). We raced in the Youth VIII's category against other schools and first-year university oarsmen. We finished 13th out of the 62 crews and 2nd among the High Schools – by only one second to our friends from St John's HS in Worcester, Mass, our hosts for the trip. We were very pleased with that result and it showed promise for the season. We may well have been third had St Joseph's Prep School pulled off their bold overtaking manoeuvre, instead of ending up in an altercation with the bridge. We know all about that. Been there, done that (2004), got the photos!

The season really began in January and again the weather was kind to us and we rarely missed any water time. Our annual trek to Peterborough Head saw us defeat St Paul's School in the Vllls, a good result given the development crew we put out. With the Schools' Head Race early in the term, we chose not to go to Reading Head but picked out Burway as a warm-up. We had a very good day, winning both morning and afternoon divisions as the fastest boat on the water. We did change our crew between races to solve a selection dilemma but when both crews recorded exactly the same time that idea went out the window.

The Schools' Head came with the 1st VIII starting third behind Eton and Shrewsbury. We closed on Eton but Shrewsbury pulled out a remarkable performance to win the event by 26 seconds. We did very well to move up to second place, a few seconds ahead of Hampton Grammar School, St Paul's, Pangbourne and King's, Chester. The 2nd VIII had a very good row in what was a tough season for them. They finished fourth in 2nd Vllls.

A solid result in the Head of the River Race (72nd/ 420) rounded off the first term.



**Ryan Bucke, Chris Edson and Patrick Vickers** attended the GB Juniors Easter trial and **Ryan** was selected for the Munich Regatta in May.

The training camp in Le Temple-sur-Lot, France went well and selection for the 1st and 2nd Vllls was made. There was very little to choose between a few places and so final selection was delayed until the regatta season.

Back to School and Wallingford Regatta – almost our home event even though it now takes place at Dorney Lake. With the supporters out in force, the 1st Vlll gave them something to cheer about by winning the Senior 2 Vllls event ahead of Shrewsbury School by 4 seconds, a remarkable turn around in just 6 weeks. They beat us by 26 seconds in March and we beat them by 4 in April/May – a fantastic result. It was also nice to see the rest of the school crews floundering in our wake.

We raced them again in the afternoon in Junior Vllls. We altered our crew, but so did they! This time we employed different tactics and they worked for 1450m out of the 1500 required. Shrewsbury came through to pip us on the line. (1-1 then).

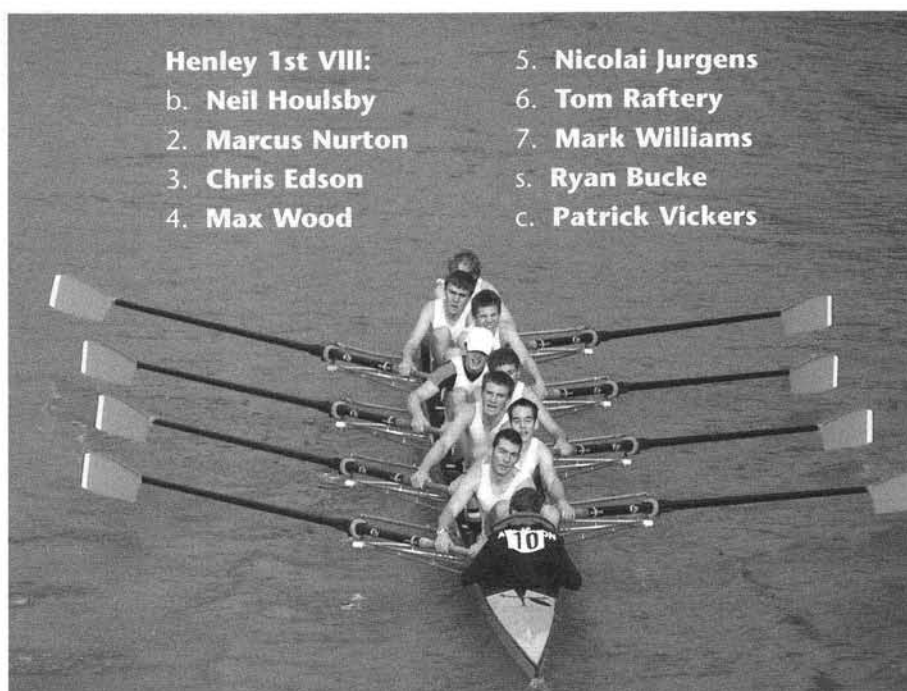
When **Ryan** came back from Munich with medal in hand we went to Bedford and won two events: senior 1 Vllls and junior Vllls defeating Pangbourne, St Edward's, Eton, Bedford and Radley on the way. The fastest crew of the day – again!!

National Schools' Regatta arrived and we were hopeful. After watching the two third-form octuples row through opponents to win both National Octuple races we were hungry for more success. All the School boats on the Saturday made their respective finals – a feat not matched by many rowing schools. The 2nd Vlll fought very well but just missed out on the medals, coming 4th but with a highly respectable performance. The 1st Vlll lined up against Shrewsbury, King's, Chester, Bedford Modern, St Paul's and Pangbourne. The race quickly developed between Shrewsbury and ourselves. We took a slight lead in to the first quarter but then settled well – wary of giving too much too soon. The two crews maintained their positions at the front until 1250m had gone when Shrewsbury pushed level. By 1500m they were a couple of feet ahead but we then started to push for home and re-took the lead. For a few strokes Shrewsbury wobbled and I thought we had it. For 200m the crews were stroke for stroke but they produced a better last 10 strokes to beat us by a canvas (6 feet). The rest of the field fell back during that frantic last 500m, but King's, Chester got the bronze. Second place for us again.

We re-grouped after half term and set about training for Henley. Through the exams we were able to proceed with our training by being flexible and having a good strong squad of boys who all played their part. Reading Amateur Regatta saw us make the final of two events again: we won the Junior Vllls from Pangbourne but lost in the final of senior 1 Vllls to Curlew Rowing Club – only 20 minutes later. They were so proud of beating us they got a headline in the local South London newspaper and were interviewed on how it felt to defeat the top schoolboy crew from Abingdon School for the first time in their history!

We raced and won once more at Reading Town Regatta, defeating Pangbourne in Senior 1 Vllls, the top event of the day, recording the fastest time of the day – again.

Henley qualifiers saw a valiant but failed attempt to qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup by the 2nd Vlll. In the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup the 1st Vlll were seeded and drew Monmouth School in round one. They were a decent crew but we managed to get a good start and thereafter dominate the race. The second round found us up against The Oratory School, winners of the Child-Beale Cup at the National Schools' Regatta. Once again we dispatched them quite early in the race and were able to relax a little as we came through the enclosures. Friday, quarter-final day, brought our downfall. The crew seemed surprisingly nervous before this race and although we gained an early lead there was clearly some tension among crew members so that when Phillips, Andover pressurised we finally cracked and lost. This really was the one that got away. Another American crew, from St Ignatius High School, California, won the Princess Elizabeth in the end. They were an exceptional crew and I doubt we could have beaten them even on our best form.



**Ryan Bucke and Patrick Vickers** went on to represent Great Britain at the Junior World Championships in Amsterdam in August. **Ryan** came fourth as part of the Vlll and **Patrick** coxed the IV to ninth place. **Chris Edson** represented Great Britain at the Coupe de la Jeunesse in Groningen, Holland. He won two gold medals in that event.

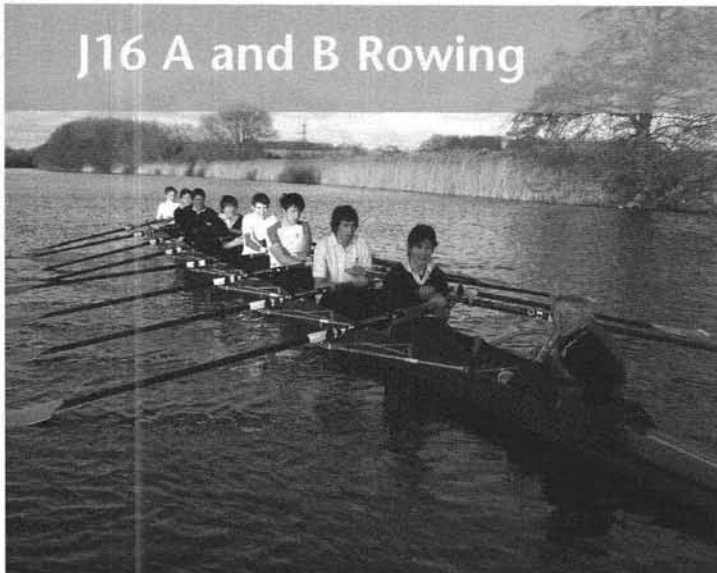
## Senior Squad contained:

