



Abingdonian 2010





# The Abingdonian

2009 – 2010

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# Editorial

It's possible that I am the only person who reads every single word of *The Abingdonian* – and every single comma, and every single full stop. However, should anyone think this might be a tedious process they would be very wrong. Who could remain indifferent when following the triumphs and disappointments of the sports' teams, or fail to be moved by the pleasure of the Moldovan children holidaying in Romania courtesy of the Abingdon supported charity *Agape*.

Time and time again writers use the words dedication, challenge, effort, commitment and hard work to describe the boys' activities, and mention their determination to learn lessons, embrace different cultures and help the less fortunate. It makes me very proud of them. You will only have to read a fraction of what's in here to feel proud of them too. I hope you will.

I'd like to thank all the boys who have helped with the production of this magazine; their commitment has been impressive! With the retirement of Anne Soper, who used to happily proof read the whole document and pick up numerous mistakes, I can only apologise in advance for the inevitable errors that I will have missed.



*Sarah Wearne*



The Abingdonian Editorial Group:

From L to R in photograph:

Lawrence Lai

Barry Au

Kelvin Poon

Chun Maan Chin

Timothy Hui

Jay Jung

Jacob Diamond (not pictured)



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# Head's Foreword

This is my first formal association with The Abingdonian, a publication I greatly admire because it is such a fantastic record of the life of this wonderful school over a whole year. Everything is here from Rifle Club to dance, concerts to fencing. There's something for everyone, memories of a trip abroad, success at a particular sports fixture, an image of a painting or sculpture.

Tribute is paid to my predecessor Mark Turner at the end of his eight and a half years' service as a fine Head for Abingdon School. In years to come the boys will look back on the 2009/10 edition, fondly I hope, and recall the events of this year and their individual role. And you never know – the archivist might be asked to source material for a future biography of a boy who's gone on to do extraordinary things.

More than anything though it's worth reading for its own sake. I hope that you enjoy this edition of The Abingdonian as much as I have.



Felicity Lusk with Mark Turner

*Felicity Lusk*



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# Common Room Farewells

## Mark Turner

A single article cannot attempt to do justice to the work of Mark Turner over the last eight and a half years. David Lillycrop, Chairman of Governors for the past two, spoke at Prize Giving of the strength of Abingdon at the end of the Headmaster's tenure. As the Headmaster himself has said, he inherited a thriving school in 2002, and history will attest that he has succeeded in strengthening it further. He has been assiduous in ensuring that Abingdon moved forward during his tenure.

Mark Turner arrived in January 2002, having already served six years as headmaster of Kelly College. The achievements of the School during the last eight years are apparent from a glance at the Abingdonian, Headmaster's newsletters and Abingdon News (which he instituted). The boom years of the last decade have been used as opportunities to renew and to build afresh, and to strengthen and broaden the Other Half by careful recruitment and deployment of staff. The Arts Centre was built in the early years, followed by the



memorable boathouse, driven by a wave of parental enthusiasm and endeavour after the success of the first VIII in 2002 when they won the Schools' Head of the River, the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham and the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley. The new Sports Centre, declared a top priority in an early parental survey, took years of planning and construction. Somehow the Headmaster managed to convince the Governors to borrow large amounts of money to fund the building of this outstanding £9 million facility. The strengthening of the Other Half has not just happened through provision of better facilities. Monitoring of pupil participation has increased, with clear expectations given to the boys. There has been a broadening of activity to include such items as the Film Unit, and more meetings of departmental societies. These have been accompanied by rising expectations that new and established staff offer opportunities for pupils to develop beyond the classroom. An

increase in achievement in sport has led to stronger fixture lists. Reporting too has been modified to include more detail. The Headmaster himself, in the front of the Other Half booklet, defied anyone to research what is on offer and find nothing that stimulated their interest or enthusiasm.







With HRH The Princess Royal 2006

Keen that all boys experience service to others, early on in his tenure the Third Year Service scheme was introduced as a compulsory element of the Third-year curriculum. Opportunities for boys to go overseas as part of charitable ventures have been encouraged and developed too, in part due to the Headmaster's own enthusiasm for such ventures.



Rowing Abingdon – Henley 2010

At the final assembly Euan Campbell, Head of School, spoke of the Headmaster's contribution in many areas of school life, mentioning in particular the impact he had on the first XV when spotted on the touchline. He was rarely absent from home fixtures, or from musical or dramatic events. When he spoke at the Concert in the Sheldonian Theatre in June, the Headmaster declared that attendance at the myriad musical events was far from being just a duty, it had given him great pleasure.

While other schools focused solely on raising their league table position, Abingdon has developed an attractive all-round education at the same time as increasing academic standards, making it an attractive place to parents and boys. Abingdon's grammar school

tradition has often been mentioned to new staff at their induction and Mark Turner has sought to ensure that academically able boys are recruited and then developed in order to ensure they have opportunities for life beyond school. Analysis of the statistics illustrates the point: the size of year-groups has grown, with an increase in their average ability on entry measured by standardised tests. A\*s at GCSE have gone from 27% to 42%. A level results have risen from 76% A&B in 2002 to an average of 90% for the last four years.

Mark's own work rate has been phenomenal. It was evident to me each morning in the pile of correspondence he had read and the detailed letters of reply he had dictated. Annual assemblies on leadership, usually around the time of appointment of prefects, often made mention of the officers' manual given to the Headmaster on his entry to Sandhurst, with the title *Serve to Lead*, a path he sought to follow.

In all his work for Abingdon, Mark was ably supported by his wife, Elizabeth, herself head of Religious Studies at Abingdon Prep. She was frequently welcoming prospective, new and current parents at school receptions, and entertaining at Lacies Court, often accompanied their two engaging sons, Alexander and Gideon.

A man with a clear vision of what matters in education, Mark's achievements at Abingdon were applauded at many farewell events during his final days before his move to Shrewsbury. I hope his time there will be as fruitful as his time at Abingdon has been.

*David Dawswell*

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## Alun Watkins

When Alun was appointed to Abingdon in 1989 an internal memo from a member of the interview panel, who shall remain nameless, said 'If I had been headmaster I would have got on with it, rung him up and offered him the job by now'. Thankfully, even after a period allowing for the exercise of headmagisterial consideration, not to mention procrastination, the phone call was made and Alun was appointed to Abingdon. The powerful first impression he made at interview was quickly consolidated on arrival in the School as he showed real gravitas as a classroom teacher, demanding high standards. Alun's M.Phil research at Exeter on 'some rather obscene dung beetle' is indicative of the fact that he has never been squeamish about rolling his sleeves up and exploring the murkier sides of school life. These have proved to be vital skills over the last few years in his role as Deputy Head Pastoral.

We should perhaps consider ourselves fortunate that Alun ever entered teaching in the first place. The current generation of Abingdonians could perhaps be forgiven for forgetting that Alun was once the statuesque fly-half for Bath during the years 1981-85, when he notched up over 100 games on a quasi-professional basis for one of the most successful clubs in the country at that time. Had the professional opportunities available to today's players been open to him he may have gone down a route to fame and riches. It was most fortuitous that instead Alun saw the benefits of a teaching career and took up a position at Downside School. Inevitably, he was heavily involved in rugby coaching, an aspect of his contribution to school life that he was hoping to play down on appointment to Abingdon as Head of Biology. No chance. In fact Alun was soon coaching Abingdon's 1st XV and encouraging



the Rugby Club to ever higher levels of ambition. He quotes as his proudest moment the 1992 away win over Radley in which James Tilley scored a breakaway try in the closing stages of a tense match to win 14-9.

From reading this tribute thus far, you could easily be mistaken into a belief that Alun's main role at Abingdon was focused on the Rugby Club – far from it. His commitment to every aspect of the School, and the respect he earned from boys, meant that on reorganisation of the sixth form in 1997 he was the obvious candidate as Upper Master. As such he was responsible for the general wellbeing, good discipline and academic progress of the entire sixth form. Such a challenge required a rather authoritarian approach, but over time, and with growing confidence, the relationship between sixth form and Upper Master brought a much more positive atmosphere. On another reorganisation of the SMT in 2006 he was appointed Deputy Head Pastoral. In this role Alun has been a colossus. Complex disciplinary knots have been untangled with a steely determination to

get answers, and he has become known almost affectionately by Abingdon's small criminal underclass as D. I. Watkins.

Alun has a traditionalist's commitment to the best of 'old fashioned standards', a belief that successful schoolmastering is based on strong personal relationships – hence his massive investment in meeting boys off the buses almost every day of the school year – and he never let his colleagues on SMT forget that in a boys' school the Other Half is a vital key element, and not an adjunct to the education on offer. In fact, over the years, Alun has been a stalwart defender of Saturday school. We will watch with interest to see whether this is introduced at Victoria College, Jersey, where he has been appointed Head.

The Watkins family have been Abingdon's leading dynasty for over two decades. Four successful Abingdonian sons have attended the School, and it must be recorded that Sue, his wife, has been a tireless and passionate supporter of hundreds, if not thousands, of Abingdon events.

In fact, Abingdon has been a point of consistency in that Alun's entrepreneurial and DIY interests have frequently meant the family have been 'of no fixed abode' during phases of expansion, refurbishment or speculation. We are delighted that over two decades they chose to make Abingdon their home.

Somehow, despite the fact that Alun is a non-swimmer and reluctant flyer, we all know that he will make a huge success of his new responsibilities. Welsh granite has some pretty durable qualities.

*Mark Turner*



## Will Phelps

So many labels were used to describe Will during his final weeks at Abingdon that originality in this respect became quite a challenge. On Leavers' Day alone he was described as 'a Legend', 'a Colossus bestriding the Atlantic', 'one of the big beasts of the Abingdon jungle', and 'a rainbow'. I saw him quite simply as one of the pillars of our society.

Will Phelps, who has been appointed as Headmaster of the British International School of New York, arrived at Abingdon from Aldenham School in September 1998. An RS teacher, a boarding tutor in Crescent House, and an enthusiastic contributor to the Other Half from the moment he arrived – a fresh-faced bachelor, with all the makings of a first-rate schoolmaster, it seemed. In reality, we had a monster in our midst – a heavy smoking, hard drinking, goatee-beard-wearing hell raiser – it was as if Michael St John Parker had pulled off the major coup of employing the Prince of Darkness himself to teach Religious Studies at Abingdon. But Will became a force for good, at the same time holding on to his desire to live life to the full and to his very infectious joie de vivre. His generosity as a colleague, as a teacher and as a host knew few bounds.

Will was an extremely effective and inspiring teacher of RS and demonstrated the same skills as a House Master. On taking over Waste Court in 2001 he set about creating the School's biggest House by introducing dayboys, and he called for and got the House spirit that is now associated with his name. In doing this he showed in abundance the wisdom that is needed by everyone in this position, the wisdom to recognise what really matters, and what is trivial.

Will was Head of Boarding for the past five years, a job he did with huge style and effectiveness. He loved to wind up his boarding-housemaster colleagues by talking about "my boarders", but this never detracted from his attention to detail, his work rate, his genuine concern for the boarding community both day to day and in the long term, and his astuteness. His showmanship in this capacity does however need to be celebrated, as anybody who ever attended the Boarders' Christmas Dinner knows; there was always genuine expectation in the air as Will stood up to make his speech, not least with the Headmaster – "I have no idea where this is going" Mark admitted, as last December's offering from Will took yet another surreal turn. But he always got there in the end, and everybody felt somehow wiser – despite the still mystifying references to moose heads or decoy ducks. I would also like to say how much I enjoyed being part of the unholy trinity that is the boarding-housemasters team; this was in no small part due to the way Will managed that team.

Will was also asked to take on a role of fundamental importance in the school – child protection officer. This brought him into direct contact with many more members of the school community than most of us, and enhanced his reputation for a judicious mix of plain talking and charm.

A pillar of Abingdon society needs to know his way round the various school committees, and know how to make the most of meetings. Will was well practised at this as his shrewdness and ability to see the big picture made him a welcome presence on a large number of School committees. He was good at making the party line clear – charmingly clear, but clear none-the-less. This skill will of course stand him in good stead in his next post.



Will will be the first to acknowledge the significance of the role-played by his wife Kimberley, both in the position he has left, and the one he is now starting. There will certainly be a strong power behind the Headmaster's throne at the British International School of New York, not to mention the beginnings of a formidable networking team...

So, Will Phelps– ex Head Boy at Clifton College, former jackaroo, founder member of the Abingdon staff Hellfire Club, wit, raconteur, bon viveur and pillar of our society – we wish you and your family all the very best in the Big Apple; we pay tribute to your warmth and generosity, and acknowledge the fact that although the Abingdon edifice will probably survive the removal of such a central pillar, we will definitely miss you.

*Douglas Aitken*

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## Simon Balderson

Simon Balderson joined the ICT department in 2007 and soon showed his mettle teaching ICT skills to the Lower School and A level ICT to a group of eager students each year. He also lent the weight of his technical and programming expertise to the Department, helping to develop new technologies as well as the Study Site.

Outside the classroom, Simon's profile as a keen and gifted jazz musician soon became apparent and it was not long before he was appearing as a tenor saxophonist in the Big Band and, on occasions, deputising as Leader. In July 2009 he joined the highly successful Big Band tour to Tuscany. Simon's vocal talent is now immortalised on the new Big Band CD, singing opposite Head of School, Euan Campbell, in the Sinatra/Sammy Davis Jnr number, Me and My Shadow.

In charge of the Debating Society for one year, Simon organised several successful dinner debates with



Wycombe Abbey and Westonbirt School. In November 2010 he accompanied to Helsinki the team of ten boys who were competing in the international session of the European Youth Parliament. As befitted a teacher of ICT, he also tried to modernise this oldest of Abingdon societies by streaming debates online and adding weekly summaries to the School website.

Simon also supported the Cross-Country Club and is a highly accomplished athlete in his own right: he competed in his local cross-country league, ran the London Marathon, had competed in countless Olympic and sprint distance triathlons and latterly in the Wimbleball half ironman. While helping to coach the runners at Abingdon he was inspired and got fit enough to complete Ironman UK in 2008. It is no surprise therefore that while coaching as part of the Cross-Country Club he also led and managed a hugely successful Triathlon Club here at the School: he coached and encouraged boys and staff to enter the Blenheim Triathlon in which he competed himself – between being interviewed by the local media and Channel 4 who were televising the event and promoting triathlon at grass-root level. As a cross-country coach he was unfailingly systematic in his approach and hugely patient and committed to the long-term development of the boys as athletes.

He was known for his constant enthusiasm, and this saw him arrive at every training session with a smile and an infectious positive attitude. He always led by example and supported the boys in whichever way he could.

*David Haworth*

## Dan Smith



When the time came to appoint a new physics teacher we all agreed that what we needed was an experienced classroom teacher, and yet as soon as we interviewed Dan we changed our mind and appointed him fresh from his PGCE course – no doubt something to do with his much remarked on charisma and charm! Although not quite as young as he looked, he instantly showed that he had the talent and ability of a much more experienced teacher and, despite being an NQT, he fitted seamlessly into the Department, happily teaching physics at all levels from the Third Form to the Upper Sixth, and getting very good results with all his classes.

In his five years at Abingdon, Dan showed himself to be a natural teacher who could easily capture the attention of his class and maintain a high standard of discipline. Yet he was always approachable and was prepared to make time to help any boy, even those he didn't teach. He was popular and effective with the very highest fliers – many of whom he successfully coached for Oxbridge – as well as with

those who found the subject difficult. His degree in Engineering at Imperial, followed by a Doctorate in Coastal Engineering at Cambridge, meant he always kept his teaching grounded in the real world.

Dan also taught A level maths, coached the J15 rowers with some notable successes, helped with the Christian Union, D of E expeditions, rowing camps, Modern Language trips, and with football. In addition he was a resident tutor in School House and took his fair share of responsibility within the Physics Department. Dan has moved on to teach physics at Manchester Grammar School and whilst we are sorry to lose him we wish him all the best.

### *John Brooks*

Dan's PhD thesis on waves was very useful when it came to coaching rowing, especially at the National Schools' Regatta in Nottingham. He has been a key member of the Boat Club coaching staff during his time at Abingdon and his credentials were put to the test in his first term when he raced with the boys in America. Since then he has guided numerous crews to success and his humour and enthusiasm will be greatly missed on the water.

### *Athol Hundermark*

## Cherry Briggs

Cherry started at Abingdon in September 2007. During these three years, she has not only come a long way herself but has also made a huge contribution to the School.

When she was appointed she was in the process of completing her Biochemistry degree at Oxford University and this strong academic background has proved to be a real asset to the School. In the Biology Department, Cherry has taught across the full range of abilities and year groups as well as getting involved outside the classroom with Biology Society, Oxbridge preparation and advising potential medical students. She has always been completely committed to her teaching and given her full effort to all of her classes. She was always professional in her work and set high standards with her planning and delivery of lessons as well as with her thorough marking and feedback to pupils. Cherry had the ability to inspire and motivate and



was always happy to go beyond the specifications in order to promote the subject she enjoyed.

Cherry has been a tutor in School House for three years, the last of which she has spent resident in the House. Throughout this time she has worked with both great charm and consummate professionalism, whether in day-to-day contact with her tutees or looking after the whole House boarding community on her duty nights. She took over her first tutor group as they were going into the fourth year, and her first task was to impress on her charges that tutor periods and Facebook time are not one and the same thing! She met further challenges with these young men equally resolutely, and saw them through to some successful GCSE results. All good practice, possibly, for the dangerous holidays she regularly indulged in. The reward was a tutor group all of her own from the very start, and this particular generation of Abingdonians hugely appreciated her calm, measured approach at the same time as recognising that high standards were expected. They will certainly be sorry to see her go. Her contribution in the evenings included some invaluable advice to aspiring Oxbridge scientists, but she also made Monday evenings in School House her own in other ways – she was very much in charge! The cheeky rumour did the rounds on her arrival in the resident tutor's flat that it had something to do with a formalisation of her relationship with Dr Smith, but she treated this and other nonsense – including in the House Christmas review – with good grace, and with the disdain it deserved.

Cherry has made an excellent contribution to the Boat Club over the last three years and will be sorely missed. Her small figure belies a booming authoritative voice when it



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comes to cajoling hordes of third-formers running along the towpath. Despite an initially tentative start to coaching she has grown in confidence and played a key role with Henry Morgan and Hugh Price in getting the J14 2nd boat across the line first at the National Schools' Regatta.

In the three years that Cherry has been with us, she has given a lot and made a huge impression on the School House community. We wish her every success with her move to Sri Lanka and look forward to hearing her news. She will be a tough act to follow at Abingdon and will be missed by many.

*Simon Bliss and Douglas Aitken*

## Celia Shephard

Celia arrived at Abingdon in 2007 with a richly diverse experience of teaching in top independent day and boarding schools, an IB international school, the state sector and an informal advisor to Havelock Academy and Lincolnshire Montessori. As an experienced examiner, she brought invaluable insights to her teaching and enjoyed debating educational issues with colleagues.

In a results-driven culture, Celia's main achievement was her contribution in August 2009 to the English department's best GCSE results in a decade. She was as proud of the EFL boy's A\* grade (the first by a Korean boy at Abingdon) as she was of hard-won A grades. She credits these successes to the boys' EFL and learning support teachers, but they reflect her commitment to forging partnerships with colleagues, boys and parents.

As head of debating, I valued her championing of public speaking, both in the classroom and at the English

Youth Parliament final at Durham University. Lower School boys were encouraged to be ambitious in researching their debate speeches, and a reply from the Australian PM ('the monarchy should be abolished') was prized by boy and Celia alike.

She cherished the intellectual independence and creativity afforded by teaching in schools like Abingdon, and 'spirit', and 'the importance of taking risks', were words that were rarely far from her lips. She could be found setting a 'one-armed egg decapitating' prep task ('Boy'), as well as recreating the *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* in the school garden. She valued the library, coaxing reluctant readers to 'go for gold' in the Reading Bonanza. The best example of Celia's philosophy can be seen when a student in her set became committed to studying International Relations at university so she opted to teach *The Kite Runner*. An Upper-Sixth-form trip to SOAS inspired a visit to Iran to research the role of Persian literary

references, leading to an invitation to OA Hugh Leach to come and speak to boys about his time as a diplomat in Afghanistan during the timespan of the novel. All of these initiatives emerged organically and unpredictably, covering the specification and way beyond.

Her love of travelling informed her teaching, with holidays divided between travelling and travel writing, and exploring Oxfordshire's gastronomic delights. Celia's collegiality and commitment to cross-curricular work saw her arrive at INSET armed with resources from Ethiopia, Syria and the Galapagos Islands for example. She shared her experiences of the tsunamis with Sixth-form Geographers and gave Oxbridge lessons on Spanish film.

Celia credits the Abingdon Film Unit as a major reason for applying to teach here. She regrets not finding time for the AFU, but has dabbled with Juniors C Hockey and Fifth-form recreational football, joining in as a central defender in her Newcastle United top. What



looked like a conversation about the art of defence was a discussion about Dickens with an Oxbridge candidate. As an Olympic trialist, too few Abingdonians have benefitted from her swimming expertise. We trained together and, reassured that butterfly is 'all in the mind', I progressed to half a mile butterfly. At Abingdon she qualified for the Masters' World Championships and developed a new interest in open water swimming, most recently swimming the Henley Regatta course at dawn. She combined her love of English, swimming and travel when she swam the 4.5km Hellespont, following in Byron's leg-kick and winning her age group category (and the greater prize of her poem being read out in a Radio 4 documentary).

Celia established water polo at Abingdon, which she valued in both sporting and pastoral terms. She ran the U18 and Senior Colts water polo teams and helped me form the Juniors team. When school commitments permitted, she played for City of Oxford. She initiated links with the Oxford University men's team and led Abingdon to a most fortuitous first national title.

She was a Middle School tutor in O'Doherty's for three years. Her tutees appreciated her diplomacy and encouragement. Her reports were often personalised with cryptic references to 'Percy Pig', points emphasising her knowledge of boys as individuals.

Abingdon's loss is most certainly Durham's gain. We wish her well in her new role as Head of English and water polo coach, and in learning to row!

*David Boyd*

## Gareth Callan

Gareth joined the School straight from working in industry two and a half years ago. Having never taught before he was thrown right into the job and proved to be a very quick learner. He worked very hard at learning the craft of the classroom and earned the respect of the boys across the full range of age and ability at this School. He set himself, and the boys in his classes, very high standards and I was impressed at the amount of time and effort he was prepared to devote to getting things spot on.

During his time at Abingdon, Gareth was fully involved in the life of the School. He made significant contributions to the boarding community in his role as a tutor for School House. On the sporting side he was a highly successful Junior Colts rugby coach and he also coached a number of cricket teams. In the Chemistry Department he developed a very impressive demonstration lecture, which was always a big hit on open days and with feeder schools.

Gareth will be very much missed in the Chemistry Department and the School as a whole. I am sure he will enjoy a



very successful time at St Peter's York and I am looking forward to seeing his career develop over the coming years.

*Ian Middleton*

## Owen Cobbe

The first glimpse the boys got of the fresh-faced Owen was in Canada, where he arrived to replace the slightly weathered, outgoing head of rugby, Kevin Brennan. He immediately impressed everybody with his loquacious manner and his professionalism. The tourists were quick to respond and an easy rapport soon developed. His youthful demeanour and firm-but-fair approach soon had the boys making rapid progress with their ball-handling skills and also their scrummaging. It came as no surprise that his protégé, Damian Shirazi, who followed Owen out of the door at Portsmouth Grammar School, has also proved to be a capable coach. Owen's youthful energy has invigorated those around him on many occasions. This 'two for one' package has benefitted Abingdon immensely and Owen's role as father figure has allowed Damian the freedom to flourish. This gets to the heart of the appeal of Owen's approach to coaching. Whilst he has been quick to provide structure and discipline, he has also been equally adept at providing compassion and empathy.

Although he has only been with us for two short years, it is not difficult to see how much he could have achieved given more time. He has ensured that rugby at Abingdon continues to flourish with an ever-greater number of fixtures, and more teams fielded than the School has ever managed before. What is remarkable about this is that there has been no dilution in quality. For example, this year the Abingdon



1st XV has reached new heights in reaching the quarterfinals of the *Daily Mail* Cup. There is little doubt that the depth and experience that Owen gleaned from more than a decade as a semi-professional rugby player was partly responsible for this triumph. However, some credit must be due to his boyish charm.

He was by no means just a rugby coach, but a true sportsman. Indeed his enthusiasm with the Junior Colts D hockey team showed a real love of the competitive spirit, which compensated for what he might have lacked in technical hockey advice. A similar cost-benefit analysis could be paralleled in the classroom where Owen was keen to impart the fundamentals of Biology to the next generation.

His tutees entered into the Sixth form with a secure grounding in the study skills necessary to flourish in a more demanding situation, but also hopefully with something of Owen's zest for life and that indefinable 'je ne sais quoi' that made him such a memorable figure in the MCR. Clearly Abingdon's loss will be Mount St Mary's gain as Owen assumes new responsibilities as Head of Sixth Form there. One lesson he will need no help with is that of teamwork. Good luck, Cobbler!

*Steve Brenchley*

## Silvia Vidal Oriol

Two years ago it seemed impossible that someone could follow in Alba's footsteps and be invited again to spend two years, instead of one, as Spanish assistant. And then along came Silvia, her natural charm and ever-immaculate appearance ensured that she made a good first impression, and we were not to be let down. Highly organised and 100% reliable, Silvia did everything with the minimum of fuss and always with good humour, never fazed by last-minute requests or exam pressure. She had an excellent relationship with the boys, who valued her for the qualities above and for her constant willingness to give up her free time to help them – the many extra lessons she gave to pupils undoubtedly boosted their confidence and contributed to their success. I know that many members of staff are also grateful to her for her readiness to help out with extra-curricular activities – often at late notice.

Silvia was incredibly creative, effortlessly producing interesting resources and artistic displays. This flair extended into the culinary realm, with the MFL



department being treated on many occasions to delicious tortillas, tapas and casseroles. Silvia was always good fun on an evening out, and always brought a touch of glamour (except on one memorable occasion – Sixth-formers may take some years to forget the image of her dressed up as a black-habited nun at our end-of-year goodbye party...).

Silvia is luckily not too far away, working at present in a marketing position for a company near Chipping Norton, and she remains very much in touch. We hope to see even more of her if she goes through with plans to do a PGCE in Oxford next year. In the meantime, she has our heartfelt thanks for all the work she did here.

*Sophie Payne*

## Claire Martin

Claire had been studying in Paris before arriving at Abingdon and we already knew from her references that she was an ambitious and bright girl with a wide range of interests. She immediately fitted in very well and her cheerful approach made her a popular





assistante with the boys. She showed great initiative and efficiency and took on Oxbridge lessons as well as her normal conversation lessons where she planned an ambitious and varied literature programme. Her help with the Modern Languages Club has also been very much appreciated.

She came to Abingdon with the intention of continuing her studies but, unlike many assistantes before her, she actually kept going and managed to complete her Master 1 dissertation with flying colours, which is impressive. Claire did all this without missing out on either committing fully to the department or enjoying a rich social life while here. Her main aim was always to improve her English and she is now going back to Paris to finish her Masters before intending to come back to the UK to do a PhD. I am certain she will go very far and we will miss her great sense of humour.

*Estelle Slatford*

## Marina Blégean

Marina came to us from Brittany where she had been studying English at university. Her origins soon came in very handy as she cooked us lots of delicious crêpes for Open Day, as well as on several other occasions during the year. She is quiet but always cheerful, and happy to get involved. Having her in the department all year has been wonderful as she was popular with the boys who liked her gentle yet assertive manner during conversation classes. She has been very efficient in all the tasks she was given while here and showed a lot of initiative too. She has got on very well with staff and pupils alike and fitted in well at Abingdon, especially since she was very interested in sport. She was able to take part in Cross Country as



well and I have enjoyed my runs with her. She bravely signed up for some of the races too, impressing the boys with her focused approach to running.

On top of this, she helped with the Modern Languages Club as well as with such occasions as the boarding taster day.

We will miss her a lot (as well as the pancakes...) and wish her very well for the future. She is intending to continue her studies in France before embarking on a career in teaching, which will suit her very well.

*Estelle Slatford*

## Anne-Kathrin Hippold

After a string of male German assistants at Abingdon, it was high time to expose the boys to a strong female Germanic influence and Anne-Kathrin Hippold certainly rose to the challenge of inspiring our keen Germanists. Hailing from Bad Königshofen im Grabfeld, Bavaria, Anne's zest for people and her infectiously cheerful approach to

everything she did made her a real asset both to the boys' appreciation of all things German and, just as importantly, to the successful running of the German department. She worked tirelessly with the AS and A2 candidates, particularly in preparation for their oral exams. Anne's positive attitude was tangible on even the most gloomy of days, following Kästner's saying that "mit jedem Stein, der dir in den Weg gelegt wird, kannst du etwas Schönes bauen" ('with each stone that bars your path you can build something beautiful'). Her enthusiasm for involving herself in the extra-curricular life of the School was just as memorable. She enjoyed working with the Lower School boys at Languages Club and on the annual Lower School Drama production and even enjoyed the odd Duke of Edinburgh expedition – the boys certainly enjoyed having Anne around on such trips. Anne was a keen member of the staff circuit-training group on Wednesdays and perhaps an even keener socialiser on evenings out in Abingdon and Oxford. Anne was a real ray of sunshine in the Modern Languages department and will be missed having returned to Germany to complete her university studies.

*Andrew Loughe*

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## Rod MacDonald



Rod MacDonald joined Abingdon in January 2009 from South Africa to take up the role of assistant master in charge of rowing. Rod was a jack-of-all-trades and found himself teaching Middle School physics, maths and chemistry and tutoring in Crescent House. Although he appeared to have a laid back approach to life, his organization was meticulous. It didn't take long for him to make his mark on the Boat Club, especially on one of the rowing eights when he parked it in a tree at the Bedford Regatta. The J16 oarsmen, who he guided to a win at the Junior Inter Regional Regatta, and a bronze medal at the National Championships in 2009, lapped up his enthusiasm and experience. Under Rod's guidance the J16s flourished in 2010 winning numerous events throughout the season including the Wallingford Regatta, Bedford Regatta and narrowly missing out of the gold medal at National Schools Regatta. Five of the boys went on to successfully represent Great Britain in the GB French match. Rod contribution will be missed and we wish him all the best at St John's College in Johannesburg.

*Athol Hundermark*

## James Gough

The Music Department has been most fortunate to have had organist James Gough as our Music Assistant over the last year. James came to us from the Royal Academy of Music where he had been studying the organ for two years. Prior to that, he had taken a music degree at Bristol University where he had been a friend of last year's Music Assistant, Andy Hall.

James' prowess in the organ loft was just one of his many strengths. He worked closely with the music staff in accompanying choirs and ensembles, and he was happy to help with some of the mundane but essential tasks that are needed in a busy department. James ran and presented some thirty lunchtime Informal concerts over the year and also helped with both theory and aural teaching.

An affable and good humoured teacher, well liked by pupils and staff, we will miss him next year. He has been accepted on a PGCE course in London, to train for classroom music teaching where, clearly, he has much potential. We are grateful for all his work here and wish him well for next year.

*Michael Stinton*



## David Carson

Abingdon's reputation has risen over the last half-century to the unremitting accompaniment of clinking from builders' trowels; nor has this been mere background music – successive improvements to the School's facilities have made possible all sorts of advances in teaching and learning, which in turn have prompted yet more demands for material change. It has been an exciting process, and it is good to know that it is one which is not over yet.

Many people have contributed to the physical development of the School over the last 50 or 60 years, including, obviously, architects and builders, appeal directors and maintenance staff; one who deserves particular credit is David Carson, who played a role of increasing importance, under various titles, the last of which was Estates Bursar, between October 1994 and December 2009.

Much of David's work was necessarily concerned with more or less routine matters of maintenance; but those words "routine" and "maintenance" glide easily over a multitude of minor defects and inconveniences which, if not promptly and effectively addressed

could rapidly become major difficulties and crippling obstacles. Many of them, moreover, could have human dimensions which required the application of discreet understanding and tactful diplomacy. David's expertise in applying the stitch in time that saves nine, directing his resources to places where they were most needed (not always the places where people were shouting loudest), and applying the right materials and methods (not always the cheapest or the quickest) to put things right, had a cumulative effect on the efficiency of the School's working fabric.



David's more conspicuous memorials, however, are to be found in his involvement with a series of works projects on a scale that varied from the modest to the seriously large. Over a ten-year period between 1994 and 2005, he took a leading part in the rolling programme which saw Abingdon's boarding accommodation reconfigured and refurbished to meet the changed conditions of today's market. The conversion of dormitories into study-bedrooms, and improvements to the privacy and efficiency of washrooms and lavatories, may not have been much noticed by the dayboy element in the School, but the whole programme of boarding works was essential to the continuing plausibility of Abingdon's offering as a boarding school, and hence to the maintenance of part of its essential and ancient character.

Altogether more noticeable, if perhaps more mundane, was the landscaping which transformed the surrounds of the main range of school buildings from an untidy mess of dirty gravel, alternately puddled and dust-ridden, into a seemingly and practical brick pavement which should mellow gently over the years. Though the result is probably taken for granted now, this was a job which

involved a huge amount of work, in the course of which a finicky attention to detail had to be contained within an extensive engineering vision.

Waste Court, a complex of historic buildings which had received spasmodic and not always sympathetic attention over preceding decades, was eventually brought into proper shape and condition with the help of David's discriminating expertise between 1994 and 2008. The real quality of this fine but complicated property (once sketched by JMW Turner, who was under the impression that it was Lacies Court) had never been fully realised until this major restoration, which exercised David's skills to a special degree.

Whitefield, a less historic but still valuable and important house (lived in at one time by Arthur Preston, the great Abingdon antiquarian) at the other end of the School, was similarly the object of David's attention in successive episodes from 1995 onwards. David's talents for perceiving opportunities for the effective use of internal spaces, and turning them into reality with shrewd economy of effort, were fully deployed here, and were happily matched by his sense of form and colour, and his discriminating respect for the historic

qualities of décor and furnishings. He seems at times, in fact, to be an interior designer *manqué*!

And so, in 2002, David was able to make full use of the experience gained at Waste Court and Whitefield to undertake the restoration, both internal and external, of Lacies Court – a project which I had longed to see undertaken during my own quarter-century of residence there, but one which had to await the arrival of my successor. I am told that the results do full justice to this jewel in the School's 'property crown'.

The detailed undertakings described above were balanced, in David's workload, by his commitments as a member of the School's team dealing with the contractors for a series of major works projects – the completion of the Amey Hall and Arts Centre, the logistics involved in the building of the boathouse, and – not least – major extensions and developments at Josca's (as it then still was), including work on Cox's Fields. In all these, his skills of organisation and diplomacy were valued by architects, contractors and end-users alike. David Carson deserves to be remembered as an important contributor to the material development of Abingdon School during a critical period of its growth; like a certain great landscape architect of the eighteenth century, he saw "great capability of improvement" – and having seen it, he went on to realise it!

*Michael St John Parker*

David Carson was Contingent Commander of the Abingdon School CCF from 2001 to 2008. See *The Abingdonian* Volume 24 No. 3



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# The School

## Chapel



The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading, confirmed in Chapel nine boys: Alex Fanshawe, Adam Hargreaves, Hugo Hubbard, Will Hollier, Lachlan McGregor, Harry Stott, Ben Wills, David Wills and Leo Wood. In a splendid service, the Bishop gave a powerful sermon and the Chapel Choir sang part of Mozart's *Missa Brevis in D* and an anthem by Graystan Ives.

Confirmation preparation included visits to the three central Abingdon Anglican Churches of St Nicolas, St Helen and St Michael and All Angels, as well as to St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Dorchester Abbey, Iffley Church, the Carmelite Priory on Boars Hill and, in Oxford, Christ Church Cathedral, St Mary's Church and University College.

Our historical connection with the Abingdon Anglican Churches continues with three annual School services at St Helen's: for the new School year, Christmas and the Commemoration of our Benefactors combined with Passiontide. Visiting preachers this year were the Most Reverend Metropolitan Kallistos Ware of Diokleia, and the Reverend Aiden Bellenger, OSB, Abbott of Downside.

At the Leavers' Service in St Michael's Church, Adrian Lo played the *Ashokan Farewell* on his violin and Euan Cambell, accompanied by Joe Mason on piano, sang *You've Got a Friend in Me*. Of the leavers, the Chapel will miss in particular the Headmaster and Mr Phelps for their splendid support, and Mrs Turner for her glorious arrangements of flowers.

At a variety of services for the boarders on Thursday evenings the preachers were: Father David Forrester (RC); the Reverend Dr Marcus Braybrooke, former President of the World Congress of Faith; the Reverend Kevin Davis, Rector of Langtree; Father Michael Smith, SJ; The Reverend Jonathan Beswick, Vicar of Jericho and the Reverend Dr Jonathan Arnold, Worcester College, Oxford.

In three services the boarding houses each sang an anthem en masse under the inspired conducting of Miss Matthews. There were services for the new boarders and for each boarding house. At sunset on Midsummer's Day, a dramatized reading of the comical Pyramus and Thisbe scene from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* followed a short service on Waste Court lawn. Boys played the six characters. Star Williams had a walk on part as Moonshine's dog. Led by choirmaster Ed Howe, fourteen boarders sang Christmas carols under the lamplights in Park Road and Park Crescent, raising over £100 for Charity. The Chapel Choir sang at some boarders' services and in the School

services. Compline was sung on some Tuesday afternoons in Lent. Major festivals and saints days were celebrated with Holy Communion.

There are prayers for the School at 8.20 every morning. At the Annual Remembrance Assembly the names of OAs who died in the two world wars were read out, prayers were said, there were two minutes silence and a wreath was taken to the War Memorial plaques in Chapel.

At a special Chapel Service on the theme of Art, Beauty and Worship, there were Biblical readings and meditations based on different aspects of the Trinity Window, which was 'alive' with colour on a gloriously sunny morning. The Reverend Dr Allan Doig, Chaplain and Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, preached on how art can enrich worship. The Abingdon Academicals sang canticles and an Easter anthem by John Sheppard. Afterwards, at a reception, Nicholas Mynheer, who created the Trinity Window, revealed his exciting designs for the other windows. It is hoped donations will be forthcoming to enable his vision to be realized.

I am most grateful for the playing of the Chapel organists, for the assistance with services led by the Reverend Paul Gooding and other colleagues, and for the ladies who arranged flowers for the Chapel.

*The Reverend Henry Kirk*

## The Library

### Summer Holiday Work

Over the summer, whilst the School was on holiday, work was going on in the Upper Library to restore the woodwork after the flood damage incurred earlier in the year.

At the start of the Michaelmas term, the new boys in the First Year were able to select a book of their choice from a wide selection of current children's literature as part of a government initiative for all Year 7s nationwide.

Early in the term, Open Day provided an opportunity for our team of pupil librarians to manage the Library and talk about the work they do as part of a service to the School as an Other Half activity.

### Kid's Lit Quiz

In November the annual national Kids' Lit Quiz was held. This event is open to all First- and Second-formers, providing an opportunity for them to demonstrate their detailed, and sometimes obscure, knowledge of children's literature. An internal heat was held to determine the two teams of four boys who would represent Abingdon School in the Oxfordshire/Berkshire heat held at the Newnham Rooms in Oxford in November.

*"Today's heat finished on a high in Oxford, the last of the regional heats. All teams displayed a tremendous literary knowledge (at this event which was) well attended by teams and spectators. Six authors supported the event: Lucy Coates, Dennis Hamley, MG Harris, Elizabeth Kay, Mark Robson and Susie Day. They were pushed the whole way by the kids' teams! Prizes were awarded by Cllr Tony Crabbe, chairman of Oxfordshire County Council."* Blog Wayne Mills, Quizmaster Extraordinaire



### Reading Bonanza

The Reading Bonanza started again after the Michaelmas half term. The Bonanza runs from then until the Summer term and its aim is to encourage boys to read as many books from as many different genres as possible, trying to winkle them out of their safety zones of adventure and fantasy! Second-formers can choose a percentage of their books from the non-fiction section of the Library, which has proved popular with our sports and techie readers.

Awards were presented at the end of each term with notable successes by Edward Reynolds and Joseph Barber who won platinum awards in the Summer term for proving avid readers of as many different genres as is possible. Adam Hargreaves and Joseph Kelly both achieved gold for having read twelve different genres. Twelve silver awards (for eight different genres), and fifteen bronze awards (for five different genres) were also made.

### Oxfordshire Book Awards

The Oxfordshire Book Awards are children's book awards with a difference as it is the children themselves, rather than teachers and librarians, who choose the shortlist, the longlist and even the eventual winners.

Abingdon hosted the presentation of the awards in October, where it was a pleasure to welcome the winners of the Primary Illustrated Book award: Michael Rosen and Nick Sharratt. Michael and Nick kept everyone fully entertained with the account of their experiences of writing and illustrating their winning book, *Mother Goose*. Nick extended his afternoon by visiting the Art Department and talking to GCSE graphic art students.

### Joint Schools' Author Event

In the Lent term the Joint Schools' Author event, organised by the librarians from three Abingdon schools (Abingdon, Our Lady's Abingdon and the School of St Helen and St Katharine), took place. The venue is rotated between the three schools and this year The School of St Helen and St Katharine was host to the award-winning author, Marcus Sedgwick. The visit provides 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 their work. Marcus talked about the influences and research involved in his work, including vampires. Particularly fascinating was a slide of his work-in-progress diary, a real insight into his way of working.

### More Author Visits

We were fortunate to host Chris Bradford, author of the Young Samurai books, for World Book Day in March and were pleased to be able to invite a number of other schools to experience his all-singing-martial-arts road show. Chris started work as a teacher and it has certainly taught him how to hold an audience's attention. His knowledge of martial arts and love of everything Japanese really showed through, inspiring many of the pupils and staff present.

It really has been a very special year for author visits: in May, in conjunction with the Classics Department, we hosted a visit from Caroline Lawrence, author of the Roman Mysteries series.

Primarily invited to speak at the Annual Classics Dinner, Caroline very kindly agreed to speak to Lower School in the afternoon as well as fitting in a bookshop signing!

Our final visitors of the Summer term came in the shape of three very different authors:

Steve Feasey; MG Harris & Tamsyn Murray. Their talks served to illustrate the different routes that lead to writing; the very varied influences that have led them to that point and once there, the different ways that they research and hone their final piece of writing.

### Shadowing the Carnegie

The main library activity of the Summer term is 'Shadowing the Carnegie': a national scheme involving over 30,000 school children reading the shortlisted titles of this prestigious award, the Carnegie Medal, which is awarded annually for the best children's literature published in the last year.

Students from all the Abingdon secondary schools join in shared events held at the six participating schools. The first event, the Carnegie Tea, this



Abingdon's Carnegie 'shadowers' with some of the shortlisted books

year held at Our Lady's, Abingdon, gives students the opportunity to exchange first impressions of the shortlist by comparing covers, 'blurbs' and first paragraphs. Each group makes a short presentation on their favourite for each category.

Abingdon hosted the Carnegie Quiz, the next event in the Carnegie calendar, where a more in-depth knowledge of the books is required. With thanks to Rory Fraser-Mackenzie, we 'staged' the Quiz on the Amey Theatre stage, which made a novel and successful venue.

The culmination of 'shadowing', is the Carnegie Forum, which was held in the Guildhall, Abingdon with Larkmead School assuming the 'hosting' responsibility. Over a hundred students took part in the day-long event, which has a mixture of discussion groups, rehearsals and presentations centred around the shortlisted books. Marcus Sedgwick, shortlisted for *My Swordhand is Singing*, talked about the highs of being a shortlisted author.

The Forum voted *Chains* by Laurie R. King as their winning book, which as usual was at variance with the national winner, which was announced

as *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell.

### Thanks

The Library would like to thank the team of pupil librarians, without whom it could not run, and the contribution made by the boys serving as senior librarians in their final year who were Thomas Finch and William Otterburn.

The Library would like to acknowledge donations received as follows:

Dr C Burnand (staff)  
Michael Dowell (author & pupil)  
Mr David Wharton (author & OA)  
Miss Dora Tildesley (staff)  
Mrs F. Wills (parent)  
Bielefeld Exchange 2009  
The estate of Nigel Hammond (OA & ex MCR)  
Modern Languages & Geography Dept.  
Mrs Gaynor Cooper (staff)  
Contributing publishers to the Oxfordshire Book Award  
Nicholas Topping (pupil)  
Abingdon Film Unit  
William Fearnough (pupil)  
Mrs Sophie Payne (staff)

*Gaynor Cooper*



## Portrait of an Artist

The portraits of two headmasters were presented to the School during the past year, that of Michael St John Parker, Headmaster 1975-2001, and of his successor, Mark Turner, who left at the end of the Summer term. Both portraits were painted by Jonathan Hills. In the article below Jonathan writes about his life and of how he became an artist.

### *Sarah Wearne*

After Winchester College, where I was taught history by Michael St John Parker, I went to Queens' College Cambridge with the intention of reading Art History. Good enough at essays, I think it was here I decided that my main expertise (and interest) was in making pictures, not talking about them. In that heady place, what really excited me was illustrating university magazines, directing undergraduate plays, painting sets and even going on tour with our own shadow puppets. Putting on a one-man-show of paintings in the Latimer Room, Clare College, was an incidental extra. At Cambridge it's easy to pretend to be anything you want, which is why it's so much fun.



**Jonathan Hills**



**Michael St John Parker**

On leaving Cambridge I became first of all an archeological illustrator. It's hard to imagine a more boring job, measuring and illustrating poorly made flint tools, but at least I was drawing for a living, just like Hockney. By a piece of unforgivable deceit I was introduced to Graham Chapman, of *Monty Python* fame, as one of Europe's 'leading canine artists', with a view to drawing his beloved terrier. Of course I drew a good dog, and I drew him too, surreptitiously. He recognized something in the dog, but it was his own face that he liked best. I was hired as the court artist, with particular responsibility to depict Graham as often as possible in his up and coming autobiography. I designed film posters for him and then for others, illustrated books for children and grown ups, and painted anyone who would sit still. I found a studio in South Kensington up in the roofs above Pineapple Dance studios, and kept a foot in Soho where filmmakers need artists for sets, posters, ideas and visual trickery. I got married in my mid thirties and



**Mark Turner**

left South Kensington for Kent, and a bigger Studio, with room for a family.

People come here and sit, and sometimes I go to them. In my fifties now I paint people and dogs and horses, and what I see on film sets when I'm asked along. I'm still not Europe's 'leading canine artist' but both the Royal Academy and the Royal Society of Portrait Artists have exhibited my work.

Being asked to paint a second Abingdon headmaster was a huge treat because Mark was so approachable and so charismatic. I had to hurry to get the portrait finished for Prize Giving, but it wasn't quite ready and so had to be shown all unvarnished and shiny from having been worked on the night before. However, I worked on it over the summer holidays and it was finally ready in the Michaelmas term.

### *Jonathan Hills*

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## Abingdon and Old Abingdonians at War 1939-1945

This exhibition in the Amey Theatre foyer – a chronology of the Second World War from the experiences of some of the Abingdonians who fought and died in it – marked the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the war. The earliest incident concerned Paymaster Douglas Woolf who, in December 1939, was serving on HMS Ajax in the South Atlantic when it joined the hunt for the German pocket battleship the Admiral Graf Spee. HMS Ajax was present at the subsequent Battle of the River Plate in which seven members of the crew were killed. In another naval incident, in February 1940, Torpedo-Officer Laurence Cresswell was serving on board HMS Cossack when it intercepted the German supply ship Altmark and freed the 299 British merchant seamen it had been illegally carrying.