**Tom Raftery, Marcus Nurton, Chris Edson, Neil Houlsby, Mark Williams, Nicolai Jurgens, Ryan Bucke, Max Wood, Alex Freeland, James Wallis, Luke Tittley, Robbie Marsh, Ben Carter-Fraser, Will Stockdale, Harry Moore, Oliver Turner, Chris Halls, Kemble Woodley**  
**Coxes: Patrick Vickers, Ian Houlsby**

Mike Martin



## J16 A and B Rowing



This year's rowing season turned out to be a very successful one with **Mr Webb** skilfully coaching both crews. The season started with some work in Vlls with a view to becoming used to sitting in a boat once again and rowing with some new crew members. After comprehensive seat-racing and rowing-machine-testing, the initial team attended Peterborough Head – the first of the season – competing in a category that included mostly university novice crews. The J16 Bs managed to hold their own and this gave them a considerable boost in confidence in preparation for the Head races that were to follow, especially the Schools' Head, arguably the most important of the season. Training comprised four sessions per week: on the water, the gym and some time on rowing machines. Building up to the Schools' Head, more seat-racing took place to ensure the strongest possible crew, and some ergo tests to determine more powerful members. A couple from the crew suffered from illness but despite this they performed well, but unfortunately couldn't claim a new record as the year before.

At the start of the Summer term, **Mr Christodoulou** took over as coach of the B crew. The crew seemed to be familiar with the new training regime from the previous year and so now continued to perform well: Bedford and Reading Regattas were significant successes. At Wallingford Regatta, which was held at Dorney Lake, the team made it through the first heat, comfortably in second place. Subsequently, in the second heat, they managed to qualify for the final against mostly A crews. Such a performance was good preparation for the National Schools' Regatta. The crew were accommodated overnight in a hotel in Nottingham and so were fresh for their big day. They responded brilliantly under pressure, rowing through the fourth crew and qualifying in the top three out of six. In the final they claimed fifth position out of a very strong start-line. A couple of smaller regattas followed which coincided with some wonderful weather and the imminent arrival of the GCSE examinations.

Dominic Flint 5 AMS

## J15 Rowing

After seven consecutive years of involvement with the J15s, I am beginning to feel like Bill Murray's character in *Groundhog Day*: same challenges, same obstacles, same innocents for whom the day is ever new. In 2005 the season almost began perfectly with the A and B crews achieving 2nd and 1st places at the Schools' Head in London, the Bs winning in a national record time over the short course (8 minutes 22 seconds). This year the Bs successfully defended their title and were the only Abingdon crew to win an event, but the As dropped back to 8th place. From the bank, the A crew were clearly slow off the start and never seemed to get going. But from a coach's perspective, it was equally clear that a lack of single-mindedness in training had cost them their competitive edge before the start. The distractions in the Michaelmas term seemed endless, and the crew paid the price.

Shortly afterwards, the Boat Club as a whole was entertained by six-times Boat Race winner Boris Rankov at another splendid FASBC Dinner.

The Easter training camp at Le Temple-sur-Lot in France went well, and a few boys trained in Belgium with Marlow Boat Club. At Wallingford Regatta, an important first test over 2000m, the results were disappointing, but a few weeks later we enjoyed our best performance for some years at Bedford Regatta. Pitted against top-class opposition in three events, the As and Bs fought through to every final and won two of them: the As won the coxed IVs competition and the Bs won their Vlls competition.

At the National Schools' Regatta in Nottingham, the second major event in the J15 rowing calendar, the A crew came second in their heat and fifth in the final, matching the best result of recent years. The Bs won their heat, but just missed out on a medal position in their final.

At subsequent summer regattas, including Marlow, Reading Town and Thames Valley Park, the emphasis was on development rather than results and no more pewter was won. But many crew permutations were tested and much positive experience was gained by all participants.

My thanks to **Hugh Price** and **Athol Hundermark** for coaching the B and C crews.

Andrew English

### Crew Lists

	J15 A Crew	J15 B Crew	J15 C Crew	J15 A Crew
	Schools' Head	Schools' Head	Schools' Head	Nat. Schools'
<b>Bow</b>	H. Holdsworth	C. Brash	T. Buffery	R. Carter
<b>2</b>	T. Davey	M. Winters	A. Baboolal	T. Davey
<b>3</b>	R. Carter	C. Davis	J. Swain	H. Holds
<b>4</b>	S. Walton	W. Shrier	J. Fergusson	S. Stinson
<b>5</b>	A. Hatzis	B. Tse	J. Bucke	F. Wood
<b>6</b>	G. Bone	S. Stinson	J. Glover	G. Bone
<b>7</b>	F. Wood	C. Dunster	J. Hunter	A. Hatzis
<b>Stroke</b>	C. Reynolds	J. Stockdale	C. Weller Jones	J. Stockdale
<b>Cox</b>	R. Copus	T. Clarke	J. Woods	T. Clarke

## J15 B Rowing

The B crew has produced another year full of promise, though perhaps falling at the final hurdle (thus leaving something to be achieved next year!). Little changed from the year before, the crew quickly picked up sweep-oar technique and showed a good combination of skill and power. The first major event, the Schools' Head of the River, was a highlight of the season, as the crew inherited the position of first crew down the course, and retained the position despite some dubious steering (often an Abingdon fault on the Tideway, it seems!), finishing a good few seconds ahead of their rivals. As the season went on, however, it seemed that other B crews, particularly Radley and Bedford, were catching up quickly, while perhaps we were resting a little on our laurels. Nevertheless the training camp proved an important time as, with a lack of A crew members in attendance, the B crew took over to a certain extent and gained valuable mileage. It was pleasing to see them overtake the Headington School 1st VIII in the final race, while simultaneously holding off the other Abingdon Vllls. The run-up to the main race of the season, the National Schools' Regatta, seemed nothing short of perfect, as the crew beat both Bedford and Radley, the main opposition. The victory in the final by only 1 metre over Radley perhaps ought to have seemed more ominous than it did at the time.

At the National Schools' Regatta we struggled against a strong headwind, rowing in a boat that was too heavy for the crew, and an early lead quickly turned into second, third and frustratingly, in the final 250 metres, fourth. Thames Valley Park remained as a final chance to win some silver for the season, but unfortunately no B Vllls event was on offer. Racing against A Vllls, the crew put in a creditable performance, and the IV lost by 1 metre to the eventual winners. There is some ground to make up next year, especially on Bedford and Radley (and no doubt Eton will begin to emerge too), but it was good to see the development in the likes of **Stephen Stinson, Joe Glover, and Chris Brash**. The crew spirit was one of the most pleasing aspects of the season: **Chris Dunster** led with calmness and determination, while **William Shrier** committed to every stroke, even in the warm-up, as if it were the last one of a race. There were fine technical contributions from **Matthew Winters** and power from **Barry Tse** and **Chris Davis**. **Jeremy Stockdale** stroked for much of the season with tenacity, never letting the lazier members of the boat sit back. The coxing was shared throughout the season, and the boat was well served by **Tim Clarke, Rory Copus** and **Jack Woods**.

Hugh Price



## The Athletics Club

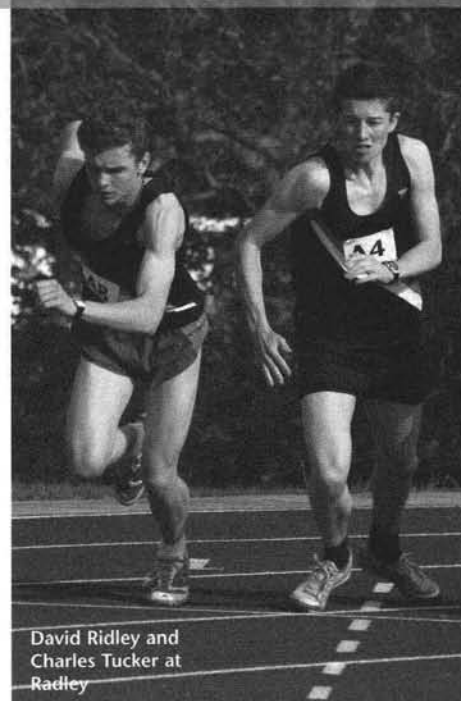
The resurgent Athletics Club had an excellent season. Near the end of term nine athletes competed in the County Cup, and our junior team reached the regional final of the ESAA Track and Field Cup. One of our county athletes, **Michael Summers**, has already posted national standard times in 100m and 200m, and our U15 team of **Michael Summers, Robert Aigbogun, Tom Foxon** and **Alexander Muir** won the Radley Medley Relays for the first time for nearly 20 years.

The boys have competed against a whole range of teams at Radley, at Marlborough, at Tilsley Park, Abingdon and at Iffley Road, Oxford. Other than victory in the Medleys, the best team performance was probably third in the junior 4 x 100m at the Achilles Relays, a famously tough competition, though that time was broken by a second at the recent Radley match, with the addition of **Freddy Howe** and **Alexander Muir**.

As is often true for athletics, the season has also been about individual performances: for example, **Charlie Tucker** improving his personal best at every competition; **David Ridley** holding off a challenge for the last 200m of a 1500m event; **Matthew Coffey** taking 100m off the opposition before the bell in an 800m; **James Cookson** reaching nearly 6m in the long jump and breaking 60s in the 400m in his first competition. The Club has often been ably supported by 'ringers' from other sports, not least in the sprinting, where **Adam Paxton, Timothy Fegan, Andy Mak** and **Stuart Robertson** have been supplemented by the likes of **Michael Shaughnessy, Robert Woods, Simon Edwards** and **Jonathan Bayfield**.

Field events are often the Cinderella of athletics, so it was encouraging to see them taken so seriously. **Bob Purinton** set the standards but **Jojo Todd** and **Robert Woods** were not far behind at their own age-group. Our old man of competition, **William Stephenson**, has had a tough term with injury, but still jumped in the county cup along with **Henry Freeland**, as did **Robert Aigbogun** and **James Cookson**.

Last mention should go to the junior team of fourteen who ran, threw and jumped their way to the A team regional final. Many of them were very raw as athletes, but trained regularly and showed great determination and enthusiasm to reach so far in such a prestigious competition. This was a credit to their effort and to **Simon Dickens's** management and coaching. It was marvellous that he was able to join the team this year and it is only unfortunate that we lose **Stuart Hamilton**, who was much of the drive behind our renewed enthusiasm and success.



David Ridley and Charles Tucker at Radley

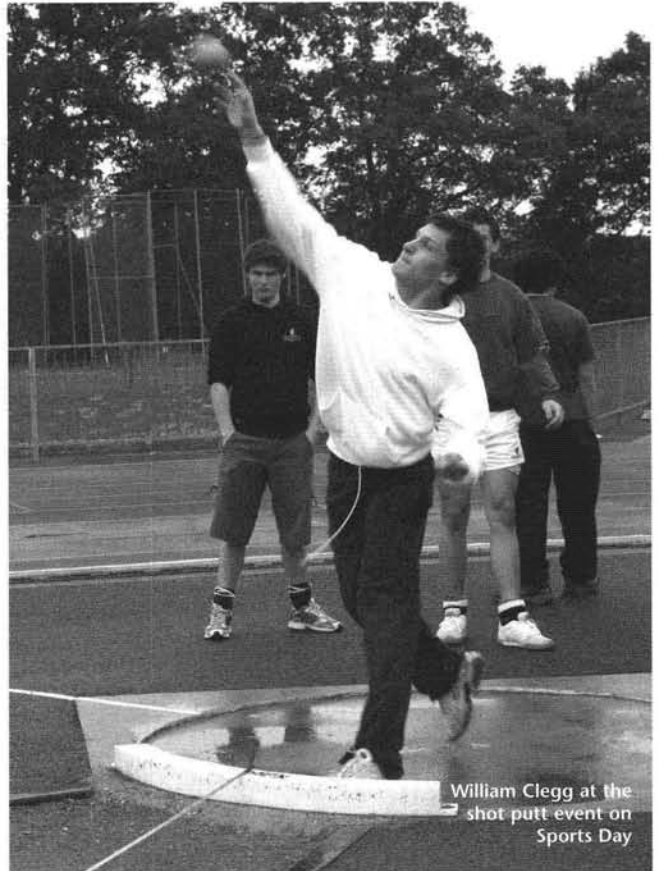
## Athletics



A gripping final 100m on a murky day at Tilsley Park

**Sports Day:** For one afternoon a year, every Abingdon pupil becomes an athlete. 2006 was no exception as everyone got involved, with the parlauf run for the first time in recent memory. This is run as a relay by any numbered team over 400m. The highlights of the day tend to be on the track, with school records broken in the 100m and 800m at both U17 and U15 level, as well as records in the 200m, 800m and 1500m at senior level.

**Matches:** The club travelled extensively this year with two new competitions. A match at Marlborough was an extremely valuable experience for many pupils, with an excellent U17 result in spite of many pupils doing 2 or even 3 events. Our first ever entry to the ESAA Track & Field Cup saw the U14 team crowned county champions and through to the regional final. At that we slightly stuttered in the field events, though still managing to overtake two schools rated more highly than us before the competition began.



William Clegg at the shot putt event on Sports Day



Toby Durant throwing a discus on Sports Day

The highlight of the day was **Marc Woolley** winning the hurdles in a time of 12.8s, which is national standard for the year above.

**County:** We increased our presence at the County Cup ten-fold. Amusingly, four events were won by three Abingdon pupils, with two crowned county champion and one going through to the national finals. I'm not sure what that series tells us for 2007, but



## School Records

Age	Event	Record	Holder	Year	Competition
<b>U15</b>	100m	11.72s	M. Summers	2006	National Finals, Gateshead
	200m	24.0s	M. Summers	2006	Radley College
	400m	59.3s	F. Howe	2006	Radley College
	800m	2:14.0	A. Muir	2006	Sports Day
	1500m	4:45.6	A. Muir	2006	Marlborough College
	Sprint Hurdles	12.8	M. Woolley	2005	Track & Field Cup Regional Finals
	High Jump	1.55m	R. Aigbogun	2006	Marlborough College
	Long Jump	5.60m	M. Shaughnessy	2005	Radley College
	Triple Jump	11.53m	M. Shaughnessy	2005	Radley College
	Javelin	26.92m	Hatzis	2005	Radley College
	Discus	24.83m	J. Todd	2005	Radley College
	Shot	11.66m	A.Hatzis	2006	Sports Day
	4 x 100m relay	50.4s	A Muir/F Howe/ R Aigbogun/M Summers	2006	Radley College

Age	Event	Record	Holder	Year	Competition
<b>U17</b>	100m	11.4s	S. Edwards	2006	Sports Day
	200m	24.4s	T. Fegan	2006	Marlborough College
	400m	59.7s	J. Cookson	2006	Marlborough College
	800m	2:21.0	S.Dent	2006	Sports Day
	1500m	4:48.0	M.R Nagi	2006	Sports day
	Sprint Hurdles	18.0s	A. Paxton	2005	Radley College
	High Jump	1.75m	W. Stephenson	2005	County Cup, Tilsley Park
	Long Jump	5.94m	J. Cookson	2006	Marlborough College
	Triple Jump	12.19m	R. Woods	2006	Marlborough College
	Javelin	38.46	R. Woods	2006	Marlborough College
	Discus	25.7m	J.Todd	2006	Marlborough College
	Shot	11.75m	S.J.Fletcher	2005	Radley College
	4 x 100m relay	48.1s	R Woods/A Mak/ J Cookson/S Edwards	2006	Achilles Relays

Age	Event	Record	Holder	Year	Competition
<b>U21</b>	100m	11.5s	A. Paxton	2006	Marlborough College
	200m	23.9s	A. Paxton	2006	Sports Day
	400m	52.9s	M. Coffey	2006	Radley College
	800m	2:03.8	M. Coffey	2006	Sports Day
	1500m	4:27.0	N. Houlsby	2006	Sports Day
	Sprint Hurdles	20.4s	M. Coffey	2005	Radley College
	High Jump	1.83m	W. Stephenson	2006	County Cup, Tilsley Park
	Long Jump	5.84m	A. Paxton	2006	Marlborough College
	Triple Jump	11.44m	W. N. O. Stephenson	2006	Sports Day
	Javelin	28.83m	W. Peskett	2006	Sports Day
	Discus	33.19m	B. Purinton	2006	Marlborough College
	Shot	12.55m	B. Purinton	2006	Sports Day
	4 x 100m relay	46.7s	A Paxton/W Stephenson/ S Robertson/W Fegan	2006	Achilles Relays

we certainly aim to do even better. **Michael Summers** acquitted himself very well at Gateshead, achieving 11.72s in the heats and 11.76s in the semi-final, just missing out on a place in the final.