The Germans invaded Norway on 9 April 1940, two nights earlier, Pilot Officer David Wardlow was shot down over the Norwegian coast whilst on a reconnaissance flight. On 13 April, Laurence Cresswell took part in the naval raid on the Norwegian port of Narvik and was awarded the DSC for his part in the action.

On 15 May 1940, Germany invaded France and the Low Countries. Holland surrendered immediately; the British ordered a retreat on the 26th, Belgium surrendered on the 27th and France on 17 June. Five OAs were killed in the fighting: Major Oliver Raymont, Welch Fusiliers, on 16 May; Major Philip Morley, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and 2nd Lieutenant Michael Holme, Royal Berkshire Regiment, on the 21st; 2nd Lieutenant Robert Emmett, East Surrey Regiment, on the 22nd, and Signalman George Baker, serving on HMS Speedwell, on 1 June whilst



transporting troops from the Dunkirk beaches to the waiting ships.

Italy entered the war on the side of the Axis powers on 10 June, threatening British shipping routes through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. Lieutenant Henry Genders, Essex Regiment, was killed on 26 August during the fighting in the Sudan, whilst 2nd Lieutenant Douglas Mills, Royal Artillery, was killed later in the same campaign on 18 February 1941 at Keren in Eritrea.

In the Mediterranean, the island of Malta – of vital importance in the North Africa campaign – came under relentless attack and Sergeant Lewis Godwin was killed in an air raid there on 28 February 1941. Lieutenant Harry D'Almaine was lost when the submarine HMS Undaunted failed to return from a patrol off the Tunisian coast on 13 May, and Corporal Selby Walford, Royal Marines, went down with his ship, HMS Neptune, when it hit a mine off Tripoli on 19 December 1941. Later in the war, on 8 January 1943, another submariner, Engine Room Artificer Edmund Hunt, was killed in the same area when the 'charioteer' HM Submarine P311 was lost with all hands off the coast of Sardinia.

The war in the Far East claimed the life of Flight Lieutenant Henry Ellison on 24 March 1942 in the Japanese attack

on the airfield at Toungoo, Burma.

Squadron Leader Alexander Osmand was killed on 23 October 1943 when the Japanese attacked the airfield at Chittagong, and Major Arthur Adams, Royal Artillery, on 19 March 1945 just before the Allies recaptured Mandalay. Terence Charley, Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery, taken prisoner after the fall of Singapore in February 1942, survived as a Japanese prisoner of war until liberated in 1945. In 2004 he gave the School a typescript memoir of his incarceration.

Abingdonians were involved in all the main theatres of war. Signalman Peter Woolf, serving with HMS Wild Swan on convoy duty in the North Sea, was one of the 31 members of the crew to lose their lives when enemy action forced them to abandon ship off the coast of Portugal on 18 June 1942. In December 1942, Signalman Kenneth Corbett was serving on HMS Fidelity when she was lost with all hands after Convoy ONS154 came under prolonged U-boat attack in the mid-Atlantic. Flight Lieutenant Dennis Healy, DSO, was killed on 25 September 1942 near Murmansk in the Arctic Circle having completed top-secret reconnaissance work in the area. Dennis's brother Brian, who survived the war, served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and took part in the recapture of Rangoon in May 1945.

Following the German surrender in North Africa in May 1943, the Allies invaded Sicily on 9 July. On the night of 8/9 July, Flight Sergeant Leslie Bernthal was killed on a bombing raid over the Sicilian port of Syracuse. Two months later, on 3 September, the Allies landed on the Italian mainland. Although Italy surrendered on 8 September, the Germans put up fierce resistance and forced the Allies to fight for every inch of ground. A year later, Trooper David Pimm, 9th Royal Lancers, was killed on 5 September in the Allied attack on the Gothic Line just below Rimini.

On 6 June 1944, D-Day, the Allies invaded Normandy, initially winning a foothold on the five invasion beaches and then fighting their way to Paris, which fell at the end of August. During this period, the Allies suffered more than 208,892 casualties. Among the dead were Private Ian Holland Ox and Bucks Light Infantry, killed close to Sword beach on D-Day+1; Trooper Dennis Hillier, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, killed on 29 June in the attack on Caen; Lieutenant William Giles, 2nd Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, killed the next day in the same battle, and Lieutenant Denis Holme, 5th Royal Berkshire Regiment, whose brother Michael had been killed in May 1940, killed on 9 August in the



Douglas Mills' grave, Keren, Eritrea back left

continuing battle for Caen. On 17 September 1944, the Allies used airborne troops to attempt the capture of eight bridges on the Dutch-German border. Lieutenant Eric Slatter, 52nd Reconnaissance Regiment, was killed on 19 September by a German patrol whilst reconnoitring the bridge at Grave. A second attempt to use airborne troops to cross the Rhine, this time successful, took place on the night of 24/25 March 1945. Flying Officer John Rayson piloted one of the gliders, successfully bringing it to land under fire at Hamminkeln. Just over three weeks later, on 18 April 1945, British troops met Russian troops at the River Elbe. Donald Willis, Abingdon Common Room 1939-40 and 1946-77, joined the advancing forces on 10 March and was with

them until the end. His son and daughter lent the exhibition an album of photographs that recorded not only this part of his war but every other part of his war service too, including the Allied landings at Salerno and the advance through Italy.

Hitler committed suicide on 30 April 1945 and on 7 May Germany surrendered. The Allied leaders met at Potsdam in July to decide the post-war settlement. Hugh Lunghi, a Russian speaker and ADC to General 'Q' Martel, Head of the British Military Mission in Moscow, interpreted for the British Chiefs of Staff, and for Churchill, at the Potsdam Conference, just as he had done at Teheran and Yalta. He retains vivid memories of Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill.



Roger Morewood



Terence Charley



Dennis Healy





Four days after the Conference ended the Allies dropped their first atom bomb on Hiroshima, followed by a second one on Nagasaki on 9 August; five days later Japan surrendered.

Throughout the war, regardless of the military campaigns, Bomber Command had kept up its relentless attacks on German cities, sustaining huge casualties: Sergeant Pilot Peter Darbishire was lost over the North Sea on 16 December 1940 following a raid on Berlin; Squadron Leader Richard Langebear was shot down off the French coast on 5 May 1941 after an attack on German shipping; Sergeant Graham Randall's Wellington bomber, part of the Pathfinder Force, crashed in Belgium on 16 April 1942 following a raid on Dortmund; on 6 June 1942 Sergeant Nicholas Kortwright's Stirling crashed over Germany returning from a raid on Essen; Flight Sergeant Bill Dockety's Wellington crashed on take off from RAF Leconbury, en route to the Wanne Eickel synthetic oil refinery, on 2 February 1945 with a full bomb load; Flight Sergeant Thomas Foy's Lancaster was shot down by German fighters near Pontoise on 2 August 1944 after a daylight raid on a flying-bomb storage site.

The School's Roll of Service records the names of 380 Old Abingdonians who served in the armed forces during the Second World War, and 47 who were killed. The list omits the name



of both Henry Genders, killed in the Sudan in 1940, and that of his younger brother, Flying Officer Douglas Genders, who was killed in an accident on 11 September 1939. These 49 casualties come from a school that had never had more than 140 pupils on its roll at any one time. Of these casualties, twenty-three – 46% – served in the RAF: thirteen were killed in action, including Alan Wiggins, whose Mosquito was shot down by friendly fire over Belgium on 29 September 1944. Five lost their lives in flying accidents – four during flying training and one, Flight Sergeant Michael Barnard, on a routine cross country training flight after he had served one complete tour of duty with Bomber Command. A further two were killed in enemy attacks on airfields and we don't know the cause of death of the remainder

There were seven deaths among who served in the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines: one at Dunkirk, two whilst serving on submarines, and three on convoy duty. Military casualties, of which there were nineteen in all, tended to peak around the great battles: four Abingdonians were killed in 1940 in the fall of France, and four in 1944 during the invasion of Normandy. The location of the other casualties reflects the worldwide nature of the fighting: India, Italy, Palestine, Eritrea, Nigeria, Libya, Burma. We have no record of civilian deaths other than that of Claude Painter who was arrested in Jersey

and died in February 1945 at Dora-Mittlebau concentration camp where he had been working on the construction of V2 rockets.

Whilst many of its former pupils were caught up in the fighting, the School itself had to cope with the effects of the war, taking in boys from schools in the invasion area together with a number of Jewish boys, refugees from Hitler's Germany. Robert Jackson remembered going back early at the beginning of the Autumn term in 1939 and helping to make and put up the blackout. Eight months later, as the Germans overran the Low Countries, the School, fearing invasion, dug a trench system and an air raid shelter – John Lambourn remembers cutting his hand badly on the corrugated iron – at the corner of Bath Street and Faringdon Road. The JTC, precursor of the CCF, redoubled its training activities and in 1941 C Flight 1056 Squadron ATC was formed at Abingdon School, preparing boys for immediate entry into the RAF. John Rayson recalled fire watching from the roof of the County Hall and Richard Lesser playing chess in the gym with the headmaster, Mr Grundy during air-raid warnings. The boys had to write home every week and, unbeknown to him, Richard's parents kept all his letters; they told of war time food – stinging nettle sandwiches; JTC work – drill and camouflage; collections for War Weapons Week – great rivalry with Radley, and the night a German bomber followed a group of British bombers back to RAF Abingdon and dropped its bombs on the airfield. In addition to the narrative boards there were a number of display cabinets. One held John Viney's uniform, medals, logbooks and other memorabilia, recently donated to the School by his son and stepson. Wing Commander John Viney had flown two complete tours with Bomber Command before

retiring at the end of the war at the age of 25 with the DSO and the DFC. Another cabinet, containing memorabilia associated with Hugh Lunghi's war, displayed examples of Hitler's stationery from the Reich Chancellery. David Carson, the Estates Bursar, lent the exhibition examples of British and German uniforms and weaponry; Wing Commander Roger Morewood, a former Battle of Britain pilot, sent a selection of wonderful photographs recording his war service, and among the other exhibits was a bolt from the Bridge on the River Kwai and a Japanese sword taken at the surrender of the Japanese on the Andaman Islands.



L to R Hugh Lunghi, Field Marshal Montgomery, General Slavin

At a reception on 6 November, to mark the opening of the exhibition, guests included John Rayson, veteran of the airborne crossing of the Rhine in March 1945; members of the families of some of those who died in the war – Michael Barnard, Alan Wiggins, Dennis Healy – and a number of OAs who had been at School during the war including Richard Lesser and John Lambourn.

After the reception, Julie Summers gave a talk on the continuing work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which was preceded by the playing of Last Post by Hugh Leach, OA 1953.



John Viney, centre

*Sarah Wearne*



John Viney's uniform



Alan Wiggins

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# Clubs & Societies

## Chess Club

After two years of determined rebuilding, the Club returned this year to winning ways. The main source of external competition was again the Oxford and District Chess League, whose matches are played on weekday evenings from September through to April. In only its second season, Abingdon's team, City 5, achieved a tremendous run of results, winning Division IV with two matches in hand. Its record of 10 wins, 3 draws and 1 loss was the best of any team in any division of the league. But victory was far from easy. Cowley 4, with its Oxford High School players, MCS Blackbirds 2, with its Magdalen players and Cumnor 2 were all strong contenders for the title. And remarkably 6 of Abingdon's wins were by the minimum possible margin of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .

Many players contributed to City 5's success. Richard Slade (4/4) and

Veeral Manek (3/3) won all their games on the lower boards; Omri Faraggi (6/12) and Aslan Sayfimehr (5/10) campaigned resolutely on the middle boards; Edward O'Brien (3/8) earned valuable points on Boards 1 and 2, mainly through hard fought draws; and Dr Jeffreys (5/6) and Mr English ( $8\frac{1}{2}/12$ ) also achieved respectable tallies, mostly on Boards 2 and 3 respectively. But the real star was Abingdon's new player from Hong Kong, Jeffrey Yu (9/10), who achieved a near perfect run of wins on Board 1. This superb achievement earned him the Oxfordshire Chess Association's Sam Phipps Cup for the best individual player in Division IV, and he was later awarded School colours. The other players who contributed were Tomer Faraggi, Henry Kibble, Alex Davies, Syahmi Suferi, Thomas Salt, Matyas Hanisch, Michael Bicarregui, Thomas Kelly, Giles Waterson, Edward Reynolds and Leon Wu. The full results are available at [www.oca.oxfordfusion.com/](http://www.oca.oxfordfusion.com/). Promotion to Division III next season will mean longer and tougher

matches, and Abingdon expect to face Magdalen's top team, MCS Blackbirds 1, who this season finished last in Division II.

Michaelmas term began, as in the previous two years, with Old Abingdonian Stuart Robertson visiting the Activities Fair and playing blindfold against all comers on the School's giant chess set. He won all his games, even beating Jeffrey Yu. Some weeks later, on 14 October, another popular event was held: the annual simultaneous display. This year we invited a top Swiss woman player Alexandra Wilson, whose ECF grade is 176, to conduct the "simul." She faced 18 boys, from across the Abingdon age range, and 2 members of staff, the established format. And for the first time in three years, Abingdon won. This, however, was largely due to Miss Wilson's inexperience at handling clock simul. She had achieved winning or drawing positions on all but one of the boards - Well done Dr Jeffreys! - but the flags kept dropping before she could finish. The final score was 12 - 8.

The Oxfordshire Chess Congress, held last Easter at Abingdon, was this year transmogrified into the Oxfordshire Junior Chess Tournament and held at MCS on 8 November. Twelve Abingdon players entered, which was the largest contingent from any school. Lower School boys Edward Reynolds, Alex Churchman-Davies and Leon Wu scored  $2\frac{1}{2}/6$ ; and Middle School boys Thomas Salt, Aslan Sayfimehr and Omri Faraggi scored 3/6. But Abingdon's best player was Jeffrey Yu. After two easy wins, he defeated Marlborough's Marcus Harvey (ECF 177) and drew



**Alexandra Wilson conducting the annual simultaneous display. In the background are Giles Waterson, Luke Teh and Thomas Howard.**





Stuart Robertson left, playing Szymon Pozimki, at the 128th Varsity Chess Match



The 2010 Berkshire Megafinal, Wellington College. From left to right: Omri Faraggi, Thomas Salt, Richard Slade, Leon Wu, Aslan Sayfimehr, Thomas Kelly, Jeffrey Yu, James Anderson-Besant, George Constable and Edward Reynolds

with Magdalen's Matthew Daggitt (ECF 169) before losing to the eventual winner, Aylesbury Grammar's James Foster (ECF 175), finally ending on 3½/6.

Abingdon entered two equally balanced teams in the knockout section of the prestigious National Schools' Championship. Team A, comprising mostly Upper Sixth Form players was Henry Kibble, Veeral Manek, Michel Baumgart, Richard Slade, Thomas Salt and Michael Bicarregui. Team B, drawn entirely from the new generation of Abingdon players, was Jeffrey Yu, Edward O'Brien, Omri Faraggi, Aslan Sayfimehr, Edward Reynolds and Louis Hampden. As often happens in this zonal tournament, Abingdon was drawn against MCS, who are currently the strongest school club in Oxfordshire. Our Team B was drawn against their Team A and vice versa, both matches being played at home on 27 November. At the last minute, Thomas Salt had to substitute for a missing Omri Faraggi, and promising first year Leon Wu joined Team A on Board 6. Team A won 3 of its games and drew 2, a 4 - 2 result that was just insufficient, because of the age-handicap system, to put them through to the next round. Henry Kibble's win on Board 1 against Daniel D'Souza-Eva (ECF 112) was particularly noteworthy.

The other two winners were Richard Slade and Michael Bicarregui. Leon Wu successfully tempted his opponent into a draw by stalemate, which was an excellent example of fighting chess. And the other ½ point was earned by Michel Baumgart. Abingdon's Team B players all faced stronger opponents. Jeffrey Yu, graded 160, faced Jeffrey Levicki, graded 175, Edward O'Brien, still ungraded, faced Matthew Daggitt, graded 169, and so on down the list. Team B's sole point was earned by last year's Lower School Champion, Edward Reynolds, with a fine consolation victory on Board 5.

In the Michaelmas term, boys also competed in knockout tournaments in the Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form, the finals all being played on Wednesday 2 December. In the Lower School tournament, attracting 12 entrants, Leon Wu defeated Edward Reynolds to win the Nightall-Jakubovics Cup. In the Middle School tournament, attracting 13 entrants, Edward O'Brien defeated Thomas Salt to retain the Pearce Cup. And in the Sixth Form tournament, attracting 8 entrants, Jeffrey Yu defeated Michel Baumgart to win the Harding Cup. Winners received book prizes. Edward O'Brien's victory was especially significant, being his third in a row in that tournament, a perfect record.

Abingdon was the best represented School at the Varsity Chess Match, held on 6 March at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. Stuart Robertson, playing for Cambridge on Board 5, was held to ½ point when his wily opponent forced the game into a drawn Rook versus Bishop ending. Graham Morris, a winner for Oxford in 2008, this year lost his game on Board 6 due to his self-confessed "addiction to time-trouble." The match was drawn 4 - 4.

County chess has been a new departure this year. Abingdon players travelled to matches in Basingstoke, Winchester College, Cumnor and Wellington College to represent Oxfordshire in Division III of the Chilterns' League. The Abingdon players' performances – Mr English (4/4), Aslan Sayfimehr (1½/4), Richard Slade (½/2) and Thomas Salt (1/1) – helped Oxfordshire achieve victory in an unbeaten run of four matches, including the play off against Hampshire. The full results can be found at [www.chilternleague.org.uk/](http://www.chilternleague.org.uk/). We are extremely grateful to Steven Bennett of Cumnor Chess Club for organising the twelve-strong U-125 team.

The House and Lower School Chess tournaments took place in the Lent term, both finals being played on

10 March. Houses were this year represented by individuals, while the Lower School tournament retained teams of three. In the House tournament semi-finals, Jeffrey Yu of Phelps' beat Omri Faraggi of Boyd's, and Angus Chan of Crescent beat Syahmi Suferi of School House. Phelps' won in the final. In the Lower School tournament, 1SW represented by Leon Wu, Douglas Ward and Joe Blanch defeated 2AJL, represented by Edward Reynolds, Alex Churchman-Davies and Rhodri Lewis. Leon Wu here notably added team triumph to earlier individual success.

Another main event of the Lent term is the school stage of the UK Chess Challenge, a tournament whose popularity locally is, I suspect, partly responsible for the demise of the Oxfordshire Schools' League at secondary level. From 32 Abingdon entrants, there were 13 who earned sufficient points to qualify for the Berkshire Megafinal. Jeffrey Yu won all seven of his games, and so finished first on a maximum 21 points. Second was Edward O'Brien on 18 points. And joint third were Omri Faraggi and Aslan Sayfimehr on 17 points. The other qualifiers were Richard Slade,

George Constable, Alex Davis, Thomas Salt, Thomas Kelly, Giles Waterson, Edward Reynolds, James Anderson-Besant and Leon Wu. On 3 May, ten of these boys travelled together to Wellington College for the Megafinal, where they performed exceptionally well. In the last two years, Abingdon has had two qualifiers for the next stage, the Southern Gigafinal. This year, not only were there five qualifiers, but three qualified as section winners, or 'supremos'. The qualifiers were: Richard Slade 3/6 (U18 Supremo), Jeffrey Yu 5/6 (U16 Supremo), Thomas Salt 4/6 (U16 Qualifier), Omri Faraggi 4/6 (U15 Supremo) and James Anderson-Besant 4/6 (U12 Qualifier). Deserving special mention is Jeffrey Yu's performance in the third round, when he drew with Lateefah Messam-Sparks (ECF 180), who last year came fourth in the national Terafinal and was the best girl. Here, for posterity, is Jeffrey's game, which he recalled between rounds: Lateefah Messam-Sparks (White) v Jeffrey Yu (Black): 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 d3 Nf6 5 Nc3 h6 6 0-0 0-0 7 h3 d6 8 a3 a6 9 Be3 Ba7 10 Bxa7 Rxa7 11 Qd2 Be6 12 Nd5 Bxd5 13 Bxd5 Nxd5 14 exd5 Ne7 15 c4 b5 16 b3 c6 17 dxc6 Nxc6 18 Rfe1 Re7 19 Rac1 Qb6 20 Qc2

Nd4 21 Nxd4 Qxd4 22 cxb5 axb5 23 Qc3 Qxc3 24 Rxc3 Ra7 25 b4 Rfa8 26 Ra1 Ra4 27 Rb3 Rc8 28 g3 Rc2 29 Kg2 f5 30 Kf3 Kf7 31 Ke3 Ke6 32 f4 exf4 33 Kxf4 g5+ 34 Kf3 Ra7 35 Re1+ Kd5 36 Re8 Rh2 37 Rb8? g4+? 38 hxg4 fxc4+ 39 Kxg4 Rg7+ 40 Kf3 Rf7+ 1/2-1/2. White's King cannot avoid being checked by Black's Rook, so White is forced to accept the offer of a draw. Jeffrey later realised that he could have obtained a decisive advantage on move 37 by playing Kd4.

Summer has traditionally been a quiet term for the Chess Club, but with five members qualifying for the Southern Gigafinal, not held until 4 July, and with numbers holding up well on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, Club meetings remained lively, and we were fortunate that Mr Wells was available to coach right through to the last meeting in June. Mr English also coached over at the Preparatory School.

We are grateful to Dr Burnand, Dr Jeffreys, Grandmaster Peter Wells and Mr Truran for their splendid efforts coaching. We are also grateful to Old Abingdonian Richard Lesser for the gift of an exceptionally fine, turned metal chess set. Mr Lesser often played Headmaster Grundy during night air raid alerts, before going up to Cambridge in 1944. Chatting to him when he visited the Abingdonians at War exhibition in November really brought to life the early history of the Club. Going up to Cambridge this year is the latest recipient of the King Trophy, Richard Slade, who has made an excellent contribution to the Chess Club in recent years, not least in his willingness to give time to younger players.

*Andrew English*



**Richard Lesser, OA 1944,  
and Jeffrey Yu**

## The Edmund Society

The Society enjoyed a year of distinguished speakers who gave lectures on matters of theology, philosophy and ethics.

Nigel Biggar, Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology at Oxford, asked; 'Was the Invasion of Iraq Just?' In suggesting answers to this controversial question, he explained the traditional Just War Theory and considered whether the USA was a legitimate authority for deciding to invade.

Tim Stevenson, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, discussed the relevance of the monarchy for the United Kingdom today. The Queen's representative revealed how the Royal Family benefits the nation and considered some criticisms, particularly concerning cost.

The Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, CBE, PC, lectured on 'Rights and Wrongs in Foreign Policy' and then signed copies of his book, *Choose Your Weapons*,

which tells of eleven Foreign Secretaries. Having served under Margaret Thatcher and John Major, as Foreign Secretary, as well as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Home Secretary, Lord Hurd was able to give an expert view of the history of British Foreign Policy. His learned lecture, and his answers to questions, revealed why he is so highly regarded as a wise statesman. He spoke confidently and with great authority on the rights and wrongs of British foreign policy, and included his forthright views on the wrongness of the Iraq war. Lord Hurd may well have inspired some future OA Foreign Secretaries!

Dr John Lennox, a remarkable polymath, was an Oxford Professor of Mathematics and has publicly debated with 'the new atheists', Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens. In a passionate lecture, he sought to rebuff their challenge to the Christian Faith.

Emma Williams, Philosopher-in-Residence at Rugby School, discussed the philosophical question, 'Do you have free will or are your actions determined?' The audience agreed that it was an excellent lecture but were not sure whether they could have decided otherwise.

In his talk, 'How to Survive and Defeat Evil', Michal Giedroyc told of his remarkable adventures. In 1940, aged 11, he spent a fortnight in a sealed cattle truck whilst he was taken by Soviet Troops from his home in Eastern Poland to Siberia, where he survived two and a half years of hard labour. He signed copies of *Crater's Edge*, an account of his survival. The evocative title refers to the struggle of grass shoots to survive on the edge of a crater.

*The Reverend Henry Kirk*



Stephen Poland, Alexander Ward, Lord Hurd, Euan Campbell



## Rifle Club

The Rifle Club has competed in a number of matches this year in addition to its annual exchange and match against Stade, Germany. We were successful in matches against Harrow and Port Regis but conceded a narrow defeat against Wellington. Pupils from Abingdon also shot in this year's Oxfordshire championships, competing against adult shooters. Ben Bryant, Tom Pugh and Jonathan Goves won the Symonds Bowl and Finn Ryley and Ben Bryant were the winners of the C/D class pairs.

The annual German exchange included 10 boys and 3 members of staff (Alan Smith, Simon Grills and Mandy Pritchard). As in previous years, we enjoyed the benefit of staying in the Buxtehude Sports Hostel for visiting sports teams, which is only a short walk from the town centre, the range and the train station.

The cultural visits to Bremerhaven, Stade and Hamburg were extremely interesting and were enjoyed by members of the Abingdon and Stade teams alike. An open-top bus tour of Hamburg gave us a chance to see most of the city without even having to walk too much! The visit to Bremerhaven's ship museum provided one of the trip's highlights: a visit to a WWII submarine.



In addition to cultural trips, some days were used to train on the German ranges. This allowed boys to shoot at 50m (many for the first time) and to gain invaluable training and practise before the end-of-week match. It also provided the chance for the tour party to shoot different disciplines from prone (including standing and kneeling rifle) as well as air pistol and cartridge pistol. These were firsts for many and were really enjoyable. Range time also allowed members of the team to make significant improvements in their position. Some advanced training looked at ways of achieving variations in measurements of less than a millimetre in order to optimize performance when shooting at competition targets.

On the day of the match, after transporting the equipment to the range, we spent time preparing. The

Germans fielded two teams against the Abingdon team, one team comprising younger shooters aged 14-16, and a second team of shooters aged 17-20 (one of whom had just returned from an international competition!). Abingdon won against the German Junior team but were defeated by the Senior team. The trip also provided an excellent opportunity to mix with the German team and we were extremely grateful for their hospitality. They accompanied us on many of the day trips, shared meals with us and both teams were also able to spend time together at the Buxtehude hostel. This was especially good for some members of the party because it was their fourth meeting with members of the German team.

In addition to the domestic and international successes of the Rifle Club's team, some mention should also be made of the Club's coach. In 2009, Alan Smith was asked to help coach the GB Junior Development Squad. In 2010, Alan Smith competed in the English Smallbore Union Championships held at Bisley. Shooting over 50m, he secured 10th place in England with a score of 585/600. He has now been asked to compete in matches for the England civilian team – well done Alan!

*Simon Grills and Ben Bryant 5 DJB*



**The Rt Revd  
Stephen Cottrell**

## Alpha Course

Abingdon School's *Alpha* is an opportunity for Sixth-formers to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting. Throughout the term there are ten thought-provoking sessions. Each week, there is a short presentation from an outside speaker. Local church youth leaders Andy Murray and Carrie Heyward then help to facilitate discussions in smaller groups. This is where pupils get to discuss what they really think and to ask any questions they may have. The Alpha course is designed primarily for pupils who are not churchgoers and each session is open to any sixth-former from Abingdon or St Helen's who would like to attend.

Alpha welcomed the Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading, as its guest speaker on 14 October. He gave an inspiring talk on 'How and why should I read the Bible?' Bishop Stephen spoke on how the Bible conveys God's love for humanity through a wide variety of books, all in differing literary styles. His talk was followed by a lively and thoughtful discussion from both believers and non-believers. All were impressed by how Bishop Stephen conveyed deep ideas in a very light-hearted manner.

*Marcus Gibbs*

## Real Tennis

The Club enjoyed an undefeated season. Next year we hope to arrange fixtures. The committee led by example: Captain Campbell Garland and Vice-Captain Joon-Ho Sung are the Senior Doubles champions; Steward Henry Firth is the Junior Singles Number 1.

We enjoyed expert tuition from Paul, a professional coach, until he transferred to France, a move possibly influenced by Henry's insistence on volleying whilst lying down. The end of the season tour of Australia was cancelled due to the lack of suitable opponents.

*The Reverend Henry Kirk*



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# House Reports

## Phelps'

This will be the last ever 'Phelps' House report as Mr Phelps will be moving to take up a new post as Headmaster of the British International School of New York. We all wish him and his family every success for their new life in Manhattan. The boys of Waste Court can be proud of their achievements and of their contributions to all areas of school life.

In August last year, the senior boys of the House were rewarded for their efforts when public examination results were announced, a just reward for all the hard work. The House was one of the highest achievers academically.

The new Third Form arrived and quickly settled into the life and routines of the School. They are a gifted group of young men and I know that Mr Davies will make them into a dynamic group.

The Fourth Form has had a successful year. Sporting prowess has been

demonstrated in the form of Will Horlock, who was a member of the A crew, winning a gold medal at Bedford Regatta. Angus Weir is a key member of both the A team for Rugby and Cricket. Nickolas Leah has also excelled in sport outside of School, being ranked 2nd in Berkshire for the U15 cycling championship. As for the Other Half the Fourth-formers have been keen to get involved in school trips, with Ian Middleton being a part of the group that travelled to Egypt on a trekking expedition.

The Fifth-formers are an excellent group of young men, who are set for great exam results in the summer, thanks to their diligent approach to all aspects of school life. Academic excellence has been shown by Aslan Sayfimehr, who won the House academic prize for his brilliant set of results in the GCSE January mocks. However the tutor group is known for its presence on the sports fields, and is



**Richard Oastler**

feared by other Houses in the School, for its wealth of athletes in numerous sports. Congratulations must go to Gregor Hearn and Sam Hughes, who were key players in the undefeated U16 rugby team, as well as Patrick Stinson, who played almost a whole season for the 1st XV, despite being two years younger than the majority of his teammates. Christian Reedman was a member of the successful cross-country team who won many races this year. Guy Giles has been successful once more in the pool, qualifying for the South England Championships. Not to be overlooked on the pastoral side, Charlie Leslau was a prevalent member of the Public Speaking team, and Calum Smith was promoted to Lance Corporal in the CCF. Credit must also go to Miss Hicks, who has been a devoted tutor to the boys.

The Lower Sixth is a large group, with two tutor groups in the House. Their achievements have also been significant, with Will McDowell being involved in the successful film on Moldova, and Alec Burt representing the House in the Public Speaking final, with a charismatic display in his first year at Abingdon.



**Caspian Mitchard conducting at the House Singing Competition**





L to R Milan Banerjee, Alex Fanshawe, Ben Yaxley, Will Horlock

The Upper Sixth-formers have been a great tutor group throughout their time in the House, and contribute to all areas of school life. They will be sad to move on, but will no doubt look upon their time at Abingdon as a happy and successful one. Harshly under-represented on the prefect body this year, they did not let this affect them, and this is a testament to their characters. Caspian Mitchard, Guy Stephens and Ulrich Bauer must be congratulated on all obtaining offers to read their chosen subjects at Oxford and Cambridge. Tom Finch was justly rewarded for his contributions to school debating, by winning the EYP event held in Helsinki over the summer. Richard Oastler should also be congratulated on his contributions

to school drama, and was deservedly rewarded with a service colours tie. Eric Gartz demonstrated his talent as an economist, obtaining 200/200 in his AS level economics exam. Hugo Morrison, Tom Hughes and Liam Smith, who all represented the 1st XV for rugby, once again showed the sporting talent of the House. Hugo Morrison was rewarded for his hard work and dedication to the Rugby Club, by winning the 1st XV prize at prize giving. Ben Read has been talismanic as Head of House Sport, even though an unfortunate injury prevented him from making his 1st XV rugby breakthrough. Dylan Robinson and James Carter were key members of the Hockey Club, who enjoyed a successful season. Finally, mention must go to Nam Jo, for his

efforts as Head of Boarding. Last but not least, Mr Litchfield whose efforts as tutor are greatly appreciated; his regular tutor group quizzes providing lots of enjoyment!

Looking back at all of these achievements, the boys should be proud of what they have achieved; it is their efforts which help to make the House what it is, and contribute towards its identity. May I just take this opportunity to thank the Phelps' house tutors, Carol, and Mr and Mrs Phelps, who we wish every success in the USA. All the best to Mr Davies, and the younger boys in the House, who will continue to succeed in all aspects of school life.

*Liam Smith VI MIL*

**A final word...**

I have been very proud to be the Housemaster of Phelps' House; it has been my dream job. Many pupils believe that teaching must be an easy career but actually it requires clear communication, and detailed planning. Abingdon has many exceptional teachers and I have been proud to work with such a committed team.

Some people fear time as it seems to stalk us but I believe that this is wrong. Time should be seen as a companion who reminds us that life needs to be cherished and enjoyed. Kim and I will take with us many happy memories and a lot of really good friendships. I would like to congratulate the pupils of Phelps' House for all their wonderful, achievements and I feel sure that Mr Davies will create a fantastic team. My final word of thanks must go to Carol Webb, the House Matron, thoroughly reliable and devoted to 'her boys', she has been a great work colleague and a good friend. 'Live long and prosper'.

*William Phelps*



L to R Patrick Stinson, Hugo Morrison, Tom Hughes

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## School House

If one of the main aims in School House over the past four years has been for us to be able to talk about one community rather than two – the boarders and the day boys - then this was the year during which we started to make real progress. This was partly due to time of course; even the old stagers were getting used to the situation by now, and four out of the five year-groups in the House had known no different. The two outstanding Heads of House, Jakob Schleu and Ali Ibrahim, certainly played a big part with their humour, their thoughtfulness and their loyalty. There was also as good a team of House members of staff as any Housemaster could want. One of the sad things about the year was the number of these we had to say goodbye to at the end.

The senior boys in School House, our Upper Sixth group, started the year with great ambitions, both academically and in the Other Half. That many of these ambitions were achieved says much about the tenacity and ability

of the boys themselves, as well as about the sort of support they got from their tutor Mr Castle, himself by now very much part of the School House furniture. It wasn't plain sailing for all of them by any means, and I would like to pay particular tribute to those who coped with adversity and still had a smile on their face on Leavers' Day! They did their bit for Abingdon sport, with another strong contribution to rowing taking pride of place perhaps, and were not found wanting on results day. Their departures did however mark the passing of an era in School House. They had started their time in the House as the last exclusively boarding year group, although they did not know it at the time, and were also this Housemaster's first new intake. I hope the others will forgive me if I mention those who lasted the full course by name – John Bartlett, Daniel Boddington, Ali Ibrahim, Jonathan Ient, Gabriel Ling and Max Makarov – and thank them for all they have done for the House. I just hope they have not forgotten the risotto cooking lessons!

The Lower Sixth, with six boys new to the School, were the biggest tutor group in the House, and certainly gave enough food for thought to another new member of the School House community – their tutor Mr Carson. A tutor group Curry Night early in the year, with a rigidly imposed seating plan, helped to break much of the ice, and they went on to make their mark in a big way in many areas of Abingdon life. During the course of the year they made great strides academically, and several have become realistic Oxbridge candidates. Nor is there a shortage of musicians, athletes, rowers, rugby



**Ali Ibrahim, Joint Head of School House**



**L to R – Vassilis Ragoussis, Daniel Boddington, Tim Richards (Southwell-Sander's), Jakob Schleu**





and badminton players, cross-country runners, D of E participants, debaters, tech. crew, *et al.* – if Abingdon did it, they were there! Their achievements included some excellent AS results and some glowing Other Half reports. There were two well-deserved appointments as School Prefects at the end of the year – Forrest Radford (as good a wine waiter as you could ask for) and Nick Williams. Nor do I have any doubt that the two new Heads of House will do a great job in their final year – Gleb Kozlov and Vassilis Ragoussis.

As I contemplate the Fifth Form, I begin to search through my library of teacher's euphemisms... neither their tutor, Dr Smith, nor I would suggest that every single contribution by every single member of this group was entirely positive, even in this particular forum. Having risked causing offence, perhaps, by what I have just written, I will go some way towards putting that right. This is an extremely talented group of young men – their GCSE results, taken as a group, certainly did

not disappoint, and there were some outstanding individual performances; they provided some strong members of the School's most successful rugby team; there are some great musicians and actors; and Will Abell and Toby Blong made excellent Lower School Assistants. Those who will still be here in the Sixth form have the opportunity to impress, certainly. I also wish the leavers well – Charles Buchan, Henry House, Charlie Howard and, of course, Dr Smith.

The Fourth-formers, as they had somehow become, had developed a great relationship with their tutor, Mr Callan – they certainly learned from him that the best thing to call a spade is ... 'a spade'. Their loyalty to each other, and to School House continued to grow, and one of their highlights was the great performance put in by (new boy) Ian Chan, Danny Sharp and Andy Yi to win the House Public Speaking Competition – with the whole tutor group there to support. School House's contender for 'Smiler of the Year' competition was another new

boy, the irrepressible Duncan Chow. Thomas Browne and Sam Baxter were appointed as Lower School Assistants at the end of year, a fitting reward for their contribution throughout. The many talents of this group of School House boys should also get a mention here. They will miss the banter with Mr Callan, and I am sure they will join me in wishing him well in his new post in York.

And Miss Briggs could finally have a tutor group all of her own from the very start! The new boys to the House, the Third Form, settled in quickly with their tutor's help, and despite one or two 'moments' along the way, made a hugely positive impression as a group during their first year. Once again we had our fair share of outstanding sportsmen, musicians and academics, but even more importantly, we once again had more than our fair share of engaging, committed, thoroughly decent young men. So what did Miss Briggs go and do? She left. The boys will certainly miss her, and will be thinking of her in Sri Lanka.

Once again, I would like to record my gratitude to the house staff for all they have done to help the boys – Di, Ratko and all the ladies, for whom and with whom there have been very few dull moments; to Yvonne Aitken, not just for making sure the tie matches the shirt; and to the boys themselves – they know what for...

*Douglas Aitken*



**L to R – Kieran Routledge, Thomas Browne, Thomas Farrant, Harry Blackwell, School House quads crew**



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## Crescent



**Cox: Luke McCormick**  
**Rowers: Ed McLaughlin, Jonathan Lord, Luke Derrick, Jamie Irwin**

For Crescent House 2009-2010 has been a very eventful year. Members of the House have achieved great things in all aspects of school life from sport to music and of course examination results. The House has said farewell to a number of tutors this term. Mr Cobbe has moved on while Mr McDonald has returned to South Africa. Although Mr Price is still at the School, he has left Crescent House to become a Lower School Tutor. They will undoubtedly be missed; not only by their tutees, but also by the whole House for the enjoyment they brought to the House and their care for us.

The seniors have led the House impeccably this year. The Lower Sixth were so strong that a number of them were appointed House prefects a year

earlier. Nick Acutt and Temitope Alakiu-Marquis were responsible for the House tuck shop and were able to donate a significant amount of money to the charity Help for Heroes.

Exam results in the Upper School were once again of an exceedingly high standard with the zenith of academic achievement being Jay Jung gaining six AS Levels all at grade A and the vast majority of the Upper Six getting into their first-choice university. These achievements truly are exceptionally considering the multitude of extra-curricular activities these members of Crescent were involved in.

Crescent House is renowned for the plethora of Other Half activities in which its members get involved. In sport,

Bobby Aigbogun, Xilin Song, Alex Ward and Ed Howe all represented the school in 1st XV rugby. In rowing, Jamie Cook and Andrew Nagi proved to be the vital members of the 1st VIII. Tom Price represented the first XI cricket team as an all-rounder for the second year running. The Hockey Club benefited from the might of the Howe Brothers; Fred Howe and Ed Howe; making one of the most successful seasons for the 1st in recent years. The influence of these boys and many others in the Senior School has obviously worn off on the younger members of the House who have been equally successful throughout the year. Andrew Halls and Daniel Leach added to the Fifth Form's spectacularly high exam grades this year by collecting 10 A's and an A each. Andrew Halls



**Fred Howe**



**Jamie Cook**



The House Singing Competition: Adrian Lo conducting, Jay Jung cello



Adrian Lo

As a House, Crescent embarked on many trips this year, highlights being the celebrations for Chinese New Year and watching Brainiac: Science Abuse in Oxford. In the House Singing Competition, we were placed a creditable second.

The trips, clubs and societies that the members of Crescent House partake in is renowned around the School; Sam Bowers acted as the chairman in the Young Enterprise team; Nicholas Acutt and Matt Roberts travelled to Norway to complete their Gold D of E; Matt Roberts also travelled to South Africa for the South African Shayandima partnership project. Adrian Lo was an outstanding performer in the Music School this year, playing in nearly every

concert and recital as well as being an avid member of the Chapel Choir. David Jorgensen, William Haines and Chris Green represented the House well in the CCF, developing their leadership and building significant reputations as senior cadets of the future. Jack Trodd covered himself in glory on the stage taking a leading role in West Side Story.

It is certain that Crescent will be equally strong next year under the newly appointed Heads of House Edd Arnold and Xilin Song. Our congratulations go to Nick Acutt and Matt Roberts for being made School prefects for the year coming. We wish Nick well in his appointment as Head Boy.

*Matt Roberts 6 MWF and Amir Garmroudi 6 MWF*

also represented the J16s in a strong squad along with Stuart King and Jamie Galyer. Jamie Ward represented Crescent in the Lower School, acting as a Lower School Assistant.



Bobby Aigbogun



Ed Howe



# Boyd's



**Jasper Marlow (back row left), Tom Lowenthal and Tian Ji (back row second and third from right), Harry Gray (front row second from right)**

Mike Summers and Jonny Barrow gave hugely of their time and effort to enrich the Music Department. I can recall occasions when they may have spent days and days rehearsing before concerts, cramming prep in where they could and eating chips in the Houseroom before the performance. They never complained and took it all in their stride. None of them though was a single-activity student. Abingdon produces great all-rounders and Mike for example was an outstanding athlete who competed regularly for the county.

Tom Lowenthal, Harry Gray and Jasper Marlow, as part of the European Youth Parliament team that I had the privilege of taking to Durham (where we won the UK final I might add), showed that Abingdonians' finely honed talent for talking nonsense to distract their teachers in lessons has a much more practical use. All of them displayed a rhetorical skill of international quality and did a sterling job representing the UK in the European Youth Parliament held in Helsinki last year. Tom is currently training in law, Harry in medicine and Jasper is aiming to become Prime Minister or, at the very least, MP for Henley.

I have been putting off writing this, partly because it's difficult to find time in a hectic school term to think back to the previous year, but also because last year's Upper Sixth were a special year group being as they started at Abingdon the same year I did. It was a particularly poignant Griffen Ball for me at the end of the Summer term, saying goodbye to students that I had first taught when they were much smaller First-formers and I was a just-qualified, naive teacher fresh from Cambridge.

I appreciate that this publication is most read by our leavers and so it seems appropriate to focus upon the recently departed Sixth-formers. As I've said already, this group had a special significance for me, but there are many others in the School who would also agree that they were an outstanding group of young men: academically, on the sports' field and, most crucially, socially, they were a brilliant bunch of students to teach and tutor.

Sam Newman led the tutor group and House as both a School prefect and Head of House. He was a fantastic leader and role model, who showed that it was possible to be a 1st XV rugby player, a top academic achiever and a modest and kind person. He inspired confidence and loyalty from his peers and thoroughly deserved his place at St Hugh's, Oxford. Jim Humberstone, another School and House prefect did a great job helping the younger students who joined the House become acclimatised to the way Abingdon worked. It can be a daunting experience to go from a small prep school to a school of 850 and Jim was an 'old hand' who could deliver authoritative and informal advice to nervous Third-formers. A budding chef, I hope that he carries on cooking at the prep school where he is working this year.

There are three young men who stand out particularly for me in their contribution to the School's music: Veeral Manek,







Boyd's at the House Singing Competition

Richard Moon and Josh Stedman (who joined us in the Lower Sixth) were two of the brightest young men in the School and, as the exam boards told us, the country. Both students of the sciences they enjoyed a healthy academic competition which pushed both to higher levels of achievement. Both committed Christians and decent and generous people, Richard has gone forward to medical studies and Josh aims for Cambridge next year.

I would like to make a brief mention of Alex Ward who, although he left the House in the Middle School to join the ranks of the Boarders (and eventually become Head of School) was always a presence around the Houseroom and remained an honorary member of Boyd's House in the eyes of his old tutor group.

I have only mentioned half of the group and my apologies for not covering everyone in detail, such as Ollie Read who always brought a smile to our faces in tutor period and was an incredibly gentle and sincere individual. Tian Ji, whose legendary sartorial elegance was the envy of the Sixth Form. Alex Beech,

who spent more hours in hospital rooms than classrooms over the years, and who had the distinction of making even a hardened rugby player like Mr Watkins wince at his injuries on the field.

There are others and you know who you are.

It would be remiss of me to skip over one aspect of the boys' time at Abingdon and that is their tutoring. The group had the benefit of two fantastic teachers as their tutors. In the Middle School Dr May might have caused tooth decay with a never-ending supply of chocolate for commendations (of which there were many in this group), but she cared and nurtured them for three years through the Middle School on the perilous journey from innocent Third-formers to hormonal teenagers. She even opened up her home to the tutor group and was always prepared to speak to parents about any issues they had. Needless to say, there were high standards for Mrs O'Doherty to continue in the Sixth Form. Thankfully both tutor and tutor group were new to the system and helped each other navigate the UCAS

minefield. It is an incredibly daunting task to guide such talented young men as they try and work out what future paths they might take in the midst of worrying about exams, girlfriends and being picked for this or that team. Emily, to put it bluntly, was superb. There were 5-a-side tournaments, with trophies and pizza to follow, Saturday morning presentations, coffee and cake in the Art Department and of course, the meals out to Ask. I have cause to remember these particularly because it became an unfortunate tradition that at some stage towards the end of the evening, the lights would dim, and a cake would emerge from the restaurant kitchens and the boys would start singing 'happy birthday'. My guaranteed embarrassment was reward enough for them!

My final words are for the leavers as they depart for university and other career options. I wish you good fortune and success in whatever you set your mind to in the years to come. You enriched this School as much as it did you. It was a pleasure to be your Housemaster.

*David Boyd*

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## Christodoulou's



3 NMR were successful in a broad range of sports, skills and academia: four boys were included in the U14A rugby squad; Nick Boreham captained the Oxfordshire County rugby team, gaining the highest score ever recorded on the 'fast test'. The Lent term brought even more success with the nerve wracking victory in the inter-House Road Relay whose team included Angus Parker, Yusuf Safa and Harry Stott: Angus Parker ran an incredibly quick first leg, winning Christodoulou's the competition effectively. Soon after, Max Robinson, Teddy Clamp and Henry Crowe argued their way to gold in the Inter-House Debating Competition. Max Robinson should also be mentioned for his sailing achievements outside School where he has been competing at regional level. The Summer term was dominated by rowing and it brought even more achievements: Harry Stott coxed the U14A VIII, which secured a victory at the Reading Town Regatta. Toby Butterworth was in the U14B VIII, which won the National Schools' Regatta B crew category, and Hugo Hubbard was in the C boat, which also reached the final of that competition. The term also included the House Swimming Competition which was again won by the NMR boys – the House team was captained by Harry Bruce

who went on to represent Abingdon School in the National Schools' Gala, and Nicholas Whitehead who contributed the most points to the House. Finally, the all-important House Sports Day was won by a team effort with all the boys taking part.