**Individuals:** Athletics is odd in that it is a team sport and an individual achievement. After 2 laps of a 1500m, you can feel very alone, especially if you are ahead. I have already highlighted the success of **Michael Summers** and **Marc Woolley**. In their case success is measured by national times. In other cases though it is more likely to be personal bests or particular victories. Our middle-distance runners put in a lot of work. **Alexander Muir** never quite hit the good time, but nevertheless put in some excellent performances. The stalwarts of the Sixth Form, **David Ridley** and **Charlie Tucker** just kept on improving. Big **Bob Purinton** showed everyone how to throw, though he never brought his special shoes. **William Stephenson** got closer to a national

height with 1.83m. The sprinters and jumpers kept going faster and further, with **James Cookson** and **Robert Woods** showing that they could fly in long, triple and high jump.

**Future:** The future of the Club looks good with many in 2006 competing above their age-group. Also the future often lies in the younger members, and our success as an U14 team at regional level, our third place in the Achilles 4 x 100m and our victory in the Junior Radley Medley Relays bodes extremely well. If we aim high and work hard, the future looks bright.

My thanks to all the athletes, to **Douglas Aitken, Alastair Summers, Jeff Drummond-Hay, Estelle Slatford** and especially to **Stuart Hamilton** and **Simon Dickens**.

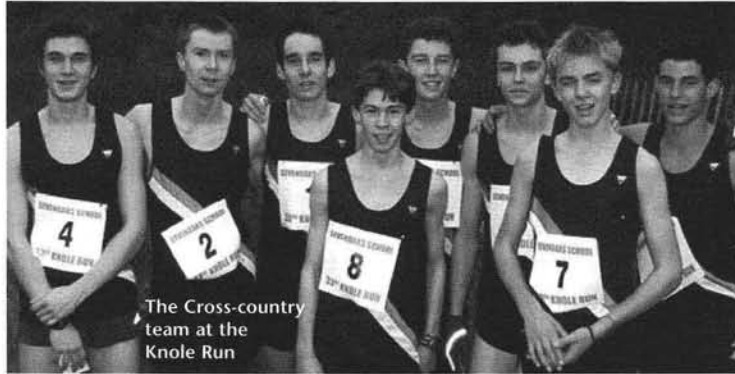
George Moody

## Cross-Country Running Club

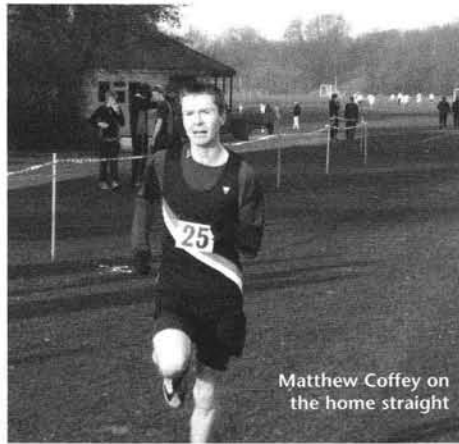
The cross-country team did not know what quite to expect at the start of the season, with only one remaining member from last year's 1st team. After starting training, it soon became clear the incredible potential the members showed and eventually led to what can be described as the best-ever cross-country season at Abingdon. The first race of the season was Dr Challenor's Relays, taking place in late November. The club sent both A and B teams to this six-man relay on a considerably tough and hilly course against very experienced opposition. Both teams achieved remarkable results for only two months of training, with the 1st team of **Mark Beevor, David Ridley, Charlie Tucker, Henry Holdsworth, Matthew Coffey, and Neil Housby** finishing in fourth place (best-ever result), beaten narrowly by Radley with St Albans and The Judd School in 1st and 2nd respectively. The B team showed great promise against much older and seasoned runners, finishing in 3rd place out of the B teams.

With an early success under their belt, the team went into the holidays with a new-found thirst for victory. Holiday training could only be described as intense, with running five times a week, including a 9km on Christmas Day!! This was all in preparation for the packed schedule of races at the beginning of the Lent term, starting with the Knole Run. The Knole Run was no doubt the biggest and most prestigious event of the year for the Club. Over 500 competitors from schools all over the country take part in this 10km race. Eight runners were to take part for each team with the top six places to count; additions of **Philip Hatzis** and **Alex Muir** were made to the previous team. Overall the team gave an excellent performance, finishing in 5th place (the highest Abingdon has achieved in this race), though disappointed to miss out on 4th place and consequently a trophy by 1 point. This was made more painful by the fact that a few members, owing to the extreme terrain, felt that they did not perform to the best of their abilities; nevertheless, a great result, beating many schools including Tonbridge, Charterhouse and Harrow.

Within a week, the Club visited Radley to attend the Vale Championships. The Club was divided into U13, U15, U17, and U19 divisions with a different distance for each age-group. Team victories were achieved by the U13, U15 and U19 teams. Individual merit should be given to **Alistair Duff**, who arrived 1st in the U13, and **Alex Muir**, coming 1st in the U15s. The U19 squad were up against their rival Radley, and can safely say that they dominated the home team with our top four finishers coming in 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 7th places. Mention should also be made of three new additions: **Douglas Graham, Andrew McGrath** and **Jonas Heitmann**. Only a few days after the Vale, Abingdon competed in the County Cross-Country Championships, along the same course as the Vale race. Once again the U19 squad



The Cross-country team at the Knole Run



Matthew Coffey on the home straight

were crowned County Champions along with the U15 team. Disappointingly for the U19 team, Radley chose not to show up for a home race, so the squad just had to be satisfied by defeating schools such as Shiplake and St Edward's, with seven of the team finishing in the top fourteen. The following runners after an exceptional race were selected to run for Oxfordshire at an

all-England race – **Alex Muir, Freddy Howe, Tom Watkins, David Ridley, Matthew Coffey, and Philip Hatzis.**

Within the same week, five members of the senior squad travelled to Wellington College, Berkshire for a prestigious relay event over 2.4 km. Out of a field of fifteen schools, after a gruelling race, we finished in 3rd place, beaten by Tonbridge and Marlborough. This was a very positive result considering the adaptation to distance and recent busy schedule of races. After a break of just over a week, the Club attended a four-man relay at Radley. A and B teams were entered for both junior and senior events, and each runner had to complete a lap of 1.8 miles. The club pulled off one of its greatest

victories of the season in the senior event with the team of **Neil Housby, David Ridley, Matthew Coffey** and **Philip Hatzis** all having fantastic races, defeating rivals Marlborough, Charterhouse and Winchester (who had won the Knole Run). The junior team also claimed victory over the same selection of schools, with **Alex Muir** achieving the fastest junior lap of the day. These were very impressive results for the Club and boosted its national reputation at running.

After a long break the Club attended a friendly at Marlborough, competing with Marlborough, Radley and Harrow. Apart from a few incidents during the race, such as **David Ridley** falling in a ditch, **Mark Beevor** running on a sprained ankle, and three of the juniors leading but then getting lost, both junior and senior teams won convincingly. The lack of medals was made up for by an excellent tea afterwards, and overall a very enjoyable event. The U13 team attended their own County Championships in Cokethorpe, managing to claim victory with **Alistair Duff** being individual County Champion. This result shows the incredible strength and depth the Club has come to hold this year with so many victories in the younger age-groups. On behalf of all members of the Club, I would like to give great thanks to the coaches, **Mr Christodoulou** and **Mrs Slatford**, for making this amazing season possible. Hopefully this year's success can start a new era of cross-country at Abingdon, with holiday camps in the planning and new members being recruited, so that the Club can sustain its new national reputation.

Mark Beevor VI MS

Training started in the first week of September with long-distance running, circuits and classroom sessions on running physiology, nutrition and tactics. What follows is a chronicle of the Club's achievements:

*Dr Challenor's Grammar School Relays: Wednesday 30th November 2005.* This was the first race of the season and individual performances indicated what was to follow: the A team arrived 4th overall out of 35 teams and the B team was ranked as the 3rd-fastest B team. Best time: **Neil Houlsby** 9:38.

*The Knole Run – Sevenoaks School, Kent: Saturday 14th January 2006.* The boys sensed that something special could be achieved, given the talent available. With a colossal build-up in training, including the Christmas holidays, greater momentum and focus was present for what was arguably the most important race of the season. This was an opportunity for the team to make their mark in the public school circuit and later enforce it through a string of successes. On this thoroughly memorable day, the team comprising **Mark Beevor, Matthew Coffey, Neil Houlsby, Alexander Muir, Charles Tucker, David Ridley, Henry Holdsworth** and **Philip Hatzis** were ranked 5th out of 34 schools, missing 4th position by one point.

*Vale of White Horse Championships - Radley College, Oxfordshire: Thursday 19th January 2006.* A full representation across the age-groups was competing with teams of eight selected for U13, U15, U17 and U19 races. Distances ranged from around 4km for U13, to just under 7km for the U19 runners. Abingdon was successful with team victories in the U13, U15 and U19 categories. The U19 squad were able to smash any threat from possible rivals with the top four finishers coming 2nd (**David Ridley**), 3rd (**Matthew Coffey**), 6th (**Philip Hatzis**) and 7th (**Mark Beevor**). Other runners distinguishing themselves on the day were **Alistair Duff**, who arrived 1st in the U13 team and **Alex Muir**, who also arrived 1st for his team (U15) after a thoroughly impressive finish.

*County Championships - Radley College: Tuesday 24th January 2006.* Once again teams of eight were chosen for the U15, U17 and U19 races, with the same distances as the Vale Championships. Victories were secured for both the U15 and U19 squads, with seven of the U19s finishing within the top fourteen (**David Ridley** achieving 3rd position), demonstrating the beginnings of a virtually unbeatable team. As a result, several runners were selected to represent Oxfordshire at the All-England race, including

Competing at Dr Challenor's



U13 team, Cross-Country Champions at Cokethorpe

**Neil Houlsby, Alexander Muir, Freddy Howe, Thomas Watkins, David Ridley, Douglas Graham** and **Matthew Coffey**.

*Wellington College Relays – Berkshire: Saturday 28th January 2006.* A team of five – **David Ridley, Matthew Coffey, Charles Tucker, Mark Beevor** and **Philip Hatzis** attended. Expectations were high after the excellent performance at the Knole Run, though a 2.4 km relay is in every way different from a 10km run. The team finished in 3rd place, an excellent achievement considering the strong opposition and a busy schedule of races.

*Radley College Relays: Thursday 9th February 2006.* Both an A and a B team were entered in the junior and senior event, each person having to run a lap of 1.8 miles. After exceptional running by both age-groups, Abingdon arrived 1st in both races, Juniors A winning by 30 seconds – **Alexander Muir, Edward Stansfield, Thomas Watkins, Thomas Foxon**, and Juniors B finishing at an impressive 6th. **Alexander Muir** achieved the fastest junior lap of the day with 10:42. Seniors A – **David Ridley, Neil Houlsby, Matthew Coffey, Philip Hatzis**, ran an outstanding race to claim victory against very tough competition: Charterhouse, Marlborough, and Winchester. The team was particularly pleased with this outcome.

*Marlborough College Relays - Wiltshire: Thursday 2nd March 2006 –* last race of the season. The School's junior and senior teams won after a tough race to say the least: **David Ridley** fell in a ditch and **Alexander Muir**, who was comfortably leading the junior race closely followed by **Freddy Howe** and **Thomas Watkins**, took a wrong turn... A challenging but enjoyable race, regardless.

The staff were privileged to have worked with boys of such toughness of spirit, dedication and talent. Parents were tremendous with their support of the Club and encouraging throughout – many thanks. A great season...

Alexis Christodoulou



## Badminton

With the departure of several very successful, long-established players last summer we were curious to see how a newer generation of Abingdon badminton players might fare against the regular opposition. So far the albatross of unlost matches hangs undisturbed.

Captain **Nick Miles** has carried on the Rippon tradition of telling other players where they fit in the week's team and has usually been able to lead from the front when single combat has cropped up, although he gave the honour of meeting Millfield's number one to **Tobi Ojo**, who did the job very nicely. A captain's place is not always the most comfortable one: if there is one gifted player in an opposing team he is typically the captain and may even help to overcome the Abingdon first pair. Even then we can usually beat them at least once, (**Jun Tao** and **Harry Richards** are making a name for themselves in the giant-killing business!) and the other two pairs tend to be dusted off quite readily in the course of an overall victory.

This pudding is well proven in the B team matches where Abingdon quite often steam-rollers the opposition and after just such a win speculation moved on to considering who might play in a notional third team, even a fourth if we could ever find the opposition.

In the Michaelmas term we revived the House doubles competition and around 90 players from the Middle and Upper School fought it out. **Nick Miles** and **Alex Boxell** finished the day at the top of the ladder and were awarded the Cup in assembly on the following Monday.

The first half of the Lent term's fixture list was honoured without Abingdon having to seek the postponement of any matches, although the onset of some sort of 'flu hit several of our key players. Oratory, Faringdon and King Alfred's, Wantage all had to ask to re-arrange but we did manage to beat Rugby School and to get to Langtree School for an U16 OSBA Schools' League match, won by Abingdon to the accompaniment of some loud sniffing and hacking coughs.

It was a team bulked out with no fewer than five last-minute substitutions among twelve players that hit the long road to Somerset for the return match with Millfield School, so the resulting overall win was particularly gratifying. (**Ivan Ho's** name now graces a team sheet as do those of **Tommy Ip**, **Jonathan Lau**, **Richard Lai** and **Young Sang Lee**.)

January always brings the Oxfordshire Schools' Badminton Championships which is played in an areas round followed a week later by a finals round. Despite the enticement of an exeat, a decent number of Abingdon boys took part; in fact on Sunday 29 January over a dozen Abingdon entrants rather dominated parts of the areas round, numerically as well as on the court! Witness the finals and even semi-finals contested between two Abingdon players or pairs.

In the closing weeks of the Lent term we had to cram in several OSBA matches: the U14s continued their winning ways with wins over John Mason and Cheney Schools and just squeaked by Faringdon Community College. The U16s also beat John Mason School and Bicester Community College. Their other scalps were in mixed matches where with St Helen's School they beat Cheney, Faringdon and Wood Green, although Henry Box School proved too strong on a day when St Helen's could only find very inexperienced girls to partner the usual Abingdon boys. The other part of this mixed match with Henry Box School saw the Abingdon U19 boys acquiring U16 girl partners and only just losing.

Away from the Oxfordshire league we met The Oratory School in the match postponed from January and won 13 - 3. Coursework and other serious matters overtook most of the senior players on the date of this term's triangular match with Malvern and Cheltenham but as Abingdon had steamrolled both those schools last term this presented a chance to play mainly fifth-form boys who still won some games.

The season concluded with the finals of the Oxfordshire Schools' Badminton Association league where we had teams in every area that we possibly could. The outcome was that the U16 and U19 mixed teams were both runners-up to Henry Box School, the U14 boys were runners-up to Wood Green and the U16s and U19s boys' teams both beat Henry Box School. Our local celebrity, Judy Hashman presented the prizes.

Some masters i.e. badminton at other schools do not drive minibuses and have to rely on a colleague to help them get to away matches. Almost by definition these people have very little knowledge of the game and the staff driver from Wellington College watched with some astonishment for several minutes as high-energy, three-dimensional chess was enacted ten feet away from him; eventually he found enough voice to say "Crikey, this isn't a soft option"; given the number of points played in a term, let alone a season, and having recently read that in a good smash the shuttle leaves the racket at anything up to 200 mph, I believe he's right.

Before adding the tabulated results I must thank the parents who turn up loyally to retrieve their sons after overrunning or away matches. Even in this age of mobile phones I know that many patient hours are passed sitting on Park Crescent, waiting yet again for the return of the team.

We said farewell to some more stalwarts this summer. It would be impossible to be more committed to a game than captain **Nick Miles**: always properly turned out, he plays very hard indeed, chases down shots that others might despair of reaching and seldom loses his sense of proportion in the event of a game getting beyond even his retrieval. He has established a very effective doubles partnership with **Han Park** who, in his own right, is a very capable singles player: one of my happiest memories of this season is of **Han** taking a cheerful bow as everyone surrounded the court where he was playing the final match at Millfield. **Alex Boxell** does have knees but usually conceals them under his tracksuit. He follows in the Trappist tradition of Danny Cole and Danny Mitchell as well as sharing their talent for reading a doubles game and being very hard to pass at the net. **Philip Cope** has become well known for working himself up into an exalted state during a match – the red face and excellent results prove how productive this can be. . . . **Harry Dawkins** may take forty or fifty minutes to come on song, but once warmed up his reach and strength are forces to be reckoned with. When he joined the School **Danny Mak** struggled to connect racket and shuttle reliably but with persistence and good sense he has turned himself into a neat and consistent player. **Aaron Mak** is as elegant a badminton player as we have had: on a bad day he can mix moments of brilliance with fits of abstraction but on a good day his strength, sweet timing and court sense make him quite formidable – as Oratory found to their discomfiture.

The Captain for 2006–7 will be **Harry Richards**.

The Secretary for 2006–7 will be **Tim Middleton**.