4 DJWF had a very successful year in terms of musical, sporting and academic achievement. James Smith, Patrick Lay and Gareth Lloyd reached the final of the Public Speaking Competition, but lost by a narrow margin. All the boys taking early GCSEs achieved As and A\*s, as well as obtaining good end of year exam results across the board. In terms of music, our star musicians in the form of Jack May, Jacopo Blumberg and Joe Ereat continued to reach new levels: all three took Grade 8 Cello and were awarded distinctions. They also played in the First Orchestra. Moreover,



**Robert Brooks**

our top sportsmen, James Smith, Oscar Newman, Rory Brampton, James Rogers and Charlie Bethell, continued to represent the School in the top teams. The sports highlight of the term, in the context of sacrifice, was Oscar Newman's acrobatic mid-air catch of a cricket ball going for six; for his pains he received a shattered clavicle and the admiration of the House.

5 MB: The Fifth Year proved to be the busiest year for the tutor group. With the menace of GCSEs fast approaching it would be understandable to see the members of the tutor group withdraw from the Other Half and focus solely on the academic tribulations ahead. This could not be further from the truth. On the sports field the likes of Charlie Manasseh and Peter Allan dominated the rugby field with an incredible season with the U16As, and Charlie Manasseh was also selected for the 1st XI cricket team. Felix Newman proved himself on the river in such a way that he represented the GB team in France, successfully taking on the French National Champions. The House also worked well as a team, under the leadership of Oliver Bailey the tutor group reached the finals of the inter-House Hockey Competition. In the musical world, Rupert Waterson

Jonathan Bouchier



Jack Perry



Luke Abbott



achieved distinction in Grade 8 piano – an extraordinary result. In the drama side of Abingdon life, William Nott managed a Headmaster's Praise for not dropping a mark in the examined performances. At the summer's end, Matthew Landells, alongside two other Abingdon boys, embarked on an ambitious 1,047-mile bike ride, hoping to raise £1000 for charity, by the end the ride – from Land's End to John O'Groats – £2,486.42 had been raised: a truly awe-inspiring achievement. To top off an already remarkably successful year, results day proved to be a day of elation for all. The credit for all this success must go to MB's departing tutor, Dr Megan Bowdrey. She will be sorely missed and it will be difficult to replace her.

6 ATH: In rugby, Harry Copson represented the 1st XV on a regular basis whilst Jamie Hall was the captain of the 2nd XV. In hockey, Jack Perry, 1st XI goalkeeper, was awarded half colours after the team's highly successful season. Robin Veale was a member of the Cross-Country A team that went on to win the South-East England Schools' Championships – they were undefeated nationally. Sam Murrell and Robert Brooks both represented the first team for tennis, with Sam

Murrell having outside success winning a men's doubles tournament for his club alongside his father. Jonathan Bouchier and Andrew Russell were key members of the cricket 1st XI that got to the national finals of the Schools' Twenty20 Competition. James Boreham was named captain of the Rifle Club; he was also given the role of sergeant-in-charge of recruits in the CCF. Robin Veale, Matthew Boyd, Harry Copson and Andrew Russell were made school prefects for the following year. Robert Brooks played Action, a key role in *West Side Story*; he also managed to achieve Grade 8 cello and half colours for music. David Wills completed his Silver and Gold in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. Mr Peter Coke takes over this tutor group for their Upper-Sixth year.

7 APS: Robert Lloyd was a highly successful editor-in-chief of the



William Fotherby

*Martlet* while Charlie Robertson, Luke Abbott, William Fotherby and Will Hutton flawlessly served the school community as prefects. Tommy Pritchard, Alexander Davis and Robert Lloyd created a masterpiece of speech that saw them win the Inter-House Public Speaking Competition. Charles Brampton achieved a place at Harper Adams to study Management, and Alex Ereat at Cardiff to study Medicine. William Fotherby will always be remembered for his outstanding fencing accomplishments on the international stage, his stature and talent promise much for the future. James Wilson made an outstanding contribution to the House spirit and the School's Cross-Country Club too. My special thanks go to the two Heads of House, Tommy Pritchard and Will Hutton, and my two trusted House Prefects, Rob Fife and Luke Parker. My final thanks go to Jack Tinker and Alex Ereat for all they did for the House during the Inter-House Singing Competition. I was especially proud and happy to see Jack Tinker leave such a strongly admired and worthwhile final legacy at school. I wish him and all of the leavers the very best in their future endeavours.

*Alexis Christodoulou*



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## Franklin's



**Tom Watkins, Alex Muir, Alex Veale and Richard Meadows**



**David Mears**

Heads of House for this year were Richard Meadows and Robert Winearls. Mature actors both, they showed confidence and poise as well as leadership and good humour. The House prefects were Freddie Cleworth, George Constable, James Holland, Joe McDonagh, Alex Muir and Tom Watkins. They were a superbly friendly and helpful group, and set a tremendous example of enthusiastic participation to the rest of the House. Joe, Alex and Tom were also School Prefects, and all three were commended for the contribution they made to the running of the School.

The House Singing Competition was the usual roaring success, or at least roaring. Henry Jenkinson was again our talented and charismatic director, and Alex Veale accompanied with quiet brilliance; Tom Spears and Nick Schneider were also instrumental in our performance. We sang *I'm a Believer* with all the belief we could muster, and

were commended for our musicality, although the judge lost some of our confidence over the Phantom Drummer Mystery... hmm.

The Road Relay, of course, once again, ever and aye, we won. The course itself has been rolled up and placed forever in our bulging trophy cabinet. Tom Watkins, Alex Muir, Alex Veale and Richard Meadows brought the baton home in the fastest time in the School, and it was brilliantly appropriate after all these years that the Watkins-Muir pair matched each other perfectly, both breaking the awesome 8 minute barrier in 7.59. They had also led the School Cross-Country team with distinction, integrity and inspiration. Alex Veale was very quick indeed, and reminded us why he had become such an important part of the School team.

More glory was to come. We have all the badminton talent in the world (Middle School) with Daniel Chen,

Adam Uberoi and Gem Vongseenin. The first two paired up for the House Badminton Competition, and, of course, they won it. It was a fine achievement presaging more to come. All three have a bright future in the School team too.

We had an even more extraordinary coup in the Inter-House Tug-of-War. The rules of the competition were as slippery as the grass underfoot, but we got a grip on them, on the rope and on victory. We won the competition in all three – yes, all three – age categories. We totally pulled.

I was very glad to be able to watch most of our performances in the House Cricket Competition. The co-operation between Fourth and Third Years is a key feature of this event, and is generally as pleasing as the cricket itself. James Dewar captained, and everyone played a part in our run to the final. I was delighted that, having come so close in the past, we went all the way and won it. Well done to all.

There were many individual successes over the year. Richard Slade and Tom Watkins won places at Cambridge, and Alex Muir at Oxford, all to read variations of Classics. Mark Power Smith came into his own as a superb debater and achieved real distinction



**Henry Jenkinson conducting at the House Singing Competition**



**Mark Power Smith**



**Matt Landells (Christodoulou's), James Tracey (Southwell-Sander's), Peter Barnshaw (Franklin's)**

Alexander Hatzis continued to develop as a national-standard rower. Peter Barnshaw has achieved more national success as an athlete, setting records and PBs in a frightening range of events, and cycling from Lands End to John O' Groats with two friends over the summer holiday to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Luke Terry became a key talent in the cross-country team.

I was particularly heartened by the pleasant atmosphere in the House. Co-operation for the various House events and competitions was eager and friendly, and the Houseroom felt like a good place to play pool, do prep or just relax.

I would like to thank my House tutors for all the work they have put in, dealing with the day-to-day concerns and overseeing the academic progress of their tutees. In many ways I feel that this has been the House's best year since I arrived, and this is in large part due to the time and care the tutors have shown.

*David Franklin*

for the School; he also proved himself a fine journalist on the *Martlet* staff. Robbie Winearls and Richard Meadows showed again what good actors they are, and I particularly enjoyed *My Country's Good*. David Mears managed to play for the National Youth Orchestra without denting his superb academic progress. Richard Slade played some brilliant chess and was a key member of the School team.

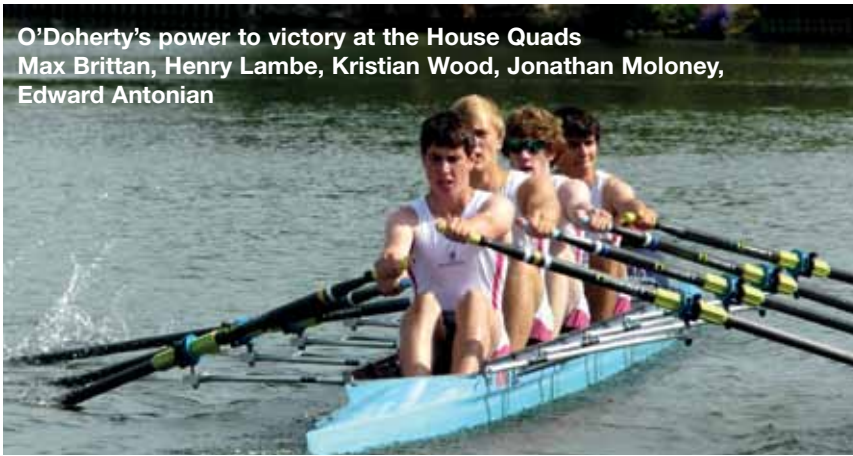
Henry Jenkinson achieved tremendous reviews for his drama and singing. Joshua Bull played some great cricket in the 1st XI. Joe McDonagh and James Percival became key players in the 1st XV, and Ed Hughes is a great prospect; Tom Kynge and Joel Cooper demonstrated their talent at county level, and James Dewar is also becoming a superb player. Alex Jeffreys earned his Black Belt in karate.



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## O'Doherty's

**O'Doherty's power to victory at the House Quads**  
**Max Brittan, Henry Lambe, Kristian Wood, Jonathan Moloney,**  
**Edward Antonian**



The House really gained momentum during this academic year and the boys managed to achieve significant success in a wide range of traditional inter-house encounters, nationally in sport and the performing arts, and internationally in public speaking. Once again I feel that there are too many achievements for me to pay more than brief reference to them but I would like to emphasise that, whilst not everyone is mentioned here, the contributions and efforts of all O'Doherty's boys are valued by me.

In the Michaelmas term Oliver Todd, Matthew Copson and Geoffrey Penington formed the core of the School public speaking team that won the national round of the European Youth Parliament competition in Durham. The prize was a trip to Helsinki to take part in a ten-day session of the EYP with teams from the EU member states and beyond. The rapier-like debating of earlier rounds would now need to be put aside in a festival of European integration and general showing-off! Whilst probably favourites for the House Debating Competition of the Lent term, the trio were adjudged inferior to Boyd's 'your mum' jokes and sexual innuendo.

However, new stars are emerging in this area such as Third-former Edward Antonian.

In October the hugely tribal House Singing Competition took place and whilst our rendition of Scouting for Girls' *She's So Lovely*, conducted by Sam Prior, was commended for its commitment and volume, the song was not sufficiently challenging to have a chance to win. Thomas Wilson took on a job in arranging that was a big test for him personally but he organised a performance that showed passion, enjoyment and togetherness. We have vowed to add some musical quality to these characteristics next year to try to wrest the trophy from Webb's.

The House continued to provide more than its fair share of players for the Rugby Club: Nathaniel Watkins, Beno Edwards, Josh Smith and Freddie Humfrey all represented the 1st XV, and Sam Hogan, Peter Moore, Kristian Wood represented Oxfordshire. Joe Hogan was outstanding in the Colts' unbeaten season, proving that he could bounce back from the misfortune of being coached by me in his first year at the School. The Sixth Form and Third Year were both runners-up in

the House tag rugby competitions and vowed to come out all guns blazing next year.

The Lent term got off to a great start with the news of Geoff Penington's offer from Cambridge to read Physics. Geoff has been the outstanding academic in the House in recent years, but remains a modest, likeable character respected for his debating and whole-hearted commitment to House competitions. Hundreds of pounds were raised for charity by the sponsored 'swim the channel' undertaken by many O'Doherty's boys (in the School pool). The driving force behind the project was Henry Wood whose tenacity is admired by all and was recognised by the School in the summer at Prize Giving.

We finally got going in inter-house competitions in March with wins for the Third and Fifth Years in hockey. Sean MacLachlan, our county star, dragged himself from his sick bed to inspire his team, and the Fifth Years beat a much-fancied School House team on the way to victory.







**Oliver Todd (3rd from left), Matthew Copson (3rd from right), Geoffrey Penington (2nd from right) – members of the winning European Youth Parliament Competition at Durham**

Alistair Duff was crowned U17 county cross-country champion in January, and followed this up with a great performance as part of the U19 team that won the South East Schools' Championships against most, if not all, of the strongest schools in the country. Remarkably Alistair also won a place as a percussionist in the National Youth Wind Ensemble this year. National success was also gained by Matthew Copson whose film *One Foot on the Ground* had its London premiere at the National Film Theatre in the Spring. The film depicted the story of a Moldovan professional basketball player in the context of the country's struggles since gaining independence.

The Summer term saw a strong performance from Kristian Wood in multiple roles in the Middle School production *Faustus*. He followed this up alongside Jonny Moloney, Max Brittan, Henry Lambe and Edward Antonian in the victorious House Quads competition. Whole House success came in the demanding Athletics competition. Every member of the House competed and the points gained in fifth place of a B-string field competition were every bit as important as those won at the head of the blue ribbon track events. Nevertheless Tom Foxon's huge points haul helped win both the Sixth Form competition and the overall competition.



**Nathaniel Watkins**

In June Nathaniel Watkins captained the 1st XI and Josh Smith kept wicket on finals day of the National Schools' Twenty20 cricket competition. Nathaniel has played in the 1st XI for six years and Josh currently represents the Northamptonshire Academy. Both boys have been outstanding sportsmen throughout their careers at Abingdon in not only cricket but also rugby and hockey. They both take up places at Durham University next year and look set to be selected for the Cricketing Centre of Excellence, following in the footsteps of Nasser Hussain and Andrew Strauss, and possibly on to first-class careers.

In July the House said farewell to a hugely talented and committed Upper Sixth who will go on to be successful doctors, scientists, architects, physiotherapists, businessmen, artists, musicians, sportsmen and who knows what else. Celia Shephard leaves after three years as a tutor to take up a position as Head of English at Durham School. We wish them all good fortune and thank them for their contributions.

*Nick O'Doherty*



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## Southwell-Sander's



**James Richards, Matt Carter, Alex Sunderland and Tom Pagel**

It seems strange to be writing my first annual review of Southwell-Sander's House, especially as it only feels like yesterday that Jamie Older was handing me the reins of an incredibly well run and vibrant group of lads. As the sun sets on my first year, I hope I can say that while some of the clientele might be different, there remain many similarities with Older's House where the lads from the Fifth Year groups create a lively, welcoming and productive atmosphere both in the House room and around the School. As I was jotting down the main events of the year, it became abundantly clear what a talented and busy House we are. In addition, I never cease to be impressed by how the boys are also able to engender an atmosphere of

inclusivity and mutual respect, without losing the important sense of fun that school should bring.

Unfortunately, as well as being able to celebrate the many House successes that we have had, it is also time to say goodbye to a fantastic group of Upper Sixth-formers. Bringing with them a colourful reputation from the Middle School, I have been immensely impressed with the progress they have made and the work they have put into the past year. The leavers include Henry Beggin, Alexander Black, Edward Callow, Andrew Doll, Matthew Hinkins, Joe Kempton, Callum Keown, Henry Kibble, Anthony Lloyd, Olly Mallett, Joe Mason, Alistair Nicoll, James Plumb,

Stuart Rankin, Timothy Richards, Ted Thompson and Aidan Watts.

First and foremost a special mention must go to Alistair Nicoll and Joe Kempton, my joint Heads of House. Alistair has been a stalwart member of the House, providing me with invaluable support throughout my first year, while Joe has really helped to garner the sense of House spirit that I feel is tangible in the Houseroom. It would be remiss of me not to mention the amazing Joe Mason who along with Alistair and Alex Black worked tirelessly to help organise a fantastic contribution to the House Singing Competition and the spectacular candlelit Christmas Carol Service. A choral scholarship at Oxford awaits Joe and he deserves every success. Special mention should also go to Matthew Hinkins and Alistair Nicoll for some superb artwork on display during the A2 presentation in May. Sporting performances have been many and varied and include Joe Kempton's role in an incredibly successful cross-country team, while Callum Keown played for the 1st XV rugby team and Edward Callow was an invaluable member of the badminton squad. From a musical perspective, we had an incredibly talented bunch of lads who were regular members of the Big Band and the 1st Orchestra, including



**Joe Kempton in the lead**



**Joe Mason**

**Alex Black**





Alistair Nicholl



Alex Black conducting at the House Singing Competition

Joe Mason, Alexander Black, Andrew Doll, Alistair Nicoll, Edward Callow and Anthony Lloyd.

All bodes well for next year with an equally versatile and talented bunch of lads looking forward to embarking on their final year at School. Particular congratulations should go to the newly appointed School Prefects: William Davey, Edward Griffiths and John Carter. William and John, along with Jamie Copus and Hugo Mendus, deserve a special mention for all representing the 1st VIII at Henley, while Jamie and John represented Great Britain in the European Championships in Belgium, coming home with 2 gold medals – a really great effort. In addition, Edward along with Alexander Bowyer and Jonty Cook have each been selected to head up their respective CCF unit, with Jonty also being selected for the British Keelboat Sailing Academy. So, as you can see, we have some high calibre lads heading up through the House next year. Couple this with numerous sporting, community service and musical achievements, as well as an excellent looking group of newly appointed House heads and prefects, and the House appears to be in good hands next year.

As I write this the Fifth Year are wallowing in some superb GCSE results with the whole group performing extremely well. Special mention should go to Thomas Salt, Edward O'Brien and Sarab Sethi, and George Apps, each of whom achieved 11 A\*s. Edward O'Brien continued his monopoly of Middle School chess, winning for the 3rd year in a row. From a charity perspective, James Tracey, along with two friends, spent their summer cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats for Macmillan Cancer – a really splendid achievement. In House rowing the Fourth and Fifth Year crews won their House Ergo Competition, beating Sixth-Form teams in the process. Further down the School, the Fourth Year dominated on the sports field, winning both the House Rugby and Hockey Competitions in their age groups, while the Third-formers were the unlucky losing finalists in their hockey competition.

No doubt I have missed out some key events and achievements for which I am sorry. However, reading over what has gone on during the past twelve months brings home to me what a talented, hard working and determined bunch of young men I have in the

House. Yet whilst these are important characteristics, I place just as much importance on those House members who contribute on a daily basis to what I feel is a welcoming, fun and inclusive House environment. A big thank you goes out to all the boys in the House and I hope you have enjoyed the year as much as I have.

Events such as the House Singing Competition, with a rousing performance of *You've Got a Friend* by Carole King, directed by Alexander Black with Joe Mason on the piano, as well as the memorable candlelit carol service and the summer 'strawberries and wine' social, will provide me, and hopefully the boys and their parents, with many happy memories of an active, enjoyable and fun-packed year. A big thank you must go out to the tutors, Mrs Jennings, Mr Evans, Mr Bickerton, Dr Jeffreys and Mr Willerton, for their hard work, care and professionalism throughout the course of the year. Together they enable the boys to flourish and make my life a lot easier. All that is left for me to say is to wish you all happy holidays and one year down, several more to go I hope!

*Robin Southwell-Sander*



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## Webb's



Victors of the House Singing Competition

As Christopher Edwards and I sat in an Oxford café putting together this tale of Webb's 2009/10, it made us realise how quickly one moves from Abingdon life to pastures new. It seemed a long time since September 2009 when we had tried to help the new Third Year cohort settle down and had met the many new House tutors: Miss Glenn – new to the School – became Lower Sixth tutor, Dr Wiejak received the baton of Fourth-Year hopes from the promoted Mr Southwell-Sander, and we were sorry to lose Mr Crook to the haven of inner-city Manchester. I attempted the daunting task of starting up a House news blog, which will hopefully gain some permanence. Six members of Webb's were selected to become prefects: Euan Campbell – Head Boy, Jacob Fries, Henry Mills and Richard Parkin-Mason together with Peter Brombley and George Rossiter.

The House Singing competition is always a good opportunity to get to know the new members of the House and, as defending champions, we were encouraged to select a more daring song, namely *Teenage Dirtbag* by Wheatus. The captivating conducting talents of Euan Campbell and the

accomplished musical backing of Peter Brombley, Rory Marsh, Hal Parke and George Rossiter, together with the treble additions of Johnny Burrow, Thomas Kelly, Thomas Padfield and Oscar Talbot, led to another victorious performance.

This success acted as a great morale boost and members of Webb's House took part in many of the Michaelmas term activities. Alex Fisher, a constant in the J16A, travelled with the Boat Club to Philadelphia for the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta. Richard Brown, Christopher Edwards, James Honore, Oliver Stanier, Max Dooley, Angus Wilson-MacDonald, Joe Greenman, Toby Ross, Neil Salata and Alexander Whitworth headed south for Tunisia with the Classics Department, whilst Hamish Grant, Rory Marsh and Joel Morris went on the Spanish Exchange with the girls from St Helen's. At the School's main charity event, *Abingdon's Got Talent*, Euan Campbell's part in a winning duet – *Crazy* by Gnarls Barkley – was popular, along with a band containing Rory Marsh, who showed his 1st Orchestra percussion talents. Credit should go to James Edwards, whose supervision added much needed

flavour to an epic eat-off between a pair of Upper Sixth boys, and to Christopher 'organisation' Edwards who was part of the committee that made the event such a success.

The fiercely contested House Pool Competition entered another year, and its victor, Fraser Capill, sadly left us in the New Year, feeling the need to pursue life in New Zealand. The inaugural Middle School House Social followed hot on its heels. The success of the evening owed a lot to the Head of House and the efforts of the House prefects – Michel Baumgart, Peter Brombley, Richard Brown, Andrew Dart, James Edwards and Julian Martin – who volunteered as team coaches for the 5-a-side football.

Our all-conquering Sixth Form fittingly completed a successful Michaelmas term. The Tag Rugby team of Euan Campbell, Ben Stockwell, James Edwards, Andy Elliot, Mark Francis, Henry Mills, Richard Parkin-Mason and Jack Rogers, secured victory for the second year in succession. Richard Parkin-Mason completed a dedicated season as captain of the 1st XV, alongside fellow 1st XV regulars James Edwards and Mark Francis, who were all present for the fantastic and atmospheric clash at Iffley Road against MCS. Mention should be made of Hamish Grant who, already part of the unbeaten Senior Colts A XV season, saw himself promoted to a couple of 1st XV games at the end of the season. The lower years showed that Webb's has the potential to continue its rugby dominance into the future, with Rory Garrett and Matt Cammack being part of a number of impressive Juniors' outings, whilst Ned Roberts, Thomas Padfield and James Peirce showed their worth in the B and C teams.



**Mark Francis and Richard Parkin-Mason**

The 2010 Lent term was an unusually short one, but this only increased the intensity of activity. The Fifth and Sixth Form sat their all-important mock exams, which demonstrated solid individual performances from Hamish Grant, Sanchit Turaga and Euan Campbell. Webb's badminton players continued to be part of their unbeaten squads. The School was captained by Julian Martin, with Ramon Bonfield – a loyal servant of the Club – as captain of the U19B. Naimish Adroja showed impressive potential by launching into the Juniors A, and featured as a reserve to squads much higher up too. The Cross-Country Club enjoyed an unbeaten season, in no small part thanks to the efforts of Michel Baumgart, Chris Burgess and Rory Marsh. With the Club effectively dubbed national champions, this is an incredible feat by all three. The Upper Sixth showed their continuing talents with an impressive 4th place in the Road Relay, as Michel Baumgart, Jacob Fries, Henry Mills and George Rossiter all skilfully ran the course (note: ran) in sub 11-minute times. Chris Burgess and Julian Martin, running in other teams, showed our competitive depth.

The Easter holidays saw the CCF's major annual training camp take place on Salisbury Plain. This was the first proper taste of military activity for Third-form recruits Sam Ashby-Crane, Matt Cammack, Oscar Jackson (member of the best section), Oliver Phillips (winner of most improved recruit) and Ned Roberts. Congratulations to Christopher Edwards – i/c recruits – for seeing that the week went smoothly. The AI Cadre, involving Nick Bradfield, Harry Wilder and Alexander Whitworth, set the Fourth Years on the way through the tougher standards required. Oliver Stanier and Chris Burgess continued to offer their support and services as talented NCOs.

As usual, for many, the Summer term was a rather curtailed affair. However, this didn't stop Joe Greenman, Michael Esnouf and Tim Gladstone setting a number of school records in the Inter-House Swimming competition. The Tennis Club, captained by Euan Campbell, and featuring leading players Joel Morris and Henry Mills, recorded its most accomplished season for many years, winning 8 out of 10 fixtures. The 1st XI Cricket team became the most successful ever by reaching the final

of the National 20/20 Championships, played at Lord's. Henry Sensecall and James Edwards were key components of this landmark achievement. On the same day as this final, Webb's athletes were causing a stir as George Baldwin, Matt Cammack, Mark Francis and Tim Gladstone gained victories in both track and field.

Even at the final weekend, Webb's boys were gaining recognition at the end-of-year Prize Giving. Finn Ryley won the Shooting Prize – a worthy reward for his years of success at the School and for his place in the GB Junior squad. Charles Pope and Thomas Kelly pocketed the House academic prizes. Christopher Edwards earned the 'Leadership' prize for his dedication to the CCF and as Head of House. George Rossiter was heralded for the Rowing Prize after two years as a 1st VIII crew member, and for his silver medal at the 2009 Junior World Championships. Finally, Euan Campbell, handing over the position of Head Boy to Mark Francis, summed up the domination that Webb's enjoy across the School.

This year, Webb's continued to be a breeding ground for excellence; with arguably one of the most potent Upper Sixth groups the School has ever seen. In this respect it has been a pleasure for Christopher Edwards and myself to review the year, it has been a rewarding, fulfilling and enjoyable job. To those who haven't gained a mention in this epic (more cynically, long-winded and pretentious) tale of manliness, try harder next year. Regardless - from the specially gifted, to the plain special, every boy has offered something to the House. To all the leavers and stayers-on, we both wish you all the best. Farewell.

*Christopher Edwards VI IM  
and Richard Brown VI IM*

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## First Year



'All Aboard' at Little Canada

September 2009 saw fifty-three First Years begin their time at Abingdon School. As ever, they approached their first few days with a mixture of excitement and uncertainty, but it was clear early on that this was a group that was going to be keen to make the most of all the opportunities on offer. It was also obvious that they were going to take everything in their stride, even when things went wrong, as evidenced by the massive grin on the face of the individual who happily reported to the rest of the year group that he had got on the wrong bus home on his first day and ended up in the wrong village! The new team of Lower School Assistants organised activities to help the new boys get to know each other, and the CCF also led a teambuilding morning. In an exciting development this year, Lower School were for the first time allowed to compete in the House Singing Competition and so the week before half term saw frantic rehearsals of *Blame it on the Boogie* by the Jackson 5 as the one-hundred-and-twenty strong Lower School choir got to grips with not only the words and

tune but also some truly cheesy disco-choreography. Gus Mills (2L) bravely took on the challenge of conducting and did an excellent job of bringing the best out of the boys during the final performance. A special mention by the judge was considered promising for our first foray into the competition, but we will be aiming for silverware next year. The Lower School Choir sang again in the Christmas Concerts when they performed a jazzed-up version of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* with great gusto.

By the Lent term routines had become established and, if their reports were anything to go by, many of the boys were really impressing their teachers with the work they were producing in lessons, and were also making significant contributions outside the classroom as well. The rugby season came to a successful conclusion with an overall victory rate of 80% for the U12As and 66% for the U12Bs while Michael Fabes (1S) was winning plaudits in the cross-country squad, competing several years above himself.

Meanwhile the Lower School drama production of *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew* saw many First-formers taking on key roles, perhaps most notably Joseph Kelly (1M) as Oblong Fitz Oblong. Mrs Wigmore had clearly perfected her motivational team talks by this time as 1W swept to victory in all of the inter-tutor group competitions in the Lent term, winning the Chess Tournament, the Road Relay, and the Public Speaking Competition, while Conor Graney (1M) was the overall victor in the annual Lower School Pool Tournament.

During the Easter holiday fifty-one members of the group, along with five members of staff, travelled to the PGL Little Canada centre on the Isle of Wight for the annual residential adventure trip. The excellent range of activities were complemented by superb sunshine and the boys were certainly encouraged to push themselves beyond their limits, especially in a new activity, 'All Aboard!' in which they had to work in teams of three to climb to the top of a telegraph pole, stand on a small platform on the top, hold hands, and then lean out – this was an activity that the Lower School Housemaster felt was best viewed from the ground! Election fever swept the country at the start of the Summer term and



U12 Cricket – County Championships





**1W's Road Relay team L to R  
Joe Blanch, James Robinson Ranger, Will Fearnough, Adam Lilley**

so the tutors spent time discussing Parliament and the different policies of the political parties with their tutees to enable them to make an informed decision in the School's mock General Election – this was all in vain however as the Monster Raving Loony Party were swept to power in the Lower School constituency having realised that all they had to do to win the hearts and minds of First-formers was to promise them free jelly babies! Several trips took place over the course of the summer, including the annual walk and talk on the history of Abingdon School during which the boys visited

St Helen's Church, to study church architecture with the Religious Studies Department, the Roysse Room and St Nicolas' Church, to find out more about the original site of the School, and the Christ's Hospital Almshouses with School Governor Mrs Ronaldson – the boys enjoyed the chance to find out more about the history of the School of which they are the latest generation. The end-of-year exams were handled well by most of the boys and represented a useful preparation for the more important tests that lie ahead – special mention should go to James Anderson-Besant (1M), Anthony Bracey

(1S) and Leon Wu (1W) for coming top in their class in the exams and thus winning the tutor group prizes at Prize Giving. Several inter-tutor group competitions took place in the post-exam period with Sports Day proving a good showcase of the athletic ability in the year group – individual winners came from all three tutor groups, but 1W were eventually crowned the overall winners. Their domination of these competitions came to an end however in the last week of term when 1S emerged victorious in one of the most closely contested swimming galas of recent memory – all three tutor groups were still in contention for the top slot before the last event – and in the tug-of-war competition. The U12 cricketers meanwhile had an excellent season in no small part due to the dedicated coaching of Mr Southwell-Sander – they showed an excellent team spirit on their way to securing the U12 County Cup in a final against Cokethorpe, repeating last year's success in this competition. Alec Curtis (1M) deserves special mention for leading from the front as captain, while Conor Graney showed himself to be a very promising batsman hitting several key knocks, including the rare feat at this level of scoring a century.

As the report above clearly shows, the First Year of 2009/10 is a group with huge potential both inside and outside the classroom, and they will undoubtedly go on to achieve great things as they go up through the School. My thanks go to the three tutors, Mrs McRae, Mr Shirazi and Mrs Wigmore, who have guided them so sensitively and skilfully through the challenges of their first year at secondary school, and to the boys themselves for having been such good fun to work with.

*Adam Jenkins*



**The Thwarting of  
Baron Bolligrew**

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# Service Activities

## Charity Fundraising – how the School raised over £16,000



Now a permanent fixture in the Abingdon School calendar, *Abingdon's Got Talent* was the main fundraising event of the Michaelmas Term, raising a fantastic £2,000 for *Agape*, our Moldovan Charity, and *Build the Nations*, a South African charity we are supporting for the second year running. As ever, as well as being a great fundraiser, the show was hugely enjoyed by both participants and spectators.

Other Michaelmas term events included the annual doughnut sale

on Open Day, run by Dr Ridd, which raised £80 for *Water Aid*; a Christmas wrapping paper sale presided over by Mrs Uhiia, which raised £100 split between *Helen and Douglas House* in Oxford and *The Asha Society* in Delhi; a pupil-designed Christmas card, organized by Mr Nairne, which raised £239.50 for *Agape*, and a Third-Year disco, organized by Sixth-formers Jamie Cook and Andrew Nagi, which raised £500 for the *Nelson Mandela Foundation*. In addition, parents once again gave generously at the Christmas Concert collection, raising £1,074 for

the *Nightingale Children's Project*, an orphanage in Romania co-run by OA Ben Wells. A further £375.73 was donated by staff and boys in the Christmas Service collection, and was sent to the charity *Trax*.

Fundraising in the New Year got off to a brilliant start with £1,317.84 being collected for *Oxfam* after the New Year concert. Sports events raised the most during the Lent Term, with the Lower School Football tournament raising £213 for the *Meningitis Foundation*; Mrs O'Doherty and her runners raising







The Dragon-Boat crew

an incredible £2,397.50 for *Helen and Douglas House* by completing the Reading half-marathon; Richard Parkin-Mason's Dragon Boat racing team sending £583.30 off to *Helen and Douglas House*; and with rowers, under Mr Hundermark's guidance, bringing in £600 by completing a 31-mile row in aid of the Nemato Rowing Club in South Africa.

The Lent Term also saw the annual home clothes day, which raised £2,100 for *Merlin*, the international medical relief organisation, *Damascus*, a local charity working with young people in villages around Abingdon, and the

Disasters Emergency Fund, which was sending funds out to Haiti. Abingdon musicians also did their bit: a Choral Concert raised £710 for *Agape* and Abingdon joined with other schools to raise £1,849.99 for *Helen and Douglas House*, *Amnesty International* and *Médecins Sans Frontières*. Church service collections raised a further £311,40 for *PACT*, a charity supporting families and adoption throughout Oxfordshire, and £68,72 for the *Footsteps Foundation*, which provides intensive physiotherapy for children across the UK with neurological disorders.

There were more events in aid of *Agape* in the Summer term: Mr Jenkins organized a Lower School Quiz Night, which raised £200, and a sponsored 'Swim the Channel' in the swimming pool which raised a wonderful pre-Gift Aid £1,909. *Help for Heroes* was also well supported, with £201.53 being raised by Miss Matthews' Lower School Gala Concert and £347.43 at the Leavers' Service. Another collection raised £248.42 for the ODBF Administered Fund, and the cleaners' raffles this year raised an impressive £1,000 for various charities.

The fantastic total of £16,329 (not including the money raised by the Lent Concerts in conjunction with other schools) is thanks to the efforts of many boys and staff, but special credit must go to those mentioned already in this report, to The Reverend Henry Kirk and Mr Stinton, and to the Charities Committee, headed by Alex Iley, whose tireless efforts have helped the smooth running of many events.



New Year Concert

*Sophie Payne*



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## Community Service



**The Christmas Tea Party**

Visiting the elderly is an integral part of Abingdon's Community Service programme, which takes many forms, whether it is a group of boys visiting a nursing home, or a single boy visiting an individual. In a society where it seems the elderly are often forgotten or sidelined, I think that this is a very worthwhile activity. Visiting the elderly is a very rewarding experience and the group visits always involve a chance to chat while serving tea and coffee, accompanied by some kind of bread, cake or biscuits that the boys will have baked beforehand. There will also usually be a quiz that the boys will have prepared themselves. Dramatists and musicians occasionally join the groups and they put on well-rehearsed performances that everyone can appreciate. Individual visits to the elderly are reserved for older boys in the School and are really a chance for boys to connect with a senior

citizen. At the end of each term a Community Service tea party is held in the Abingdon Dining Hall. Drink, food and entertainment are all on hand in what always proves to be an enjoyable event. After having been a part of the Community Service group for a substantial period of time now, I can honestly say that greater involvement in the local community has not only brought benefit to those who we visit, but it has also helped those who are a part of the Community Service team feel that they have made a real difference.

*Charlie Beirouti 6 SJG*

### **Christmas Tea Party**

On 8 December, a tea party was held for sixty elderly residents of Abingdon. To the accompaniment of the Brass Band, they enjoyed mince pies, sandwiches, fruit cake and the

ubiquitous quiz and raffle. Charlie Beirouti and Mihai Clapaniuc were excellent Masters of Ceremonies, aided and abetted by Campbell Garland and Eric Gartz.

### **Summer Tea Party**

Residents of some of Abingdon's residential homes were entertained to a tea party in the School dining room on 29 June. Master of Ceremonies Charlie Beirouti introduced musical entertainment from Mr Pope and David Mears, together with a comedy show from the Drama in the Community Group. The Headmaster, Mr Mark Turner, thanked the guests for their support of the School during his time here. After strawberries and scones, a challenging quiz and raffle ended a most enjoyable afternoon.

*Sam Ward 3 NPS*





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## Abingdon: South Africa Partnership 31 July – 24 August 2010



In August 2010, six fellow Sixth-formers – John Mulvey, Matthew Roberts, David Grant, Josh Ridley, Jonathan Ient and Iain Galpin – and I travelled with Mr Andy Loughie and Mr Mark Forth to Venda in the Limpopo province of northern South Africa to work with the Christian Charity *Build the Nations*. This was the second annual visit to South Africa by an Abingdon School team and we spent three and a half weeks there helping the charity in a variety of ways including building projects, school classroom assistance and with the distribution of aid.

During our trip we were based at the Charity's Shayandima Mission Base in Venda. Work at the mission base consisted of time helping in school in the morning, and working around the base in the afternoon. In the evenings we had the chance to relax in the lounge on the base (all exhausted due to a combination of hard work and extremely competitive games of football) and get to know some of the twenty-two permanent volunteers who work there. For the first two days we stayed exclusively on the base, helping with manual work such as

mixing concrete, clearing areas of the compound and, most famously, shifting bricks! We also spent two mornings providing classroom assistance in the Charity's School (*Shayandima School of Tomorrow*) to children aged from 4 to 17. This gave us an insight into the teaching methods of the school, which uses the ACE (Accelerated Christian Education) system. We witnessed that this promoted independent learning from an early age and saw how motivated the children were to get the most out of their education that they could. I had the opportunity to answer questions from a class of Grade 3 (7 – 8 year old) students about where I came from, and was amazed at the awe-inspired looks on their faces when I told them about snow (something that caused never-ending fascination!), and my life at home, as well as my attempts to teach some basic French. We found the physical work fulfilling because we could see that by doing basic tasks we were allowing the permanent volunteers on the base the chance to do other things such as planning our outreach projects. Although the chores could have seemed menial they were in fact of vital importance. There is also something surprisingly satisfying about devoting an entire day to mixing concrete and finally seeing the task completed before supper!







After this brief introduction to the school, the base and its routines, we undertook a two-day outreach project at a local school about 40 minutes away called the Rambuda Christian Academy. On both days we left the base early and worked for the whole day at the school with a delicious lunch of traditional Venda food – including ‘pap’, their staple carbohydrate which is something like solidified maize porridge and became a staple for us too during the trip – all of which was cooked for us by the women locally. The work was varied, I spent the majority of my time cleaning and painting a set of shelves which was used to store books and other school equipment. Others helped in paving an area in front of the school,



repairing desks and constructing a volleyball court. During break times we all participated in competitive football games with the children. On the second day we donated a bag of sports and classroom equipment to the school’s principal, Tulani Ncube. These included balls, a cricket set, notebooks, pencils, which we had bought in Abingdon with some of the money ASPA kindly donated to our trip. Our time at the school was concluded by the ceremonial planting of three commemorative trees – two for the two Abingdon South Africa Partnership trips to Rambuda (2009 and 2010) and one by the Shayandima *School of Tomorrow* in recognition of our support.

On our first weekend our hard work was rewarded by a visit to the Nwanedi Nature Reserve where we camped for Saturday night, en route visiting the world’s biggest baobab tree. Once at the nature reserve we got the chance to jump off cliffs into a waterfall plunge pool, track a rhino, sample some impala steaks and generally relax and get to know each other better. On our game drives we caught sight of giraffe, wildebeest, impala, kudu and some of the group were even lucky enough to

see a rhino (there was also a potentially mythical crocodile sighting whilst we canoed across two dammed lakes on Sunday morning!).

On the Monday and Tuesday of the following week we undertook an outreach project at another local school, which was run by a lady affectionately known as Aunty Hannah. While there the team, sustained by





large quantities of biltong, set up a netball court and a volleyball court by digging the necessary holes, cementing in the poles, and whitewashing the court markings on the ground. On the second day we gave one of the classrooms a new coat of paint and were watched with fascination by the children – in an area consisting almost entirely of black people a crowd of white boys was obviously something worth staring at!

After helping out in school and working on the base on Wednesday, we set off bright and early on Thursday morning at 6 am for a seven-night trip to Mozambique and the Kruger National Park. Our drive took us through the Kruger before we arrived at the border crossing into Mozambique. Once we were safely through the immigration controls we set off into Mozambique on a potholed, winding, dirt track road and were immediately taken aback by the difference in the level of development between Mozambique and South Africa. Tarmac roads were non-existent, brick or stone buildings rare, and mud-huts the normal type of housing. After a few hours of driving

we arrived at our home for the next four nights – Xikumbane Baptist Church – outside which we pitched camp.

The next morning we started work with part of the team fixing the village water pump which had been broken for four weeks. The rest of us began to prepare and construct the different sections of a co-ordination playground, which we were to put up in a village that was about an hour away. This work included cutting, drilling and

bolting pieces of local wood to make a ladder, swings and other parts of the playground. The next day we explored the local area, and the day after that we drove to the village that was to have the new playground where we found to our immense relief that the soil there was very sandy and therefore easy to dig. We set up the playground and cemented it into place. After this, we distributed sweets to the local children, and food aid to the women of the village, including maize and sugar. Next morning we set off for the Kruger National Park. Having crossed back over the border we saw a lot of elephants and giraffes just on a slow drive down to our first campsite called Shingwedzi. Highlights of our time in Kruger included seeing two lions on an early morning drive, a night drive during which we saw a leopard and a genet cat, as well as a morning walk which for one of the groups yielded another leopard sighting! We headed back to Shayandima on Thursday 19 August, having picked up our AS and A2 public exam results that morning via phone.

A busy day on Friday included more help in school, including assistance at an athletics practice session, a trip into Thohoyandou (the area's major







town) where we sampled beetles and termites from a street vendor, and a walk into the township (Shayandima) to get a glimpse of how the local people live on a day-to-day basis. Our last night on the base was carried out in a traditionally friendly way with food and games round the fire, which went on long into the night. We were then

up early the next morning on our way back to Johannesburg via a two night stop in Pilanesberg National Park where we saw at least 15 white rhino (thus completing our hunt for the 'Big 5') as well as eland (the world's largest antelope), spoonbills and sacred ibises. Our last night in South Africa, of course, had to be a Braai (barbecue)



with vast amounts of meat and toasted marshmallows. By the evening we were flying back to England and in the morning our captain greeted us with the ironic, but not unexpected announcement, "Welcome to London Heathrow where there appears to be some inclement weather!" and so we saw rain once again – we knew we were home.



The trip to me was quite literally the experience of a lifetime – I had the opportunity to try new things, learn new skills, meet new people and most importantly help the lives of some of Southern Africa's poorest people. When our vehicle pulled-up at the roadside in Mozambique and we handed one of our baskets of food to a lady at her hut the look of pure happiness on her face was indescribable, as was her celebratory dancing! Those moments will undoubtedly stay with me for the rest of my life.

*Nick Williams 6 KTC*



## The Moldova Project

Abingdon has been supporting the work of the charity *Agape* in the Eastern European country of Moldova for some time now and has been visiting every year since 2003. Amongst other fundraising events this year, April saw a group of Sixth-formers gathering in the swimming pool to take on the challenge of swimming 1,416 lengths – the equivalent of the English Channel – in order to cover the costs of a summer camp for Moldovan children from the village of Ialoveni through sponsorship. After a tiring afternoon's work, over £2,000 was duly raised and so fourteen Lower Sixth-formers and two members of staff travelled to Moldova in July.



On arrival in the capital Chisinau we were met by members of *Agape* and taken to Ialoveni to meet the families we would be staying with for the next few days. During our time in Ialoveni we visited the *Agape* Community Centre, where Jamie Brown (OA 2009) had recently finished working for four months of his Gap year. The children we saw there were very keen to play team games and sports – despite the 36 temperatures – as well as showing

the Abingdon boys how to make origami frogs! In addition, we had the time to visit Chisinau to see the sights and also to meet the UK Ambassador to Moldova, Keith Shannon, who made it clear to the group how important projects like Abingdon's are for Moldova – as well as serving up some excellent pizza!

The third day of the trip saw us travel by coach to the camp in Lacu Rosu in

the Carpathian Mountains of Romania in which we were joined by twenty Moldovan children aged between 9 and 14. For most of them this was their first ever trip outside Moldova and it had been quite an administrative feat for *Agape* to secure the necessary passports and visas in time. The Abingdon group had its own first taste of Moldovan bureaucracy when we arrived at the border and had to wait for two and a half hours while the coach was searched and scanned (after we had been advised to remove all food in case it got irradiated by the scanner!) and a request put in for the hubcaps to be removed – clearly the sight of Abingdonians is enough to put Moldovan customs officials on high alert! Eventually we arrived at the cabana that was to be our base for the next five days and began to plan our activities.

The first morning saw a visit to Lacu Rosu itself – the charming story behind its red colour being that it's from the blood of a group of holidaymakers killed by the avalanche that created





A recorder lesson

the lake in the first place! Here a fleet of rowing boats were hired and mixed crews of Abingdonians and Moldovans formed. At first, as one would expect from a school with such a rowing pedigree, Abingdon boys took the oars, but it did not take long for the tiring job to be handed over to the younger Moldovans with varying degrees of success – the ensuing chaos did much to break the ice between the two groups! Once back on land, an ‘extreme’ game of Grandmother’s Footsteps, in which the Moldovans were carried by the Abingdon boys, caused further amusement (and surprisingly not injury!) and, as we walked back to the cabana, it was clear that the initial bonding between the two groups was well and truly completed. In the afternoon the Abingdon boys organised a mixture of sports, art and craft, and English lessons. The latter took especially careful planning as there was quite a range of language ability among the Moldovans and the Abingdon boys were quick to realise that it was better to teach the children in small groups in quite a formal way.

It was great to watch the Moldovans so obviously enjoying the chance to practise and improve their English and to hear one of the Abingdon boys say that he now had more respect for what his teachers back in England had to go through! During sports sessions, volleyball, cricket and rugby were all taught even if difficulties in translation meant that not all the intricacies of the rules were fully understood, while the art sessions allowed the children to create a variety of things that they could take home, including masks and *Hama* bead decorations. In addition, the computer program *Comic Life* and digital cameras were used to create comic strips which included an episode of *CSI Lacu Rosu* and a version of the film *Twilight* starring James Bater and Edward Kempell as far too convincing vampires. Music also played a part with one session being used to teach the Moldovans how to play the guitar and recorder and sing silly English songs – *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* and *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* proving popular.