Ian Macdonald

## Badminton Results

### Michaelmas Term 2005

Wed 14 Sept	1st & 2nd	v Bloxham	@ Bloxham	(9 - 0, 9 - 0)
Wed 5 October	A & B	v Stowe	@ Stowe	(7 - 2, 9 - 0)
Sat 8 Oct	A & B	v Radley	@ Radley	(9 - 0, 9 - 0)
Wed 12 Oct		v Oratory	@ Abingdon	(13 - 3)
Sat 15 October		v Presentation College	@ Abingdon	(14 - 7)
Sat 5 Nov	A & B	v Cheltenham College	@ Cheltenham	(7 - 2, 9 - 0)
Sat 12 November		v Wellington College	@ Abingdon	(14 - 2)
Wed 16 November	1st & 2nd	v Bloxham	@ Abingdon	(9 - 0, 9 - 0)
Wed 23 November	House Doubles Competition (winners <b>Nick Miles &amp; Alex Boxell</b> )			
Sat 26 November		v Malvern & Cheltenham	@ Cheltenham	(8 - 1, 6 - 3)
Tues 29 November	A & U15	v Rugby School	@ Rugby	(5 - 4, 9 - 0)
Wed 30 November	A & B	v Millfield	@ Abingdon	(8 - 1, 9 - 0 [6 - 0, 4 - 2])
Sat 3 December	U19 OSBA & B	v Radley	@ Abingdon	(7 - 0, 9 - 0)
Wed 7 December		v Stowe	@ Abingdon	(15 - 1).
Tues 13 December	U14 OSBA	v Matthew Arnold School	@ Abingdon	(4 - 3)

### Lent Term 2006

#### Sunday 29 January Oxford Schools' Championships 1st round

U13 Singles Winner **Nick Acutt**; U13 Doubles Winners **Nick Acutt & Rajan Sehmi**

U15 Singles Winner **George Dugdale**; U15 Doubles Winners **George Dugdale & Alex Smith**

U17 Singles Winner **Tobi Ojo**; U17 Singles Runner-up **Jun Tao**

U17 Doubles Winners **Harry Richards & Jun Tao**; U17 Doubles Runners-up **Tim Middleton & George Dugdale**

Winners and runners-up in each division went through to the **county finals** on Feb 5 when:

U17 Singles Runner-up **Jun Tao**; U17 Doubles Winners **Tobi Ojo & Jun Tao**

### School matches

Tues 31 January		v Rugby School	@ Abingdon	(6 - 3, 9 - 0)
Sat 4 February		v Millfield	@ Millfield	(20 - 11)
Tues 7 February	U16	v Langtree Sch	@ Langtree	(5 - 2)
Wed 22 February	U14 & U16 OSBA	v John Mason	@ John Mason	(7 - 0, 7 - 0)
Thurs 23 February	U14 OSBA	v Cheney	@ Abingdon	(7 - 0)
Sat 25 February	A and B	v Cheltenham College	@ Abingdon	(8 - 1, 9 - 0)
Tues 28 February	U16 & U19 mixed OSBA	v Henry Box	@ St Helen's	(2 - 7, 4 - 5)
Wed 1 March	U16 and U19 OSBA	v Bicester	@ Bicester	(7 - 0 & conceded)
Fri 3 March	U16 mixed	v Cheney	@ St Helen's	(7 - 0)
Mon 13 March	U19 mixed OSBA	v Wantage Sch	@ St Helen's	(conceded)
Tues 14 March	U14 OSBA	v Faringdon	@ Matthew Arnold School	(4 - 3)
Wed 15 March	8 players	v Oratory	@ Oratory	(13 - 3)
Thurs 16 March	Vale U13 tournament		@ Matthew Arnold School	(singles won by <b>N Acutt</b> )
Thurs 23 March	16 U16 mixed OSBA	v Wood Green		(9 - 0)

### Wednesday 22 March OSBA Finals

U14 runners-up to Wood Green School

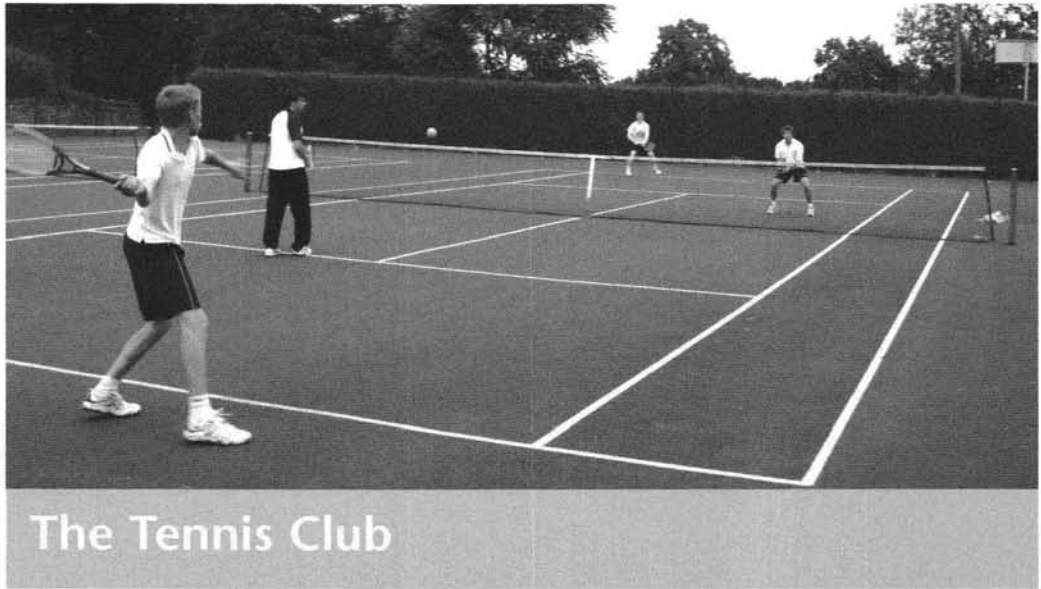
U16 beat Henry Box School 4 - 3

U19 beat Henry Box School 4 - 3

It has been a good year: the School has sixteen teams across all age-groups; a national champion in our ranks; a new tennis pavilion; a professional tennis coach and a successful 1st VI.

Much of this success can be attributed to **Paul Butcher**, our new tennis professional. He has made a real impact on our training, working on our tactics and techniques, and has been an inspiration to the boys.

**Michael Watkins** added another National title to last year's win in the U12 singles, by claiming the U14 doubles crown with another year to go in this age-group.



The 1st VI were led, as last year, by **Matthew Watkins** and **Andrew Bell**, who were still only in the Lower 6. They were consistently too good for many opponents, winning 21 of their 26 sets in inter-school fixtures. The difference from last year however was that there was success throughout the team. The number 2 pair, **Michael Watkins** and **Sebastian Vogelsberger**, formed a strong partnership and **George Collier**, **Paddy Collins** and **Oliver Raban** all had a good deal of success when playing for the 1st VI. The later stages of the term gave us a chance to field many younger boys in **Tobi Ojo**, **Justin Robinson**, **Sam Jeffery** and **Euan Campbell** who stepped up and continued the winning habit.

The 1st VI started with good wins in tough matches against Radley, Shrewsbury and St Edward's. In the matches against Stowe and Wellington, two fourth-form boys, **Sam Jeffery** and **Justin Robinson**, made telling contributions at number 3 pair.

After another good win against Harrow, we hoped to maintain our unbeaten record when we played Marlborough but we put on a poor display and were beaten – perhaps distracted by the upcoming World Cup England v Portugal match.

With every boy who played 1st VI tennis this season returning next year, we are expecting to produce another strong 1st VI side and this time finish the job of completing an unbeaten season.

In the Glanville Cup we came up against a strong Magdalen College School side in the second round and were soundly beaten. There was better news to report from the Independent Schools Tennis Tournament, where the 1st IV, comprising **Matthew Watkins**, **Andrew Bell**, **Sebastian Vogelsberger** and **Michael Watkins**, were narrowly beaten in the final of the Plate, having been knocked out in round one by Epsom College.

There was much commitment shown from many other senior boys, with **Andrew Barton** and **David Fry** warranting a particular mention. Both **Andrew** and **David** shared a great motivation to improve every aspect of their game and finished the year representing the 1st VI against Marlborough. **Dickens Lam**, **Han Park**, **Phil Birkett** and **James Innes** were all hugely enthusiastic in their approach and I thank them for their contributions to the Tennis Club.

Other results throughout the school highlighted how many talented tennis players there are in the Tennis Club. There was success for all U15 teams against St Edward's, MCS and Harrow, together with fine wins for the U15A and U15B team in the Oxfordshire Independent Schools' Tournament, ahead of Radley, St Edward's, MCS and The Oratory. The U14s also have a great deal of talented tennis players and this was reflected in wins against Shrewsbury, Stowe and Marlborough.

The junior boys brought a fantastic amount of enthusiasm and dedication to the courts this season. There was never a spare court during lunchtimes throughout the term and they enjoyed matches against Summer Fields, Cothill, MCS and the Dragon.

The annual School singles knockout competition was this year won by **Sam Jeffery**, beating **James Burford** in a tight game to collect the Buckley Cup.

Steve Brenchley

## 1st Team Results

Match	Opponents	Result
Inter-school	Radley	W 6 - 3
Inter-school	Shrewsbury	W 5 - 4
Inter-school	MCS	Cancelled - rain
Inter-school	St Edward's	W 8 - 1
Inter-school	Stowe	W 8 - 1
Inter-school	Eton	Cancelled - rain
Glanvill Cup	St Bartholomew's	W 6 - 0
Inter-school	Wellington	W 6.5 - 2.5
Glanvill Cup	MCS	L 2 - 4
Inter-school	Harrow	W 6 - 3
Inter-school	Marlborough	L 1 - 8
Youll Cup	Epsom College	L 1 - 2
Clark Trophy	Hymers College	W 2 - 0
Clark Trophy	RGS, Newcastle	W 2 - 0
Clark Trophy	Cranleigh	W 2 - 0
Clark Trophy	Cheltenham	W 2 - 0
Clark Trophy	Bradford G.S	L 1 - 2



## The Sailing Club

This year has seen a large growth in the Sailing Club and a steady improvement in competition results.

Among the many competitions we entered were two major Firefly events, one of which was the Midlands Youth Team Racing Competition in which **Guy Stephens, James Hawkes, Theo Hoole, Tom Altmann, Oliver Bennett** and **Alastair Hughes** competed and came fourth out of eighteen teams. The other event was Firefly Fleet Racing in Kent for which we entered a team of four who came tenth out of thirty-six teams. Earlier this year we reached an agreement with Radley College and Magdalen College School to each buy two Fireflies and use them together to make a set of six boats for team-racing. As a consequence the standard of team-racing of the three schools has risen so much that in November 2007 we will be entering a composite team of three boats to compete in an inter-university team-racing competition organised by Oxford University.

We also entered a match-racing team for the RYA Youth National Match Racing competition in which our crew came fifth. Of the four teams that beat us three were from universities.

In other competitions the laser class, in the NSSA Championships early in the year, was won by **James Hawkes**. **Tom Altmann** sailed well in his 29er to obtain a respectable result in the RYA Youth Nationals.

Five of our most experienced instructors have been training to become RYA-qualified instructors and should all pass the exam in January. Our young helm, **Guy Stephens**, has been admitted to the 420 National Youth squad and our match-racing bowman has been admitted to the RYA youth keelboat squad.

This was not edited in any way!



Cruising in  
The Solent

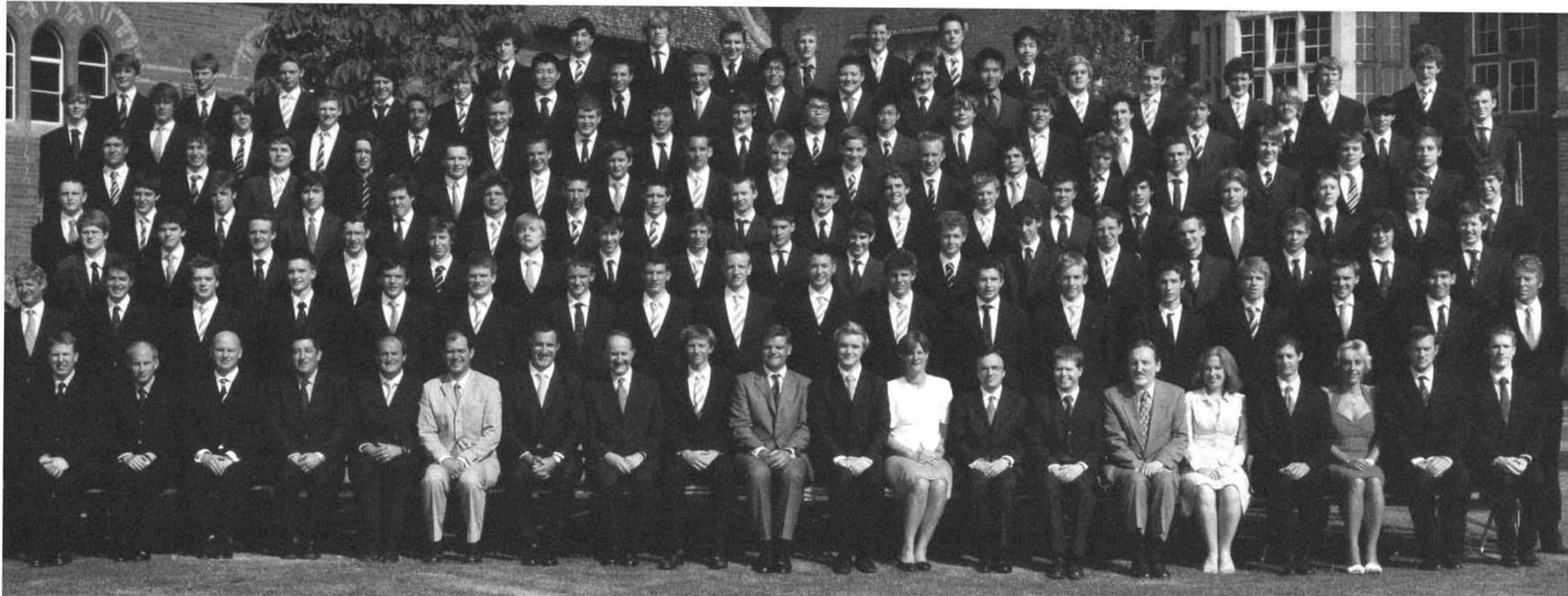
On the cruising side, this year has seen three five-day yacht trips in The Solent and Dartmouth, including a week obtaining yachting qualifications – Day Skipper and Coastal Skipper. We have two more people ready to take Coastal Skipper examinations. In conjunction with the Classics Department we will be sailing around the coast of Greece next summer, visiting sites of historical importance and then sailing for a week with members of the Sailing Club.

This year we have been very busy teaching new sailors in the Club, and have seen a considerable increase in the number of Lower School and Middle School pupils who sail with us, many of whom are already able to sail well.