Walks and trips were planned to enable us to get the most from local scenery with a climb up to the top of one of the nearby mountains leading to a stunning view over the lake, while a coach trip to Praid allowed us to visit the massive salt mines which have been converted into a leisure area – the Abingdon boys were disappointed to be judged too big to play on the inflatable bouncy castles so had to content themselves with playing cricket underground instead! Evenings were spent in a mixture of different activities including a board games evening in which Campbell Garland became very proficient at giving directions for *Twister* in Romanian, and a mini-sketch show at which the Abingdon group realised that much Moldovan humour is based on humiliating English boys – Tom Fishpool’s impression of a kangaroo will live long in the memory, as will Matthew Boyd’s Romanian omelette recipe given in the style of an abandoned lover and Jamie Hall and Ben Stockwell’s brush with a Moldovan comic genius with black soot all over his fingers! The final evening saw a Grand Talent Show



View from the top



in which the young children treated us to some Moldovan singing and dancing as well as card tricks and a virtuoso accordion performance. Tom Spears replied with some excellent guitar playing, but the dance by

Joseph Read, Edward Otty, Harry Copson and Ben McGuire, as well as scarring many of the viewers for life, proved conclusively that *Abingdon's Not Got Talent*. The show ended with certificates being awarded to all

those who had taken part in the camp and with words of thanks from Nicu Bocaneala, Director of *Agape*.

The long coach journey back to Moldova the next day, and subsequent flight home, gave plenty of time for reflection on the events of the previous week. It was striking how quickly relationships had been formed between the two groups and how eager the Moldovan children were to learn from the Abingdon boys. At the same time, through their excitement and pleasure in the simple things of life and by their determination to make the most of every single opportunity, the Moldovans perhaps had plenty to teach the Abingdonians. It is the two-way nature of the benefits of the partnership between Abingdon and *Agape* that has always impressed me and makes me confident that there will be sixth-formers keen to travel to this little known country and spend time with its wonderful people for years to come.

*Adam Jenkins*



'Extreme' Grandmother's Footsteps





“A dream that came true. A beautiful dream, from which I didn’t want to wake up – this was the camp from Lacul Rosu.

I enjoyed very much this camp, because I spent there the greatest moments of my life, together with my colleagues and our dear guests from Great Britain. In this camp I learned many interesting and useful subjects. I enjoyed very much the English lessons, arts and sports activities. I really felt great at this workshops, because we received great attention from the camp’s young leaders, that is why we learned everything easily. One of the most interesting activity was the movie-making contest. Especially here, we had the opportunity to discuss and collaborate more with the English guests. Working with them and making a movie was totally a new and fun experience for me. I think that Our Twilight was very enthralling and everybody watched it with great interest.

I want to thank again our guests from Abingdon School for organizing the camp, for the great care and friendship that they showed us.”

*Zincua Sili, 8th grade*

“This summer holiday together with my colleagues we spent a great time at the camp organized in Romania, Lacul Rosu. We spend a great time there.

Together with the students from Abingdon School we played various interesting games. Also, they taught us a lot of subjects that we didn’t know. For example: we learned to play some notes at the guitar, recorder, we learned how to make artistic masks and other drafts. Besides these, we visited beautifully places, such as: Salina, Cheile Bicazului, Lacul Rosu, where we boated and enjoyed the unique sceneries.

We will remember forever the time that we spent at Lacul Rosu with our friends from England and we hope that we will participate at another similar camp in the near future.”

*Priimac Natalia, 4th grade*

“This summer together with my class and with our friends from England we went on a holiday in Romania. We lived in a big and cozy house. We visited many interesting places: climbed two huge mountains, went by boat on the lake, walked to Cheile Bicazului. I enjoyed very much these picturesque views.

All the activities prepared by our friends from Abingdon were unique. The English lessons helped me strengthen my vocabulary. The guitar and recorder lessons were something totally new for me and it was fun to try playing at these instruments. In the Talent Evening we had the chance to discover and express our talents.

Far from home, I realized how dear are to me my parents and my sister. This missing was diminished by the presence of our dear teacher and our guests, which were very kind to us and taught us a lot. I have a lot of beautiful and unforgettable memories from this camp.

I am looking forward to another camp to see my friends, make new ones and visit nice places.”

*Bâta Ionu, 4th grade*

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## An Uneasy Encounter in Moldova

Poverty announces itself with a smell. Other things, too, of course – the rough block-work of the building, with splashes of mortar that look as though they've been applied by Jackson Pollock; the gloom of the interior, brightened only by a low energy bulb hanging from the ceiling; the bed in each of the three small rooms that is more or less the only furniture – all these things reveal the status of the inhabitants pretty quickly, but there is nothing that hits your senses as hard, or tells you where you are quite so forcefully, as the smell. It is a mixture of things – animal fur, sweat, sour milk, mud and unwashed clothes – and it is all around you. There is no escape.

The Cuzic family are small people. The mother, who meets us at the gate and surprises me with a few words of English she's learnt at the village church, stands perhaps four feet two inches in her cracked white trainers.

Her husband is about the same but seems smaller. His head and neck protrude from his shirt collar like a wizened tortoise's. The skin of his face is dark and lined by a combination of sun, wind and drink. His hands are nearly as black as the tiny home-grown grapes he offers us in bunches as we sit awkwardly in the largest room, and you soon realize there is no obvious source of water in the house, apart, perhaps, from a plastic bucket covered with a cloth that stands ominously in the corner of what seems to be both the kitchen and the parents' bedroom. Flies land on your head and face. The smell catches you again as you flick them away. Quickly, you feel ashamed at the generosity of people who have so little, yet who are so welcoming. While the parents stand, we sit, surrounded by our bags and expensive camera equipment, filling the already cramped room. As we exchange pleasantries, the couple's

son, Ion, arrives home unexpectedly from his work as a builder. Although it is 6pm and already dark outside, Ion is usually required to labour from 8am until midnight in what is one of the country's few regular sources of work for men, regardless of their education. We have already met one other young Moldovan who has a Masters Degree in Finance, yet is working similar hours on a building site, as it's his only chance of employment.

Lydia Cuzic sits by the door. She is fourteen, almost fifteen but, like so many teenagers in Moldova, she could be older. She wears jeans, trainers and a colourless top. There is something immediately striking about her, although it's not easy to say what at first. Certainly, she is pretty. Her round face and high cheekbones are framed by an attractive swirl of auburn hair, whilst her upright posture could, in another context, suggest the grace and poise



of a dancer. Here, however, there is something unsettling about her. Her face and eyes show no expression at all. There are no signs of the warmth or ready smiles that greet you when you encounter other young Moldovans, who are among the friendliest people you can meet. No. Something seems to be wrong. When Lydia lifts her eyes from the floor to look at you, there is a directness in her gaze that makes you want to look away. You feel uncomfortable. You feel as though you are being accused of something. And perhaps you are.

One day in June 2009, Lydia disappeared. She'd told her mother she was going to a friend's house in Chisinau after school. Her mother would not see her again for five months.

Chisinau is Moldova's capital, a bustling city in the middle of this former Soviet Republic that is home to nearly 700,000 people, or around 15% of the country's 4.5 million population. Its



Vladimir

streets are a fascinating mixture of the old and new: crumbling Soviet tower blocks and sleek plate-glass offices; decaying public buildings and garish stone-clad villas built by the nouveau riche. Even the traffic has the same pattern. Clapped-out trolley buses with cracked windscreens that first saw service in the 1980s jostle for position with fleets of the latest fat cat Mercs and BMWs. According to one ex-pat resident of the city, prices in Chisinau's glitziest fashion boutiques far outstrip those in Bond Street. Bars and nightclubs with names like *Giraffe*, *Caligula* and *Booze Time* bear further witness to the emergence of a new class of wealthy citizens intent on splashing their cash in the most ostentatious surroundings.

Many visitors are puzzled by these mixed messages of affluence and austerity, yet it does not do to enquire too closely into what lies behind them. As *The Lonely Planet Guide* advises, "You don't wanna know and we ain't asking. The stunning contrast between rich and poor is only overshadowed by the conspicuously bold acts committed by individuals who are clearly above the law and shamelessly conduct themselves as such."

What happened to Lydia in Chisinau is still not clear. Lydia herself is still too traumatised to talk openly about it. But the basics are clear. She was kidnapped and held against her will by people who supply girls to men for money. That's bad enough, but it could be even worse. Moldova has long been known as a place in which the crime of human trafficking thrives. The previous government even established a dedicated anti-trafficking department within the police to counter the activities of a sector of the criminal population that is thought to be worth millions of dollars a year. Yet shortly before he was ousted in the July

elections, Moldova's then president, Vladimir Voronin, made a surprising and controversial attack on the police when he accused members of the anti-trafficking department of being complicit in the illegal supply of girls.

Lydia's mother says that although her daughter has said little about her experiences, she has already told her she was frequently in the company of men with high positions during her five months' captivity. Some of them were wearing police uniforms. Not surprisingly, perhaps, the detail of Lydia's ordeal may never be known.

Lydia no longer goes to school in Chisinau. She used to enjoy her daily journey to the capital, and the contrast between the pace of life in the city and at home in the village. Now, however, she goes to the local school, where it is impossible to escape the stigma that comes with a record like hers. No one wants to associate with a girl who has been 'trafficked'.

Without friends or sympathetic teachers, the prospects for Lydia will be bleak. She and her parents need support, and soon.

*Jeremy Taylor*



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## Combined Cadet Force





In the lead up to my first Biennial Inspection as Contingent Commander, the MOD certainly decided to give me an interesting time. Two weeks prior to our ski camp all funding was withdrawn. At the same time, all transport funding for the year was taken from us. We were told to crack on as usual, but with nothing to do it with. My sincere thanks are due to parents who picked up the tab for more expensive trips this year, the Headmaster and Bursar who helped find extra transport funding, and my stalwart SSI Captain John Chapman BEM, who helped to sort the mess out! The section reports outline how busy we have been. Add to this the events staged this year to celebrate 150 years since the foundation of the cadet movement, requests for our cadets to help at charitable and fund-raising events, school fetes, military planning meetings and the usual camp every holiday, we have certainly been challenged to adopt, adapt and overcome. The Contingent has visited RAF Brize Norton, RAF Benson, RAF Henlow, Shrivenham, Salisbury Plain, Wengen in Switzerland and Jersey.

Having the Contingent Commander – due to instruct on the ski camp – break a bone in his foot during a karate bout ten days before departure added to the entertainment and last minute re-planning, and, apparently, “served him right for doing such a nasty rough sport” according to some other nameless officers.

As the year has drawn to a close, further restructuring of the officers has taken place. Captain Dave McGill, OC Recruits, has departed the CCF under the burden of other work commitments after six years of excellent service. Captain Matthew Perriss, OC Army, has also taken a step down, but will remain a section officer. The SSI thus puts on yet another hat as OC Army, and Flt Lt Richard Ashdowne takes on the role of OC Recruits. Former Abingdonian, Flt Lt Paul Tolley, our own tame jet pilot, has been a regular on training days and camps and we have had significant support from Major Marcus Dicks MBE, OC A Coy, 7 Rifles, and his staff, including another old boy, Captain Bjorn Rose, together with endless unstinting help from Captain Paul Chapman RLC, RSO of 4LSR at Dalton Barracks – para trained and younger than many of the officers in the Contingent, he shrugged off the

atrocious weather on Easter Camp as simply ‘liquid sunshine’. Although all ranks (and parents) were drenched on Easter Camp final parade, the sun burst out as Lt Col Andy Rudd RE and I marched on to the parade square. God clearly decided that we had had enough of being cold and wet in our younger days. Thanks to Colonel Andy for taking the parade (where his son Alex was passing out).

Major David Carson has the congratulations of all ranks of the Contingent upon his appointment as Colonel Commandant of the Oxfordshire ACF and promotion to Colonel.

Colonel David was kind enough to host us again on his farm for the annual survival exercise. New thinking means that our survival exercise has to be called a ‘self reliance’ exercise now – some concern about the semantics of what it might mean if a cadet failed a ‘survival’ exercise ...

Defence cuts and reviews have caused a lot of thinking high up about the cadets. This has had an impact on our day-to-day training and camps. That looks set to continue as some joined-up thinking about the cadets nationwide – and how to fund, structure, train and plan it all – is welcome, even overdue. We are certain to continue to work in interesting times.

I was delighted when the Contingent received an outstanding report for our Biennial Inspection. My thanks to all officers and ranks for their work to achieve that, most significantly to Captain John Chapman BEM. New regimental motto: “The impossible will be done by tomorrow; miracles take up to a week, Sir.”

*Major Joss Williams, Officer  
Commanding Abingdon School CCF*





### Army Section

It has been one of the most challenging years in recent memory for the Contingent after the MOD pulled the funding nationally for the Combined Cadet Force. Despite this considerable hurdle yet another very successful year was enjoyed. This is a true testament to the dedication of the officers who, as ever, gave a generous allocation of their own time to continue the smooth operation of the Contingent. The dawn of the new academic year signalled an immediately busy start to the training for the Army Section. Within two weeks of having returned, the September Exercise went ahead as usual, the focus of the exercise being to recap skills that may have become 'rusty' over the summer. This was a new scenario, designed by the Contingent Commander to allow cadets to exercise their leadership skills. Each section followed a route and encountered different scenarios of which they had no prior knowledge. Diplomacy and conflict resolution were tested, alongside civilian aid

and disaster management skills. Following the exercise, the aim of the Michaelmas term was to press on with the preparatory training for the Easter Camp.

The Fourth-formers were thrown straight into training for the Advanced Infantry Course with lessons focusing on weapons handling on the LSW (Light Support Weapon), navigation, and the orders process. The structure for the year is designed to develop cadet's individual skills and confidence, enabling them to experience leadership in preparation for the NCO course run in the Fifth Year. The Fifth-formers' course is focused on how to teach and pass on the knowledge cadets have acquired themselves to those in the younger years.

Operation White Horse, our annual self-reliance exercise, a beat-up for the Advanced Infantry Cadre, went ahead at Alton Barnes in Wiltshire in March on the farmland of Colonel Carson, which he kindly makes available for

the Contingent each year. The Fourth-formers learnt a variety of self-reliance skills aided by the Fifth and Lower Sixth-form partisans. The Upper Sixth meanwhile played the part of the hunter force, establishing observation positions and conducting a daring close-target reconnaissance of the partisans' harbour area. Thanks should go to Captain Gooding for organising the exercise, and to the Lower Sixth for their well-rehearsed lessons.

The next major event was the official launch of the Royal Logistics Corps Section to run alongside The Rifles infantry in the Army Section. Open to those in the Sixth Form, the venture is aimed at forging closer ties to Abingdon's resident unit at Dalton Barracks. It also allows the smoother operation of exercises within the Contingent, and provides more leadership roles for senior cadets. Easter Camp was the first test for the RLC Section, and it immediately demonstrated the reason for its creation by providing much





needed help to the SSI who is always immensely busy during the Camp.

The weather was atrocious at some points during the week with hail and rain of the horizontal variety arriving at regular intervals, most notably during the final parade, but nevertheless the Recruits and Advanced Infantry battled on. The Easter Camp is a crucial time for the Army Section as it allows the various year groups to deploy in strength for an extended time, thus increasing the effectiveness of their training. 2009/2010 has been a great year for the Army Section and as I hand over to Ed Griffiths as the new Colour Serjeant, I know that this will continue for the foreseeable future.

*Colour Serjeant Oli Todd 6 JHW  
Army SNCO 2009-2010*

### **Easter Camp**

This year's Easter camp ran from 26th March to 3rd April at Knook Camp, Salisbury Plain.

On arrival at camp the recruits started their training schedule with an orienteering competition. On Sunday the recruits took part in a range package, with command tasks as background activities. On Monday the recruits had their first taste of field craft, with demonstrations of shelters, cooking, camouflage and fire-and-manoeuve. There were a larger than ever number of recruits attending this year so they were split into two platoons. Over the next three days they visited The Rifles Museum in Salisbury, prepared for the 24hr exercise and then deployed on exercise. Unfortunately this year the recruits were not able to stay out at night due to the extreme weather conditions, but they made up for it with an excellent final attack the next day.

The AI cadre arrived a day early to allow them to get straight into preparation for their exercise phase. After orienteering on Saturday the cadre spent the next three days

practising their field skills, including ambush and anti-ambush drills, as well as platoon attacks. The cadre deployed for their exercise on Tuesday, but after spending a night in the rain they were forced to return to camp briefly to dry out the following day as a result of the extreme weather. Major Williams was heard to comment that it was "somewhat inclement", so things must have been bad! However, this did not stop the cadre carrying out a successful final attack on Thursday morning.

The recruits and AI spent Friday and Saturday morning preparing for the final parade in which we had Lt Col Rudd as the inspecting officer. A huge thank you should go to all the officers and NCOs who gave up a week of their time to help in the running and preparation of the camp.

*Colour Serjeant Ed Griffiths 6 SAE  
Army and Contingent SNCO 2010-2011*

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## Duke Of Edinburgh Award: Arctic Expedition



Lyngen Alps in background

In July 2010, six Sixth-formers and four Fifth-formers travelled to Tromsø in Norway for 10 days for the expedition part of their gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. We took a flight from Gatwick airport on the 10 July, flying to Tromsø and being met by Dr Gunn who had driven a minibus and kayak trailer to Tromsø from Abingdon! We were driven to our campsite at Skitteneve, which is 25km from Tromsø. Although it was windy and quite cold, the wind kept the dreaded mosquitoes at bay and we had the necessary kit to remain warm.

The Gold group of Sixth-formers kayaked around the island of Ringvassøya, the sixth largest island in mainland Norway and a tough trip for paddlers of even the highest standards. Being above the Arctic Circle we were meant to face 24-hour sunlight, but the weather was not always on our side and more often than not it was 24-hour cloud. Despite this fact, spirits remained high, mostly due to the brilliant fishing available at almost anytime. It was a great change to be able to eat fresh fishcakes, even if they were made with instant mashed potato; at least it wasn't something out of a can or boil-in-the-bag! There is

something special about catching your own cod and eating it within the hour, really fresh fish!

Despite the huge distance that we had to cover, the group managed to make good speed and were not deterred on Day 4 when the tents were blown down at 3am and the sea was deemed unsafe to paddle on. We managed to explore parts of the island near our campsite by walking upriver and the day's rest allowed us to carry on at a fast pace. The weather on Day 5 was marginally better, allowing us to continue kayaking. It was undoubtedly our biggest test ever as we were buffeted at all times by wind and rain. We were unable to stop for lunch as there were no landing points and we needed to keep ourselves relatively warm!

The perseverance paid off. After a good sleep we set off in beautiful sunshine and could at last fully appreciate the spectacular Norwegian scenery. We enjoyed a day's paddle, unhindered by weather, and were able to cover enough distance to have another rest day on Day 7. We climbed to the highest point next to our camp and got a brilliant panoramic view. We

were also able to see the midnight sun that night. I'm sure that it was a moment that none of us will ever forget.

We headed off the next morning expecting to take two days to get back to base camp. It was hard going but our experience at navigation allowed us to make the most of the tides and the wind. We camped on a small island, camping was getting easier as we became more accustomed to the Norwegian weather, and as our boats got lighter through eating our packed food. We set off on Day 9, 38km from base camp and fully intending to have one more night on the island. However, we soon realized we were making great progress and decided to battle back to base camp without stopping. It was one of the toughest day's paddling any of us had experienced but the feeling as we landed on the beach for the final time was immense. On the last day we were able to have a look around the town of Tromsø, allowing us to buy souvenirs and get a taste of what Norway is like, despite the high prices of everything.

Huge thanks must be given to Dr Gunn, Mr Bliss, Mr Ian Barrow, Jen Clough and Peter Jones for supervising



George Ball with cod

and running the trip. It was a real once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone looking for a great life experience. The Gold group consisted of Matthew Roberts, Nicholas Acutt, Felix Bird, James Francis-Barrie, Digby Coulson and Alexander Bowyer.

The Silver group had a poor start to their trip due to forgotten kit, but once they had acquired the missing items they were able to embark on two days training before paddling off round the east side of Ringvassøya. The first day was spent travelling up the sound between Ringvassøya and Reinøya, the latter name means reindeer island so called because to this day the Lapps

bring hundreds of reindeer to the island for summer grazing. The first night found the group camped on a sloping patch of grass by a boathouse, and after some 'discussion' with the landowner a fair night's sleep was had. Day 2 was very windy with fair sized waves to contend with. After a difficult crossing of the sound the group camped on a windswept point near the village of Grunnfjord. The mileage required to complete the circumnavigation of Ringvassøya was so large, and the weather was so uncertain, that the group wisely opted to change their route and return southwards down to Langsundet and start on a new route. Day 3's campsite was in a very quiet place indeed, a

cemetery on the islet of Risøya. This beautiful place was the burial ground (until ten years ago) for the village of Finnroken just across the water on Reinøya. On a training day we had chatted to a couple who came yearly from south Norway to visit relatives in the village, and to place flowers on the graves of the lady's relatives.

After a good night's rest the group paddled off on a 14km crossing to enter Ullsfjorden and view the stunning mountains of the Lyngen Alps. A truly wonderful campsite was found, complete with a sandy beach and stream. A day was spent kayaking down the fjord with snow-capped mountains and small glaciers dominating the view. Returning to the campsite at Nakkovika everyone appreciated the day, which was rounded off by a meal of fresh cod and coalfish. A rare glimpse of the midnight sun completed a spectacular day. The weather next day reverted to its usual rain and overcast cloud. The group kayaked back to Skittenelv and the welcome hot showers! The Silver group consisted of Chris Hall, George Bull, James Richards and Oliver Bowyer.

*Nicholas Acutt 6 RM and Tim Gunn*



One o'clock in the morning



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# Departments

## Chemistry

During the course of the academic year 2009 – 2010, Chemistry has seen success both in and out of the laboratory, as well as at a national and international level.

The annual Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad begins with a written paper, which is taken in the schools. This

resulted in multiple medals for our Sixth-formers Geoff Penington, Josh Stedman, Richard Moon and Jeffrey Yu who were placed in the top 210 pupils in the country and took Gold medals. Well done to Jeffrey, who achieved this feat whilst in the Lower Sixth. Silver medals went to Ulrich Bauer, Chun Mann Chin and Alex Leung.

From this first round, Josh Stedman went forward for a selection weekend where he was chosen as one of four Chemists to represent the UK at the 42nd International Chemistry Olympiad held in Japan in July. Here he won a silver medal with a score of 80.4. Abingdon has been extremely fortunate as this is the third successive year that a pupil of the School has been chosen to represent the country at the International Olympiad.



L to R Geoff Penington, Richard Moon, Josh Stedman

In the laboratory, the ongoing research project to deposit fine layers of metals on the surface of non-conducting polymers gained four Upper Sixth-formers Gold CREST Awards. Josh Stedman, Richard Moon, Geoff Penington and David Choy worked approximately 100 hours in total for the national award scheme, which focuses on practical work, with an accompanying write-up. Following their success, the current cohort of Lower Sixth-formers have been attempting to alter the wetting properties of polymers by modifying the surface coating. Experiments completed, the analysis of the products is carried out by Oxford University and results are pending.

Middle School pupils have also been busy, with a four-strong team – Luke Carter, Omri Faraggi, Charlie Haines, Thomas Chan – managing the position of runners-up in the regional finals of the RSC Chemistry Challenge.

Congratulations to all the pupils on their efforts, and success.

*Megan Bowdry*



L to R Luke Carter, Omri Faraggi, Charlie Haines, Thomas Chan

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## Geography – Iceland

Although recent volcanic activity seemed to have put the trip into jeopardy at one point, eighteen Sixth-formers made the trip to Iceland with the Geography Department in late August. For most of us this was our first visit there, and although it was a short visit we definitely made the most of our time, packing in plenty of sights on our daily excursions from our base near the Eyjafjallajökull volcano.

As soon as we arrived at Keflavik Airport we were whisked off to the famous waters of the Blue Lagoon. Aside from the sulphurous odour and the surprising hygiene requirements, it was actually quite relaxing and a good way to start the trip after the three-hour flight.

Our first full day involved visits to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge at Thingvellir, the awe-inspiring Gullfoss waterfall and the hot springs at Geysir. A day trip by ferry out to the Westmann Islands gave us the chance to climb the Eldfell Volcano, still warm after its eruption in 1973. On a short boat trip around the island we were treated to dramatic coastal views, as well as an impromptu saxophone solo from the captain! Our



final day consisted of a whirlwind tour of thundering waterfalls, the ominous Black Glacier and the atmospheric stacks and arches of the Black Beach.

In general the weather treated us well, with only one day of rain and mild temperatures throughout. Our comfortable accommodation was well

situated, being only a short journey from many of Iceland's most famous natural landmarks. The football pitch nearby was the setting for many high quality encounters – standout moments included Jack Channon's stunning strikes and James Percival's fearless goalkeeping.

Thanks are due to Mr Gooding, Mr Perriss and Mr Southwell-Sander for organising the trip and always being informative and entertaining, as well as to Jens, our driver, for braving the 2.30 am wake-up call on the final morning to drive us to the airport.

Overall, I really enjoyed the trip as it was a great opportunity to spend time in an interesting and unique environment, and I'd definitely recommend it to anyone thinking of going on any future trip to Iceland.

*Joshua Bradlow 6 MDP*





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## Classics



On 23 October a large rabble of excited teenage boys stepped off a plane into the Tunisian heat with five members of staff – Mrs Fishpool, Mr Jenkins, Mr Price, Mrs Cooper and Dr Burnand for a packed week of classical discovery. We were met by our guide for the week, Yassin, and bundled off to a hotel on the outskirts of Tunis, a remarkable hotel for a school trip where the sumptuous all-you-can-eat buffet was an omen that this would be a great week.

The following morning was spent in the ruins of Carthage – Rome's greatest enemy – exploring what was left of the city and even finding the 'ash-layer' from when it was burnt down. This was followed by a visit to the extensive port area and the magnificent Bardo Museum (which houses a remarkable collection of world famous mosaics), and a trip to the Medina where we experienced haggling for the first time. In spite of all the warnings, one nameless individual learnt he was not very good at using the vital word 'no'.

Heading away from Tunis and civilization, we ventured into the mountains glimpsing many an aqueduct arch along the way, until we reached the source of the aqueduct at Zaghouan, the start of this 144km-long piece of remarkable engineering. We later visited the towns of Thuburbo Maius and Dougga, celebrated as 'the best preserved Roman small town in North

Africa'. I would certainly agree, as these two places housed some incredible houses, temples and theatres, which had us scrambling for our cameras after paying our one dinar for the privilege. Continuing into the mountains we eventually reached our hotel cum hunting lodge, complete with armed hunters sharing the lift!



**Bulla Regia**



After fleeing the guns as quickly as possible the next morning, another packed day saw us exploring a Roman quarry, the source of some of their fantastic coloured marbles, and the towns of Bulla Regia (with its underground houses) and Makhtar. These again provided us with some splendid photos, including the Arch of Trajan featured in Sam Wright's winning entry for the photo competition, now proudly on display in CB's room. Stopping only to eat and sleep, we pressed on the next day to the gloriously preserved Sbeitla with its Antonine Gate and olive presses, all ably explained by Yassin, a positive mine of information on this subject as he was on everything all week. This then took us to the fourth holiest city in the Islamic world, Kairouan, and our 5 star hotel where, much to the other guests' horror, we were immediately in the pool. Later, as we headed off into the local Medina, Yassin excitedly explained what ten dinar could get you in the rooms just off the street, a bargain apparently.



The amphitheatre at El Djem

The next morning offered a more conventional insight into Islamic culture as we explored the great mosques – although Yassin's tales about the circumcision of young boys at one of them brought a collective wince from us teenage boys. We then moved on to our last and most magnificent classical sight, the amphitheatre (not Flavian in this case) at El Djem. Being able to physically walk beneath and up this great monument brought it to life

far more than the Colosseum at Rome can do. In this place we really could all believe that 'what happens in life echoes in eternity'!

With our sightseeing over for the week we headed to the coast and our final hotel at Port El Kantaoui, a hybrid of Blackpool and Las Vegas. From this base we headed into Sousse and to the Medina there with our haggling now down to a fine art, except for the said nameless individual who remained hapless. Then after visiting some dingy catacombs, which were a bit of a come down after El Djem, and a very optimistic but eventually disappointed rug salesman, we retired to the beach for some R&R and as only the British can do, managed to fashion an impromptu game of cricket.

I think I can speak for everyone when I say this trip provided a fantastic window on to the classical world, which few ever visit, for Tunisia offers a vast array of sites as good as Rome, but without the crowds and rope line. You felt that you truly could experience the classical world. I would like to thank the staff who accompanied the trip and, of course, the unforgettable Yassin!

*Thomas Watkins VI JEF*



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## Economics and Business Studies



Outside Lloyd's of London

The Economics and Business Studies Department took three trips to a variety of businesses during the academic year 2009-10. In December 2009, approximately thirty Lower Sixth-formers visited Chelsea Football Club hoping to learn something about the running of the Club. The physical tour encompassed the press conference room, the changing rooms, the 'dugout' adjacent to the pitch, and the Club's museum. From a business perspective, the tour broached topics as diverse as ticketing and pricing, the use of technology, marketing, player contracts and sponsorship. It was an enjoyable day and the facilities were impressive, but comments like, "its not exactly the Emirates..." proved that Chelsea wasn't really Abingdonians' team of choice. However, for Mark Kardos (probably the only Chelsea fan on the trip) there was, at least, the chance to sit in Mr Ancellotti's seat.

In the Lent term we visited the *Coca Cola* factory in Edmonton, London. In addition to sampling some of the company's wares, pupils were given a guided tour of the bottling factory, the hi-tech warehouse and the accompanying dispatch facilities. A presentation about the company's marketing strategy was highly informative and was followed by a practical exercise where pupils had to create a new soft drink product aimed at a specific target market.

The year ended with a trip to the City, in particular to Lloyd's of London and the London Metal Exchange (LME). The physical tour of Richard Rogers' Lloyd's of London building was an education in its own right, but pupils also had the chance to get a sense of how brokers and underwriters interact in the market for insurance. In the midst of the credit crunch it was also interesting to hear how the insurance market remained buoyant because companies were

seeking to insure themselves to a greater extent as the perception of increased risk heightened. The trip to the LME (the largest non-ferrous metal market in the world) gave pupils a chance to see the charged atmosphere of a real trading floor too. Following the tours, a presentation by the Director of *Texel* Finance (a company specializing in insuring political risk) explored the impact of rapid growth in China on commodity prices and the implications that this might have for resource politics.

Apart from these trips, Abingdon economists have had some success in national competitions during the year. In September 2009, three Abingdon economics students won prizes in the Institute of Economic Affairs' national essay competition. The students were required to write a 1,500-word essay on whether increased government spending was the best strategy for





Inside Lloyd's of London

getting the economy out of recession. The competition attracted 400 entries from schools across the UK and a distinguished panel judged the entries. Eric Gartz won the second prize of £500, and Jonathan Wong and Mark Power Smith were runners up winning £100 each.

In the Lent term, Matthew Choi, Eric Gartz, Sam Newman and Jonathan Wong competed in the South East and East of England area final of the Bank of England's 'Target 2.0'. This competition requires pupils to give a seventeen-minute presentation on the current state

of the economy and then field questions from three Bank of England judges (including a member of the Monetary Policy Committee). The team argued that interest rates should be held at 0.5%, but quantitative easing should be increased to £225bn. Over 400 teams entered the competition and the Abingdon team came 3rd in the South East of England final winning £350.

We were also delighted to welcome two speakers to Abingdon's Economics Society. Dr Owen Darbishire of Pembroke College, Oxford talked about the impact of labour market

flexibility in different countries, and Mr Adrian Lajtha, a Director of *Accenture*, gave us an insight into the impact of globalisation on product and labour markets in a variety of countries. Next year we will be delighted to welcome the following speakers to address our Economics Society: Mr Andrew Dilnot (Master of St Hugh's College, Oxford), Mr Stephen Fitzpatrick (Director of OVO Energy) and Professor Tim Jenkinson (Keble College, Oxford).

*Simon Grills*



Mark Power Smith, Jonathan Wong, Eric Gartz



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# History

## Berlin Trip

Over the course of the May half term holiday the History Department embarked upon a three-day trip to Berlin. We departed at the ungodly hour of 2 am in order to accommodate an epic itinerary that included visits to the Reichstag, the Olympic Stadium and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

Once more the Abingdon spirit was on display when we hit the ground in Berlin. Several tonnes of sugar had been consumed and as a result our star historians were running on overdrive. Our guide, Andrew Pennington, was almost overwhelmed by a glittering array of questions as we made our way beneath the gigantic pillars of the Olympic stadium to the spot where Hitler had stood to open the games in 1936. A brief pause for lunch was followed by a visit to the town centre to the site of the Holocaust Memorial, the Brandenburg Gate, and the Soviet War Memorial. We finished the evening by climbing the dome of the Reichstag to overlook the city.

Day 2 began on a more serious note with a visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. The camp formed the model for all other camps constructed by the Nazi regime over the course of the early 1940s. The pupils experienced a moving insight into the life of a camp, visiting the inmates' accommodation, punishment bloc, and parade ground. However, there was also evidence of the continuing spirit of the prisoners in the form of some unusual cartoons depicting the preparation of different forms of food, which had been painted on the walls of the kitchen. From there we made our way, via the famous

Glienicke Bridge, to Potsdam, the scene of the conference between Stalin, Truman and Churchill at the end of the war. We made our way back to the city for an evening of ten-pin bowling. The evening ended in controversy as both Connor Taylor and Sam Pope laid claim to the highest score while Omri Faraggi and Mr Wickes spent the evening in intense discussion over whether Wayne Rooney or Cristiano Ronaldo was more significant in Man. United's championship winning season (2008-9)!

By Day 3 normal human beings would be feeling the pace but the relentless Abingdon historians were up at the crack of dawn stomping round the lobby anxiously awaiting the arrival of the staff. Their desire for knowledge was barely sated by the Allied Museum, the Check Point Charlie Museum and a section of the Berlin Wall. It was only the time spent wandering round the dark damp corridors and depressing cells of the Stasi Prison that finally seemed to have the effect of calming their appetite. By that point there was a little time left for a brief shopping stop in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz, before we returned to the airport for the flight home. It was a weary, but nonetheless happy group that returned to the Abingdon coach park at midnight. Once more the students had demonstrated immaculate behavior and a high degree of intellectual curiosity. However, more remarkable was their ability to eat non-stop for three days without, seemingly, ever becoming full.

*Edward Davies*



## Battlefield Tour

On the first day we left the Abingdon School coach park in what seemed to be good weather. It was five o'clock in the morning and nobody was very active.

We stopped at some services to collect our guides, all experts on the First World War. Our epic voyage across to France took under an hour. Travelling to France, we were not as scared as the British soldiers when they travelled to France in 1914, for obvious reasons.

We arrived at Ypres at a memorial and we saw a few different ones. It was interesting how the British and French cemeteries differed from the German ones. While the British and French graves were laid out in patterns, the German graves were perfectly aligned in a big square. The German graves were black, and the ground where they stood had no grass, which was quite the opposite to the British and French graves, which were white and surrounded by green life. This was



interesting as it showed the different attitudes to death different people can have.

Having seen the memorials, we went to a museum in Belgium. We went into the town and were shown a big tower. This was no ordinary tower because until recently it was used for a ceremony involving a cat, and gravitational potential. This tradition originates from when all the witches in the town were burnt, and their cats were thrown from the tower. They never really got out of the habit, until the authorities banned it. So, they replaced the real cat with a not-real cat, stuffed full of sweets and money. This option is more approved, but cats are probably deeply offended.

The next day was a busy one. We set off on the coach once again, this time, destined for the Somme. We saw the British trenches, which were still there. We also saw some Canadian trenches, which were perfectly preserved. The trench systems were very complicated.

The day before, I had thought the memorials we had been to were big. This assumption was demolished when

we saw the memorial to the missing of the Somme at Thiepval. A huge structure covered in the names of the missing, and behind it an even bigger field of graves.

Another thing we went to was a museum where you could go into a pretend trench system. It had a



number of tunnels that you could explore. There was authentic lighting and sounds of shells played through speakers. This simulated how trench soldiers must have felt being in such cramped conditions. Except, for the soldiers it was real.

We visited the mine crater from the mine that went off on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. It was huge. We went to another memorial where you could buy ice creams, an interesting touch. Next to this memorial there was a field, and many other fields all over the area, that were littered with pieces of old shrapnel and barbed wire. We collected bits of shrapnel as souvenirs – some of them were surprisingly big!

At the end of the day we went to the Menin Gate. The Menin Gate is a memorial to the missing soldiers of the Ypres Salient. Every soldier fighting at Ypres would have walked under the gate to get to the trenches. At 8 o'clock every evening, the Last Post ceremony is held. The road is closed off and buglers sound a piece of music, Last Post, which is used at all military funerals. The ceremony was extremely moving, almost as moving as being hit by artillery fire.

On the last day we went to the biggest memorial in the whole universe (well, probably). The biggest, and last one we saw. It was a brilliant and thought provoking conclusion for the trip. The guides knew stories about some of the people buried in the graves that we visited. I would recommend the trip to anyone because it teaches you a lot about the war, and it's great fun, and you get to actually be there, which gives the subject another whole dimension than just studying it at school.

*Michael Bicarregui 3 MJS*



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# Modern Languages: French

## Sixth-Form Study Trip to Paris

In the February half term, 22 Lower and Upper Sixth boys accompanied by two members of staff travelled on the *Eurostar* to the heart of the French capital for a cultural tour of the city. The group stayed in a centrally located hotel with easy access to the métro for getting around. They enjoyed some typical tourist attractions such as a trip along the Seine in a 'Bateau Mouche', Paris by night, and the ascent of the Eiffel Tower, queuing bravely to reach the very top despite the sub zero temperatures of early evening February. They were also able to take in the spectacular view of Paris from the top of the Grande Arche de la Défense in the city's modern business and commercial district. Museum visits included the La Cinémathèque Française and the Cité Nationale de l'Histoire de l'Immigration, both very relevant to the current A Level syllabus, as well as the Musée d'Orsay and the Cité des Sciences, for a more general cultural experience. On a more original note, the boys were able to indulge in some celebrity spotting in the famous Père Lachaise Cemetery (where else could you find Edith Piaf, Jim Morrison, Salvador Dali and Oscar



Wilde altogether?), and walk in the footsteps of Audrey Tautou in the grocer's and bar featured in the film *Amélie* when they went to visit the Montmartre district. The five-day trip was busy and varied and, in addition to all the above visits, time was found for shopping, sampling the food on offer in Parisian restaurants, and a trip to the cinema to see a biographical film of the life of French singer/songwriter Serge Gainsbourg. Everyone, throughout the tour, had a thoroughly good time.

*Nick Krol 5 AJPE*



## French Exchange

This year's French exchange, the fifth that we have done with the Lycée la Nativité in Aix-en-Provence, proved to be another tremendous success. A total of 32 Fourth and Fifth-formers were involved, hosting 35 boys and girls from 'La Nat' in February. During their stay, our French guests enjoyed a civic reception in Bath (the city is twinned with Aix-en-Provence), had a tour of New College in Oxford, went to Warwick Castle and the Black Country Museum and also had a tour of the Jaguar plant in Castle Bromwich. During the the Easter holidays, 27 Abingdon boys spent the first week in the French families of their exchange partners and enjoyed a taste of Provençal life. Cultural visits included the Roman amphitheatre in Nîmes, the Pont du Gard, the Villa Ephrussy de Rothschild, the Stade Vélodrome (home of Marseille Football Club) and a confiserie in Aix where the traditional 'calissons' are made. Below, several of the boys report on their trip.

*Jayne Jennings*





Cathedral Cloister, Aix

I already miss the French exchange; it was so enjoyable. When I first arrived I didn't expect to have such an amazing time. The exchange, as well as being fun, has improved my French and it is very noticeable. I have learnt how to speak it a lot better as well as to understand it. At first you find that the French speak very quickly but you soon get used to it and take part in conversations confidently.

David Wheatley 4 NPS

My exchange partner was an outgoing sports enthusiast who lived in a little village half an hour's drive from the school. We hiked through the French countryside, mountain biked in the southern French mountains and swam in the Mediterranean. The best part for me was going to a bustling French market (and getting lost in the crowd). I thoroughly recommend going on an exchange.

Charlie Bethell 4 DJWF

My week in France was probably the best week of my life. The weather was beautiful, my exchange's family were lovely, and I thoroughly enjoyed the various excursions and places we visited during the week. I enjoyed it so much that my friends and I have already planned a trip back there in the summer. I honestly couldn't pick a highlight. If we weren't visiting beautiful places, we were playing volleyball on the beach or eating delicious French cuisine. We were never bored!

Toby Marlow 4 HCGM

I thought the French exchange in Aix-en-Provence was a fantastic trip. It was great to be able to practise speaking French and learn the French way of life whilst living with a French family. I learned a great deal about France while I was there and would willingly return in the future to see my exchange and her family. All in all it was a superb experience, which developed my understanding of the language even further. I would recommend this trip to anyone studying French.

Nick Leah 4 NPS



Stade Vélodrome, Marseille



Candied fruits

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## Modern Languages: German



### Bielefeld Exchange

On the 7 February 2010, eleven Fourth-formers and eleven Fifth-year St Helen's girls went to Bielefeld in northwestern Germany. This was the second leg of the 43rd exchange between Abingdon and Bielefeld, following the German party's visit to Abingdon in October 2009.

We were welcomed late on Sunday afternoon by our exchange partners

and their families, and then went home for a well-deserved night's sleep after our flight. The week then consisted of a lot of snow, lessons in German (a highly entertaining and enlightening experience), a visit to Bremen, exploring cultural similarities and differences in the Anglo-German Project (of which the most memorable key word was 'Vorurteil' – prejudice), the traditional Anglo-German football

match, in which the Germans lived up to their fierce reputation and beat the English hands down yet again, a trip around Münster, a visit to a traditional German 'Imbissbude' (snack café) and embarrassing falls (for some of us, at least) at the ice rink.

The weekend was time spent with families, and for some of the luckier amongst us that meant a weekend trip to Berlin, where the snow reached an astounding height of 50cm (only fun if you're in the back seat of the car, apparently...)

We left with heavy hearts after eight splendid days immersed in German culture, with memories to cherish, tales to tell, for the luckier ones a 'phone number or two... and for one lucky boy, a girlfriend! But aside from that, the 2009-10 German Exchange was an experience thoroughly enjoyed by all, obviously with a high educational value.

*Jack May 5 DJTF*

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### Lower School Rhineland Trip 24-27 June 2010

This year's Lower School Modern Language trip took thirty-five First and Second-formers, plus four members of staff, to Germany and a visit to the Rhineland. Setting off in glorious weather – that remained throughout the trip – a four hundred mile journey by coach via Eurotunnel seemed to pass remarkably quickly, and we arrived in time for a good night's sleep at our hotel just outside the Roman town of Boppard.

In addition to practising a little of the native language, the purpose of these trips has always been to allow boys to sample a wide variety of cultural excursions, and this year was no

exception! On the Friday, following a guided tour of Boppard, we took a chair lift, which provided a spectacular view of the Rhine. After this, we visited a local winery before ending the day

with a relaxing boat cruise down the river. An early start on the Saturday took us to the city of Bonn and a visit to the house in which Beethoven had been born. We then headed to



**The group at Marksburg Castle**

## Modern Languages: Spanish

Cologne Cathedral and the dizzying ascent up one of the one hundred and fifty metre high spires. The climb really sharpened up the boys' appetite so it was perhaps fortunate that we then stopped to visit the Lindt chocolate museum for sustenance, before ending our excursions at the wonderful medieval Marksburg Castle in Koblenz.

Throughout our stay the impeccable behaviour of the boys was frequently mentioned by our hosts and tour guides, and although news of England's World Cup defeat to Germany slightly darkened the mood on the journey home, the whole party arrived back in Abingdon with large smiles and some wonderful memories.

*Richard Castle*

### German Christmas Market

On 11 December 2010 fifty three Second and Third-form Germanists accompanied by Mr Revill, Mr Cotton, Mr Loughe, Mr Aitken and Anne Hippold travelled to Birmingham city centre to visit the world famous Frankfurt Weihnachtsmarkt. The boys enjoyed perusing the 100-stall-strong market, which offers authentic tasty German goods, including Currywurst, Brezeln, Lebkuchen, Bratkartoffeln, Kasseler, Gluehwein and heisse Schokolade, along with a wide range of traditional German gifts, toys and crafts. The boys also made the most of the opportunity to practise chatting in German to the stall owners. The market, the largest of its kind in England, is now in its tenth year and welcomes over 2 million visitors each year. The boys certainly got a feel for a German Christmas thanks to the exciting and authentic atmosphere.

*Andrew Loughe*

### Spanish Exchange

It started with the group of us meeting, still asleep, at a far too early time. Upon arrival we met our partners at the school and it was time to decide between a handshake and an awkward hug. Something 'in between' seemed to be the consensus.

Nearly everyone went out in the town that night to explore. My group got a bit of an introduction to 'parkour', pretty impressive. Most of the time we spent relaxing in the park's cafes just getting to know the Spanish people and finding our Spanish wasn't quite up to scratch.

The next few days it was the same as any exchange, museums, cathedrals and other different tourist attractions, some of which were really quite fun.

Saturday was possibly the first major test in Spanish; a lot of us had lunch with our exchanges families. Awkwardness can get pretty high if you don't make an effort. It's better to look a bit bad at Spanish than to not even try.

Sunday held more of the same, and in my case, an even bigger family to talk to. They eat well in Spain. There were so many courses I lost count. Food just kept coming. Later on most people went into the town again, I went to a football match. The chants you hear in England are nursery rhymes compared to the Spanish ones.

For the next few days, it was back to museums and cathedrals. They seem to really like stairs in Spain, first in the cathedral then in the Torre de Hercules.

We had all thought we'd meet up on Wednesday night, as it was our last, but apparently football's a bit more

The Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela



important. So, quite a few people did meet up, but five of us sat in a café and watched what turned out to be a 0-0 draw.

By the time Thursday had come, no one wanted to leave. They were all great people, and we'd all had a great time over there, in addition we knew the weather would be worse in England. So we spent an hour, or maybe two, just talking to our hosts and saying goodbye. Now it was time for the less awkward hugs, that weren't so 'in between'. Everyone watched out of the window as we left, wishing we could have stayed longer.

Surprise, it was raining in England the day we got back but every one of us has said that we will make their time here as good as ours was there.

*Michael Deeks 5 OJC*



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## Sixth-Form Study Visit to Cuba

The group departed from school early on 24 March, heading for Gatwick and the nine-hour flight to Havana. We arrived in Cuba at approximately 8 in the evening, where we had to go through a hostile set of border controls before collecting our bags and heading towards our accommodation. We were immediately struck by the heat, the backward nature of the country, and the significance of the revolutionary figures Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, who seemed to be depicted in murals on virtually every street corner.

We stayed in two separate houses in the Havanan suburb of Vedado, with the Lower Sixth on one side of the road and the Upper Sixth the other. The Cuban families were very hospitable and cooking two meals a day for our group of eleven was no mean feat!

From 9:30 to 1:00 every day we had lessons at the Sprachcafe in Havana, a language school where we covered all



of the major grammatical points of our exam syllabus as well as learning about Cuban culture.

In the afternoons we did various trips to Old Havana: the world famous cigar factories, the museum of the revolution and a cannon procession at El Morro, a former fortress. The salsa lesson was a particular highlight for the group with us all seeming to master the basic steps.

Both Saturday and Sunday saw us on the beach to the east of Havana. The weather was perfect and we all played

in some hotly contested volleyball matches, and attempted to play cricket before realising that tennis balls don't bounce on sand!

Many thanks go to Mrs Glenn-McKibbin and Dr Smith for organising an unforgettable trip. Without a doubt, the School trip to Cuba was something none of us will ever forget. It gave us a new opinion of that part of the world and many of us would love to return soon.

*Mark Francis 6 LPG*

## Modern Languages: Mandarin



Bicycle rickshaws

In July 2010, I was one of a group of Abingdon boys who travelled to China for a two-week visit. Our trip to China was amazing. You cannot put it plainer than that. There are plenty of similarities and differences between Britain and China, but of course it is the differences that stand out.

When we first arrived we were astounded; Beijing seemed impossibly large, and very foggy. The Bird's Nest and Water Cube (the Olympic sports stadium and swimming pool) are constructions of a type that is unseen in Britain, and office blocks compete to be the most seemingly bizarre yet wondrous in the city. Those were just our first impressions.



Our hotel was beautiful and catered for our every need, serving some really exotic meals, many of which were delicious, even for the likes of me! The visits came hard and fast; we hit the Great Wall just a day after arriving. The Great Wall was the attraction, but the distraction was the heat – it was sweltering – and climbing the Great Wall soon became a feat doubled by the pure, raw heat. Having said that, the views at the top were well worth the climb, and the artistry used in the designing of the Wall leapt out at you as the culture shock seeped in; the bastion at the bottom of the Wall looked as much a decorative temple as a defence mechanism.

The afternoon of the Great-Wall visit was an adventure in itself as was the visit to the hutongs – alleys lined with traditional courtyard residences – and the outings arranged by the Hanban – the organisation for the promotion of Chinese language and culture. The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square were packed with people eager to see the heritage of a great nation, and it didn't disappoint; it could not have been more exquisitely constructed, beauty seeped from every stone in every wall of every building.



We then travelled to Chongqing, the second largest city in China. Chongqing, the city of bridges, they call it. I might make a case for re-naming it the city of skyscrapers. There are so many of them because the city holds a population of 32 million people and is the largest municipality in China.

The hotel where we stayed was also very nice, and the school that hosted our visit was very welcoming.



The lessons in the school were interesting and colourful, full of information, which helped us in our understanding of China, and to get the best out of our trip. We had great fun in making lanterns, learning the art of calligraphy and painting pictures in Chinese-style. Painting is not one of my strong points, but it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Kung Fu and Tai Chi were calming experiences among the excitement that is China and were a totally different type of exercise to anything that I had done before – yet another new thing to remember!

Ciqikou took us back to old China where bartering and haggling were commonplace. I'm glad I was given a chance to try my skills out and gain a few non-everyday items along the way.

The talent show was a nerve-wracking experience when it came to the time for our performance. But, other than that, it was an entirely enjoyable occasion with which to cap off a brilliant week in Chongqing.

Once back in Beijing we visited the Temple of Heaven, a very peculiar looking place but one that evidently occupied a special place in history due to its isolated state. After that, we were given another chance to perfect our bartering skills in a very large modern market.

Throughout the trip I steadily got to know my friends better and, I am glad to say, I made some new ones too. The trip was fantastic and I would recommend it not only to those studying Chinese but to all those who want to try something different and experience new cultures. I learnt so much and had a great time, so thanks for a fantastic trip!

*Teddy Clamp 3 NMR*



Art



Type Piece 1 by Stuart Lonergan



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## Art Department

The Art Department's schedule seem to get busier each year with the highpoints being the number of visiting artists and designers to the Department. Our GCSE graphic design students welcomed illustrator Pete Fowler, who came in and led a character development workshop, producing several large temporary banners for the Sports Centre corridor. Illustrator Nick Sharratt spoke to both Fourth and Fifth Year groups, showing examples of his work and speaking enthusiastically about the development of the ideas and images for his stories. For fine artists, Steven MacIver came and led a workshop for our Lower Sixth as well as talking about his work to the Fourth Year and conducting tutorials to selected Upper Sixth-formers. Steven went on to be our first artist-in-residence in the summer term, working out of 'the shed', a large temporary building at the edge of Heylin's garden, normally used to house four Upper Sixth students – overflow from the main Upper Sixth studio. Andy Glass our part-time 3D teacher, worked as an artist to lead a group of Fifth-formers to make a 'Big Sculpture' one Saturday early in the Michaelmas term.

There was the usual plethora of trips this year with Sixth-formers travelling to the Saatchi Gallery, Tate Britain, Tate Modern and the Royal Academy to see Van Gogh's letters. There were other trips to the newly refurbished Ashmolean Museum, and 'Turner and the Masters' exhibition at Tate Britain for GCSE groups. The climax of the year's trips was the Sixth-form gallery and museum tour to Paris in the Michaelmas half term, reported on separately.

Once again we had a very committed Upper Sixth and a good number left to pursue art at a higher level. The

following students went on to Art and Design foundation courses: Matthew Copson to Camberwell, Charlie Floyd, Stuart Lonergan, Henry Dunbar to Brookes, Alistair Nicoll to Totnes – before he takes up a place to read architecture at Cardiff. The following secured places to study Architecture: Anthony Grieveson (Liverpool), Kenneth Chow (University of Hong Kong), Beno Edwards (Cardiff), Matthew Hinkins (Brookes).

The art and design section of the school website aims to cover recent art news. The pages that follow contain just a selection of the wonderful art work from the boys in our examination year groups. The selection is mine - I expect the boys would have chosen quite different images.

### Museum and Galleries tour to Paris – October 22-26 2009

Leaving the Abingdon coach park at 6am straight after the end of a busy and tiring half term felt like hard work and a rush, but was it worth it? Undoubtedly yes! The galleries and museums of Paris are superb and we managed ten of them in our five days, plus some tourist spots as well. The boys worked hard from the start. We'd given them all new sketchbooks to fill and they drew in the Eurostar train, in front of the art, while having meals, even walking through the parks. Many of the boys brought cameras too - the aim was to capture and record as much of our experience of Paris as possible.

Our first viewing of art was at FIAC, an international contemporary art fair, spread between two large venues and full of galleries from around Europe showing off their favoured artists... such varied work, so little time to view

it. We quickly realised that focussing in on a few pieces in detail rather than trying to see everything was going to be the best strategy for this venue, and for the rest of the week. Friday saw the group visit the Musée d'Orsay, the Rodin Museum and the Maillol Museum before ascending the Eiffel tower in the evening. The celebratory lights of the tower dazzled us, just as we had been by the superb painting in the Musée d'Orsay and sculpture of Rodin earlier in the day.

Saturday was just as full as we tackled the vastness of the Louvre, the diversity of the ethnographic artefacts of the Musée de Quai Branly, the modern art of Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and its exhibition of the German abstract painter Albert Oehlen. The evening was spent touring the shops of the Champs Elysées before we all met up on the fourth floor of the huge Haagen Daz restaurant to eat waffles, sodas and ice creams.

Sunday was a lie-in but we still managed the modern and contemporary art of the Pompidou Centre, followed by two smaller museums commemorating C20th sculptors Zadkine and Bourdelle. An evening river cruise followed before we flopped back to our hotel. Monday was more relaxed as we visited the Montmartre area and then spent some time shopping before catching an evening train back to London and so onto Abingdon. It was a busy and exciting tour. Colleagues Mrs O'Doherty, Mr Glass and, a guest from Modern Languages, Mr Lough, were invaluable companions. The boys were hard working, very focussed and fun to be with.

*James Nairne*

# GCSE Art

A	Mask	Acrylic	Toby Blong
B	Road through trees	Acrylic on canvas	Charles Buchan
C	Purchasing Coffee	Acrylic	Guy Bud
D	Abstract landscape	Acrylic	Guy Bud
E	Toby	Acrylic	Laurence Copson
F	Cold Spring Woods	Acrylic	Laurence Copson
G	Self-portrait	Acrylic	Drew Finnigan
H	Work, Rest Play	Mixed media	Harry Gibbs
I	Mountain range	Acrylic	Harry Gibbs
J	Danny	Acrylic	Joe Hogan
K	Abingdon Streets	Acrylic	Joe Hogan
L	Self-portrait	Painted plaster and card relief	William Huck



A



B



C



D



E



H



G



F



K



I



J



L



**M** Self Portrait  
**N** West St Helen's Street  
**O** Service  
**P** Self-portrait  
**Q** Mask  
**R** Self-Portrait  
**S** Street  
**T** Night scene  
**U** Cubist Portrait  
**V** Jericho café  
**W** Work, Rest, Play

Chalk  
 Acrylic  
 Acrylic  
 Acrylic and paper collage  
 Painted card construction  
 Graphite  
 Acrylic on board  
 Paper collage  
 Charcoal and chalk  
 Ink and watercolour  
 Acrylic

Jonathan Hunter  
 Jonathan Hunter  
 Alexander Jefferys  
 Mark Lee  
 Mark Lee  
 Daniel Leyland  
 Daniel Leyland  
 Ben Longden  
 Ben Longden  
 Tom McGivan  
 Jack Ponting



M



N



O



P



Q



R



S



T



U



V



W

# GCSE Art

<b>A</b> Head	Painted card construction	Dominic Ramli-Davies
<b>B</b> Interior	Acrylic and Charcoal	Dominic Ramli-Davies
<b>C</b> Mountain range	Acrylic	George Rothwell
<b>D</b> Cell Repeats	Various	Finn Ryley
<b>E</b> Shooting	Collage and acrylic on board	Finn Ryley
<b>F</b> Underpass	Acrylic on board	Simon Spafford
<b>G</b> City	Acrylic on board	Simon Spafford
<b>H</b> Play	Acrylic on board	Charles Studdy
<b>I</b> On Board	Watercolour, pen on paper	Nicholas Topping
<b>J</b> Portrait	Painted card construction	Harry Williams
<b>K</b> Coastal Landscape	Acrylic	Harry Williams
<b>L</b> Greetings from Goring	Acrylic	Howard Winfield
<b>M</b> Interior	Acrylic on carved wood	Howard Winfield



A



B



C



E



F



G



D



H



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J



L



M



- A Work, Rest, Play
- B Tate Poster
- C Play
- D Ashmolean Poster
- E Pinky
- F Hot Chip
- G Howdy Jumped
- H Life's game
- I Ski Poster
- J Trainers
- K Stand and Stare
- L LC Lion

- Painted relief
- Laser print
- Pen and ink
- Laser print
- Childrens' book illustration
- Vinyl sleeve design
- Childrens' book illustration
- Illustration
- Laser Print
- Mixed media illustration
- Illustration
- Childrens' book illustration

- Ronan Baird
- Robert Brough
- Robert Brough
- Gerald Chan
- Gerald Chan
- Sam Hardy
- Oliver Howard
- Nicholas Krol
- Dan Lloyd
- Joel Morris
- Fahmi Safa
- Paul Woo



A



B



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L



## AS Art

<b>A</b> Figures 1	Mixed media on canvas	Edd Arnold
<b>B</b> Horse's eye	Mixed media on board	Edd Arnold
<b>C</b> Colour abstract	Oil on board	Edd Arnold
<b>D</b> Still-life abstract	Oil on board	Peter Barber
<b>E</b> Interior/exterior	Oil and charcoal on board	Tom Fishpool
<b>F</b> Still-life	Oil on board	Tom Fishpool
<b>G</b> Head of a dog	Mixed media	Jamie Gallagher
<b>H</b> Coastal views	Mixed media on paper	Amir Garmroudi
<b>I</b> Interior	Monotype	Amir Garmroudi
<b>J</b> Diane Keaton	Mixed media	Harry Granger
<b>K</b> Arches	Ink on canvas	Harry Granger
<b>L</b> Warrior	Fired ceramic	Wellington Hsu
<b>M</b> Interior	Oil on canvas	Wellington Hsu



A



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M



O Self-portrait  
 P Still-life  
 Q Cuba  
 R Mirrored  
 S Keep Out  
 T Street Concept  
 U Street Concept II  
 V Kanye  
 W Life drawing  
 X Life drawing  
 Y Street

Oil on canvas  
 Oil on canvas  
 Photographic collage on canvas  
 Mirror, wire  
 Mixed media  
 Mixed media on board  
 Mixed media on board  
 Mixed media on Canvas  
 Pen and ink  
 Chalk  
 Mixed media

Mark Kardos  
 Mark Kardos  
 William McDowell  
 William McDowell  
 Jack Oliver  
 Jack Perry  
 Jack Perry  
 David Snead  
 David Snead  
 Jack Trodd  
 Ben Westcott



O



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X



Y

## A2 Art

A	Boats	Oil on canvas	Tom Bateman
B	Golden Village	Mixed media on board	Tom Bateman
C	Indian Crowd	Oil on plywood, Cut-out	James Carter
D	Portrait head	Plaster	James Carter
E	Abstract Construction	Painted board and paper	Kenneth Chow
F	Abstract Construction	Painted board	Kenneth Chow
G	Portrait	Oil on board	Freddie Cleworth
H	Bust	Card construction	Freddie Cleworth
I	Russian Doll	Painted sculpture	Matthew Copson
J	Lydia	Oil on canvas	Matthew Copson
K	Faces triptych	Acrylic on Board	Henry Dunbar
L	Abstract Car	Acrylic and collage on board	Beno Edwards



A



B



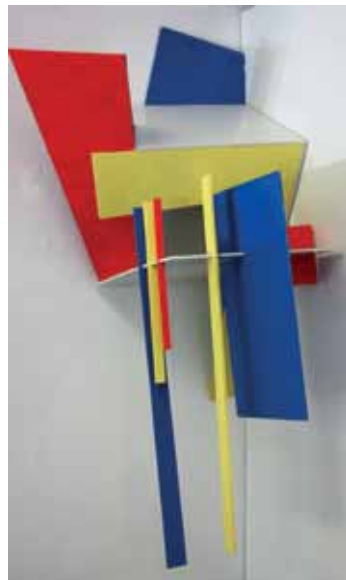
C



D



E



F



G



H



I



K



J



L



M	Bathroom portraits	Printed ceramic tiles, ceramic bowl, mdf.	Christopher Edwards
N	Us twins	15 Lino cuts	Christopher Edwards
O	Punters	Acrylic and pen on canvas triptych	Charlie Floyd
P	Coastal landscape	Cast plaster, steel, plywood	Anthony Grieveson
Q	London Skyline	Oil and acrylic on board	Matthew Hinkins
R	London Panorama	Mixed media	Matthew Hinkins
S	Type Piece 1	Acrylic on board	Stuart Lonergan
T	Type Piece 2	Acrylic on board	Stuart Lonergan
U	Architectural Abstract 1	Oil on canvas	Alistair Nicoll
V	Architectural Abstract 2	Mixed Media	Alistair Nicoll
W	Old Man	Oil on cardboard	Jack Tinker
X	Passions 1	Oil on canvas	Jack Tinker



O

M



N



S



T



Q



R



P



U



W



V



X

# Design Technology

## The Arkwright Scholarship

Matthew Landells and Angus Wilson-MacDonald have both been awarded prestigious Arkwright Design and Technology scholarships after having successfully completed a rigorous selection process including a written design task, a team-building engineering project and the interview panel. Only 250 scholarships were awarded this year and both Angus and Matthew should be congratulated on their achievements. They both achieved A\* grades via very different practical routes. Matthew Landells designed and manufactured a CNC-machined aluminium camera mount, to allow him to film the action when cycling, while Angus Wilson-MacDonald produced a Warhammer Paint Station. The Arkwright Scholarship Trust is an external organisation that supports high achieving scholars who are considering a future in Design Engineering. Matthew and Angus were presented with their scholars' ties by Barry Radcliffe, the Arkwright Trust's liaison officer.

*Dan Hughes*



**L to R Matthew Landells and Angus Wilson-MacDonald**



**Matthew Landells  
Camera Mount**



**Angus Wilson-MacDonald  
Paint Station**



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## GCSE



Abdulaziz Bandar –  
*Paintball Storage*



William Bibby –  
*Laminated Storage*



Jonathan Chung –  
*Key Organiser*



Max Dooley –  
*Laptop Stand*



Sam Hughes –  
*Golf Club Carrier*



Calum Smith –  
*Golf Club Holder*



James Jenkins –  
*Fencing Accessory Box*



Jack Ponting –  
*File Storage*



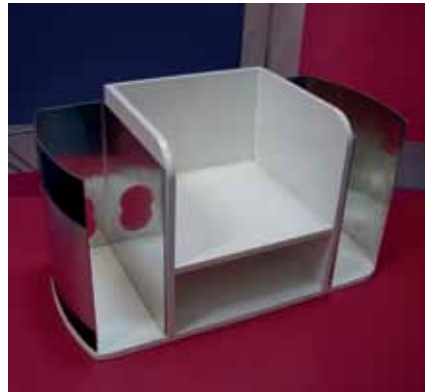
George Bull –  
*Putting Aid*

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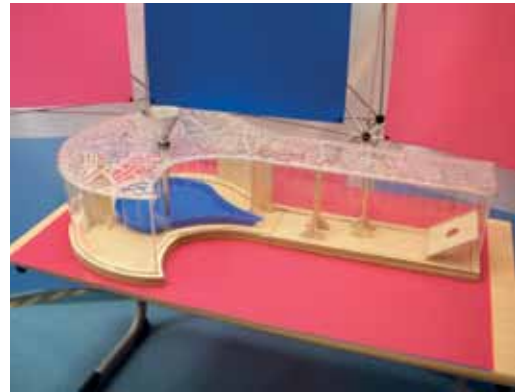
# GCSE



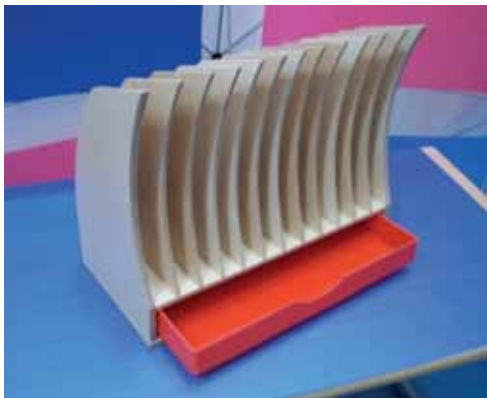
Dan Lloyd –  
*Playstation Tidy*



Hal Parke –  
*Playstation Holder*



Felix Russell –  
*Vivarium*



Paul Woo –  
*File Storage*



Stuart King –  
*Designer Shoe Rack*



Matthew Landells –  
*Bike Camera Mount*



Felix Newman –  
*Bedroom Desk*



Andrew Reece –  
*Computer Tidy*



Edward Norris –  
*Guitar Stand*





Hector Millar – *Garden Table*



Jack Lindsay – *Bedroom Speakers*



Finn Ryley – *Aluminium Stock*



Mark Lee – *Shoe Storage*



Nian Patel –  
*Collapsible Flat Screen Storage*



Henry Christiansen – *School Folder Storage*



Simon Spafford –  
*Spray Can Organiser*



Gregor Hearn –  
*Bedroom Storage*



Jack Swanborough –  
*Model Train Workstation*



Angus Wilson MacDonald –  
*Warhammer Paint Station*

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# Drama

## West Side Story

For three nights in early December 2009, over thirty senior pupils from Abingdon and St Helen's appeared on stage in Bernstein's *West Side Story*, backed by an orchestra and stage crew of similar size, in front of a full Amey Theatre. After three months of rehearsals, vocal coaching and choreography, we were finally ready to perform.

*West Side Story* looks at the tensions between immigrant communities in New York in the 1950s. The story is set in an atmosphere of gang warfare, where Tony, a Jet, and Maria, a Shark, fall in love, despite the mutual hatred of their respective gangs. Tony and Maria's quiet love scenes contrast sharply with the highly charged scenes between the gangs; by the end, three main characters have been killed and the love between Maria and Tony has not been enough to overcome the gangs' hatred.

For me, it was a real joy to get stuck into a piece of drama with such an intense flavour and social message.



It was fantastic to see the members of the cast taking on various complex and subtle characters, and rising to the challenge magnificently. Henry Jenkinson as Riff gave a stellar performance, vividly portraying Riff's confidence and power as the leader of the Jets. Jack Trodd was equally effective in the role of Bernardo, capturing Bernardo's cheeky personality as well as his terrifying menace.

The song *Gee Officer Krupke* was one of my personal highlights. Robert Brooks was totally believable in the role of Action, portraying the character's frustration, anger and sarcastic wit perfectly. Charlie Bateman, Nicholas Krol, Sam Hardy, Christopher Young, Oliver Howard and Will Abell, who throughout the show conjured up the camaraderie of the Jets, ably assisted him in this song. The riotous applause



James Yan



Adrian Lo



Ali Ibrahim





**Sharks**

after the song was well deserved. The members of the Sharks were also convincing in their personification of menace. Pierre Leveque, Ali Ibrahim, James Yan and Adrian Lo were terrifying during *The Rumble*, and the atmosphere they created was fantastic: the audience was drawn right into the action. And, of course, we cannot forget the brilliant performances of the non-partisan characters: William Hewstone as the world-weary Doc, Finlay Curran as the dim-witted Krupke, Richard Oastler as the frustrated Lieutenant Schrank, and Benjamin Haveron as the camp Glad Hand.

The St Helen's girls gave some truly wonderful performances, and their voices added to the already strong

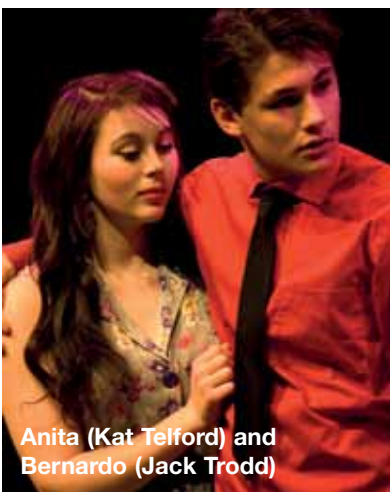
sound of the male company. Eli Rushbrook was innocence itself in the role of Maria, and Kat Telford was fantastic as the feisty Anita. The audience enjoyed some memorable vocal solos in the cast's moving performance of *Somewhere*, featuring Gabrielle Gleeson, Helen Freer and Lucy Taylor.

The production would not have been so successful without the direction of the staff. Jeremy Taylor was truly inspirational in his direction, assisted by Alison Quick, who sensitively helped us to empathise with our characters. Chris Fletcher-Campbell was first-rate in his musical direction, and our singing improved greatly thanks to the vocal coaching of Deidre Trundle,

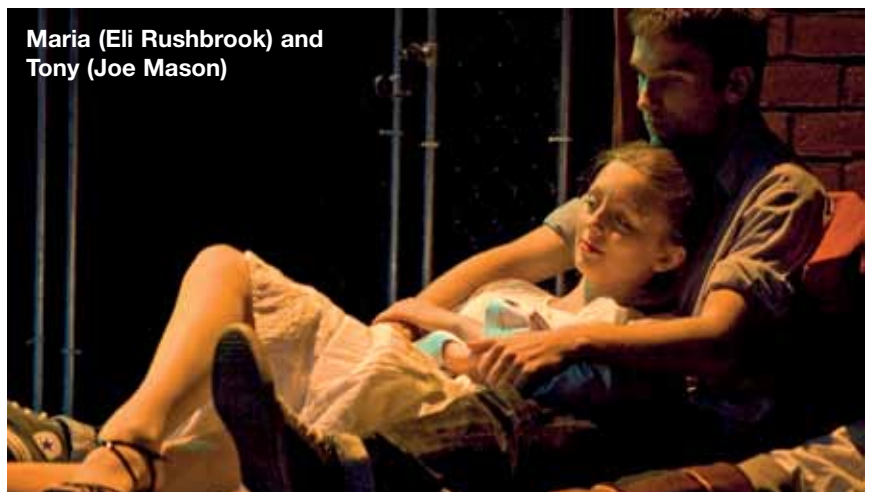
who travelled from Glasgow to lead a number of voice sessions. Charmian Hart was simply brilliant in the numerous tasks she undertook, including the design and realisation of the costumes and props, and the running of the box office. The set, which transformed the Amey Theatre with its towers and ramps in the auditorium, and its *Tetris* mesh fencing shapes on stage, was the brainchild of Rory Fraser-Mackenzie, who as theatre manager and technical supremo was a colossus. This show demands the kitchen sink when it comes to using all the elements of theatre, and cannot be attempted without a gifted choreographer. OA Matt Hawksworth fitted the bill perfectly, crafting the show's numerous challenging dances with great style. We all enjoyed working with him immensely. I am sure I speak for all members of the cast in thanking the staff involved, who made such an enjoyable and memorable occasion possible.

*Joe Mason VI JJ*

**Jeremy Taylor writes:** Joe Mason played the role of Tony with a compelling mixture of tenderness and clean-cut charm. We knew he had a fabulous voice, but the power and honesty of his acting was a revelation, as was his nimble footwork in the dance numbers.



**Anita (Kat Telford) and Bernardo (Jack Trodd)**



**Maria (Eli Rushbrook) and Tony (Joe Mason)**

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## Our Country's Good

Throughout the Michaelmas term, I was involved in the Senior School production of *Our Country's Good* over at the School of St Helen and St Katherine. Written by Timberlake Wertenbaker, the play is set in 1788 and follows the lives of convicts, Royal Marines and members of the Royal Navy sent to Australia as a part of the first penal colony there. The play is dark and depressing, yet also funny and, ultimately, I really enjoyed the whole theatrical experience.

The cast involved a number of officers of the Royal Navy or Royal Marines. Captain Arthur Phillip, the Governor-in-Chief of the colony, was played by Charlotte Buttar with a commanding presence tempered by a sympathetic and intelligent air. Robert Winearls gave a powerful performance as the fearsome and intimidating Major Ross, while I played the character of Captain Collins, an ostentatious judge of the colony. Since our costumes



came from the Royal Shakespeare Company, I was delighted to find I was wearing the same waistcoat as David Tennant from the production of *Hamlet*. Captain Watkin Tench and Captain Jemmy Campbell were played by Ellen Robertson and Matthew Copson respectively, the former as an upstanding and aggressive man of the military, the latter as a lonely man who long ago turned to drink to escape his troubles. Richard Meadows gave a convincing performance as

the character Second Lieutenant Ralph Clark, an officer desperate for promotion. Lydia Uden and Olivia White played First Lieutenant George Johnston and Second Lieutenant William Faddy respectively. Lydia Uden gave her character a sincere yet pretentious turn and Olivia White played her character with a sarcastic charm and quick-wit. Catherine Wallis played the part of First Lieutenant Will Dawes – a man obsessed with the stars – with an endearing and comical demeanour. Matthew Copson, as Midshipman Harry Brewer, gave a potent dimension to Harry, a troubled man who suffered from severe guilt. Alice Matthews played the Reverend Johnson, who is meant to be of high moral standards and committed to God, as just that.

The play also involved a number of others, including convicts and aborigines. Dylan Robinson took on the part of John Arscott very well, making him out to be both a hostile yet often amusing man. Sophie Waddy demonstrated her fine acting ability with her characterisation of Mary Brenham as a timid and fearful woman. Katie Bartholomew and Catherine Wallis, the latter acting as an understudy on the first night while Katie Bartholomew







was away, both played the part of Dabby Bryant with her country accent and robust attitude. Robert Winearls also took on the part of James 'Ketch' Freeman. He did so with all the character's apologetic and occasionally pathetic charm. Emily Heath played Liz Morden, making her out to be the tough, bitter yet also vulnerable woman she is. Robert Sideway was played by Luke Abbott with all the dramatic flair the character should have, while Catherine Lewis took on the role of Duckling Smith and did so with that character's emotional complexity. Nick Williams played John Wiseshammer and made him out to be the intelligent man he is. Tess Lonergan, Megan Foster and Charlotte Bambridge played the convicts Sarah McCormick, Nancy Turner and Esther Abrahams respectively. Each girl involved herself in her character's struggle as a convict. Alison Cooke, Sophie King and Katie Thornton played the Australian Aborigines with a rightly mysterious and cautious manner.

The production would have not been possible had it not been for the magnificent crew guided by OA Ash Verjee, with Oliver Hogben and Kingsley Hoskins directing. Many thanks have to go to all those onstage and backstage for putting on what I believe was an entertaining and moving staging of *Our Country's Good*.

*Charles Beirouti 6 SJG*



## Dr Faustus

The snow-delayed and eagerly anticipated Middle School production of *Dr Faustus*, originally scheduled for February, took to the stage on three hot nights at the end of June when it sent welcome shivers down the spines of audiences, and brought down the curtain for another year on the Drama Department's annual programme.

Directed with imagination and flair by Graeme May, and featuring an ingenious box set by Amey Theatre supremo Rory Fraser-Mackenzie, the performances starred Abingdon's first drama scholar, Joe Westcott, in the title role. Joe delivered a powerful and mature account of the infamous Doctor who sells his soul to the devil in return for power and knowledge. Marlowe's 'mighty line' is notoriously testing even for adult actors, but Joe summoned lung-busting stamina to do the part considerably more than justice. He was ably supported by a versatile Abingdon contingent that featured Toby Marlow in delightfully contrasting roles as a Devil Wife, Covetousness, the

Pope and a Duke. Toby's appearance in a basque and feather boa was an eye-wateringly unforgettable moment. Kristian Wood called to mind the larger-than-life presence of Tamburlaine, another of Marlowe's anti-heroes as he crafted some wonderfully thundering characterisations of the Devil, Beelzebub and Benvolio. Tom Sishton was convincingly put-upon as Faustus's servant Wagner; I greatly enjoyed his 'sorcerer's apprentice' moment when he tried some conjuring for himself. Humphrey Thompson was an engaging Chorus and a cherubic Good Angel, as well as an effective Devil, Scholar and Alexander. Max Robinson also doubled up effectively as Cornelius, a Friar, Frederick and Wrath, but I particularly enjoyed his rabid, physical outbursts as the latter.

The girls from St Helen's were no less impressive. Rona McKee's Mephistophiles was a model of icy feline charm; Ciara Robinson gave an effectively physical account of Robin, Helen ('the face that launched a thousand ships') and Lechery (see below); Annie Deadman impressed as the Chorus, Vintner, a Bad Angel and

a Duchess but perhaps her signature moment came when she donned pig mask and fat suit (made by the tirelessly creative and resourceful Charmian Hart) to burst out of the pantry as Gluttony. Helen Dallas was arguably the most versatile member of the cast as she undertook no fewer than six roles, including the haunting figure of Envy, who appeared at a window in green and sickly light, and as one half, with Ciara, of the terrifying Lechery, whose four hands burst through what we had hitherto assumed was a solid wall to enfold Faustus in their predatory grip. Alex Wilkinson was another admirably flexible performer whose roles included a Scholar, a Devil, a Friar and Pride, the last character again making good use of the set's numerous surprising features, this time in the form of a two-way mirror. Caroline Papp hovered above the action on the technical gallery for her role as a sinister Lucifer before coming down to earth, literally, for her other roles as an Empress and a Devil. Last but by no means least, Clea Southall played a Devil, Martina and Sloth, in which capacity she dominated the stage as she yawned and snoozed her way through her scene.

The use of the 'studio on stage' format gave punters the heady sensation of sitting on the Amey Theatre stage, bringing them closer to the action with its pyrotechnics, secret doors and mirrors, and a host of other theatrical delights. Mr Fraser Mackenzie and Mrs Hart made all these possible through their dedicated and imaginative preparations. The lighting and sound were triggered with unobtrusive skill by James Winters and Max Dooley.

*Jeremy Taylor*



## The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew

On a cold, dark February evening, the Abingdon Lower School Drama Club transported us to a land of magic and fable. *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew* offered the audience a truly delightful version of Robert Bolt's clever morality fable. This play, half fairytale and half satire, could have been a challenge for such a young cast, but under the direction of Andrew Loughe, the enthusiastic and talented troupe worked their roles to the delight of the audience.

The play is an exciting story involving dragons, magic and the fight against good and bad (and sometimes, boredom!). It begins with a pompous duke (Alex Gatenby) whose country is overrun by dragons. When his knights-in-shining-armor have killed them all, the duke announces they can enjoy a nice, lazy life, but the soft-hearted

Sir Oblong Fitz Oblong (Joseph Kelly) thinks they should move on to other areas to assist the needy.

Advised by Sir Smoothly Smoothe (Matthew Mugglestone) and the other members of the court, the duke is persuaded to get Oblong out of the way by appointing him a knight errant and dispatching him on a dangerous mission to the Bolligrew Islands.

The voyage to the island is memorable as the captain (Joseph McNamara) navigated us across the stage transformed into a turbulent sea. Bolligrew is home to a dragon and ruled by the egocentric Baron Bolligrew, stunningly acted by Louis Hudson with his dim-witted sidekick Squire Blackheart (Alex James). These two characters flawlessly portrayed the bad of Bolligrew. Joseph Kelly was excellent as Oblong, the knight who talks to animals and always tries to do the right thing. This clash of Bolligrew and Oblong allowed the tale to unfold in an enjoyable and humorous set of events.





There are characters who define the tone of the play such as the Storyteller (Adam Hargreaves), who pulled us into the story and interacted with its characters on the audience's behalf. Lord May (George England) managed to convey the fear of the peasants as they hoped for a defender in Oblong, while Obidiah Bobblenob (Andrew Convery) illustrated the plight of the trodden peasants under Bolligrew's self-serving reign. Moloch, the greedy, evil wizard played intelligently by Alex Grantham and his sidekick, Mezeppa, the magpie (Tim Bird) created images of sinister magic meant to beguile poor Oblong and his new friend, Mike Magpie, sweetly played by Joe Russell. Both Joe Russell and Tim Bird captured the shuffling movements and squawking voice of the thieving birds wonderfully. Tim McGovern's bellowing voice of the dragon ("I'm sooooo bored.") convinced all that the island had two malevolent forces that needed righting.

In addition to the actors, there was the technical crew who cleverly transformed the Amey Theatre into a world of fantasy and fable. The costumes were well realised, the magic mystical in its unfolding, and the dragon, terrorizing in its dark presence.

Congratulations to all on an excellent evening out.

*Maureen O'Neill*



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## Lysistrata

The first half of the Michaelmas term saw the Upper 6th Theatre Studies students planning how to make Aristophanes' play *Lysistrata*, written in 5th century BC Athens, relevant to a modern audience. Each group had a half-hour slot and was given the run – within reason – of Abingdon School in which to stage its chosen extracts. The first group chose the Drama Studio. They set their extract in a wealthy 'gated community' where the wives' discontent about never seeing their husbands was beginning to reach boiling point. Richard Meadows, Jack Rogers and Robert Winearls were the three men, played with cool arrogance to start with, who finally got their comeuppance. The wives, planning their revenge as they worked-out in their aerobics class, were played with exuberance by Emily Barrett, Mollie Hodge, Francesca McLaven, Claudia Stott and Kat White.

The second group set their extract in a night club that is finding it difficult to attract custom as the recession begins to bite: the Ingham Room served as the back stage area where the girls – Sarah Earl, Millie Holdsworth, Sophie King, Emma Mackenzie and, in drag, Matthew Copson – were getting



ready to be hostesses for the night. The audience was then led on to the technical gallery of the Amey Theatre to watch the final scene played out below on the Amey Theatre stage – decked out with fairy lights and now representing the public area of the club. Waiting for the girls to appear were the customers (three city gents) played in great comic fashion by Tian Ji, Ted Thompson and, in drag, Emily Heath. The banking crisis and political manoeuvring formed the background conflict in this version.

The final group whisked the audience straight down from their places on the technical gallery out of doors and round to the steps outside the Art Department where a group of girls was gathered round a fire in a dustbin; this was a



gang-culture version of the play, where the girls' gang got into fights with the boys' gang, against a backdrop of drug-taking and police sirens wailing; the last section of their extract took place in the Ladies' toilets in the Amey Theatre where the audience squeezed into the space and watched the action happening in and just outside the cubicles. Alice Carter, Ellen Harris, Cathy Lewis, Katie Thornton and Sophie Waddy mercilessly mocked the hapless boys, played with bravado by Luke Abbott, Richard Oastler, and Dylan Robinson.

The whole exercise was an exciting and innovative approach to breathing life into a text that many of the students found it difficult to identify with at first.

*Alison Quick*





## A2 Theatre Studies: Devised Pieces

The A2 Theatre Studies devised work took place in St Helen's drama studio at the beginning of February. There were five very different pieces on show this year.

**Stationary** was a hilarious comedy in an 'absurdist' vein set in an office where the four co-workers spent their days alternately intimidated by the boss, who only made contact with them by telephone, and exuberantly breaking out of the constraints of their mundane existence by creating ever more bizarre performances to entertain themselves. Millie Holdsworth was the stylish singer, Sophie King attempted to convince her fellow workers of her mystical powers, Matthew Copson and Ted Thompson created clown and ventriloquist routines; the culmination of the carnivalesque piece was the completely mad 'Lithuanian interpretative dance' routine which had the audience howling with laughter as the actors threw themselves into a parody of 'free expression' movement.



**Defunct** was an altogether different experience. Three friends have met together to help one of them make the traumatic decision as to whether to switch off her brother's life support machine or not. Although the subject matter was emotionally intense the actors, Richard Meadows, Kat White and Sophie Waddy, managed to steer clear of sensationalism with their sincere and deeply-felt performances. The device of having the brother as the fourth actor on stage worked brilliantly:



Jack Rogers' powerful portrayal of the brother whose unseen presence guides the three others in their final decision had a dignity and directness that was very moving.



With **Yes, Health Minister** there was a return to comedy, but this time razor-sharp political satire. Tian Ji, Emma Mackenzie, Emily Heath and Sarah Earl portrayed political speechwriters attempting to gloss over the fact that the Minister for Health has done a complete U-turn on stated policy since coming to power. The fraught dynamics between the four of them as the pressure mounts to come up with a speech that says one thing, but in fact means the opposite was both comical and thought provoking. Tian Ji's self-confident, smooth-operating chief writer was hugely entertaining; Emily Heath played the argumentative one with a chip on her shoulder with startling conviction,



Sarah Earl gave her coolly intellectual character a passionate edge and Emma Mackenzie shone as the impassioned idealist.

More comedy was provided in **The Wellness Centre**, a tongue-in-cheek look at the cosmetic surgery industry. This was a fine ensemble piece, beautifully orchestrated and choreographed by the group. The impeccable timing in both speech and movement made this a most polished production. The actors, Cathy Lewis, Dylan Robinson, Richard Oastler, Emily Barrett, Mollie Hodge and Ellen Harris all worked with precision and a splendidly light touch to make this gruesomely, and indeed ghoulishly, entertaining.



**Papa Tango Sierra Delta**, the final production, returned to a more sombre theme with an exploration of the phenomenon of post-traumatic stress disorder. The effect of fighting in a brutal war is shown through a series of scenes and flashbacks when a soldier returns home and tries to resume a normal life. The light and shade that this group of actors managed to create in what was always going to be disturbing and at times distressing performance was remarkable. Luke Abbott, Alice Carter, Chessie McLaven, Claudia Stott, Katie Thornton and Robbie Winearls all gave strong and moving performances in another excellent ensemble piece.

*Jeremy Taylor*







## AS Theatre Studies: *Illyria*

*Illyria* is a play about war, imagination, and a lot of shoes. Written by Bryony Lavery in 2003 for the National Theatre's International Connections programme, it was performed by one of the Lower 6th AS Theatre Studies sets in the studio at St Helen's in March 2010. The script is a wonderfully open invitation to its performers to make of it what they will. The initial stage directions say it can be played 'by any number, any gender' and 'the place names and character names can be changed for appropriate settings ... also the date.' As for the set: 'Absolute bareness. Little as possible for props. Maximum ingenuity ... a psyche of wonderful colour only.' Even the dialogue maintains this refusal to be specific through its almost complete disregard for punctuation. Performers simply have to take up the challenge that any good theatrical writing poses: 'What does it mean? What do we make of it? How are we going to bring it to life for our audience?'

In the face of that challenge, this production also refused to be specific, or stick by any one set of theatrical principles. Sometimes objects were mimed, sometimes not. Some scenes used stylized devices; others were more or less naturalistic. Cast and director simply sought ways of making the play work for an audience in a more or less empty space.

Anna Canlan-Shaw played a young journalist, Maria Vargas, who departed for an assignment to a war-torn country, Illyria. As at the start of Shakespeare's *Henry V* – an older and very different play about war – we were

asked to 'imagine' her journey and the things she would experience in this country, 'once famous' for its 'beautiful green green woods ... now famous for War'. Anna gave a tremendously assured performance here, as also in the role of the mysterious Shoemaker (of which more anon).

Maria met a rich array of characters that invited us to imagine the nature of war and its paper-thin divisions between stability and instability, boredom and excitement, comedy and tragedy ... life and death. The first was Magda, a translator played with delightfully Borat-like gaucheness by





Catherine Livesley. She barely had time to introduce herself before a sniper's bullet removed half her head. Next came two servants, Marie-Therese (Georgia Score) and Theresa (Catherine Livesley), both 'formidable women' who literally did the dirty work for the Generalissimo's mistress. As they scrubbed at floors that would never come clean, they provided many of the play's darkly comic moments alongside gruesome tales of barbaric acts. They were shooed from the stage by the play's two male figures, Violent (Henry Dunbar) and Obseno (Jack Trodd), whose macho names revealed their soldierly outward natures, but failed to hint at the child-like vulnerabilities that would become apparent when both

faced the horrors of war. Madame, the Generalissimo's mistress, strikingly portrayed by Emily Brathwaite, was a swirl of black silk, gold jewellery and big hair when she arrived as the most protected and cosseted creature imaginable. But when the balance of power suddenly changed, she became an object to be attacked, removed, disposed of. Lapin, her middle management assistant, was the crucial pivot in this change of direction and Madeleine Bahu gave an excellent account of this be-suited block of ice.

And the shoes? Madame had a collection worthy of Imelda Marcos that snaked across the stage in a memorable image to suggest the kind

of inequalities that are at the root of violent conflicts. And of course, in the bloody chaos that followed the Generalissimo's downfall, Madame lost them all. But a mysterious Shoemaker ('call me God!') had already taken her to task about the kind of shoes she wore:

"Don't suit you. Not comfy. Getting your bones all out of whack! I think you need to change your shoes ..."

The play's final, and unexpectedly joyous conclusion, saw Madame being presented with a new pair of stout, sensible shoes for an uplifting folk dance that united actors and audience as a prelude to what we all hoped would be Illyria's enlightened, independent, and peaceful future.

*Jeremy Taylor*

## Oedipus

Seneca's *Oedipus* is grizzly and graphic in its detail: son kills father, unknowingly marries mother, they procreate, discover the truth, she hangs herself, he blinds himself. It's a far cry from *The Wizard of Oz*! Ted Hughes' adaptation captures the misery and desperation of a plague-ridden Thebes in a stream-of-consciousness, unpunctuated poetic style. In rehearsal the US1/Lower 6 actors discovered the need for physical expressiveness – as well as vocal energy – to connect with the relentless drive of the piece. One of the greatest challenges, apart from finding the right vocal rhythms, was to find resting places from the intensity of the high drama, so that the audience wasn't battered from the constant anguish of Oedipus' quest.

We decided to do the play backwards and to start at the moment when the servants were spreading the news that Oedipus had blinded himself. Oedipus then appeared bloodied, bandaged







and broken, vowing to find out both his heritage and his legacy. Our production therefore became an investigation into who knew what about Oedipus' past, and his journey took him back to a time when he was happy, enabling us to end the play on a positive note. Three blocks and five long red shafts of material hanging from the grid to the floor of USC created the setting.

Nicholas Williams played Oedipus with towering charisma that made him both a rightful king and a worthy partner for Jocasta. As Oedipus had been shackled as a baby, Nicholas gave Oedipus a limp, which cleverly undermined his alpha status and bound him inescapably to his past. This was most effective in the doctors' scene in which Oedipus physically forced one of the doctors to break the code of silence and this resulted in a cathartic explosion of rage shown by Nicholas pounding the walls and doors of the hospital like a trapped animal trying to escape its cage. His range and passion enabled the audience to fully perceive the tragedy of his fate.

Charly Clive, Ciara Hagan, Katie Halfhead, Saskia Hill and Ellen Robertson all played Jocasta, doctors, servants and the Sphinx.

Each one brought a different facet of characterisation to each role and contributed to the mood of the scene in contrasting ways, creating individuality within a tightly-knit chorus. Charly Clive created the dramatic high point of the play as Oedipus tried to throttle her with a length of red ribbon. The moment came out of nowhere and left her shaken and dry-throated as she searched for the words to tell Oedipus of his parentage. She was also excellent in shaping the darker and more philosophical speeches of the play, showing flair for naturalism. Ciara Hagan brought energy and clarity to the opening scene through her sensationalist portrayal of a gossiping servant. As a doctor she was charming and glamorous, using her skills to deceive Oedipus but, as Jocasta, she was compellingly honest as she forced her husband to stop being so self-indulgent and re-order his priorities. Katie Halfhead created a memorable opening to the play as she looked directly into the audience's eyes confronting them with the story. She also brought about an uplifting end. As the others placed the trail of ribbons into her arms so Jocasta's first son was brought to life and this was a magical moment in creating the final image of a perfectly happy family. Saskia Hill



was central to the Sphinx scene as the backbone of a physically powerful and seductive creature, whipping and snapping her ribbon tail as she snarled her riddle at Oedipus. She also created a strong connection with her husband in the final scene through gentle hands and romantic dancing. Ellen Robertson was chilling as the Lead Doctor in showing no emotional connection with Oedipus' plight and chivvying her team of interns through cold, clipped, professional tones. Showing versatility, she conveyed the purest of reactions to the tragedy of Jocasta's death as she lit a candle to her memory and berated the less sensitive servants for the tactlessness. The teamwork of the girls was exceptional in its variety and, through their talent and commitment, they were able to make sense of a challenging piece of theatre.

As director, I feared that rehearsals would be endlessly and inescapably depressing, given the material. Wrong. I was amazed at how much fun the cast brought to the process and how they even managed to squeeze an 'outstanding' from the Inspector who ventured into a Sphinx lesson.

*Jo Watt*



## Andorra

The AS Theatre Studies production of *Andorra* by Max Frisch was performed, unusually, in the Amey Theatre this year. Rory Fraser-Mackenzie was able to create a 'studio on stage' setting for the production, allowing the audience to feel close to the action for this powerful and shocking play. The text had to be cut and adapted to fit a cast of two boys and four girls and, with the exception of the role of Andri, played with great sensitivity by Joe Ridley, all the cast had to take on a number of roles. The play is set in the fictional 'Andorra' – a thinly disguised Austria at the time of its annexation to Germany in 1938, although Frisch in fact wrote it in 1961. The story of the persecution

and eventual death of Andri – thought to be a Jew – is told through the eyes of certain prominent people in the village, who in Frisch's double time scheme both enact the events leading up to the death and stand in the witness box to acquit themselves of any wrong-doing. Olivia Beazley gave a chilling performance as the Doctor, a master of propaganda; Elizabeth Rushbrook managed the difficult task of playing both the Mother, which demanded gentleness and sympathy, and the brutal Soldier; Aidan Robertson revealed the Teacher's anguish and remorse in a powerful performance and Charlotte Chisholm as his daughter played the role of Barblin with grace and sensitivity. Alice Buys tackled the part of the Senora, investing the character with real emotional intensity.

The set of tables, stools and the white backdrop to indicate the whitewashed walls of the houses was functional and representative rather than naturalistic – something we wanted to echo with the plastic chair and table where each character sat to give their version of events during the 'witness box' scenes. The final image of the grieving parents cradling the body of their murdered son as the villagers walked past, forgetting their part in his death almost before the family had had time to cut him from the stake, was a shocking comment on mankind's ability to look the other way. The play was adapted and directed by Alison Quick.