David Bickerton

# Leavers Destinations

<b>BATH</b>	<b>Thomas Scrase</b> <i>Natural Sciences</i>	<b>LOUGHBOROUGH</b>	<b>David Emerson</b> <i>Music</i>
<b>Philip Cope</b> <i>Economics</i>	<b>Matthew Smith</b> <i>Natural Sciences</i>	<b>Edward Brooke</b> <i>Mechanical Engineering</i>	<b>James Wilson</b> <i>Politics</i>
<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	<b>Robert Woolley</b> <i>Engineering</i>	<b>Gareth Cadman</b> <i>Geography</i>	<b>ST ANDREW'S</b>
<b>Edward Allen</b> <i>Medicine</i>	<b>CARDIFF</b>	<b>Joseph Canlan-Shaw</b> <i>Product Design</i>	<b>Christopher Hornsey</b> <i>Physics</i>
<b>Simon Moulds</b> <i>International Relations</i>	<b>Oliver Bennett</b> <i>Philosophy</i>	<b>Craig Fraser</b> <i>Science and Engineering Foundation Studies</i>	<b>SHEFFIELD</b>
<b>Jeremy Thomson</b> <i>Economic and Social History</i>	<b>James Gibson</b> <i>City and Regional Planning</i>	<b>Francis Gater</b> <i>Geography and Management</i>	<b>Harry Dawkins</b> <i>International Relations and Politics</i>
<b>Luke Wilkinson</b> <i>Archaeology and Ancient History</i>	<b>Benjamin Harris</b> <i>Medicine</i>	<b>Scott Henley</b> <i>Management Sciences</i>	<b>Wesley Peile</b> <i>Biochemistry</i>
<b>Edward Wilson</b> <i>History, Ancient and Medieval</i>	<b>Aaron Mak</b> <i>Medicine</i>	<b>LONDON SCHOOL of ECONOMICS</b>	<b>Thomas Stanley</b> <i>Mechatronics</i>
<b>BRISTOL</b>	<b>Iain Marsh</b> <i>BDS</i>	<b>Sidharth Kapoor</b> <i>Economics and Economic History</i>	<b>SOUTHAMPTON</b>
<b>Lucas Ariott</b> <i>Medicine</i>	<b>CENTRAL St MARTIN'S SCHOOL of ART, LONDON</b>	<b>Han-Kyul Park</b> <i>Economics</i>	<b>William Statham</b> <i>Biology</i>
<b>James Arrowsmith</b> <i>Chemistry</i>	<b>Alex Ingham Brooke</b> <i>Art and Design Foundation course</i>	<b>Stanislav Urzhumtsev</b> <i>Law</i>	<b>Matthew Stott</b> <i>Biology</i>
<b>Christopher Cowan</b> <i>Economics</i>	<b>DURHAM</b>	<b>Thomas Winwood</b> <i>Chemistry</i>	<b>Mark Williams</b> <i>Management with Entrepreneurship</i>
<b>Simon Crowther</b> <i>Mechanical Engineering</i>	<b>Kelvin Chan</b> <i>Economics</i>	<b>NEWCASTLE</b>	<b>Kang Zang</b> <i>Economics</i>
<b>James Horsburgh</b> <i>Classics</i>	<b>Matthew Coffey</b> <i>Philosophy</i>	<b>Elliott Jones</b> <i>Geography</i>	<b>SURREY</b>
<b>Jamie Miller</b> <i>Biology</i>	<b>Jonathan Thomas</b> <i>Biology</i>	<b>Anthony Davis</b> <i>Ancient History</i>	<b>Joshua Greaves</b> <i>Business Management</i>
<b>William Peskett</b> <i>Medicine</i>	<b>EAST ANGLIA</b>	<b>Alex Locatelli-Malacrida</b> <i>American Studies and History</i>	<b>Nick Robinson</b> <i>Business Management</i>
<b>BRIGHTON</b>	<b>Thomas Lodge</b> <i>Politics with Media</i>	<b>OXFORD</b>	<b>SWANSEA</b>
<b>Marcus Nurton</b> <i>Construction Management</i>	<b>EDINBURGH</b>	<b>Meishang Bai</b> <i>Engineering</i>	<b>Joshua Baines-Buttery</b> <i>Law and American Studies</i>
<b>BRUNEL</b>	<b>Angus Muir</b> <i>Biological Science</i>	<b>Philip Birkett</b> <i>Biological Science</i>	<b>UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON</b>
<b>Philip Thomas</b> <i>Product Design Engineering</i>	<b>EXETER</b>	<b>Alexander Boxell</b> <i>Classics</i>	<b>William Beaufoy</b> <i>Philosophy</i>
<b>Ross Thompson</b> <i>Industrial Design</i>	<b>George Milne-Day</b> <i>Ancient History</i>	<b>Thomas Carpenter</b> <i>Human Science</i>	<b>Bo Chen</b> <i>Stats, Comp, Operational Research and Economics</i>
<b>Thomas Wakeling</b> <i>Industrial Design</i>	<b>HULL</b>	<b>Henry Carter</b> <i>Music</i>	<b>Christian Davies</b> <i>Ancient History</i>
<b>BRISTOL UNIVERSITY WEST of ENGLAND</b>	<b>Dominic Waite</b> <i>War and Security Studies</i>	<b>James Cook</b> <i>Classics</i>	<b>Johnnie Fisher</b> <i>Information Management</i>
<b>Craig Goody</b> <i>Property Management and Investment</i>	<b>IMPERIAL, LONDON</b>	<b>Christopher Edson</b> <i>Materials Science</i>	<b>Chris Ingham Brook</b> <i>Modern Languages</i>
<b>CAMBRIDGE</b>	<b>Roy K D Lam</b> <i>Biochemistry</i>	<b>Samuel McKenney</b> <i>Philosophy, Politics and Economics</i>	<b>Andrew Kyrios</b> <i>Medicine</i>
<b>Mark Beevor</b> <i>Engineering</i>	<b>Daniel Mak</b> <i>Mechanical Engineering</i>	<b>Jonas Muir Wood</b> <i>Biological Science</i>	<b>Edmund Lo</b> <i>Economics</i>
<b>Keith Chang</b> <i>Computer Science</i>	<b>KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON</b>	<b>OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>Artem Smorodin</b> <i>Econ and Bus with East European Studies</i>
<b>George Davie</b> <i>English</i>	<b>Andrew Cruickshank</b> <i>History</i>	<b>Paul Antony</b> <i>Art and Design Foundation course</i>	<b>Matthew Stagg</b> <i>Philosophy</i>
<b>Ian Dorward</b> <i>Economics</i>	<b>Samuel Johnson</b> <i>Film and American Studies</i>	<b>QUEEN MARY'S, LONDON</b>	<b>Oliver Turner</b> <i>Medicine</i>
<b>Alexander Francis</b> <i>Theology and Religious Studies</i>	<b>Pavel Kogan</b> <i>Mathematics and Philosophy</i>	<b>Benjamin Carter-Fraser</b> <i>Geography and Politics</i>	<b>Arthur Verdin</b> <i>Classics</i>
<b>Neil Houlsby</b> <i>Engineering</i>	<b>George Scarfe</b> <i>Ancient History</i>	<b>Thomas Mitchell</b> <i>Film Studies</i>	<b>Andrey Zhvitiashvili</b> <i>Economics</i>
<b>Christopher Lillycrop</b> <i>Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic</i>	<b>LEEDS</b>	<b>ROYAL HOLLOWAY, LONDON</b>	<b>WARWICK</b>
<b>Ralph Morgan</b> <i>Mathematics</i>	<b>Paul Godsmark</b> <i>History</i>	<b>Edgar Dyer</b> <i>Biomedical Sciences</i>	<b>Jonathan Swarbrick</b> <i>History</i>
<b>Philip Norris</b> <i>Economics</i>	<b>Sanjay Thakore</b> <i>Automotive Engineering</i>	<b>LIVERPOOL</b>	<b>YORK</b>
<b>Christopher Parker</b> <i>Oriental Studies</i>	<b>Nicholas Miles</b> <i>Mechanical Engineering</i>		<b>Dominic Beale</b> <i>Economics</i>
			<b>Lucas Hall</b> <i>Economics</i>
			<b>Aaron Lewin</b> <i>French and German</i>



### V1th Form Leavers, July 2006

**Back row:** Ralph Morgan. Andrey Zhvitiashvili. Gareth Cadman. Lucas Hall. Philip Thomas. Thomas Stanier. Charles Gill. Keith Cheng

**7th row:** Oliver Bennett. Thomas Stanley. Philip Norris. Samuel Johnson. Stephen Lawrence. Kang Zang Jamie Innes. Nick Miles. Han Park. Ian Dorward. William Statham. Dickens Lam. Thomas Davie. Andrew Cole. Toby Roche. Christopher Parker. Teddy Brooke

**6th row:** Benjamin Wilson. Alexander Francis. Bayly Shelton. Edward Wilson. Sanjay Thakore. Joseph Canlan-Shaw. David Emerson. Edmund Lo. Alexander Locatelli-Malacrida. Kelvin Chan. Danny Mak. Chris Hornsey. Scott Henley. Oliver Burnham. Elliot Jones. Jeremy Thomson. Thomas Winwood. Thomas Mitchell

**5th row:** Robert Woolley. Andrew McGrath. Alexander Ingham-Brooke. Matthew Stagg. Paul Godsmark. Mark Beevor. Philip Birkett. Neil Houlsby. Simon Crowther. Philip Cope. Benjamin Davis. Benjamin Harris. Douglas Graham. Cameron Dyer. Paul Antony. Joshua Greaves. Christopher Ingham-Brooke

**4th row:** James Arrowsmith. Jamie Miller. Alex Boxell. Pavel Kogan. Edgar Dyer. Rowan Wheeler. Wesley Peile. Ian Marsh. Mathew Coffey. James Gibson. Andrew Kyprios. George Scarfe. Craig Fraser. Alexander Grant. Samuel McKenney. Tom Carpenter. James Cook. Nicholas Robinson

**3rd row:** Timothy Dawson. Edward Allen. Oliver Turner. Mattias Schmidt. Arthur Verdin. Stanislav Urzhumtsev. Harry Dawkins. Christopher Cowan. Thomas Scrase. Jonathan Swarbrick. George Fenton. Edward Hofman. William Drazin. Henry Carter. Dominic Beale. Thomas Lodge. Thomas Wakeling

**2nd row:** Mr A Swarbrick, Aaron Lewis. Angus Muir. Luke Wilkinson. Jonathan Thomas. Oliver Waitt. Christopher Halls. Marcus Nurton. Thomas Raftery. Christopher Edson. Mark Williams. Christopher Thomas. William Peskett. Ross Thompson. Francis Gater. Benjamin Carter-Fraser. Tobias Durant. John Henderson Esq

**Front row:** Mr M Schofield. Mr J Older. Mr J Williams. Mr D Aitken. Mr S Hamilton. Mr W Phelan. Mr T Ayling. Matthew Halford. Mr M Turner. Sam Wylie. Mrs J Jorgensen. Mr D Dawswell. Mr D Boyd. Dr H. Zawadzki. Ms F Donovan. Mr D Franklin. Mrs J Fishpool. Mr A Crofton. Mr H Price