*Alison Quick*



## Drama Dinner

Although unreported in previous editions of *The Abingdonian*, the Drama Departments at Abingdon and St Helen's have been organizing an annual Drama Dinner for Sixth-formers since the summer of 2008. The idea was originally proposed by OA Julius Green who, as one of Abingdon's illustrious former thespians and now a West End Theatre producer, had regularly been called upon to offer careers advice at School careers' conventions. As he tells it, the number of punters beating a path to his door on those occasions was often underwhelming, and he soon realized that most aspiring actors were far too cool to turn up to a draughty classroom in February to discuss ways into 'the business'. Far better, he reasoned, to invite them to a dinner where they could sit next to professional actors, directors, writers or producers and do what theatre people do best: eat, drink and talk about themselves.

Thus, on a balmy May evening in 2010, 70 people gathered in the CMR for pre-prandial drinks ahead of the third Abingdon-St Helen's Drama Dinner. Among the guests were actors Sir Jeremy Child, Peter Temple and Sally

Nesbitt (who, as well as telling us about her life as an actress was also able to share fascinating stories about the first ascent of Everest in 1953, which was led by her father, Lord Hunt.) Also in attendance were the writer and performer Triona Adams, the actress and producer Lucy Barnett, and directors Richard Howard and Joe Harmston. It was also a delight to welcome back recent OAs Max Hutchinson and Huw Parmenter who, together with Alex Mugnaioni, were part of a 'golden generation' of Abingdon actors who left in 2007 to train at the prestigious Rose Bruford College. They were joined by two talented former pupils from St Helen's, Martha Bennett (who is appearing with the National Youth Theatre and Theatre de Complicite) and Kate Shlugmann (who is currently studying drama at Exeter University and acting in / directing numerous productions there).

Julius himself, in a parody of the hard-pressed showbiz impresario, made the introductions before piling into a waiting cab to race back to London to arrive in time for the final curtain of a show he'd directed at the King's Head in Islington. Impressive commitment indeed, further underlined by a phone call Julius made later in the evening to check that things were still going with a swing!

Of course, the evening belonged to the Sixth-form Theatre Studies' students who made the most of the opportunity to grill the professionals about what they did and how they got into it. Entertainment between the courses was provided by a bevy of St Helen's songbirds – Millie Hoskins, Emily Barrett, Claudia Stott and the peerless Mollie Hodge. After speeches and a slideshow reminding us of the theatrical highs and lows of the departing U6th's school drama careers, the guests departed into the night in a manner recalling Propsero's words from *The Tempest*:

*Our revels now are ended. These our actors,  
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and  
Are melted into air, into thin air:  
And, like the baseless fabric of this  
vision,  
The cloud-capp'd tow'rs, the gorgeous  
palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great globe  
itself,  
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve  
And, like this insubstantial pageant  
faded,  
Leave not a rack behind.*

*Jeremy Taylor*

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# Abingdon Film Unit

## Review of the Year

The Abingdon Film Unit's seventh year saw the ambition and scope of the students' films continue to grow. Back in 2003, at the Unit's first annual screening, the documentaries had been shot in Abingdon, Oxford and Reading. In 2009/10, AFU filmmakers found subjects in London, Bristol, Geneva, Beijing and Moldova. Animations were not part of the 2003 screening, but after they arrived in 2005, we discovered that their creators regularly took audiences to far-flung worlds. Even so, this year's crop showed a special thirst for adventure as their characters plunged us into black holes or lead us to the gates of heaven.

2009/10 was another very successful year for the Unit. Highlights included two major awards at the BFI's *Future Film Festival* in January (best documentary for Tian Ji's *A Soldier* and best animation for Pierre Leveque's *Oh No My Dog!* and the premiere of *One Foot on the Ground* at the National Film Theatre in March. That prompted features about the Unit on BBC local radio and television, and invitations to present the film to an All Party Parliamentary Group at Westminster, and at the UK's Embassy in Chisinau.

These exciting outcomes were a tribute to the creativity and dedication of the students, and all those who supported them. But they were also products of the AFU tutors' endeavours to promote students' curiosity, exploration and deeper understanding of the world around them. Their vision could not have developed without

the enthusiastic backing of the Headmaster, Mark Turner, to whom this year's collection of films was dedicated. The screening in May provided an opportunity to thank Mark publicly for his support, and wish Elizabeth and Mark well as they prepared for their new roles at Shrewsbury.

The year began for new students with a programme of screenings and workshops designed to introduce a range of approaches to storytelling. The aim was to deepen students' thinking about the film ideas they'd pitched on entry to the Unit. The induction period included two trips to the Oxford Natural History Museum to capture aspects of this remarkable building and its collections. Meanwhile, for some of the experienced members, editing work was already well underway. James Yan had travelled to China in the summer holidays to make a film about a man who was fighting not only the AIDS virus, but also official attitudes to it in that vast and powerful country. Matthew Copson, Tom Bateman and William McDowell were sifting through the 14 hours of footage they had recorded on their first trip to Moldova in July, and preparing for their second trip in October.

October also saw another visit to Wheatley Park School to participate in the fifth annual *New Shoots* festival from which the AFU emerged with awards for best sound in *The Sacrifice* (by Matthew Choi, Simon Lam & Will Abell) and best animation for *Solitude* (by Henry Dunbar). *The Sacrifice* picked up more awards later in the year at the *THiNK Series* festival in Hong Kong. This time it won the best editing and, rather intriguingly, the best script awards.

As the year progressed, some ideas flourished while others fell by the wayside. Larry Sider, a good friend of the AFU and tutor at the National Film and Television School, delivered a brilliant workshop on the complex structure of a film soundtrack that revealed just how much goes into the crafting of the sounds we hear in a film. As always, the levels of commitment, effort and determination required to complete a film surprised those beguiled by the ease with which we consume films made by others. Perhaps in comparison with some years, the final tally of five documentaries, one training film and five animations may have seemed lightweight, but considering the length and complexity of the Moldova and China films, which between them accounted for nearly forty minutes of screen time, the overall output of the Unit was on a par with previous years.

Another new element this year was a Film Unit Reunion Dinner in May that brought together around 60 people for a formal dinner to mark seven years of the AFU and the production in that time of very nearly 100 films. As well as parents, current and former members of the AFU, also present were many of the professionals from the worlds of film and television that have made such a decisive contribution to the success of the Unit, including the Cannes *Palme d'Or* winner, Geoff Dunbar; Head of Sky News, John Ryley; Managing Director of Lion Television, Richard Bradley; comedy writer Paul Mayhew-Archer and of course our lead tutors, Michael Grigsby and Joanna Harrison. The Headmaster received a 1970s Bolex film camera from the Unit's members as a memento of his time at Abingdon and in recognition of his key role as supporter and patron of the AFU.



The defining feature of the AFU experience is the chance for students to develop their work with the guidance of a very special team of film industry professionals that this year included Michael Grigsby, Jonas Mortensen, Mikkel Eriksen, Nikolaj Larsen, Larry Sider, Rebekah Tolley and Joanna Harrison. To them, we offer our warmest thanks.

*Jeremy Taylor*

### The Abingdon Film Unit, 2009/10

Will Abell  
Aislinn Baird  
Freddie Barber  
Tom Bateman  
Michael Bicarregui  
Joe Brown  
Harry Browning  
Gabriel Burrow  
Johnny Burrow  
Fred Clamp-Gray

Charly Clive  
Matthew Copson  
Henrik Cox  
Charles Day  
Henry Dunbar  
Charlie Floyd  
Emily Heath  
Christopher Hyde  
Jibran Huq  
Tian Ji

Pierre Leveque  
Will McDowell  
Christopher Mears  
Jack Oliver  
Joe Ridley  
Aidan Robertson  
Ted Thompson  
Evan Westenbrink  
James Yan  
Christopher Young



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# AFU Programme, 2010

## 1. **The Natural History Museum** by Pierre Leveque

Oxford University's Natural History Museum displays life in nearly all its forms. But when we peer into the glass jars and display cases, who's looking at whom?

## 2. **A Dice with Death** by Christopher Young, Michael Bicarregui & Christopher Mears

A fight over a die leads to a cliff-hanging finale in front of the pearly gates.

## 3. **Urban Symphony** by Evan Westenbrink and Christopher Hyde

Documentary abstracted to its simplest form, capturing life and the hustle of a city environment.

## 4. **Chase** by Henrik Cox

Audiences were warned to expect the unexpected in this claymation about one man and his dog.

## 5. **A Man of Letters** by Jack Oliver, Joe Brown, Will Abell

A documentary about the well-known graffiti artist EINE whose signature style of large, colourfully designed letters has long been brightening up his native east London.

## 6. **Waiting for Godot** by Henry Dunbar

Fans of Beckett's seminal play were either amused or outraged at this humorous twist on a classic of the Theatre of the Absurd genre.

## 7. **And / Or** by Tian Ji

A man at work in a small space, translating UN clauses.

## 8. **The Helper** by Fred Clamp-Gray

Ever wondered how the average schoolboy survives? Here was your answer as this short claymation revealed all.

## 9. **Seminal Paint and the Black Hole Frenzy** by Freddie Barber

An ironic twist of events from a character who promised so much.

## 10. **Living It** by James Yan

A man living with AIDS in China tells his extraordinary story.

## 11. **One Foot on the Ground** by Matthew Copson, Tom Bateman, Will McDowell

Andrei Zelenetchii is a promising young basketball player trying to secure his future in Moldova, Europe's poorest country. Intelligent and driven, he balances his time between working long hours on a construction site and playing basketball with his friends on a local court. Like so many his age, Andrei is torn between pursuing his passion abroad or staying in Moldova to build a life alongside family and friends.

*Jeremy Taylor*





# Dance

## The Abingdon Dance Project: Stepping Out

January 2010 year saw the birth of a new joint Other Half activity in the aesthetically pleasing form of the Abingdon Dance Project. Established in the wake of the senior production of *West Side Story* in December 2009, in which OA Matthew Hawksworth's choreography had been a particular highlight, the ADP offered students the chance to work with professional dancers and choreographers.

A group of 27 students from Abingdon and St Helen's met once a week in the new dance studio in the Sports Centre to work with Matthew and his colleague, Spencer James. From the outset, both these London-based professionals demanded commitment and the highest standards whilst also ensuring that sessions were enjoyable and fun. Each 'class' included warm-ups and exercises designed to increase fitness and flexibility, a teaching section to develop knowledge and skills, and work on choreography using a variety of styles and contemporary music. Once an initial framework for a piece had been established, the students were always encouraged to create their own choreography for a section of the song.

Work continued throughout the Lent term, weathering the inevitable depredations of illness and coursework, until by the end of March, the ADP boasted five numbers in its repertoire. A decision was taken to present the work early in the Summer term,



and *Stepping Out* was the result – a Sunday afternoon programme of original choreography that saw Abingdon and St Helen's students share the Amey Theatre stage with a troupe of professional dancers from London assembled by Matt, as well as three brave couples from the Abingdon Common Room who performed in the School's first 'Common Room Come Dancing Competition' under the judicial eyes of David Dawswell, Adam Jenkins, Matthew Hawksworth and Jyothi Giles. The staff contestants included Megan Bowdrey (dancing with her husband Mark), Andrew Loughe and Su McRae, and Robert Jeffreys with partner Tamsin Howells. After a keenly fought competition in which all three couples achieved a very high standard, Robert and his partner Tamsin emerged victorious. The programme was completed by screenings of three short films by members of the Abingdon Film Unit – James Yan's *Dance with Stacey*, OA Oliver Zeldin's *You Can't*

*Dip Doritos in Jazz* and a film called *My Name Is*, which was made by young Moldovan children in 2008. The event raised nearly £500 in support of the AFU's recent documentary on Moldova.

The Abingdon Dance Project will continue in 2010/11, and extend to cater for students in Years 9 & 10 as well as those in Years 11-13. The Abingdon Dance Project will feature Will Abell, Charlie Bateman, Robert Brooks, Jyothi Giles, Gabrielle Gleeson, Victoria Gleeson, Sam Hardy, Ben Haveron, Will Hewstone, Kitty Hutchison, Miranda Jackson, Henry Jenkinson, Amelia Juster, Nicholas Krol, Pierre Leveque, Kia Little, Adrian Lo, Catherine Livesley, Joe Ridley, Amy Robinson, Elizabeth Rushbrook, Lucy Taylor, Kat Telford, Jack Trodd, Jess Watts, Yexuan Yang, Chris Young

*Jeremy Taylor*

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# Music

## Piano Masterclass with Professor Nador

On Wednesday 14 October, it was a rare privilege to welcome Professor Gyorgy Nador to Abingdon School a visit that we hope will be repeated. Throughout the day he gave inspiring lessons to several of Abingdon's most advanced pianists, concluding with an evening masterclass to which parents and pupils were invited.

Gyorgy Nador is one of the senior piano professors at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest. He has given countless masterclasses to distinguished pianists around the world. He inspires many with his lectures on the principles of teaching, advanced piano technique and various musical styles – for example, he gave lectures on the works of Bartok in Japan, the US, Australia, Stockholm and Berlin. He has twice been given the Award of Excellence in Teaching by the Hungarian President.

Thanks to my teacher, Lynette Stulting, I have several times had the opportunity of participating in masterclasses given by Professor Nador, once in Hungary, so I knew in advance that this experience for the School would be beyond exceptional. Even after half an hour of being taught, he reveals new perspectives on musicality and performing, so when he gave hour-long masterclasses to many of our pianists, they went away as inspired, better musicians.



I played Schubert's *Impromptu No.3* and a Chopin *Etude* in my masterclass. I believe that Professor Nador's advice helped me to win the Chandos Young Musician Competition soon afterwards, as well as being able to play the Schubert with more mature understanding in Remembrance Assembly the next month. Although all the participating pianists were at similarly advanced standards, Gyorgy Nador seemed to be able to give unique advice to each of the players as he quickly understood how their minds worked, something that can only come from years of experience. For example, Joe Ereaut, who played Liszt's demanding *Hungarian Rhapsody No.2*, received tips not only on the virtuosic nature of the piece but on how to show the subtler moods and colours through which the piece moves. He showed Adrian Lo (Rachmaninov's

*Prelude in G sharp minor*) and Gerald Chan (Chopin's Nocturne in C minor) how to capture the full extent of the raw emotional passion of their pieces for the audience. Players in the final concert received a masterclass in front of a full audience. They were Timothy Li, Tom Chan, Joe Mason, Adrian Lo, Gerald Chan, Caspian Mitchard, Osman Tack, Joseph Ereaut, Alex Ereaut and Jack Swanborough.

The reactions of the pianists and audience suggested that the event was a complete success and that so much was learned. We all hope this can be repeated. I must thank the School and Lynette Stulting for arranging this visit, The Music Society for financing it and Professor Nador for a memorable day of music and guidance.

*Osman Tack 6 SJG*





## African Sanctus

*African Sanctus* by David Fanshawe is a fusion of the traditional Latin mass and authentic African music recorded by the composer during travels through Africa between 1969 and 1973. Fanshawe's *Sanctus Journey*, from the Mediterranean to Lake Victoria and from the mountains of West Sudan to the Red Sea, became the framework of the piece – a symbolic cross-shaped pilgrimage. The aim of the work is to show through a blending of musical styles that there should be no barriers between people from different nations. The result is a truly original and inspiring work: to quote Sir David Willcocks, “the music is as fresh today as when first heard in 1972 and its message of peace, goodwill and understanding between nations just as relevant”. The Joint Choral Society of St Helen's and Abingdon School chose this unique piece for their concert this year.

Rehearsals began in September under the dynamic direction of Jenni Matthews whose seemingly endless

patience ensured that all of the notes were mastered by the time we came to the concert – even if she did have to demonstrate the top soprano line more times than she would have liked! Olivia Newbold expertly provided the piano accompaniment both at rehearsals and at the concert. On the day of the performance the 110 strong chorus, consisting of students, staff, and parents from both schools, gathered in the afternoon for a final rehearsal on stage complete with all of the instrumentalists and the African recordings. It was only perhaps at this point when everything was put together that the performers could see quite how exciting *African Sanctus* could be.

The concert began with a very energetic and fast-moving version of the traditional *Sanctus* with the chorus singing against the driving rhythms beaten out by three of the School's senior percussionists, Veeral Manek, Alistair Duff, and Rory Marsh who were joined by Second and Third-year members of the African Drum Circle – they all coped extremely well with the ever-changing time signatures and

gave an excellent vitality to the opening movement. Jack Tinker meanwhile had the particularly difficult job of playing the recordings of the African music throughout, having to cue things accurately and quickly and respond to demands from the conductor over the radio mic for more or less volume.

The more contemplative *Kyrie* was sung in tandem with a recording of a Muslim Call to Prayer made in Cairo – it was here perhaps more than in any other section of the work that the audience could really appreciate the blending of musical ideas emphasising the blending of religious ideas. The *Gloria* began with a recording made at an Egyptian wedding followed by the chorus shouting the opening words led by tenor and basses with sopranos and altos replying – a certain competitiveness was in evidence at this point as the two halves of the chorus tried to outdo each other in volume. The *Gloria* also saw the first appearance of the main soloist, Christina Shand, a graduate of Trinity College of Music – her beautifully clear intonation saw her soar over the chorus with some stunning top notes.

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Fanshawe's setting of the *Crucifixus* started in truly menacing fashion with a recording of a Ugandan dance taking place in a heavy rainstorm – the tenors and basses then came crashing in with their snarling cry of "Crucifixus!" Fanshawe notes that the war in Sudan was something that for him paralleled the suffering of Christ on the cross and there was certainly a strong martial feel to the movement as the singing of the chorus (now in eight parts) became more and more forceful with Tom Earl and Mike Summers (on electric guitar and bass guitar respectively) making their first entry and adding to the frenetic drive of the piece as it moved relentlessly onwards until resolving with the hope offered at the end by the idea of the resurrection.

In 1969 Fanshawe recorded a funeral lament for a fisherman who had died during the night. As he watched the grief of the man's wife and mother, the words of the Lord's Prayer came into his mind and he went on to compose a setting of the words which he intended to be a reflective and soothing response to the lament – the quieter tone that this offered after all the excitement of the previous movements was highly effective and the beautiful solo by Rosie Miller, a Sixth-Former from St Helen's, was performed to perfection.

The concert ended with a final movement in which the opening *Sanctus* and *Gloria* were repeated leading to an exciting climax involving

all instrumentalists and singers in the final cry of "Sanctus Dominus!"

Congratulations must go to Jenni for leading the practices and conducting the final concert so expertly. Her obvious enthusiasm for the piece was infectious, while her energy drove all the performers on to give a truly thrilling performance. The Amey Theatre audience will surely not hear anything else quite like it for some time!

*Adam Jenkins*





## Christmas Concerts

The 2009 Christmas Concerts gave the School an opportunity to showcase the busy activity that characterises the Michaelmas Term, and for the Upper Sixth to demonstrate their considerable talents. It has been a privilege for the music staff to work with this group of young musicians, many of whom had been at the School since they were First-formers.

As ever, the entire Lower School, in a massed choir, provided the 'introit' with *Dodi Li*, an Israeli love song, which was followed by *Hark*, a seasonal song by Bill Readdy. In both songs, the choir responded with customary enthusiasm to Miss Matthews' dynamic direction, and many proud mums and dads were able to reflect on the musical/vocal progress, and loss of inhibition, of their sons since they had joined the School, a reflection of the School's philosophy that all can and should sing!

Chamber Orchestra, led by Adrian Lo, played a contrasting trio of pieces – Bach's *A minor Violin Concerto* (finale) with Charlie Hall, a short piece, *Song*, by Adam Carse, and a piece, very popular with the boys and suitably festive, *Duelling Jingle Strings*, by Adam Carse. The exciting playing reminded us all of the strength and dynamism of Abingdon's string department under its distinguished Head of Strings, Mariette Pringle.

First Wind Band, conducted by bandmaster, Andy Townsend, ushered in the interval with their own trio of pieces – *Troika* (Prokofiev's memorable masterpiece from Lieutenant Kije), *Coldplay on Stage* (a popular choice with the boys) and the main theme from *Superman*, (even more popular with the boys). All three pieces were



played with panache and exuberance by a band, which, with some real stars in all sections, will take some beating in the years to come. Mr Townsend, resplendent in white tuxedo, certainly made a strong bid to outdress the other musical participants in this thoroughly professional performance.

After the interval a small drum circle of four Second-formers, playing a piece called *Kuku*, provided a sort of musical fanfare for the Big Band's first serious outing since their highly successful tour to Tuscany in the summer. The Big Band set included three real favourites – *A Night in Tunisia* (Gillespie), *Tuxedo Junction* (Miller) and *Spain* (Chick Corea). The latter, in particular, is at the professional end of the Big Band repertoire, with its exotic Hispanic and Latin rhythms of great complexity and it was a real tribute to the band that they pulled it off with such apparent ease. Certainly, Mr Currie, who led the band again in inimitable fashion, seemed delighted by the performance that the boys gave, spearheaded by the likes of Jack Tinker and George Rossiter (trumpets), Euan Campbell and Andrew Dart (trombones), Joe Mason (keyboard), Mike Summers (guitar) and Veeral Manek (drums).

And so to the Grand Finale – much anticipated by the boys – First Orchestra in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in*

*Blue*, played by piano legend, Osman Tack. This was a performance to remember... Ozy was totally on top of the demanding piano part and played with real style and virtuosity in a performance made possible by a particularly strong orchestra including David Mears (clarinet in that fiendish opening glissando), Jack Tinker (trumpet), Euan Campbell (trombone) and Veeral Manek (percussion).

The final work, perhaps bizarrely, was an overture – Shostakovich's *Festive Overture* is a real orchestral bonanza, with a triumphant opening brass fanfare and a breakneck allegro which is more the province of county youth orchestra repertoire than of a school. We all had great fun rehearsing it and it was wonderful to perform it before the snow descended and made the rehearsal process particularly challenging.

The audience joined the orchestra to sing us out with *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, before tumbling into the night after contributing most generously to a retiring collection amounting to some £883 for *Nightingales*, a small independent charity working with HIV affected young people in Cernavoda, Romania, which is run by Ben Wells OA and former Head of School. It was certainly a concert to remember.

*Michael Stinton*

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## The New Year Charity Concert

The annual New Year Charity Concert on 21 January saw over 160 of the School's musicians, both senior and junior, involved in music making of all kinds. The items included three bands (Second Wind Band, Brass Band and Big Band Jazz), Junior Strings, First Orchestra, Second Orchestra and Cello Orchestra.

Despite the severe weather in early January, with the consequent loss of rehearsal time, the ensembles were in fine form. Lighter music and jazz were particularly well represented with *Harry Potter* music, *Raindrops Keep Fallin'*, *Fly Me to the Moon* and *Pink Panther*, together with *Bandstand Boogie* and the *James Bond* collection.

Particularly notable was a fantastic performance of Klengel's *Hymnus* for fourteen cellos directed by the School's cello teacher, Valerie Findlay, which provided a rich sound and a great spectacle.



First Orchestra concluded the concert with Ippolitov-Ivanov's *Caucasian Sketch*, *Procession of the Sardar* and the title track to the Western, *The Magnificent Seven*. A surprise encore was provided with Elgar's beautiful *Nimrod* from his *Enigma Variations*. The ticket sales and retiring collection raised a total of over £1,300 for the *Oxfam Haiti Earthquake Disaster Appeal*.

Michael Stinton, the Director of Music, said, "I am delighted by the way that Abingdon Boys continue to rise to the occasion and turn in beautiful performances. I think the subject of the appeal this year gave an added poignancy to their efforts, of which they should be very proud".

*Jenni Matthews*







## Strings Masterclass with Levon Chilingirian OBE

On the 26 of February, five of the finest violin and viola players in School, together with a rapt audience, enjoyed the musical insight and technical tuition of Levon Chilingirian. Mr Chilingirian is an internationally renowned violinist as well as the founder of the much-acclaimed *Chilingirian Quartet*.

Osman Tack began the evening with Brahms' *Violin Sonata in G major*. Here Mr Chilingirian picked up on some of his bowing styles, for instance when the violin quite often has to negotiate around

fast broken octaves and arpeggiated figures. Mr Chilingirian's advice about using a lighter and more flexible bow-hold transformed the piece from an already virtuosic performance into a delight to listen to.

With Adrian Lo, leader of the 1st Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, Mr Chilingirian noticed Adrian had a tendency to hold the violin quite low, instead of keeping the neck upright. This was not only a suggestion to improve Adrian's slightly jazzy sonatas but it was advice to improve all his playing, and watching Adrian over the next few days, that is what happened. Other pointers included focusing the pressure of the bow to improve the tone of the sound, and very useful shifting tricks that allowed Adrian to more easily navigate to the higher regions of the violin range in the Ravel *Sonata*.

Needless to say, these also worked wonders.

The audience, consisting largely of very musical individuals, enjoyed three more solo performances in which Mr Chilingirian explored compositional techniques like octaves on the violin (which he suggested was a pointless technique since if a violinist wanted to play louder he could simply play louder, without the boost of octaves) and discussed left-hand finger positions with Wellington Hsu and Andrew Doll, who also received beneficial bowing advice.

All in all the evening was a treat and everyone present learned a great deal. Special thanks should go to Mrs Pringle, Head of Strings, for her fantastic accompaniment.

*Humphrey Thompson 4 RSS*

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## Choral Concert for Moldova

This was a momentous occasion: not only was it the first opportunity to celebrate Abingdon's ten-year link with the charity *AGAPE*, working with underprivileged children in Moldova, but it was also the chance to hear Abingdon's three vocal ensembles together in one concert.

After pre-concert drinks, the audience settled down to a varied programme of music spanning songs from the British Isles and Eastern Europe. The Chapel Choir set an impressive tone, starting the concert with a beautiful arrangement of an English folk song, *The Water Is Wide*, arranged by Simon Whalley. Their programme also included a Czech carol and a very sensitive setting of a Moldovan folk tune for the choir, arranged by Humphrey Thompson. Perhaps their most dazzling performance was that of the *Three Hungarian Folk Songs*, which had been learned from memory and involved some very fast rhythmic singing, which was performed with seeming ease!

The School Choir's contribution began with a tricky Moldovan song arranged for treble voices. The twenty-strong First and Second Year members of the choir

sang with character and excitement, and dealt well with Miss Matthews' suggestion that the piece should get faster and faster – and when you're singing in Romanian, that's more than a little challenging! The programme continued, using different combinations of choir members. Freddie Stott gave a haunting unaccompanied verse to open the English folk song, *Black Is the Colour*, before being joined by the rest of the choir, and he showed real skill in bringing the piece down to a controlled whisper at the end. A quartet of soloists, Henry Jenkinson, Joe Mason, Alistair Nicoll and Caspian Mitchard, performed a slushy love song, *Vino, Vino*. Miss Matthews was disappointed to learn that the translation was not 'Wine, Wine!', although there was a wine-related song, *Tai, Diri, Diri*, performed by the tenors and basses later in the programme; strangely, the boys had no difficulty imagining they were portly Moldovan wine-drinkers – the character required to give the song the necessary rugged spirit ... Certain individuals deserve special mention for taking on solos within the School Choir programme: Henry Jenkinson performed the solo in *La Umbra* with total commitment and expression, supported by a strong vocal trio of Ben Haveron, William Hewstone and Robert Brooks. Kelvin Poon, Robert Noyes and Will Abell were another triumphant trio. And it was not just the senior singers who took solo roles:

Adam Hargreaves, a First-former at Abingdon, confidently performed the first verse of *She Moved Through the Fair*, an Irish folk tune.

The well-known confidence and polish of the *Abingdon Academicals* was very much in evidence in their programme. All of their items from the British Isles were arranged by Abingdon School members: Joe Mason set *Scarborough Fair and Waters of Tyne*, which were immaculately performed and with such sensitivity, and the Welsh melody, *Suo Gan*, arranged by Simon Whalley, seemed to be perfectly suited to the eight voices of the *Academicals*. Their foreign explorations were particularly wide ranging and finished with the rhythmic feat that is the *Geographical Fugue*, impressively performed and unusual especially in that it is spoken not sung.

There was a surprise. Little tends to be known about Moldovan music in this country, but one Eurovision-esque phenomenon – well known to so many – just had to close the programme. Sometimes referred to as the 'nu ma nu ma ie!' song, *Dragostea Din Tei*, was performed in full costume by Toby Marlow and Charlie Bateman, our lookalikes of the Moldovan band *Ozone*, with choir accompaniment, rhythm section and smoke machine. The singers gave it their all and the audience seemed to find the spectacular (or is that spectacularly cheesy?) choreography entertaining, and happy strains of 'miya hee, miya hoo' could be heard as the audience left the auditorium. Just one worrying question remains: did Charlie and Toby really own those outfits?

Over £700 was raised for *AGAPE* and will go towards funding a summer camp for Moldovan children to the Carpathian Mountains in Romania.

*Jenni Matthews*





## Singers' Platform

The Singers' Platform gave the senior boys – among a small army of boys who take singing lessons – a chance to show their mettle in a solo context. Andrew Yeats, the boys' singing teacher, magnificently supported them at the piano through a feast of solo and ensemble singing throughout the evening.

The items in the programme covered the full range of voices from bass (Otta Jones in Sarastro's aria, *O Isis and Osiris* from *The Magic Flute*), through baritone (Caspian Mitchard in Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel*), to tenor (John Carter in Vaughan Williams' *Blake Songs*) and countertenor (Lewis Spring in Handel's *O Death, Where is thy Sting?*). The repertoire ranged from Handel and Bach, Mozart, Schumann, Brahms through Quilter and Britten to musical theatre (Henry Jenkinson in Lowdermilk's *Run Away with Me*).

Whilst all the performances were truly impressive, there were some that really stood out. Fifteen-year-old Humphrey Thompson's baritone/tenor was remarkable in Bach's *Grosser Herr* from the *Christmas Oratorio* for the quality and projection of the voice, as was Robert Brooks in Handel's *Why do the Nations* for its professional maturity and sheer performance instinct. The second half of the concert included a tranche of arias and duets from the *Messiah* including Adrian Lo in *The Trumpet Shall Sound*. The concert concluded with the bass duet, *The Lord is a Man of War* from Handel's *Israel in Egypt* where two evenly matched voices made a huge impact.

A number of our singers have come to us from chorister backgrounds such as Magdalen College Oxford, King's College Cambridge and St George's Chapel, Windsor. But there is no doubt that Abingdon benefits hugely from its special relationship with New College, Oxford – we currently have ten former

choristers and the two current Head Choristers have been awarded music scholarships to Abingdon next year. Equally, Abingdon is very fortunate in having a superb singing teacher in Andrew Yeats, who works his magic with the boys as they navigate the voice change, often soon after arriving with us. Many of the pupils then go on to a choral scholarship at the next stage, some, like Guy Cutting, returning to their *alma mater* – in his case as a tenor Academical Clerk at New College.

The audience at the Singers' Platform was left in no doubt that singing is thriving at Abingdon. The next project will be a return visit of the internationally famous, Sir Robert Tear, to take a Singing Masterclass in the Michaelmas Term 2010.

*Michael Stinton*





## Junior Scholars' Concert

With boys in the upper three years away on revision leave, the second half of the Summer term affords musicians in the First, Second, Third and Fourth Forms, an opportunity to show how they are developing. This year the concert took place on the day that we returned from half term.

The audience was not to be disappointed. We heard six solo pianists, Sebastian Johns, Lewis Spring, George Ruck, Joseph Ereat, George Burrage and Leon Wu in a wide variety of repertoire: Fuchs, Arnold,

Poulenc, Liszt, Debussy and Chopin. All five demonstrated the tremendous technical and music advances that they have made over the last nine months or so.

Jack May played some impressive cello in Saint-Saens' *Allegro Appassionato* and Oscar Talbot some promising work on the same instrument in Cesar Cui's *Orientale*. Sam Gibb made a pleasing debut as an oboist in Geminiani's *E Minor Sonata*.

After the interval we were treated to some impressive ensemble work – a *Rondo* for piano quartet and a movement for string quartet by Mozart, both played with poise and

stylistic understanding. The last three items were for solo violins, Humphrey Thompson in Bach, George Ruck in Borowski and Lewis Spring in Potstock, all three showing an exciting potential for future stardom.

The concert started, for the first time ever, with a solo item for bagpipes – *Skye Boat Song* and another traditional tune, played by Finlay Garland. With a generation of particularly distinguished musicians among our Upper Sixth leavers this year, it was heart-warming to be reassured of the very considerable musical potential that exists among our younger pupils.

*Michael Stinton*



## Big Colours & Big Band Jazz Evening

In a spirit of trying something new with a creative and educational spin, a casual conversation with Abingdon Big Band leader and sax teacher, Simon Currie, led to an exciting concert and an innovative project in the Amey Theatre on Friday 18 June.

There is no doubt that the chance to hear a top professional band is an unmissable prospect for an Abingdon Big Band of gifted young players. Simon Currie suggested that his own *Big Colours Band* from Oxford could visit to share a concert platform with the Abingdon band – they could each perform their own set and play together at the end.

Equally, the young musicians of local prep schools, The Manor and Abingdon Prep could participate at the same concert at the start, combining with the Abingdon boys and staying to hear and be inspired by both bands.

So it was that a somewhat different *Jazz on a Summer's Evening* came into being. And what a night it proved to be! There was a real 'buzz' about the place – and, of course, the Amey Theatre was full of lots of proud mums and dads, as well as youngsters, despite the England – Algeria World Cup first round match, the same night.

There were a number of extra connections too. The *Big Colours Band* boasts three Abingdon visiting teachers – Simon Currie, Mike Wilkins (saxes), and Andy Townsend (trumpet), who is better known to the boys as their bandmaster and trumpet teacher. It was also wonderful to have the

illustrious Tom Richards (OA 1999) playing. Tom, a gifted professional sax player, has his own Jazz orchestra and is currently taking a rest from Jamie Cullum's world tour. Tom has gone on to great things and is currently orchestrating some music for a BBC Promenade Concert in August this year.

So, what of the music? The combination pieces included *Funk One*, which started the concert. This was an ideal piece (by Simon Currie) for the youngsters to play with the Abingdon boys. Chick Corea's *Spain* with its wonderfully infectious rhythms was the perfect chart to finish with – a popular number with the boys and at the limit of their technical ability, but brought to an outstanding level of polish with the professionals alongside.

Many of the Abingdon band's favourites were on display – highlights included *Mercy, Mercy* with its native American Indian section, *Big Band Jive*, *Night in Tunisia* and *Lil Darlin*, featuring Jack Tinker (trumpet). The showstopper, however, was first, *Fly me to the Moon*, a Sinatra number performed stylishly by Euan Campbell (vocals), our Head of School. The following number, *Me and my Shadow*, featured Euan in a duet with Simon Balderson (of the ICT Department) in almost their final performance before both leaving at the end of term, Euan to read Classics, at

Balliol, and Simon to Shiplake College as Head of ICT.

The *Big Colours* set was outstanding. Comprising many past and present members of NYJO (National Youth Jazz Orchestra), their repertoire was very varied from 1930s to the present day. I was struck by the amazing variety of colours and textures that they produced. The solos were stunning from all the players, but we were particularly excited to hear those from Tom Richards OA, and Simon Currie. It was excellent, also, to hear the musical strains of penny whistle in a quirky but highly successful solo, and the soprano sax of Simon Currie in *Masquerade* by Leon Russell.

And wow – what a finale! A paen of sound recalling the famous melody of Rodrigo's guitar *Concierto d'Aranjuez* from the massed Big Band created such an exciting opening. Telling, too, was that Latin rhythm and those outstanding solos, starting with our own Tom Earl (sax), holding his own alongside the professionals.

Thanks to Simon Currie for an outstanding evening, which was so valuable, both creatively and educationally. This was a night to remember!

*Michael Stinton*



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## Farewell Concert at The Sheldonian

A beautiful day in Oxford provided a wonderful setting at the Sheldonian Theatre for the end of year concert on Friday 25 June. The concert provided a platform for Abingdon's Senior ensembles and some of its musical stars, many of whom were leaving at the end of term.

The concert began with Chamber Orchestra, highlighting soloists Jack Tinker and George Rossiter, in Vivaldi's *Double Trumpet Concerto*. An exciting performance exploited the spatial possibilities of the theatre with

the soloists placed high up on each side of the Great Organ. After this, Caspian Mitchard, under the direction of Mariette Pringle Abingdon's Head of Strings, played Poulenc's *Organ Concerto*.

School Choir with Miss Matthews gave an exciting rendition of O-re-mi, an arrangement of Nigerian highlife music with unusual polychoral effects and tremendous energy. Big Band followed with *Big Band Jive*, *A Night in Tunisia* and *Me and My Shadow* featuring Euan Campbell and Simon Balderson as soloists (Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jnr.)

Orchestral music followed with Mozart's *Horn Concerto Rondo Finale* (soloist Joe Mason) in a special ensemble led from the violin by Adrian Lo. After

Reinicke's *Ballade* for flute (Alex Black), the audience settled to the main event, Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* with soloist Adrian Lo. This proved to be the highlight – Adrian played with great technical flair and musical artistry and the performance was powerful and moving.

We rounded off with Rossini's *William Tell* overture followed by a close harmony performance of Cole Porter's *Everytime we Say Goodbye*. It was a rousing and moving finale to the year and a fitting way to say farewell to many leavers, not least our Headmaster, Mark Turner, who addressed the large audience at the end of the concert.

*The Reverend Henry Kirk*





## Recording the Big Band

In the year when the Big Band has been unquestionably at its finest, it seemed only fitting to record the sound on CD, especially as we had the benefit of one of the most remarkably musically gifted Upper Sixths in recent years.

On the 5 July, the Big Band congregated in the Charles Maude Room to be met with a very professional, if not slightly intimidating, set-up of recording equipment. But the relaxed atmosphere combined with the sheer enthusiasm of Simon Currie and Andy Bush, soon led to a buzz of excitement in the room, with everyone eager to get the recording underway.

After a quick tune up, we launched head on into the first piece. The Band sounded incredible, with every individual applying that extra bit of effort to really make the CD worthwhile. However, it soon became apparent that making a CD wasn't just like playing a concert. It required a great amount of focus to play the pieces four or even five times in order to make each piece as good as it could be. But encouragement came when the sheer class of the Band really began to shine through.

The Big Band blitzed through the first couple of 'banker' pieces, including *Peter Gunn*, which created a tremendously positive outlook towards the rest of the day. The *Pink Panther* followed, Jamie Copus playing the well-known solo, which emphasised the band's rich and colourful harmonies. The first day of the two-day recording session proved very successful, despite some minor recording problems, which tested the band's temperament.



The second day commenced promptly at 9 am, with everybody fresh and revived for the day ahead. This was going to be the day that the more challenging pieces would be recorded, including Chick Corea's *Spain* and *The Chicken*. These featured some of the Big Band's most talented soloists who flourished on these demanding pieces in which they were able to demonstrate their musical flair. Mike Summers and Thomas Earl took the spotlight in *Spain*, with Will Davey in *The Chicken*. Joe Mason was in a class of his own in *Autumn Leaves*, as was Jack Tinker in the Dizzy Gillespie composition *A Night In Tunisia*, which was seemingly made for him.

A highlight for some was the vocal numbers, sung with pure eloquence by Euan Campbell and Simon Balderson. The duo performed the duet *Me and My Shadow* in an extraordinary, Sinatra-esque fashion.

Finally the jazz sextet made their addition to the recording, consisting of Mike Summers, Veeral Manek, Joe Mason, Jack Tinker, Thomas Earl and Aiden Thorne, who returned

to Abingdon especially for the CD. Consisting primarily of leavers, this addition featured some of the best Upper Sixth musicians at Abingdon in years. The group added a virtuosic edge to the recording, and captivated the essence of the music with fine maturity.

Overall, the recording was a phenomenal success and a perfect way to end an era of the Big Band. But it was also very reassuring to see the resounding talent and potential in the lower years, which will ensure that the high standards of the Band are continued for years to come.

A final thank you should be made to Michael Stinton, Simon Currie and Andy Bush for all their time, effort and invaluable enthusiasm without which the CD would not have been possible. Thanks must also go to Simon Balderson whose support as a sax player and singer in the Band throughout his time at Abingdon has been hugely appreciated.

*Thomas Earl 5 CS*

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## Lower School Gala Concert

Abingdon's Lower School musical showcase of 2010 was certainly one to remember! In a year that saw the passing of one of the most remarkably musically gifted Upper Sixths of recent history, it was immensely reassuring to be made aware of the outstanding talent and potential of some of our younger musicians.

The Lower School Orchestra got proceedings underway with three orchestral pieces, Verdi's *March from Aida*, Tchaikovsky's overture from *Swan Lake* and *Rustic Dance* by Charles Woodhouse. Here the young orchestra – many had started their instruments barely nine months earlier – showed that they had begun to master the discipline and routines necessary for excellent orchestral ensemble playing. In particular, it was good to hear a very promising oboe section at the start

of the Tchaikovsky with its famous theme, as well as the trombone section blasting the same tune with great élan in the great tutti at the end.

Other impressive ensembles included Junior Strings under Mrs Pringle, First Year Choir under Miss Matthews and the Second Year African Drum Circle with an exciting devised piece at the end of the concert. In between these musical pillars of the concert there were a mixture of smaller ensembles and solos, including a fabulous brass quartet (Tommy Nicholson, James Law, Jack Walsh, Sam Kashti) in a most effective arrangement of *What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor*. Next came a Second Year String Quintet (Joe Barber, George England, Matthew Prior, Edward Reynolds and Henry Papworth on bass) with a *March* from Handel and a cello duet (Edward Reynolds and Anthony Bracey) in a duo sonata by Paxton.

There were some remarkable solo items to savour too; they included

Leon Wu (piano) in Debussy's *Clair de Lune*. Other pianists included Anthony Bracey in Grieg, Edward Reynolds in Villa-Lobos and Alex Davies in Cornick's jazzy *In the Groove*. A host of impressive violinists included Joe Barber, David Chung, Joseph Kelly and Leon Wu. Calum Farwell was splendid on bassoon, Henry Papworth on double bass, Jack Walsh on trombone (*The Acrobat*), Tommy Nicholson on trumpet and James Anderson-Besant on cornet.

Perhaps the prize for courage should go to our two solo singers, Joseph McNamara who sang *Walking in the Air* and Bruno Rogers with his one man band of voice, ukulele and mouth organ who brought the house down with *Sun, Sun, Sun* by *Noah and the Whale!* There is no doubt at all that our Lower School is bursting with talent so as one musical crop is harvested another new season presents its strong little shoots!

*Michael Stinton*







## Abingdon Academicals

Abingdon Academicals is a group of around 10 experienced singers who rehearse once a week and sing at services, concerts and other events. Although we sing some sacred music, we also explore a wide range of secular music, including jazz, songs from musicals and popular music.

This year the Academicals performed at the premiere of *Christus*, a series of four cantatas by Simon Whalley, which were performed in the Lent concert series at the chapel of Queen's College, Oxford. The Academicals formed part of the choir for *Christus* and it was a tremendous privilege to be involved in such a prestigious project and to sing such wonderful music. Musicians from Abingdon also played in the accompanying chamber ensemble for *Christus*.

The Academicals also enjoyed a tour to Paris this year. Having arrived by *Eurostar* on the Friday evening, we performed a concert of French sacred and secular music, and American easy-listening music, to an appreciative audience before enjoying a delicious fondue meal. We were fortunate enough to enjoy some sight-seeing while in Paris, including a trip to the Louvre, Notre Dame, a boat trip on the Seine and hot chocolate in Paris' finest café. We salute our leader Mr Whalley for his unfailing good humour, patience and musical expertise: many thanks!

*Joe Mason VI JJ*

## Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir has enjoyed a very successful year with several services and concerts. We rehearse two lunchtimes a week as a full choir and the trebles also rehearse one day after school; Chapel Choir members also have the opportunity to sing evensong, at School and on cathedral visits, as well as to sing at eucharists, school services and compline. Generally, the Choir sings sacred music, this year ranging from music by Byrd and Praetorius to music by Stanford, Ireland and Howells.

Our cathedral visits this year were to Gloucester Cathedral and Romsey Abbey. These were fantastic experiences for the Choir, as we could enjoy singing in a much larger

and more resonant space. The Choir rose to these occasions, singing with great ensemble and expression; we also enjoyed some organ voluntaries from choir members and Mr Fletcher-Campbell.

The Chapel Choir also sang three Czech folksongs in the Moldova concert in March. It was a great opportunity for the choir to sing some secular music and, unusually for them, to sing from memory; the audience seemed very impressed with the standard of the singing. Our thanks go to our excellent conductor Mr Whalley and to our reliable accompanist Mr Fletcher-Cambell for their hard work and enthusiasm this year.

*Joe Mason VI JJ*

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# Sport – Rugby



## 1st XV Rugby

The pre-season began with a trip to the University of Bath's excellent sporting facilities, the ones that Bath RFC use during their Guinness Premiership campaign. Having got acquainted with our surroundings we took our opportunity to use the indoor track (sharing it with the British Men's Bobsleigh Squad). Next day we made an early start in the Judo Dojo where the squad were put through their paces by one of the current British female competitors. It was a joy to see her demonstrate just how uncomfortable our players were with close-contact drills and it was a great experience for all the players, most particularly Ben Read. The tour ended with a good match against Sherborne's 1st XV, who were also training at Bath. All in all, it was a fantastic trip and I was very grateful to both Mr Middleton and Mr Perriss for their help.

Our first competitive fixture was against Clifton College on Waste Court Field, where the team put on a fine display showing some of the old boys who had come to watch that the team had every intention of continuing the previous season's development. We won 13-7 and played some enterprising rugby throughout.

Having being given a 'bye' in the first round of the Daily Mail Cup, our next game was against a well-drilled and physical Eton XV. Their back row proved to be one of the best that we would come up against throughout the season. Despite being defeated by 0-31, it was great to see us playing to the final whistle and managing to create several scoring opportunities throughout the game.

We had little time to prepare for our next well-publicised game against

Magdalen College School, played under floodlights at Iffley Road. The boys made it a memorable occasion by winning the game 15-5. It was definitely a learning curve for both the players and the supporters and I do hope that this bi-annual event will continue to develop over the years as it was a well-spectated event and both sets of supporters appreciated the rugby that was on display.

Our next fixture was back in the Daily Mail Cup competition, but St Birinus were unable to put out a team and this left us with some additional time to prepare for Bedford. We knew it would be a tough fixture and that any mistakes on our part would be capitalised on by the opposition. Unfortunately, despite pushing them at various points throughout the game we succumbed to the very mistakes that we knew would prove costly and



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were defeated by 52-3. We could take some comfort from the comments made by their coaching staff that we were the only team to test their weakness to date.

A late arrival at Warwick meant that the game was delayed by fifteen minutes. We started the better side and went into a deserved lead. However, this led to a collapse in concentration and our good start capitulated into one of our worst performances of the season. A disappointing result as, on reflection, Warwick were a vulnerable side and we should have taken advantage of this.

Next was our first game in the Daily Mail Cup, our opposition was Lord William's School, Thame and we enjoyed a comprehensive victory and a score line of 40-12. Our final game before the half term break was against Radley, there was no need to motivate the players in the build up to this game and again we were well supported with many OAs returning to shout out their support. It turned out to be a very competitive game, in which we took the lead and looked like we could hold onto to it. Unfortunately, Radley got their noses in front and won the game 11-20, as we tried too hard in the latter stages of the game to gain the advantage.

On our return from the half term break, we travelled to London to take on St Paul's. We again expected a difficult encounter and began by giving the opposition far too much respect and far too much time on the ball. In a game that changed lead on at least four occasions we finally ran out of steam and were beaten by 38-20, learning some valuable lessons on the way. We had a midweek game against Bloxham in the 4th Round of the Daily Mail Cup in which we hoped to put some of the more positive aspects of our game to the test. Again, we had to



look deep within ourselves and count our blessings as it took a nervous last minute penalty by James Plumb to account for our victory and passage into the 5th Round. We won the game 6-3.

The Oratory travelled to Waste Court Field and we hoped to repeat the successful outcome of last season's match but we repeated the lost chances of our earlier performances and we lost the game by 0-24.

Bromsgrove were the next to travel to Abingdon and we turned out a very good performance, one of the best since the half term. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough as they had a reserve of some every good forward players and this gave them the advantage, winning the game 3-17.

Round 5 of the Daily Mail Cup pitted us against Magdalen College School; again both schools highlighted this game as an important point in the calendar. I am glad to say that a superb display allowed us to win it in comfortable fashion, 26-12. Special mention must go to a heroic performance by the team captain, Richard Parkin-Mason.

We were able to use this momentum to overcome a physical Northampton School for Boys by 29-5, despite being without two of our most influential forwards. Freddie Humfrey and Tom Hughes deserve particular credit for their contributions.

These two away wins gave us the confidence that we had been lacking in the early weeks and were a real boost for our match against St Edward's on the following Saturday. We put this weaker opposition to the sword and came out comfortable winners in a competitive game, 28-0.

Our progression to Round 6 in the Daily Mail Cup would give us the opportunity to go further in this competition than any other Abingdon team had done in the past. We had to travel to The Gryphon School, Dorset and face a team that we knew very little about. Fortunately, we kept enough composure in the first twenty minutes to dominate the proceedings and also took good advantage of their reckless tackling and ill discipline to secure a comprehensive victory, 0-20. This victory meant that the 1st XV would be playing a competitive fixture for the first time in the Lent term.

Our final block fixture was away to Marlborough. Having played in the Daily Mail Cup three days earlier; it was difficult to get the team prepared – we even managed to turn up without the 1st or 2nd team jerseys; we lost 12-5.

Our final fixture came against Stowe and was played on the 19 January. This proved to be one of the most memorable games of the season. Everyone involved gave more than one hundred per cent to try and push the game in our favour. The lead changed hands several times and the Stowe supporters were kept quiet as our defence held out, but we eventually lost by the narrowest of margins, 15-12. However, we were left with a sense of pride and pleasure in knowing that we had given it our best possible shot.

I would like to conclude this report by thanking all the players, staff and parents for the support and passion that is put into Abingdon rugby. I am moving on at the end of this year but have no doubt that I will look back on my short spell at Abingdon with great fondness and with the memory that I had witnessed some great

developments in my two seasons as Director of Rugby.

### Owen Cobbe

**1st XV Squad:** Richard Parkin-Mason (Captain), Hugo Morrison (Vice-Captain), Sam Newman, Robert Winearls, Beno Edwards, Bobby Aigbogun, Edward Howe, Harry Copson, Patrick Stinson, James Plumb, Alexander Ward, Ben McGuire, Callum Keown, Mark Francis, Joshua Smith, Nathaniel Watkins, Richard Milford, Frederick Humfrey, Joe McDonagh, James Edwards, Liam Smith, Thomas Hughes

Clifton	W	13-7
Eton	L	0-31
MCS	W	15-5
Bedford	L	3-52
Warwick	L	16-28
Radley	L	11-20
St Paul's	L	20-38
Oratory	L	0-24
Bromsgrove	L	3-17
Northampton	W	29-5
St Edward's	W	28-0
Marlborough	L	5-14

## 2nd XV Rugby

The 2nd XV enjoyed an up and down season, which featured a number of excellent results against fancied opposition but also failed to capitalise upon games that might have fallen their way had chances been taken and Lady Luck smiled more frequently.

The highlight of the season was surely the result against Bedford. Having made an Odyssey-sized journey to the East Midlands, the newly formed 2nd XV won a classic encounter between a flair-packed Bedford back line and a powerful and competitive defensive Abingdon that played tight and controlled rugby. A narrow win was secured during an epic last five minutes that seemed to go on forever as the brave Band of Brothers repulsed assault after assault on their line. A fine win against a good opposition. Less pleasing results were recorded versus Radley, Marlborough and Warwick where poor decision making and tackling made the opposition look good, a point for improvement next season. On the flip side, however, great wins against Oratory, King Edward's and Bromsgrove showed what the team were capable of in this much augmented fixture list. Next season, with the return of many of the current team expected, should see us in a strong position and able to learn from this season's experiences, both good and bad.

The side was dominated by a powerful pack in which the front row of Tommy Pritchard, Freddie Howe, Ben McGuire and Xilin Song were outstanding all year and never bested; the locks, Matthew Boyd, Andrew Elliott, Ben Stockwell and Marcus Seller were all exemplary, and the back row combinations of Harry Copson, Robin Veale, Harry Aitken, Euan Campbell, Robert Henley and Dami Etomi were mobile and





effective at the breakdown. The set piece developed nicely and defensively, the unit was tight but more ball-carrying options will be needed next year to make the most of this talented unit.

In the backs, Jamie Hall at fly half was the class act throughout the season, ably abetted by David Snead and John Bartlett at scrum half. The centres were massively augmented by the arrival of Callum Keown who gave the go-forward that was needed and thoroughly impressed all who witnessed his punishing runs. Christopher Wilkinson too showed great talent as did Joshua Bull, Freddie Howe and Chris Green who all ran well. If this side is to really fulfil its potential then the combinations from 9 to 15 will need to link more effectively and to get over the gain line more frequently, I am sure that this will be the case.

This was in many ways an 'almost' year. With a tad more momentum I felt that the team could have dominated most opposition and grown massively, confidence will come and the value of this year will be felt next season. The team's mainstays are already hard at work in the gym and we all eagerly anticipate putting a few records straight next year.

*Matthew Perris*



**2nd XV Squad:** Tommy Pritchard, Freddie Howe, Ben McGuire, Xilin Song, Matthew Boyd, Andrew Elliott, Ben Stockwell, Marcus Seller, Harry Copson, Robin Veale, Harry Aitken, Euan Campbell, Robert Henley, Dami Etomi, David Snead, John Bartlett, Callum Keown, Christopher Wilkinson, Joshua Bull, Chris Green, Jamie Hall

Clifton	L	3-27
Eton	L	0-31
MCS	L	7-17
Bedford	W	20-17
Warwick	L	0-38
Radley	L	0-67
St Paul's	L	17-28
Oratory	W	10-3
Bromsgrove	W	13-10
Oundle	L	5-21
St Edward's	W	36-26
Marlborough	L	12-22

### 3rd XV Rugby

When a 3rd team can boast seven first team representatives, the physical presence of Dami Etomi and Max Makarov, and the height of Euan Campbell and Matt Boyd (aka the 'Lighthouses'), you know you will have a good season. Unfortunately for the 3rd XV, outstanding individual performances led to players being lost to call up, and this meant that the team rarely stayed the same from one week to the next. Despite this, a winning season was secured, with the highlights being a 42-5 win against Oratory, and the 61-0 demolition of Magdalen College School.

There were some equally impressive results against strong opposition. Notably the 15-15 draw with Eton, and the victories over Bedford and St Edward's, 17-3 and 15-10 respectively. These were all hard fought results, and were (possibly) more rewarding than the matches won by big margins. Other special moments included

the Bromsgrove match in which the Abingdon pack demolished the opposition forwards. Bromsgrove may have several international players in their 1st XV, but Abingdon clearly showed more strength-in-depth within the senior teams.

Marc Woolley particularly enjoyed the Oratory match as he scored 20 of Abingdon's 42 points (four tries), and special mentions must go to Will Sensecall, who controlled the backs well, and to Jack Rogers who constantly worked hard around the field.

Thank you also to our coach Mr Watkins for his support and advice; we all hope he enjoyed his last season at Abingdon and wish him the best of luck at his new school.

*Henry Mills VI IM*

**3rd XV Squad:** Henry Mills, Jonny Barrow, Edward Otty, Tommy Pritchard, Max Makarov, Matt Boyd, Sam Murrell, Ben Hogan, Euan Campbell, John Bartlett, Will Sensecall, Tim Gladstone, Robert Henley, Marc Woolley, Jack Perry, Ali Ibrahim, Jack Rogers, Dami Etomi, Andrew Russell, Amir Garmroudi, Henry Wood, Richard Meadows

Clifton	W	17-0
Eton	D	15-15
MCS	W	56-0
Bedford	W	15-3
Warwick	L	3-24
Radley	L	0-33
St Paul's	L	3-47
Oratory	W	42-5
Bromsgrove	W	27-7
Oundle	L	22-30
St Edward's	W	15-10
Marlborough	L	0-25

## 4th XV Rugby

It's fair to say the 4th XV had a mixed season this year from the very start. We lost the first game incredibly narrowly (28-29) to Clifton College, and then the second game by a rather bigger margin, 0-36, to a very well drilled Eton side. It was then that our coach's revolutionary coaching methods, of getting in as many game situations as possible during training, started to pay off and we then had two very good, strong wins over both Bedford School, 22-0, and then Warwick, 10-0.

Of the Radley match the phrase 'the less said the better' comes to mind. To their credit, Radley were a very well drilled, large and quick side, and it clearly showed. The final result, 7-36, probably didn't do justice to the game as Abingdon did fight very hard in some places.

Coming back after half term we then lost, 0-24, to St Paul's, however, we all felt this had been one of our strongest performances of the season so far, and Mr Litchfield was particularly happy with our defence. An emphatic pair of wins followed against Oratory, 48-7, and

Bromsgrove, 36-5, in which we played 'champagne rugby', when everything seemed to just work and we felt well set up for the rest of the season. Sadly it wasn't to be: we lost to Oundle, 5-38, but even when we were up against it, everyone still gave their all, right up to the final whistle. Our last win of the season came against St Edward's, 29-10, a good performance and one where we felt we could have done even better. After this, it was a bitter disappointment to lose to Marlborough, 0-53.

Certain individuals deserve mention for their efforts this season: cool-headed Chris Edwards who led from the front as ever; David Grant, a star in the lineouts; Andy Dart who was able to change the way a game was going; Jack Trodd and Sam Bowers who showed their versatility by being able to play anywhere from 4 to 8, and backs Edd Arnold, Sam Clarke-Warry and Luke Parker who have been fantastic both in open play and in defence.

Against the weaker sides this season we have shown our potential, but whenever we came up against stronger sides we were never quite able to

deliver. Those members of the squad who will still be here next season can hope for better things.

*Jasper Marlow VI EOD*

**4th XV Squad:** Alex Black, Andrew Dart, Ben Brazel, Chris Edwards, Chris Jones, David Grant, Edd Arnold, Geoff Penington, Gleb Valitov, Henry Beggan, Hugh Brash, Jack Trodd, James Francis-Barrie, Jasper Marlow, Lewis Swain, Luke Parker, Marc Woolley, Matt Roberts, Mihai Clapaniuc, Nam Hweu Jo, Nick Acutt, Ollie Read, Rajan Sehmi, Robert Hussey, Sam Bowers, Sam Clarke-Warry, Tom Finch, Will Durrands, Will Sensecall

Clifton	L	28-29
Eton	L	0-36
Bedford	W	22-0
Warwick	W	10-0
Radley	L	7-36
St Paul's	L	0-24
The Oratory	W	48-7
Bromsgrove	W	36-5
Oundle	L	5-38
St Edward's	W	29-10
Marlborough	L	0-53





## Senior Colts A XV Rugby

“Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in, day out,” said Robert Collier. This was never more in evidence than with this group of boys. Their collective efforts from January through to December were pleasingly rewarded with the tremendous achievement of an unbeaten season. Considering that Abingdon has worked hard to increase the competitiveness of the fixture list in recent years, this achievement is even more noteworthy.

Each week the boys dedicated themselves to a regime of weight training, agility work, skills sessions and team play. The result was a powerful group of players with strong cohesion. This proved more than a match for most sides that we played, and in other matches was just enough to see the team emerge triumphant. Amongst the highlights of the season was the opening game against Clifton, which saw an excellent all-round performance resulting in a number of scintillating tries. Clifton kicked the ball away and it was run back with great purpose on the counterattack, boding well for the season. There were incredibly tough matches to come, including two notable away victories against Eton and Bromsgrove. In the former the boys had to come back from a poor start which saw them 10 points down in as many minutes. Through sheer doggedness they were eventually able to surpass a competitive opposition. Against Bromsgrove the situation was reversed; after a powerful start which saw the boys go ahead early in the game, the opposition fought back to ensure a nail-biting finish. Once again, the boys’ determination and collective desire saw them surmount the challenge. A try in the last minute sealed the win.

Undoubtedly, the boys would place the victory at Radley as the highpoint of the season. Having lost to the opposition in the previous two seasons, the stakes were high. The touchline at Radley was packed as supporters anticipated a titanic struggle. In the end, a superlative performance saw Abingdon powerfully overcome their hosts. In all areas of the game, the boys outmatched their opponents; the desire and determination, power and passion was evident for all to see, as was the elation at the final whistle. For me, the best rugby the boys played came earlier in the season against Bedford. They moved the ball from touchline to touchline with a high degree of skill. Perhaps the fact that they did not take their opportunities in the first half of this game discouraged them from playing with such expanse later in the season. This was a shame, as the boys really are capable of playing tremendous rugby.

As the final whistle was blown in the match against Marlborough, the boys were rightly delighted with what they had achieved. Unbeaten seasons are rare occurrences. All their hard work had paid off. I hope, though, that the boys see this as a beginning rather than an end. There are still mountains left to climb!

*David Wickes*



**Senior Colts A Squad:** Chad Hutchinson, Gregor Hearn, Ben Bryant, Dan Lloyd, Jack Ponting, Andrew Halls, Samuel Hughes, Felix Newman, AJ Hatzis, Joe Hogan, Patrick Stinson, Tom Kynge, Jamie Galyer, George Read-Smith, Hamish Grant, Peter Allan, Jack Wilson, Charlie Manasseh, Ed Hughes, Charlie Studdy, Toby Ogg, Pearce Taylor (Captain)

Clifton	W	33-0
Eton	W	18-8
MCS	W	76-7
Bedford	W	20-12
Warwick	W	50-0
Radley	W	31-7
St Paul's	W	24-10
Oratory	W	48-3
Bromsgrove	W	17-8
St Edward's	W	65-0
Marlborough	W	33-0

## Senior Colts B XV Rugby

The season started well on an unusually hot September afternoon when we came up against a strong Clifton team who had been undefeated the previous season. With good strength from the forwards, and pace from the backs, we managed to win 7-5, Freddie Caulder's late conversion making the difference between the two teams. The following weekend we played away at Eton on another very hot afternoon. After a long wait for a pitch the game finally began late against a very strong opposition. This time we came away with an unfortunate 14-17 loss. We were not helped by the loss of Mark Shuttleworth to a recurring injury, leaving us with only 14 men for most of the second half. A particularly notable performance from Charlie Buchan helped to keep the team in touch with the opposition.

Eager to return to winning ways, the team prepared for the match against

Magdalen College School, walking away 36-0 victors. The following Saturday we were defeated by a very strong and fast Bedford team, 5-50. Our forwards couldn't cope with their strength up front, and the backs couldn't cope with their pace and hands, only a moment of magic from winger James Edwards saved us from no points at all.

Again the team bounced back well, in part due to a morale boosting game of water polo in the Monday training session! We walked away victors against an inferior Warwick, scoring 36 points and conceding only 12. We played extremely well in the first half scoring 29 unanswered points.

On the Monday the team realised they would have to train extremely hard for what would be two highly challenging fixtures against Radley and St Paul's. We lost disappointingly to a very strong Radley side, 3-50, the Abingdon side riddled with injury. The following weekend we suffered again at the hands of St Paul's, this time losing 7-36.

After two disappointing results the team began a winning run when we played Oratory. In the first half, playing into gale force winds, we did well to only be 0-14 down at half time. However, in the second half we started to show our dominance scoring 38 unanswered points. The team then travelled away to Bromsgrove on the exeat weekend to walk away 48-0 victors, with a strong performance from Harry Williams, recently moved up from the C team. The following weekend we went on to play a very strong Oundle side, with support from Joe Hogan, AJ Hatzis and Toby Ogg from the A team. In the first half Toby showed his pace only to suffer an injury just before half time. He was replaced by AJ for the second half and the team played with

pace and strength, overcoming Oundle to walk away 24-7 victors. After Oundle we played St Edward's in what proved to be a walkover match. After only 10 minutes of the second half the referee stopped the game as we had already scored 50 unanswered points.

The final game of the season came against Marlborough. The effects of a hard season showed on our severely weakened team. After an excellent try allowing us to go 7-0 up early on, we suffered at the hands of the better team, losing 7-44, a disappointing end to an otherwise strong season.

A big thanks to Mr Dean Evans who coached us this season, and well done to all the players who have represented the Senior Colts Bs, we have trained hard and played well together.

#### Calum Smith 5 VEH

**Senior Colts B Squad:** Jamie Ward, George Read-Smith, Will Bibby, Calum Smith (Captain), Alex Sunderland, Harry Williams, Charlie Buchan, Jamie Galyer, Sam Hardy, Jack Wilson, Dan Leach, Freddie Caulder, Mike Shortis, Toby Blong, Will Hollier, James Edwards, Joe Foxon, Henry House, Mark Shuttleworth

Clifton	W	7-5
Eton	L	14-17
MCS	W	36-0
Bedford (Friendly)	L	5-50
Warick	W	32-12
Radley	L	3-50
St Paul's	L	7-36
Oratory	W	38-14
Bromsgrove	W	48-0
Oundle	W	24-7
St Edward's	W	50-0
Marlborough	L	7-44

## Senior Colts C XV Rugby

The team had a very good season with some tough matches and great wins. Bedford, St Paul's and particularly Radley were the toughest opposition we met. The pack in particular had a good season, regularly securing the ball in rucks and mauls (something Stuart King achieved unconventionally) whilst the big men, Thomas Pagel and Howard Winfield, often managed to smash through the lines. Rob Noyes and Freddie Stott made a number of last ditch tackles to save multiple tries. In the back line, George Bull delivered some excellent passes enabling Michael Shortis either to run on at pace with the ball or kick it. In the centre, James Beer and Daniel Leach often broke through the lines and threatened the opposition back line. Peter Barnshaw and Henry 'Benson' House provided pace on the wings, often dominating their opponents. At fullback George Apps was a safe pair of hands, always making the last ditch effort. The season finished with a tremendous performance against Marlborough, showing all the dynamic running (particularly from Danny Leyland) and support-play that we had worked on during the season.

#### Chris Hall 5 CS





**Senior Colts C Squad:** James Richards, Stuart King, Freddie Stott, Chris Hall, Asin Zahir, Howard Winfield, Ronan Baird, Robert Brough, William Huck, Rob Noyes, George Bull, James Campbell, Michael Shortis, Peter Barnshaw, Henry House, James Beer, George Apps, Thomas McDonald, Daniel Leyland, James Chitty, Daniel Leach, Thomas Pagel

Clifton	W	24-14
Eton	L	12-34
Cokethorpe	L	0-20
Bedford	W	15-12
Radley	L	10-33
St Paul's	L	0-14
Oratory	W	62-0
Oundle	L	7-29
St Edward's	W	57-0
Marlborough	W	34-10

## Senior Colts D XV Rugby

In a disjointed season, the players found it a challenge to find the focus and determination to make consistent progress in their skills, and it is perhaps not surprising that our indifferent results reflected this. That is not to say that there were not some individuals who impressed with their commitment and hard work, notably Hector Millar at scrum half, who had an outstanding season.

In fairness to the players, the irregularity of the fixtures made it difficult to muster momentum from week to week, especially when early matches had to be cancelled at the last moment when opposition sides could not raise a team. Generally, our players turned out to train willingly and enjoyed the sessions working regularly with the Cs in a squad led by Mr Price and Mr Stinton.

In the five matches played, Abingdon would typically start well but were

unable to sustain a consistent effort due to a lack of fitness in the front row. As the match progressed, the pack's reduced mobility meant that good balls were rarely gained and we were regularly on the defensive. This also compromised the scope of the back line, despite being ably organised by regular captain Jamie Campbell at fly half.

The reality was often that the opposition were better drilled, better organised, fitter – and even better kitted out! The first fixture against Radley demonstrated that the team was likely to face some strong challenges. Radley arrived with a D XV plus five reserves, together with two members of staff, and had already played and won three matches. Abingdon defended valiantly but succumbed to several breakaway tries. Some pride was preserved with an excellent forwards' try put down by Harry Gibbs (flanker) and converted by the excellent boot of Sebastian Black.

St Paul's also proved to be worthy victors, though Nian Patel scored the first of his several tries over the season. We did better against Oundle but even our three tries (Alex Sunderland, Nian Patel, Ollie Bailey) were not quite

enough. Man-of-the-match was James Boddie (hooker), who was injured in the first half but returned to the field in the second when our numbers were reduced as a result of injuries in the C side, who were playing nearby. The Marlborough match was a bit of a rout, but again, Nian Patel restored some dignity with another try.

The overriding memory of the season was the spirit and sense of enjoyment displayed by the team. Even when odds were stacked against them they never succumbed to despair, which says much about the character of the boys – but they also needed to learn that match success comes only with discipline and serious commitment in training sessions.

*Michael Stinton*

**Senior Colts D Squad:** Nian Patel, Harry Gibbs, James Boddie, Ollie Bailey, Alex Sunderland, Sebastian Black, Jamie Campbell, Hector Millar

Radley	L	7-34
St Paul's	L	7-43
Oundle	L	15-22
Marlborough	L	5-41



## Junior Colts A XV Rugby

We began playing together on our pre-season rugby tour at King's Bruton, where we spent a week with the aim of learning new skills and bonding as a team. The training went well and we ended the week playing our hosts. We convincingly beat them. Mr Forth and Mr Callan selected a playing squad from this week and we returned to the school circuit with confidence.

We started the season with a win against Clifton College. Our plan in this game was to put what we had learnt in our pre-season training into a real match. On the whole we did this and showed it by scoring 3 tries. Our next match was a very tough one; playing Eton is never an easy game. We had improved our game considerably in comparison with last year. Niall Keown gave a great performance, using his pace to break through and score and starting a second-half come back. Angus Weir also had a good game, scoring a try by burrowing over from close range.

You must never underestimate teams that you think you will beat easily. That's what I had to keep saying to the team when we played Magdalen College School. Winning 36-0 is always a great feeling, but we knew we had to continue to improve given that our next four inter-school games were against 'the big four'. Bedford, Warwick, Radley and St Paul's.

Bedford was a very strong side and we knew we had to overcome our 40-point defeat last year. We played very competitive rugby and Luke Carter scored two tries in the defeat, 12-17. This could possibly be one of the best games he has played. Warwick was also a tough game; they severely tested our defence, which struggled throughout, and we went down three tries to one.

Radley once again was a tricky game. However we played well and took an early lead. Unfortunately we had a poor spell, which allowed them to score four tries. We rallied strongly at the end and narrowed the gap with a second try from Peter Moore. Richard Knight, having his first game at centre, was a powerful runner and a very useful attacking force.

St Paul's was probably our best game in the whole season. Peter Moore scored a try early on and this gave us a huge boost of confidence. Kristian Wood, doing what he does best, scored a try, which was another key part of the victory. The defensive play in this game was the best of the season. Big tackles came from Joel Cooper, Paddy Sardeson and Henry Sensecall. The key to us playing well is to get to score first, which gives confidence. We changed a 0-50 defeat last year to a 12-5 victory this year.

Bromsgrove was a very physical game played in heavy rain. This was another match that looked as though it might be easy, but wasn't. More great performances were given by Tom Kynge, Elliott Mills, James Dewar, and these helped us to a close victory by a margin of two tries.

The last two games were against St Edward's and Marlborough. St Edward's brought out our best attacking play of the whole season. A slick move, involving Charlie Stenton-Putt running a hard line back against the upcoming defence, allowed Paddy Sardeson a try in the corner. However, the Marlborough game didn't go to plan. We missed an opportunity at the start of the game to take an early lead. Then a lack of concentration led to a try for Marlborough. We changed our approach, became more physical and competed much more efficiently but in spite of this we could not score and

ended the season with a disappointing defeat.

I would like to thank the coaches, Mr Callan and Mr Forth, for a successful season. I wish them all the best for the next year. We enjoyed an end-of-season social at which Tom Kynge was named player of the season and James Dewar the most improved player.

### Peter Moore 4 JAW

**Junior Colts A Squad:** Peter Moore (Captain), Henry Sensecall, Angus Weir, Mensun Yellowlees-Bound, Chris Garratt, Tom Kynge, Joel Cooper, James Dewar, Luke Carter, Charlie Fitchett, Kristian Wood, Elliott Mills, Matthew Kitchen, Will Barnes, Paddy Sardeson, Richard Knight, Niall Keown, James Smith, Charlie Stenton-Putt, Toby Brown, Kieran Boddington.

Clifton	W	15-7
Eton	L	15-26
MCS	W	36-0
Bedford	L	12-17
Warwick	L	7-17
Radley	L	10-27
St Paul's	W	12-5
Oratory	L	7-25
Bromsgrove	W	22-12
Northampton	W	26-12
St Edward's	W	36-0
Marlborough	L	0-10





## Junior Colts C XV Rugby

All in all we had a very successful season with more wins than losses and an improvement on last season's results. Most of our losses were by close margins and most of our wins were at the opposite end of the scale. Training sessions went well overall and we managed to combine a good work-rate with having fun as well. The backs had a good relationship with each other, coming up with moves to be used in matches and working on handling. The forwards practised their line-outs, scrums and rucking which improved throughout the season and was a crucial factor in our match success. I'd like to thank Mr. Drummond Hay whose personality and attitude towards the team made the season enjoyable for every player including myself. Arvin Wong was our top try scorer; his pace left the opposition for dead every time he got the ball, which made him a very valuable member of our team who made a great contribution to our wins. The back of the season was David Wheatley, and the forward of the season Tom Farrant.

### David Wheatley 4 NPS

**Junior Colts C Squad:** David Wheatley (Captain), Henry Otty (Vice-Captain), Connor Taylor, Paddy Lawson-Statham, George Stoneham, Henry Binning, Toby Marlow, Tom Farrant, Arvin Wong, Peter Honey, Joe Berret, Lachlan McGregor, Jamie Steele, Chris Cooke, Harry Blackwell, Joe Heade, Ben Thompson

Clifton	W	32-7
Eton	L	14-36
Bedford	L	7-17
Warwick	W	38-28
Radley	Abd	14-22
St Paul's	L	0-28
Bromsgrove	W	61-0
Oratory	W	22-10
Oundle	L	7-15
St Edward's	W	59-0
Marlborough	W	19-12

## Juniors A XV Rugby

The Juniors A VX had a more successful season than the results would indicate. We were thwarted by many 'close misses' in terms of final results, showing that we certainly had potential but need to be more consistent in finishing games, and we need to take the opportunities we create.

Our first two matches of the season were prime examples of these faults. Against Clifton the teams were evenly matched and it was obvious that this was not to be a high scoring game. Will Sharp scored our first try of the season, putting us into the lead by 7 points to 5. Clifton pushed hard and eventually our discipline let us down and they were awarded a penalty try in the last play of the game, which they converted to win 12-7. This was followed by another frustrating game against Eton. They had a big and well-drilled pack, but our forwards, in particular the front row, including Keiran Routledge and Leo Wood, competed manfully. Matt Hart also increased the pace of the game at scrum half. Unfortunately we lost by a single try 0-7.

Magdalen College School followed with a particularly physical game. It was a superb display of commitment and huge effort in defence as we kept a clean sheet for the first time this season. James Hearne adapted well to playing out of position as he moved from wing to lock!

The next two games were disappointing because we suffered two of our biggest defeats. Bedford were extremely quick and efficient, particularly at the breakdown. We turned the ball over too many times, and thus, it made us pay. The back row, however, continued to compete and worked extremely hard. Jamie

Irwin, Laurence Lilley and Jonathan Lord were tireless and didn't give up even when the game moved away from us. Warwick were also very powerful and, despite our best efforts, we were unable to break their defence.

This was not the build-up we wanted for the Radley game but it gave us an incentive to prove a point and, in the event, it was our best game of the season. It was as physical as expected and Jamie Aspinall showed his character as he tackled constantly in defence, as well as trying to exploit in attack. Every member of the team combined well to threaten the Radley try line. A great kicking display by Rory Garrett also helped us to build the points.

The team arrived at St Paul's in horrendous weather. However, we soon felt better as Nick Boreham tore down the wing in one of his trademark powerful runs to score in the first few minutes. This was a frustrating game though, as we were denied the ball through a mixture of errors and penalties. If nothing else, it taught us that when it feels as though decisions are going against you, you just have to try harder and keep focused. A draw was a disappointing finish to a game that we should have won.

Another frustrating game followed at Oratory where we played well but were denied the win by a conversion in the last seconds. Sam Hogan was dominant in this game and unfortunate to have a try disallowed.

Bromsgrove were not the strongest team we played and this gave us an opportunity for the backs to practise their attacking abilities. Some flowing tries followed with wingers Luke Wiggins, Jamie Aspinall and full back Sam Harris combining well with the centres to finish moves.

Northampton were a different story. Their pace and organisation took us by surprise. Sam Harris was superb at full back and worked hard in defence.

Our highest scoring game came at St Edward's as they were unable to live with our pace and strength. Sam Adamson and Matt Cammack showed what they could do at line out, and forwards and backs combined well to create and finish several opportunities. Also Joe Tollet added a considerable amount of bulk and power to the forwards as a new flanker.

We knew Marlborough would be a tough end to the season and we were forced to defend for much of the game. This eventually took its toll and we conceded. We were not satisfied as we only managed one consolation try. We need to say thank you to Mr Davies for his support during a frustrating season and look forward to developing further next year.

### Will Sharp 3 LM

**Juniors A Squad:** Will Sharp (Captain), Nick Boreham (Vice-Captain), Leo Wood, Kieran Routledge, Sam Adamson, Jamie Irwin, Matt Cammack, Joe Tollet, Laurence Lilley, Jonathan Lord, Matthew Hart, Rory Garrett, Sam Hogan, Jamie Aspinall, Luke Wiggins, Sam Harris, James Hearn

Clifton	L	7-12
Eton	L	0-7
MCS	W	12-0
Bedford	L	5-22
Warwick	L	0-30
Radley	W	26-7
St Paul's	D	15-15
Oratory	L	19-21
Bromsgrove	W	24-0
Northampton	L	3-15
St Edward's	W	36-7
Marlborough	L	7-22

## Juniors B XV Rugby

Understandably the first few weeks of rugby proved to be a challenge, with lots of changes within the teams and everyone having to familiarise themselves with their coach and with their team mates. The beginning of the season was tough, very tough. But each match we played helped us to gel as a team and we began to play better, relying on each other more and more.

The first match against Clifton College came as a relief after all the hard training. The team played well and we were rewarded with a 29-7 win. To win the first match with new team mates and coaches definitely put us in good stead for the rest of the season. However, the next fixture proved to be one of the hardest matches we played. Eton College beat us 36-7, this made all the players realise that the season was not going to be a walk in the park, which made us focus on our next fixture against Magdalen College School. This proved to be a game for our backs to run through and challenge their defence, with Tim Grant scoring a couple of tries via great lines. We won 52-0. The team's morale was boosted and we went into the next match positively. However, Bedford's size and power in the pack gave them the advantage and we lost 59-5. The team bounced back and beat Warwick 12-0, with Steve Moran powering over the line. The next match was against Radley, a good rugby school. We went out ambitiously, wanting to beat our rivals, but we lost 12-0 in a very tight game. After half term we went over to St Paul's expecting a tough match. They scored the first couple of tries and we appeared to give up, losing 5-20. The next game was against Oratory and with many ex-Oratory players in our team we badly wanted to win. Our determination overwhelmed them and we won 52-0 with a memorable try

from Ben Yaxley who ran half the pitch dodging tackles. Bromsgrove were next and we won comfortably 44-7. Northampton came with a massive side and presented us with a very physical game, which we lost 52-0. Next were St Edward's, who we beat comfortably 38-14. Our last match of the season was against Marlborough College who were a very skilful team; we lost to them 19-0.

Overall it was a good season where we won half of our matches against fairly tough opposition. The team improved significantly throughout the season and I would like to thank all the players for their commitment, and Mr Brenchley for his coaching and his dedication.

### Thomas Webster 3 NMR

**Juniors B Squad:** Adam Ashman, Mike Woolley, Stephen Moran, Tom Purkhardt, Francois Macé, Tom Webster (Captain), Aman Patel, Henry Lambe (Vice-Captain), Sam Alexander, Jamie Pearson, Jacob Miron, Felix Frank, Tim Grant, Oscar Jenkins, Angus Parker, Ned Roberts, Ben Yaxley

Clifton	W	29-7
Eton	L	7-36
MCS	W	52-0
Bedford	L	7-59
Warwick	W	12-0
Radley	L	0-12
St Paul's	L	5-20
Oratory	W	42-0
Bromsgrove	W	44-7
Northampton	L	5-44
St Edward's	W	38-14
Marlborough	L	0-19

## Juniors C XV Rugby

The season got off to a very strong start with a 58-0 victory over Clifton, Aman Patel scoring 4 tries! This boosted everyone's confidence, especially as it was one of the first



times we had ever played together. In the next match, against Eton, everyone put in a good performance but unfortunately the score line, 5-45, wasn't so good. However we still knew we could play well when we remembered how we'd played in the first match.

Next we played Cokethorpe As and, as we were missing a few players to CCF, we had some players from the Bs as well as an A player. We won a solid victory, 19-14, regaining confidence after the Eton thrashing. Bedford was one of the closest matches of the season but we just missed out on a big win by conceding a try in the closing minutes and losing 7-12.

After the long journey to Warwick, everyone played really well with the final score being 36-5, it was a worthy victory, which definitely lifted our spirits. Against Radley, both sides were evenly matched but we managed to hold on until the end of the match when Jack Fountain scored a final try from a penalty, leaving the final score 17-14, probably the highlight of the season. Next came St Paul's when most of the game was pretty even, although towards the end it was clear that our team was very tired and St Paul's won 15-5.

Our eighth match was against Bromsgrove, another long bus journey but this time it was worth it. Though the first half was a slight test, in the second half Abingdon dominated and sealed a good victory winning 29-12. The penultimate match was St Edward's. As soon as it started it was clear that Abingdon had the upper hand. We played really strongly for the whole match and won 26-12. In our final game we were very evenly matched against Marlborough, but we made a few small mistakes, which cost us the match and we lost 12-19.

The most improved player award went to Jack Squizzoni who moved up from the Ds. The players' player of the season was Ed Antonian who saved us from defeat in many matches. Other notable performances came from Dan Scott-Kerr, who did some excellent kicking, James Pearce and Andy Stony who both had a great season at flanker and Paddy Boyde-Gaust who put in some great tries and tackles at centre. Overall it had proved to be a strong season and we would all like to thank Mr Southwell-Sander for coaching us.

### *Dan Scott-Kerr 3 SWB and Harry Stott 3 NMR*

**Juniors C Squad:** Jack Squizzoni, Ed Bryant, Edward Antonian, Jamie Sandall, Max Chaitow, James Peirce, Andrew Stoney, Rian Bahia, Harry Stott, Daniel Scott-Kerr, Toby Butterworth, Patrick Boyd-Gorst, Tom Padfield, David Chadder, Sean Maclachlan, Will Terry, Gavin Elliott

Clifton	W	58-0
Eton	L	0-69
Cokethorpe	W	17-11
Bedford	L	12-22
Warwick	W	33-5
Radley	W	17-14
St Paul's	L	5-15
Bromsgrove	W	29-12
St Edward's	W	24-12
Marlborough	L	12-19

### **Minors A XV Rugby**

The side enjoyed an excellent season, finishing with a record of 10 wins from 12 matches and a point's tally of 395 points for and only 131 conceded. The season started in very positive fashion with four comfortable victories before half term against: Akeley Wood, Magdalen College School, Cokethorpe and Salvatorian College.

After half term, the opposition started to get stronger but two very good

performances saw victories over Reading School and Bromsgrove. The run of victories finally came to an end in a very tight and keenly contested encounter against Northampton School for Boys. This was followed by another defeat against a well organised Warwick side who taught the team a lesson in the importance of retaining possession.

To their credit, the boys bounced back well from these defeats, adopting a greater level of intensity and purpose to their training. Abingdon Prep were our next opponents who bore the backlash of a devastating opening ten minutes where four tries, scored through simple direct running and quick recycling of the ball, simply blew them away. To Abingdon Prep's credit, they tackled well and stuck to the task admirably, but couldn't withstand the continuing barrage.

The Lent term started slowly with the early snow disrupting matters and leading to the cancellation of the Summer Fields fixture. The matches finally got under way with an anticipated tough match against Berkhamsted. However, our physical and direct approach blitzed Berkhamsted in an opening fifteen-minute spell that brought four tries and led to a comprehensive demolition. Next up were Moulsoford; always one of the toughest opponents on the fixture card and this was no exception. They started well, turning us around with a kicking game and taking an early lead, but the team responded positively getting stuck in and putting them under pressure so that Abingdon had a nine-point lead at half time. The second half was a hard-fought and rather scrappy affair on an energy sapping mud bath, but no further scores came and a very satisfying victory was achieved. The final game was away at Cothill. In between the snow flurries, and having

to shuffle personnel around following a spate of unfortunate injuries in the final training session, the team were sluggish in the first half, turning around with only a three-point lead. However, normal service was resumed in the second half and a comprehensive victory was achieved in the end.

Much of the success of the team can be attributed to the strength-in-depth within this year group, and the consequent competition for places that this brings. Success breeds confidence and this is a squad who can be proud of their success this season. It's important that they continue to work hard at their skills and keep developing their game next year as competition for places will only intensify with the new prep school intake.

#### Andrew Broadbent

**U13 A Squad:** Theo Brophy Clews (Captain), Leo Bethell, Jamie Blackwell, Josh Burdass, Marcello Cau-Tait, Ross Cook, Michael Dewar, Declan Field, John Francis, Colin Nuttall, Jamie Pearson, Freddie Pinkerton, Matthew Prior, Benjamin Seares, Alastair Smith, Alex Turner, Jack Walsh, James Wooding.

Akeley Wood	W	22-7
MCS	W	31-0
Cokethorpe	W	41-5
Salvatorian	W	62-0
Reading	W	31-12
Bromsgrove	W	40-14
Northampton	L	10-33
Warwick	L	0-36
Abingdon Prep	W	57-0
Summer Fields	Canc	
Berkhamsted	W	48-7
Moulsford	W	19-10
Cothill	W	34-7

## Minors B XV Rugby

The 2009/10 rugby season will be remembered as a very positive one for the Minors B team. Nicknamed The Bisons, this team fielded many players who would normally be considered A team standard because there are so many good players in the year. Highly competitive and self-motivated, the team's rugby evolved as the season wore on, from a tight, compact style at the beginning to dynamic, total rugby towards the end. Among the victories were Akeley Wood, Cokethorpe, Cothill, Abingdon Prep, Moulsford, St John's Harrow and Berkhamstead, whilst defeats to a pacey Warwick side and a physically imposing Bromsgrove were nothing to be ashamed of.

They were an impressive squad. In the front three, Henry Bambridge proved to be a quite exceptional ball winner and set-piece organiser. Angus Black and Charles Normanton added power to the scrums and lineout, whilst the versatile Max Townley and James Wooding were comfortable with both ball-in-hand and in support. The mobility of these second rows was a real advantage for the side. The flanker positions were covered by the tenacious Henry Papworth and Thomas Allen who would literally run through a brick wall for their team mates.

Callum Russell proved to be an excellent reader of the game at 9 and his vision and ability to organise the forwards often lead to quick use of the ball. At 10 Rhodri Lewis showed promise with ball-in-hand and with his accurate and powerful boot. The centres were covered by the rangy pair of Alex Davies and Tommy Nicholson. Both comfortable in tight spaces, the regularity with which they broke the game line often put us in the ascendancy. At full back Alex Grantham was athletic and

assured whilst the pacey wing trio of Oliver Carpenter, Will Clamp-Gray and Alex Gatenby always gave us an attacking outlet no matter what our field position was. Oliver Carpenter in particular must be singled out for his outstanding improvement as the season went on, which can be clearly attributed to his excellent work rate in practice. In the latter games the first year quartet of Conor Graney, Jamie Cox, James Robinson Ranger, and Dominic MacLachlan added even more firepower to the group and perhaps even gave us a more attacking threat.

With the season over and the boys moving on into senior rugby I would personally like to thank them for their excellent attitude and focus throughout the year. They truly were a team of friends who played in a manner that demonstrated this obvious cohesion.

#### Damian Shirazi

**U13 B Squad:** Charlie Normanton, Angus Black, Henry Bambridge, Max Townley, James Wooding, Thomas Allen, Henry Papworth, Jamie Cox, James Robinson Ranger, Callum Russell, Alex Davies, Tommy Nicholson, Will Clamp-Gray, Alex Gatenby, Conor Graney, Dominic MacLachlan, Oliver Carpenter, Alex Grantham

Akeley Wood	W	14-0
MCS	W	24-5
Cokethorpe	W	67-0
Salvatorian	W	48-0
Bromsgrove	L	7-35
Northampton	W	17-12
Dragon	W	25-0
Warwick	L	0-35
Abingdon Prep	W	50-0



## Minors A / U12A and U13C

From the very beginning the squad showed tremendous enthusiasm for the game as well as plenty of talent, skill and pace. They bought into the idea of trying to play open rugby with forwards linking with backs, trying to keep the ball available at all times. They had a very successful season, playing some really good rugby and, in their first six matches, only conceding one try. This included an excellent away win against Bromsgrove, where the boys played some very attractive attacking rugby.

Going into the key match against Magdalen College School without Jamie Cox (suffering from illness) was always going to be a challenge. We then lost Douglas Ward with a head injury after ten minutes and the task become even harder. We found it difficult to win our own scrum ball against a strong MCS pack – and had no set-piece platform upon which to build. But the boys fought back really well, scrapped for everything, and almost did enough to turn the game round. The MCS defence proved hard to breach and they scored a second try right at the end of the match.

We took the lessons learnt from that match to the next fixture against Northampton School for Boys. We gave away a try early on then worked our way back into the game, showing great character and courage and sustaining a number of injuries along the way. The team showed very brave defence, epitomised by Harry Anderson. To emerge from this tough match with a solid win did a good deal for the team's confidence.

The second defeat of the season came against a very impressive team from Warwick School who outplayed us in every aspect of the game. Their rucking, handling and continuity were

excellent and although we tackled bravely (as usual), tries were inevitable. We won a small amount of possession but their tackling was also rock solid. Even James Bourdon, who usually found a way of getting through most defences, was kept quiet in that game.

It was good to be able to take the winning habit into the New Year and produce a successful performance against Berkhamsted.

During the season the U12A squad provided a number of players for four U13C XV fixtures. Three were won convincingly – but Moultsford provided a much tougher challenge and the boys did well to emerge with a narrow victory (thanks to a storming try from Sam Kashti), having defended stoutly for most of the game. The final fixture against Cothill showed this combined First/Second year team playing some really attractive rugby in snowy conditions! The strength of the Second-year boys blended well with the skills of the lightweight First Years to produce an effective well-balanced team. It was great to see the players putting into practice things we had worked on in training, and showing real confidence in their ability and their understanding of the game.

Conor Graney, at fly half, led the U12A XV very effectively throughout the season, setting a superb example in training and giving high quality performances in all the matches. He was ably supported by Jamie Cox (prop) as Vice-Captain and pack leader. These two talented young men set the tone for the squad and encouraged the high standards, which the team set out to achieve.

Finally, very many thanks to all the parents who supported the team in all weathers, both home and away, and

gave positive encouragement from the touchlines. Your support was very much appreciated.

Player of the Season: James Bourdon – a well-deserved award: James could slice through the opposition with a blistering pace in attack – and then scythe them down in defence. He had a huge influence on every match.

Players' Player: Dominic MacLachlan – Dominic put in a number of really good performances throughout the season, including 5 tries against Bromsgrove School.

Most Improved Player: Joseph Bassett – Joseph showed great improvement and application – although all members of the squad were keen to develop their skills and become better rugby players.

### Stuart Evans

**U12 A Squad:** Will Sharp (Captain), Nick Boreham (Vice-Captain), Leo Wood, Kieran Routledge, Sam Adamson, Jamie Irwin, Matt Cammack, Joe Tollet, Laurence Lilley, Jonathan Lord, Matthew Hart, Rory Garrett, Sam Hogan, Jamie Aspinall, Luke Wiggins, Sam Harris, James Hearn

Akeley Wood	W	22-0
Cokethorpe	W	36-0
Salvatorian College	W	50-0
Reading	W	38-0
Bromsgrove	W	68-0
CCCS	W	17-5
MCS	L	0-12
Northampton Boys	W	18-5
Warwick School	L	3-15
Berkhamsted	W	20-0

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# Hockey



## 1st XI Hockey

After a tough season last time around, there was plenty more expected in terms of results, with the majority of last season's team returning. Josh Smith again captained the side and was the motivating force behind a team that was expecting to hold its own in what has become a very strong fixture card. Looking back on the season's results, the 1st XI pulled off some fine wins and probably achieved more than we had anticipated.

The inaugural Charlie Baker Trophy was a huge incentive for the team, played in a league format with Radley, Marlborough, Cheltenham, Bradfield, St Edward's and Wellington taking part. This was an excellent way to gauge our ability as a team against some good hockey-playing schools, and is a concept that will be run with all our A teams next season.

Of last season's key players, Chris Green and Freddie Howe were in a different class in the centre of defence,

cancelling out the opposition's attacking threats and having the ability to thread the pass when in possession. Mark Francis and Josh Smith worked tirelessly in midfield and were usually the difference in tight games. Callum Keown played out of position all season, but brought calm reassurance to the defence and bailed us out of trouble on a number of occasions. Nathaniel Watkins organized a young front line, constantly directing attacking runs and implementing the defensive structure.



Among the talented new players was Jack Perry in goal who made a number of fine saves. Fresh from their unbeaten season as Junior Colts last year, plenty was expected of Gregor Hearn and Toby Blong. A huge amount was asked of Gregor who had to slot into the centre of midfield and allow Josh and Mark more freedom, but he put in some fine displays and has the ability to control games over the next two years. Toby was always a threat in attack and adjusted well to what was being asked of him, scoring some vital goals.

The snow at the start of the season prevented a pre-season trip to Holland and the fixtures against Marlborough and Repton. It was a frustrating time as the boys were desperate to turn around many of last season's results, and begin adjusting to the new rules that had been introduced. The inability to train and organize meant that we had a slow start and lost out to St Edward's before we really knew what was happening.

The next game, against Eton, was a strange match with Abingdon going 3-0 up at half time. Josh Smith controlled the play well and although 3-0 was probably not a fair score line, we finished well from set plays. However, the 1st XI was guilty of sitting on the lead and this played into Eton's attacking strengths with the game finishing 3-3.

In the Pangbourne game we were able to control possession for long periods, which allowed us to appreciate each other's movements and, with Josh Smith and Mark Francis interchanging fluently, we created some excellent chances.

Dean Close provided far tougher opposition and although I thought we played well in patches, we lost

concentration at times and allowed Dean Close too many opportunities, going down 1-4. This was followed by a tight affair in the league against Cheltenham, in which we eventually came through as 4-2 winners.

The next match, against Stowe, was another game where we saw a good deal of possession and played some attractive hockey to win 4-0. The following match, a league match against Wellington, was another tight game but in the last ten minutes we ran away with it to win 6-2.

The Rugby game was possibly the most entertaining of the season, it had everything. Both teams were fully committed and there were moments of brilliance from both sides. Chris Green had his hands full in defence and again proved his worth with a couple of set-piece goals. Josh Smith worked tirelessly and controlled play, even when we went down to ten men, but it was the Abingdon team that clawed out the win in a thrilling 4-3 victory. Another big game followed, against Radley, where a win would put us in contention for the league. This too was a tight game, where the aggressive defence of both sides prevented either team from attacking. With the scores at 1-1 it was left to Toby Blong to deflect home the winner late in the day. This win meant that the league would go down to the last match, with St Edward's playing Wellington and Abingdon taking on Bradfield.

The game against Bradfield was a scrappy one and Bradfield's quality in the middle on the pitch made it difficult. Although there was a good deal of fight from the Abingdon boys the game ended 2-2, which wasn't enough to take the title.

After the league disappointment, the boys' character shone through in the

last two games of the season and the wins against Magdalen College School and the OAs was as great a reflection of the teams' character as it was of their hockey.

I am delighted that such a hard working set of players gained the results they deserved, even if it was disappointing to be pipped to the league title. Every player contributed massively to the team and in addition to those already mentioned, James Carter and Edward Howe did everything that was asked of them, and James Francis-Barrie and Sam Clarke-Warry scored some important goals – much will be asked of these two next season as players such as Josh Smith and Freddie Howe will leave a huge void behind them.

*Steve Brenchley*

**1st XI Squad:** Jack Perry, Chris Green, Gregor Hearn, Callum Keown, James Carter, Fred Howe, Josh Smith (Captain), Mark Francis, Toby Blong (Vice-Captain), Nat Watkins, Toby Ogg, Sam Clarke-Warry, James Barrie

Eton	D	3-3
Pangbourne	W	5-0
St Edward's	L	1-5
Dean Close	L	1-4
Cheltenham	W	4-2
Stow	W	4-0
Wellington	W	6-2
Rugby	W	4-3
Bloxham	L	0-2
Radley	W	2-1
Bradfield	D	2-2
MCS	W	4-0
OAs	W	3-2



## 4th XI Hockey

The first game of the season saw the team taking on Shiplake 3rd XI at Reading Hockey Club where a bit of a mix up at the beginning saw Abingdon training on one of the best hockey pitches in the country, but we were quickly escorted to a more modest pitch. Abingdon dominated the entire match with Henry Gibson and Mark Kardos coming close to the goal several times. However, breakaway Shiplake goals from their lone goal hanger meant that Abingdon lost the game 1-2, Henry Kibble getting a consolation goal with ten minutes remaining.

The 4th XI was short of a striker in the Cheltenham game so Matt Boyd was drafted in. He dominated the Cheltenham defence with spectacular reach and finesse, Henry Beggin assisted both his goals and the two of them combined to dominate the opposition defence, with the final score being 2-1.

The 4th XI then took on Rendcomb, a weak side who were unable to break James Bater's control of the game. Sam Bowers also had a great match, clearing the ball the length of the field time after time. Rugby were next, they also put up little opposition as Abingdon scored 5, Matt Boyd taking an early hat-trick, Henry Beggin scoring another goal and Hugh Brash finishing them off with a smooth reverse stick strike into the bottom corner. However, after some slack defence, Rugby ran a consolation goal in.

The 4th XI then played their great rivals, Radley, unquestionably the most intense match the 4ths undertook this season. Radley dominated with some skilful midfielders; however, new goal keeper Robert Brooks made some stupendous saves to keep Radley out.

## 3rd XI Hockey

The 3rd XI enjoyed a successful season under the coaching of Mr Evans with a plethora of goals, and victories to match, a total of 41 goals scored with only 12 conceded. We started well with a 6-3 win over Pangbourne College and this seemed to set the standard for the rest of the season. We recorded wins over every team we played, with the exception of Radley who, though not necessarily a better team, went into the match with more energy so that we found ourselves two goals down after only seven minutes. Despite pulling a goal back, our constant attacking failed to produce further breakthroughs. On a more positive note, we recorded a huge 9-1 win over Stowe with Daniel Bayley claiming five of the goals. We went into the match against Bradfield suitably inspired by Mr Evans, who wanted to get home to support his national side. Sadly, his national side could not emulate Abingdon's performance and went down to Ireland. The finale of our season was a 3-0 win against Magdalen College School, which was a fitting end for the captaincy of Jasper Marlow. We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Evans whose coaching led us to a great season.

*Jonty Cook 6 RSS*

This season matches the most successful season that the 3rd XI have achieved over the 15 years that I have been involved with this group: they played 9 games, won 8 and only lost 1. The level of skill and discipline was of a very impressive standard and I was proud to take them to other schools and to work with them over the Lent term. They proved to be a credit to their school and to themselves in all aspects of their play and behaviour. Very well done.

### Dean Evans

**3rd XI Squad:** Jonathan Ient, Bhavik Patel, John Mulvey, Chris Moore, Tom Fishpool, William Summers, Matthew Haywood, Edward Kempell, Ben André, Rajan Sehmi, Samuel Bowers, Benjamin Brazel, Jasper Marlow (Captain), Jonty Cook (Vice-Captain), Henry Beggin, Hugh Brash, Daniel Bayley

Pangbourne	W	6-3
Dean Close	W	2-1
Cheltenham	W	3-2
Stowe	W	9-1
Rugby	W	6-1
Bloxham	W	8-0
Radley	L	1-3
Bradfield	W	3-1
MCS	W	3-0



Abingdon had few breaks in the first half, but managed to score on every single attempt at goal making the half time score 3-0. After the break Radley came back much stronger, after an obvious grilling from their coach, and quickly pulled one back. However, Matt Haywood then stepped up and dominated the defence, nullifying all of the Radley attacks. The game ended 3-1 to Abingdon.

Then the 4ths were surprised to learn that they had been chosen to represent the School against Cokethorpe first XI. The 4ths took an early lead through a breakaway goal from Stephen Horlock. The opposition quickly scored; then, much to the surprise of the audience, Abingdon scored again, Daniel Bayley scoring from the top of the D with a powerful strike. In the second half, Cokethorpe were awarded a string of short corners but Robert Brooks, in his first season of goalkeeping, managed to save 3 top corner drag flicks earning him man of the match for a second game running. After this, the opposition slotted in four more goals, but not before Abingdon snuck in

another from Henry Gibson. Abingdon eventually lost 3-6, however the game reflected the season, a gutsy and brave effort against strong opposition where Abingdon did better than expected.

Overall, the 4ths had the second highest win-rate in the School and there are high hopes for next year with such a young squad this year. Our thanks go to Mr Drummond-Hay for making it such an enjoyable season!

#### *Matt Roberts 6 MWF*

**4th XI Squad:** Rob Brooks (GK), Sam Bowers, Matt Haywood, Nigel Emodi, Hugh Brash, Tom Fishpool, Matt Roberts (Captain), Stephen Horlock, James Bater, Mark Kardos, Henry Gibson, Henry Kibble, Matt Boyd, Henry Beggin

Shiplake	L	1-2
Cheltenham	W	2-1
Rendcomb	W	3-0
Rugby	W	5-1
Radley	W	3-1
Cokethorpe 1st XI	L	3-6

## Junior Colts A XI Hockey

This year's U15 As had a very successful season as shown by the statistics; in addition, they managed to improve on last year's performance against other schools. Their success owes a lot to the support and work of Mr Brenchley, with lunchtime coaching sessions in the autumn and much input during the season. Soma Singh's two coaching sessions further helped to develop their skills.

The term started with an excellent win over St Edward's – James Weaver's superb reverse stick strike in the first 5 minutes setting the tone. The downside of the match was an injury to Michael Clarke-Warry who damaged his wrist badly and didn't return to the side until the Bloxham match. Captain James Rogers was top scorer in this game with 4 goals, and his total of 13 over the season was impressive from a midfield position. Our most disappointing match was against Radley where poor distribution, failure to work hard enough for each other, particularly in midfield, and disappointing defence left us exposed.

Throughout the season, although we conceded 19 goals we scored 37. The backs improved week on week, growing in confidence and skill, Mensun Yellowlees-Bound and Chris Tayler in particular. Patrick Sardeson is a natural sportsman, showing the necessary speed and defensive qualities at centre back. Michael Clarke-Warry was a huge influence down the right when he returned from injury, providing excellent overlapping options on the wing. Goalkeeper Luke Carter gave those around him a sense of confidence; his agility and quick reactions producing many a good save. If anything – the team's defensive errors occurred in midfield, where we sometimes got caught in possession or



didn't get back quickly enough when our attacks broke down.

Of the forwards, Julius Coventry – who even played in goal for one game – was fast and exciting, matching James Weaver in speed. Greater defensive awareness would help his game. James Weaver was our second top scorer on 11 goals, and with the ball seemingly glued to his stick he could speedily move through an opposition defence, but found tight marking against Radley difficult to deal with. He arguably needs to judge when to move the ball on rather than play it. Sasha Barras and Zack Berg played a range of positions from midfield and attack, providing good positioning and support for the midfield; both need to develop their fitness levels so that they can stay with faster opposition.

Matthew Kitchen, Kieran Boddington and James Rogers were the creative powerhouse of the team. Matthew moved from the back four into the midfield as the season developed and provided a secure base from which James Rogers could weave his runs; he enjoyed running at the opposition himself as well. Kieran Boddington took a while to settle into his stride – but in the second half of the season – perhaps because he was fitter – began to stop being caught in possession and distributed the ball with precision and attacked the opposition with greater success.

James Rogers was our best player; his confidence on the ball, his skills and his vision helped the team enormously and he will be missed next season as he surely moves up to the 1st XI.

*James Nairne*

**Junior Colts A Squad:** Luke Carter, George Stoneham, Michael Clarke-Warry, Mensun Yellowlees-Bound, Chris Tayler, Patrick Sardeson, Matthew Kitchen, James Rogers (Captain), Kieran Boddington, Sasha Barras, James Weaver, Julius Coventry, Zack Berg, Charlie Stenton-Putt

St Edward's	W	7-1
Dean Close	D	1-1
Cheltenham	W	4-3
Stowe	W	5-3
Rugby	W	4-2
Bloxham	W	4-1
Radley	L	1-4
Pangbourne	W	5-0
Bradfield	W	4-1
King Edward VI	L	2-3
MCS	D	0-0

### Junior Colts C XI Hockey

The U15C team had a very successful season, losing only to a strong Rendcombe 1st team and to Stowe, both defeats coming on astro-turf when we had been training on grass. The lasting memory of the season will be of a great team atmosphere and togetherness, which was best summed up by a fantastic and hard fought 1-0 win over a strong Radley side. Joe Berrett had a fantastic season and time and again made significant and stunning saves, none more memorable than one at head height from a short corner in the Radley match. Rowan Hall, who was very influential throughout the season, got the Radley goal with a strong shot right in the corner. He will be delighted to have scored the goal, but his main contribution to the team was in developing the play both with passing and finding shape.

The 4-1 win against Rugby will be remembered for James Smith's remarkable second half hat trick. This strong defender, who had always

shown pace together with the ability to strike a moving ball, at last had his calls to play up front heard. He had space three times and he duly dispatched all three chances in the same fashion: casually and with great power. In defence, Nick Bradfield was ever-present, working well with James Smith; Howard Ching grew in confidence and awareness throughout the season; Charlie Fitchett played a crucial role tracking back and making countless last-ditch challenges. David Wheatley should be mentioned for his calm and sometimes creative finishes, and Oscar Newman for his intelligent play, which saw them both moved up to the Bs. Christian Huck took on the mantle of main striker and finished the season as top scorer. His clever stick work and quick reactions frequently caused the opposition trouble. Matthew Fitchett had the most assists, his endless running, deadly pace and obvious determination creating many chances.



The big strength of the team was our width. David Jorgensen, man of the match in our first game, offered options out wide and often tried creative skills and reverse stick turns. He was later joined by Nick Leah, breaking into the team on the other wing, who did the simple things well and created space for the team.

This much-travelled team had to wait for their final game of the season to play at home and Captain Leo Calhan was delighted to finally be able to score a goal in front of his watching family. A late draw was salvaged by a goal from guest star Ian Middleton in the final play of the match.

*Daniel Freyhan*

**Junior Colts C Squad:** Joe Berrett, Nick Bradfield, Howard Ching, James Smith, Charlie Fitchett, Leo Calhan, Rowan Hall, Matthew Fitchett, David Jorgensen, Christian Huck, Oscar Newman, David Wheatley, Nick Leah, Ian Middleton, Tom Bibby, Richard Matthews, Robert Fishpool

St Edward's	W	3-0
Rendcomb	L	0-3
Cheltenham	W	3-0
Stowe	L	0-3
Rugby	W	4-1
Radley	W	1-0
Bradfield	D	3-3

## Minors A XI Hockey

The U13A hockey squad prepared for the season with a vigour never before seen at this level, and with a great deal of excitement due to a dramatically increased fixture list. They had a successful season, losing only one game in their own age group, and sometimes filling in at the Juniors B level thus gaining great experience for future years. The highlight of the year

must have been their thrilling county championship win, the first time a Lower School team has ever managed this.

The team notched up victories over Magdalen College School and Bloxham – in the county cup – Winchester House, Dean Close, Ashfold, Abingdon Prep and New College, and held The Dragon, and Caldicott to draws.

All the players had an excellent year. With the reliable Alex Grantham in between the posts, the back four of Theo Brophy Clews, Declan Field, Samuel Foster, and Adam Lilley often kept our opponents at bay. Theo Brophy Clews in particular grew with each game in his first season in the sport.

In the midfield, Alex Davies and Leo Bethell complemented each other perfectly. With Leo the primary ball winner and Alex the team's pivot, the centre of the pitch was often an all-Abingdon affair.

John Francis, who has represented the county at U12 level, often gave us invaluable craft on the right of the field, whilst also proving to be an excellent captain, leading from the front. On the left of the field was probably the real find of the season, Dominic MacLachlan, playing in the age group above his own. Comfortable in possession and able to beat a man at will, his match-winning last minute strike against MCS will never be forgotten.

The strikers also made a great contribution to the side with chief poacher Callum Russell notching 15 goals and Gus Mills a creditable 7. Gus Mills often did a lot of the running for the side and his stamina was a real asset to the group.

Later in the season the squad visited Culford Prep in Ipswich, to take part in a tournament. This gave the boys the chance to prepare as professionally as possible and the victory over Culford on the final day was a great way to go out. The team had a great season and whilst the older boys will no doubt go on to make a substantial impact in the Senior School teams, the season also brought out U12 talents like Conor Graney, Harry Anderson, and Alec Curtis, Adam Lilley, Jamie Cox and Samuel Foster, who will make up the core of next year's team.

I would like to thank Mr Brenchley, Mrs O'Doherty and Mr Hall for their excellent technical support throughout the season, and all the parents for their commitment to the team.

*Damian Shirazi*

**Minors A Squad:** Alex Grantham, Theo Brophy Clews, Alex Davies, Declan Field, George England, Adam Lilley, Samuel Foster, John Francis, Dominic MacLachlan, Gus Mills, Callum Russell, William Juffkins, Conor Graney, Harry Anderson, Leo Bethell, Alec Curtis, Jamie Cox

Caldicott	D	2-2
Ashfold	W	2-1
Abingdon Prep	W	3-0
Bloxham	W	2-0
MCS	W	3-2
Dean Close U14 B	W	4-1
Radley U14 B	L	0-1
Winchester House	W	2-1
The Dragon	D	0-0
Rugby	L	1-2
New College School	W	3-0
Ipswich Hockey Club	L	1-2
Culford School	W	2-1

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# Cricket



## 1st XI Cricket

After a winter of preparation, we took part for the first time ever in the Emirates Schools' Trophy in Dubai. Out of six teams from all over the world we finished second, although we had beaten the eventual winners, St Kentigern School, New Zealand. The tournament enabled the boys to get some valuable match practice before the start of the season here.

The 2009 season had been a good one and, as a high percentage of the 2009 team were still here, we had high hopes for 2010. We played King's Bruton on the first day of the new season and won a record-breaking victory, and soon afterwards we edged out a talented Stowe side.

After this, we progressed through a series of Twenty20 matches in the

new and improved HMC National Schools Twenty20 Tournament. These matches, played using the new pink MCC ball, would become a major excitement in our season.

Wins over Oratory, Shiplake, Reading, and Magdalen College School were quickly racked up until a very poor performance against our Oxford neighbours St Edward's signalled the first defeat of the season. Whilst losing our unbeaten run was a particularly low point, with hindsight it was a great wake-up call for the team. After much soul searching the group changed the dynamic of the side and from then on played a brand of cricket much more in line with their obvious talent.

More wins followed with Haberdashers' Aske's and Bradfield defeated before a win over Portsmouth Grammar School

in the National Twenty20 last 16 saw us through to a regional final played at Dulwich College. In this regional final the boys took part in a round-robin format with St Bede's School and Dulwich College.

In the first game we saw off a talented St Bede's side by 20 runs, before watching Dulwich achieve the same result in the next game. This then led to an unofficial final between the South London side and us. With Dulwich unbeaten in their 15 previous games, and having beaten Eton the day before, to say we were underdogs was an understatement. Even so, a fantastic fielding performance by the boys restricted the hosts to 162-4 from their allocation of overs. The Abingdon boys then batted with a maturity beyond their years and saw themselves through to the national finals, which were to



be held at the famous Lord's Cricket Ground. In my two years at the School this was without doubt my proudest moment as the boys' coach who, under severe pressure, had been able to execute their skills and plans at will.

In the lead up to the finals day the 1st XI produced a poor performance away to Shrewsbury, going down by 7 wickets. The talented Shrewsbury side were a fantastic insight into what can be achieved in schools' cricket but the game came at the wrong time for us with many of the boys' minds on the Lord's final.

Two days later, and after an incredible rush, with three of our Upper Sixth boys arriving late for the start because of a Chemistry exam, we took part in our finals day semi-final against Bedford School. Despite a poor batting display where perhaps the tension got the better of us, the boys fought tooth and nail to eventually go down with 3 balls to spare. Although a disappointing end to a wonderful cup run, the boys clearly relished playing on the hallowed turf at possibly the world's most famous cricket ground.

After Lord's, a younger 1st XI side went down to University College School

in London to take part in the annual festival. Here we notched up three very creditable victories to win the festival and end the year on a high note. We played over twenty-one games in 2010, losing a mere three to other school sides. Couple this with our placing among the final four schools in the country in the National Schools' Twenty20 Tournament and it can only be described as a wonderful season. With the bat, skipper Nathaniel Watkins led from the front, scoring 950 runs whilst wicketkeeper turned off-spinner, Joshua Smith, notched an incredible 974. James Edwards made valuable contributions throughout the season in his new middle-order role, whilst the emergence of Fifth-former Hamish Grant, and Lower Sixth pupil William Sensecall, were both very encouraging signs for next season's batting. Robert Winearls, Jonathan Bourchier and Charlie Manasseh showed talent in the all-rounders slots and often enabled the side to have a balance unheard of in most school sides.

The 'spin department' was a major plus point of the season with Nathaniel Watkins consistent as ever whilst Joshua Smith produced some excellent off-spin spells. One of the real finds of the summer though was

the introduction of Fourth-form twirler Sasha Barras. Having made an immediate impact in Dubai, he bowled with skill and intelligence throughout the season. A major factor in our cup runs, he had an excellent first year. In the 'seam department', Joshua Bull was the pick of the bunch in his first full season with us, whilst the reliable John Bartlett and capable Andy Russell and Tom Price often gave us some real variety.

Fourth-former Henry Sensecall took the gloves with real success for the second half of the season, whilst Third-formers Daniel Matthews, Matthew Hart, and Dan Newton all made their debuts towards the end of the season.

With so much young talent on show I'm sure the side will continue to be competitive despite the loss of such key figures as Nathaniel Watkins, Joshua Smith, Robert Winearls, James Edwards, and John Bartlett, who must all be thanked for their amazing contribution to Abingdon cricket over the last seven years, and the incredible attitude they have showed to the younger players.

I would like to thank the team's scorer-come-analyst, Tommy Pritchard. He





has been an exceptionally positive figure around the group and the amount of time and effort he has given to the Club shows the admiration he has both for his schoolmates and for the School itself: a real Abingdonian, he will be sorely missed.

2010 saw Abingdon yet again take strides towards establishing itself on the schools' cricket map and, whilst there is still a way to go before our all our goals can be achieved, the boys are very excited about the challenges that lie ahead.

### *Damian Shirazi*

**1st XI squad:** Nathaniel Watkins (Captain), James Edwards, Robert Winearls, John Bartlett, Tom Price, William Sensecall, Jonathan Bouchier, Andy Russell, Jack Channon, Joshua Bull, Charlie Mannaseh, William Bibby, Hamish Grant, Sasha Barras, Henry Sensecall

King's Bruton	Won by 291 runs
Stowe	Won by 15 runs
Oratory	Won by 6 Wickets
Lord Wandsworth (National Cup)	Won by 5 Wickets
Portsmouth Grammar (National cup)	Won by 7 Wickets
St Edward's	Lost by 90 runs
MCC	Won by 21 runs
Portsmouth Grammar (Regional final)	Won by 6 Wickets
Haberdashers' Aske's	Won by 7 Wickets
Bradfield	Won by 151 runs
Reading Grammar	Won by 9 wickets
Shiplake	Win by 8 Wickets
SOA	Match Drawn
Marlborough	Match Abandoned
Abingdon Vale	Won by 130 runs
MCC	Lost by 35 runs
St Bede's (National cup last 16)	Won by 30 runs
Dulwich (National Quarter-final)	Won by 7 Wickets
Shrewsbury	Lost by 7 Wickets
Bedford (National Semi-final)	Lost by 3 Wickets
Birkenhead	Won by 9 Wickets
KEQS Lytham	Won by 9 Wickets
UCS London	Won by 6 Wickets



## 2nd XI Cricket

The excellent dry weather in the early part of the season meant that a lot more runs were scored than in previous seasons, with the team averaging 200 in the first four games and four batsmen weighing in with fifties. The bowling attack appeared to lack variety, but if Henry Gibson's left-arm seam had been available more often, further in-roads could have been made into some mediocre opposition batting line-ups. As it turned out, all-rounder Callum Keown's occasional left-arm spin took the most wickets.

At Stowe a phenomenal 461 runs were scored on the opening afternoon of the season. Abingdon allowed Stowe's pinch-hitting opener to get a century by dropping catches and bowling in his slot too often. Debutant Michael Shortis appeared more experienced than older seamers, bowling with relative control. With 7 runs an over required it was incredible that Stowe were getting worried within ten overs of the finish. A superb second-wicket partnership between Jack Channon and Tom Price laid the way for aggressive hitting from William Bibby and Samuel Clarke-Warry. The asking rate was just too much in the end but the batsmen took confidence into the next games.

We felt as though we owed The Oratory one after a bitter defeat last year and a good opening partnership between Channon and Baumgart got us going well. Keown kept the rate up and captain Ben Read smashed 43 to help set a tough 188 for The Oratory to win. A strong team performance in the field and accurate bowling all round created pressure which turned into wickets. Revenge was sealed by 50 runs.

Unfortunately, Reading School were not able to send a team capable of testing a 2nd XI growing in confidence,

and the only real positive to come out of this one-sided encounter was time at the crease for Sensecall before his return to the 1st XI after injury.

St Edward's are the only school on our fixture list to insist on a timed game and they took their agreed maximum 38 overs to post 191-6. Skipper Read would play his last game for the School after re-dislocating a shoulder in the second innings. His three wickets and an excellent, albeit wicketless, spell from Gibson were highlights of a St Edward's innings that set us 6 runs an over to win. Jack Channon's third fifty in four games almost won the match. Tom Price and William Bibby offered good support until 16 were required from the last over. Despite Gregor Hearn smashing yorkers around the ground we fell five short of the win. A draw left both teams feeling like they had lost!

Having restricted Magdalen College School to 147-6 in 35 overs, we should have wrapped up another victory but, for once, our batting form totally deserted us. Woeful shots on a decent pitch resulted in a collapse and at 47-8 the MCS attack was being made to look unplayable. Gregor Hearn's 39 proved otherwise but was one of only two scores in double figures on a day best forgotten.

Eight of the eleven selected to travel to Shiplake were from the U15s and they dispatched a poor opposition comfortably. Matthew Roberts and Christopher Cooke were the pick of the bowlers who finished off Shiplake for 98. Luke Carter showed impressive maturity in his unbeaten 52, securing a seven-wicket win.

The new fixture at Haberdashers' Aske's looked a good one eventually, although the main game on the minds of many was England's opening game in the

World Cup. At 16-3 in the fourth over, one could have been excused for believing we were trying to get back for kick-off. Wicket-keeper Oliver Read was due a good knock and dealt with the bowling with disdain on his way to 34. A tenth-wicket stand of 23 put the top order to shame and allowed what initially seemed an unlikely total of 137 to be posted. Andy Russell took three wickets in a hostile spell but a classy fifty from Haberdashers' number 5 secured a three-wicket win with seven overs to spare.

The final two matches were made non-events because the losing teams were so weakened by unavailability that they couldn't even field eleven men. I'm afraid that this is a disappointing situation for 2nd XI teams from schools like Bradfield and Abingdon.

I would like to thank the Read brothers for captaining the team well and wish the leavers, many of whom had played for three years, success in their cricketing future.

*Nick O'Doherty*

**2nd XI squad:** William Bibby, Michael Shortis, Gregor Hearn, George Bull, George Read-Smith, Michel Baumgart, Harry Copson, Callum Keown, Jack Channon, Tom Price, Mark Francis, Samuel Clarke-Warry, Ben Read, Oliver Read, Stephen Poland, Henry Gibson, Henry Beggin, Matthew Roberts, Luke Carter, Christopher Cooke

Stowe	Lost by 21 runs
Oratory	Won by 50 runs
Reading	Won by 125 runs
St Edward's	Match drawn
MCS	Lost by 60 runs
Shiplake	Won by 8 wkts
Haberdashers'	Lost by 3 wkts
Bradfield	Won by 113 runs
Shrewsbury	Lost by 99 runs



## Juniors A XI Cricket

Having only done some light winter nets and very little training prior to our first match we were definitely somewhat rusty, but optimistic that we had the players to challenge any opposition. As it turned out we lost our first game and we probably should have won it; Stowe scored 176-6 from their 35 overs. In reply we lost an early wicket, then Matt Hart (48) and Dan Scott-Kerr (33) put together what should have been a match-winning partnership, but we suffered a middle order collapse and ended up 22 runs short.

We then came up against The Oratory and, batting first, we set them 164 for victory with Dan Matthews (52) batting well in tough conditions. The rest of the middle order backed him up superbly, all making contributions. With runs on the board it was up to the bowlers to get stuck in; and they did. Dan Scott-Kerr and Matt Hart both picked up three wickets and we gained a convincing win.

However, we were not able to carry our momentum forward, losing the next three games on the trot against Marlborough (Matt Hart 3-19), Portsmouth Grammar School (Jack Fountain 4-14) and St Edward's, the latter a particularly heavy loss, losing by ten wickets having been bowled out for 29.

After this harsh lesson we moved on to face our local rivals Magdalen College School in the hope that we could only get better. They batted first, putting on a decent 142-6 from their 30 overs, with Sam Alexander (5-33) and Dan Scott-Kerr (0-7 from 6 overs) bowling particularly well. We then looked to be heading for our fourth loss on the bounce at 64 for 6, but Rory Garrett (46\*) played a sublime innings scoring 53 from the final 5 overs to secure a memorable win and, as we would later realise, turn our season around.

We then came up against a weak Shiplake side, beating them convincingly (Angus Parker and Aman Patel picking up 3 wickets a piece), before travelling to Merchant Taylors' School where our good run continued. Batting first, Dan Matthews (62) and Rob O'Kelly (78\*) started cautiously before breaking loose to take us to 171-1 from our 30 overs. The bowlers then did the rest, eventually securing a 33 run victory.

After this we beat Haberdashers' Aske's and Gosford Hill (Rory Garrett 5-11) before losing a tight game at home against Bradfield. Heading into our last two games of the season we came up against Burford in the cup semi-final. They put on 182-4, a target we were going to have to play well to match, and we almost got there thanks to a brilliant partnership between Felix Frank (65) and Aman Patel (31). However, they had been left with just too much to do by the top 6 who only scored 34 between them, and we were subsequently all out for 170, just 12 runs short.

Our final outing of the season was against a strong Shrewsbury side and, having won the toss, we decided to bat first. We amassed 150-9 from our 30, with Dan Scott-Kerr (29), Felix Frank (28) and Jack Fountain (36) all making telling contributions, meaning we had a defendable score for our bowlers. We looked to be in control of the game but some loose bowling at the death, and sloppy fielding, meant the game slipped away, Shrewsbury eventually reaching their target with 3 wickets in hand. This was a disappointing end to what had been a season of mixed fortunes.

This leaves us only to say thank you to Mr Broadbent for coaching us through some magnificent highs, in particular the win against MCS, and also our fair share of lows. The leadership of both

Dan Matthews at the beginning of the season, and Matt Hart who took over the reins for the second half, received some querying looks and strong words from the coach over the course of the season, but they did the job to the best of their abilities and have learnt from the experience they gained. Thanks also to all the parents who invested a large amount of their time in supporting the team week in and week out. We look forward to next season with optimism, hoping that we can use the invaluable experience gained to improve us as individuals and more importantly as a team!

*Matt Hart 3 SWB & Dan Matthews 3 CDB*

**Juniors A Squad:** Matthew Hart (Captain), Dan Matthews, Robert O'Kelly, Daniel Scott-Kerr, Rory Garrett, Felix Frank, Jack Fountain, Sam Alexander, Aman Patel, Angus Parker, Daniel Newton, Laurence Lilley

Stowe	Lost by 22 runs
Oratory	Won by 92 runs
Marlborough	Lost by 6 wickets
Portsmouth GS	Lost by 86 runs
St Edward's	Lost by 10 wickets
MCS	Won by 3 wickets
Shiplake:	Won by 8 wickets
Merchant Taylors'	Won by 33 runs
Haberdashers'	Won by 7 wickets
Gosford Hill	Won by 10 wickets
Bradfield	Lost by 18 runs
Burford	Lost by 12 runs
Shrewsbury	Lost by 3 wickets



## Juniors B XI Cricket

The team enjoyed a variety of cricket this season with notable successes, particularly when some Lower School stars played.

Stowe were limited to 107 largely due to the off-spin of Max Mannering (4 wickets for 11 runs) and the medium pace of Skipper, Angus Parker, whose 3 for 16 included two wickets with his first two balls. An opening partnership of 54 between Tim Grant (33) and Callum Russell (19) set up a strong victory.

Against The Oratory there was another excellent opening partnership: 84 between Tim Grant (40, with a season's aggregate of 155) and Aman Patel (90 not out with 15 fours in 25 overs). Aman continued to entertain with his leg-spin. In only 4.2 overs he captured 5 wickets for 34 runs. He was well supported by Gavin Elliott, whose 3 wickets for 18 included bowling both openers.

We travelled away for our first fixture ever against Marlborough, which has a good reputation for cricket. Three run outs included Aman turning around mid-pitch and running together with his partner to the same end. Leo Bethell's 28, with 5 fours, batting at Number 7, and an undefeated last-wicket partnership of 19 between Angus and Max, were invaluable. At 48 for 1, Marlborough required only 76 runs for victory. However, due especially to the bowling of Leo (4 for 14), Max and Aman, 9 wickets (6 bowled) were taken for 33 runs to give us a grand win. After three victories, confidence was high until at St Edward's we were 58 for 9 wickets. Only a spirited last-wicket partnership of 51 between Gavin Elliott (34 not out with 6 fours) and Captain Parker raised the score over 100. Led by Matthew Butcher (3 for 16), Angus

and Aman, we reduced the opposition to 85 for 8 wickets. However in a tense finish with 9 balls remaining, St Edward's won, with the help of 36 extras, including 18 wides! Spot-fixing is suspected.

Unfortunately for the Bs, Angus, who was developing into an excellent leader, and Aman, were justifiably promoted to the A team. Against Magdalen College School a 4th wicket partnership of 94 between Laurence Lilley (37) and Sam Harris (44 not out), both from the As, helped the team reach a decent total. However an opening partnership of 114 enabled MCS to win by 5 wickets.

The match against Shiplake was one-sided. Tim Grant (3/5), Steve Moran (2/0), Will Sharp (2/3) and Will Terry (2/12) helped bowl them out for 29. We won after 3 overs of batting. From the easiest victory to the worst defeat: we only scored 98 against Merchant Taylors'; 2 of the 3 wickets we captured were run outs.

We rallied well to win a high-scoring match at Haberdashers' Aske's. An

opening partnership of 85 between Steve Moran (25) and Adam Scholey (99 not out with 15 fours) and an undefeated fifth wicket partnership of 54 between Adam and Ben Mitchell (21 not out) helped the total over 200. Adam alternated between swotting the bowlers and bashing the umpires' ears with, "What's my score?" and "How many balls are left in the over?". Microscopic analysis of the scorebook during the tea interval failed, alas, to find him an extra run. Three wickets, all bowled, by Steve led the destruction of the opposition, whose total included 26 wides! The suspicion of spot-fixing has now developed into the involvement of a Southern England betting syndicate. Although Captain Sam Harris and Gavin Elliott captured 6 wickets in the last 3 overs, Bradfield reached a challenging total. We lost only 5 wickets but scored only 4 runs per over instead of the required 6.

The benefits of a season's coaching were displayed in the destruction of Shrewsbury in the final match. A 2nd wicket partnership of 121 between Adam (42 with a season's aggregate of



194) and Sam (65 with an aggregate of 155) led the way to 265 for 8 wickets. After capturing 3 wickets – all bowled – in 3 overs, Skipper Sam unselfishly handed the ball to other bowlers who completed a victory by 209 runs.

The last Shrewsbury batsman, after a (guess what?) wide was bowled to him, turned and smashed his wicket, then walked off the field. The betting syndicate is now believed to be national. We leave it for the new Shrewsbury Headmaster to investigate. This sensational end to an enjoyable season was fittingly accompanied over the Cox's hedge by a music band that stayed on to enable Prep School parents to join in the celebration with a disco.

### *The Reverend Henry Kirk*

**Juniors B Squad:** (Regulars) Tim Grant, Will Sharp, Gavin Elliott, William Terry, Angus Parker, Aman Patel, Ben Mitchell, Adam Scholey, Stephen Moran, Sam Harris, Daniel Torrance (Also played) Callum Russell, Theo Brophy Clews, Sam Adamson, Max Mannering, Oscar Jackson, Andrew Stoney, Alex Grantham, Alex Davies, Leo Bethell, Nicholas Schneider, Matthew Butcher, Lawrence Lilley, Thomas Ling, Daniel Torrance, Patrick Boyd-Gorst, Jack Fountain, Alec Curtis

Stowe	Won by 5 wickets
Oratory	Won by 54 runs
Marlborough	Won by 39 runs
St Edward's	Lost by 2 wickets
MCS	Lost by 5 wickets
Shiplake	Won by 10 wickets
Merchant Taylors'	Lost by 7 wickets
Haberdashers' Aske's	Won by 27 runs
Bradfield	Lost by 47 runs
Shrewsbury	Won by 209 runs



L to R Front Row: William Fearnough, Adam Lilley, Harry Anderson, Alec Curtis (Captain), Conor Graney, Jasper Gooder, Dominic MacLachlan  
Back Row: Mr Southwell-Sander, Jamie Cox, Sam Foster, Jack Holford, Freddie Ashcroft, Joe Kelly, John Francis

## Minors A / U12A Cricket

This has been a hugely successful season for a very talented bunch of guys and their results speak for themselves (played 10, won 8). The success of the team sprang out of a very productive pre-season focused on fielding and some net practice. The benefits of this programme were evident as soon as the season got under way with a convincing 61 run victory against Thorngrove, the bulk of the runs coming from our reliable openers Conor Graney (37) and Harry Anderson (29 n.o.) while wickets were spread evenly with Samuel Foster picking up 3 for 4 runs.

The next two fixtures saw equally convincing wins against King Alfred's and Winchester House respectively. Again, the batting was dominated by Conor Graney who got 76 and 116, while Samuel Foster, Harry Anderson, Jack Holford and Alec Curtis shared the wickets.

Our one abomination came against Magdalen College School where a dreadful pitch reduced us to a low total which they knocked off without losing a wicket: a bitter pill to swallow.

Two good wins against Wheatley and Reading saw Harry Anderson getting in

the runs (43), and wickets being shared equally. We then had a cracking fixture against a talented Haberdashers' Aske's side that posted a decent total of 126 for 3 in their allocated overs. Despite an excellent half-century from Harry Anderson we fell short by 7 runs. That was to be our last loss of the season. A good victory against Moultsford, with Samuel Foster (34) and Alec Curtis (22), saw us home after Freddie Ashcroft (4 for 8) had restricted them to 101.

We then faced our bitter rivals again, MCS, in the cup semi-final and gained sweet revenge for our earlier loss. Runs from the ever reliable Conor Graney (41 n.o) and Harry Anderson (56) allowed us to reach 123, and then tight fielding and 3 wickets from Harry Anderson meant a win by 5 precious runs. This took us to our second country cup final in two years where we faced Cokethorpe at Cumnor CC. Winning the toss and batting first, Conor Graney and Harry Anderson yet again pulled it out of the bag when it counted, putting on over 100 for the first wicket. Conor Graney ended up with an excellent 91, Harry Anderson supporting him with 27, and we ended up with 163 for 4 off 25 overs. Some wayward bowling meant Cokethorpe kept up with the run rate, but excellent



fielding, including 3 run-outs and a great spell of 3 for 12 from JJ Gooder, supported by Alec Curtis and Freddie Ashcroft (2 wkts each), meant we were always on top. In the end we won by 42 runs and reclaimed the cup. It was a great effort and excellent season as a whole.

The side was captained well by Alec Curtis, with Conor Graney being the pick of the batsman, Harry Anderson was the players' player, Freddie Ashcroft had the best bowling average, while Dom MacLachlan got the fielding award and Adam Lilley, our keeper, was the most improved player. Before I finish I'd just like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching this great bunch of lads.

*Robin Southwell-Sander*

**Minors A / U12 A Squad:** William Fearnough, Adam Lilley, Harry Anderson, Alec Curtis (Captain), Conor Graney, Jasper Gooder, Dominic MacLachlan, Jamie Cox, Sam Foster, Jack Holford, Freddie Ashcroft, Joe Kelly, John Francis

Thorngrove	Won by 61 runs
King Alfred's	Won by 126 runs
Winchester House	Won by 128 runs
MCS	Lost by 10 wkts
Wheatley	Won by 10 wkts
Reading	Won by 3 wkts
Haberdashers'	Lost by 7 runs
Moulsford	Won by 7 wkts
MCS	Won by 5 runs
Cokethorpe (Cup final)	Won by 42 runs

## Minors B XI Cricket

### Shiplake 12 May 2010

This was the first game of the season and we batted first. We didn't get off to a flying start as our opening batsman was out for a duck. We then got runs, but one by one our wickets fell



until the Shiplake bowlers struggled to bowl out two of our batsmen, Joseph McNamara and Daniel Katzer, and we finished on a score of 101 runs for 8 wickets. Our bowlers got off to a flying start as we got two people out in the first over. We got them all out for 75 and so finished with a win!

### Magdalen College School 22 May 2010

In the second game of the season we lost the toss and MCS decided to bat first. They put out a very good team of batsmen and it took some effort to break their opening batsman's streak, but we bowled him out in the fourth over. After that wicket we started to get more and more batsmen out. They finished their innings at a score of 115 runs for 8 wickets. Our batsmen went out with a defensive tactic in mind. They then played too defensively when we needed the runs. Our first batsmen got out in the 10th over. Now our third batsman went in to play, attackingly. Once we changed our game we got lots of runs, but while we were at it we lost a lot of wickets. The final score after the innings was 106 runs for 7 wickets. We lost!

### Haberdashers' Aske's 12 June 2010

We won the toss and we chose to field first. Haberdashers' came in with two excellent opening batsmen that it would take some doing to get out. We felt that the fast bowlers were going to be the bowlers getting the wickets today because when we brought on our spinner he seemed to be getting smashed every ball. We finally cracked their opening batsman in the 5th over. They finished their innings with a batting total of 100 for 8. We went out to bat and then everything went badly for us. They seemed to have got a lot of wickets against us quickly. We got a total score of 77 all out. This wasn't our best batting performance.

Overall I think we had a good season, but of course I think we have some things to work at. We will definitely take on board what we did wrong and improve for next season.

*Arman Garmroudi 1M*

**Minors B Squad:** Arman Garmroudi, Joseph McNamara, Daniel Katzer, Adam Hargreaves, Joe Blanch, Joseph Bassett, Harry Evans, Sam Mitchell, Dominic MacLachlan, Andrew Convery, Tom Dill Russell, James Robinson Ranger, Freddie Stenton-Putt

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# Rowing



1st VIII – Schools’ Head of the River  
Cox: Hugo Mendus, George Rossiter, John Carter,  
Vassilis Ragoussis, James Cook, Jakob Schleu,  
Dan Boddington, Jamie Copus, Will Davey

## Senior Rowing

With four returners from the previous season, a strong 2nd VIII, and some eager new Lower Sixth members, the senior rowing squad was in a good position at the beginning of the season and everyone was determined to make it a year to remember.

The first big race was in America – the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta – an event for the 2nd VIII and a J16 VIII. We were kindly hosted by St Joseph’s Prep, a school in the centre of Philadelphia, and were lucky

with the weather so were able to get some valuable training done on the racecourse. Saturday saw us in competition with many American crews – and winning gold! The J16 crew also raced well, achieving a solid position in a field of strong 2nd Vllls. The winning crew: Neil McKenzie, Jamie Copus, Will Sadler, Andrew Nagi, Charlie Uden, Edward Griffiths, Alexander Hatzis, Angus Innes and William Davey. At the end of term, for the first time ever, the 1st VIII ventured to South Africa for the Old Mutual Schools’ Boat Race, in Port Alfred. Winning

their time trial by thirteen seconds, the team faced SACS (South African College Schools) in the final. SACS made a good start but Abingdon held their nerve and went on to win by twenty-five seconds. The winning crew: Hugo Mendus, George Rossiter, Timothy Richards, Julius Gerstmeyer, James Cook, Vassilis Ragoussis, Daniel Boddington, Jakob Schleu and James Carter.

On 6 February, the squad competed at Peterborough Head – a demanding 5km canal course. Six pairs competed

in the morning: the famous Rossiter-Cook combination winning the event. Jakob Schleu and William Davey came second with Will Sadler and Jamie Copus not far behind, giving Abingdon a 1 2 3 finish. Two of these pairs had fast enough times to have won the elite category. In the afternoon these three pairs, together with Hugo Mendus, Edward Griffiths and Charlie Uden, went on to win the J18 VIII event. On 11 March both the 1st VIII and the 2nd VIII competed at the Schools' Head of the River, the 6.5km race from Chiswick to Putney. The 1st VIII overtook St Paul's early on and almost caught Shrewsbury by the end of the course. The 2nd VIII also gave a strong performance and overtook other crews in their division to finish 3rd, beating many other schools' 1st Vllls. The 1st VIII came 2nd out of 257 crews, losing only to Eton. The 1st VIII crew: Hugo Mendus, George Rossiter, James Carter, Vassilis Ragoussis, James Cook, Jakob Schleu, Daniel Boddington, Jamie Copus and William Davey.

During the Easter holiday, members of the Boat Club flew to Temple-sur-Lot in Southern France, for our annual camp where we have a chance to get to know each other, sort out positions within the boat, and have a change of scene from the River Thames at Abingdon!

At Wallingford Regatta, two weeks into the Summer term, the 1st VIII raced in the IM1 division against Radley and a number of strong university boats. Once we hit our rhythm 500m in, we began to move away from the field and had a length lead by 1000m, which we held to the line, giving us a convincing win. The 2nd VIII won their heat but were not able to race out the final. On times, the Abingdon 2nd VIII was narrowly behind Shrewsbury but beat all other 2nd VIII boats.

The week after Wallingford, the 1st VIII raced at Ghent International Regatta in Belgium. This two-day event attracts competitors from many different countries. We raced against the

French National VIII on the Saturday. They were quick off the start gaining a length on us, however we focused on our own race plan and slowly moved back so that at the finish there was only 3ft in it. Even though the French won, we were very proud of our efforts and felt that we could win the National Schools'.

When it came to the National Schools' Regatta, everyone was ready and prepared for a great race. The 2nd VIII raced their heat well to secure a great place in the final. They knew that Shrewsbury were fast, however they had comfortably beaten all the other 2nd VIII crews on time, and had won their heat. The 1st VIII raced their heat well and came 2nd, losing to Eton by one and a half lengths. The 2nd VIII final was a fast race; Abingdon led from the start but Shrewsbury rowed through to win. Abingdon were very close behind and were never in any danger from the crew that came 3rd. However, in the final the other crews were faster and we took a very disappointing fourth position, a position



Schuykill Regatta gold-medal crew L to R – Charlie Uden, Will Davey, Ed Griffiths (behind) Andrew Nagi, Neil McKenzie, Will Sadler, Jamie Copus, Angus Innes, AJ Hatzis, Athol Hundermark





**Port Alfred L to R – Athol Hundermark, Felix Wood OA, John Carter, Jakib Schleu, Dan Boddington, Vassilis Ragoussis, James Cook, Julius Gerstmeyer, Tim Richards, George Rossiter, Huo Mendus, Jacob Fries**

we hoped to turn round for Henley in five weeks time.

On the Sunday of the National Schools', two IVs and a pair were entered: the Rossiter-Cook pair raced well into the final but were then unfortunate with the lanes and narrowly missed out on medals. The coxed IV were given lane 1 in the final and, although missing out on a medal, did the best out of all the other crews in lane 1 on the day, coming fourth. This crew consisted of Neil McKenzie, Vassilis Ragoussis, Daniel Boddington, Julius Gerstmeyer and James Carter. The coxless IV – Jamie Copus, Will Sadler, Jakob Schleu and William Davey – won their semi-final, beating Chester's top IV and taking a bronze medal in the final, narrowly losing to a strong Eton IV.

A coxed IV and an VIII raced at Marlow in preparation for the Henley qualifiers. The coxed IV had very tough competition in a strong division. Despite missing out on the final, they raced well, gaining valuable race experience for upcoming Henley. The J16/2nd VIII composite was entered in IM3 class. Their first race was a

knockout round with the top two going into the final. The VIII made a powerful debut and cruised to a convincing win. They won the semi-final with a great race and went straight into the final, Despite the fact that they didn't win, they did gain valuable race experience for Henley.

The Henley qualifiers take place on the Friday before the start of the Regatta and the coxed IV – Neil McKenzie, Julius Gerstmeyer, Daniel Boddington, Alexander Hatzis and Timothy Richards – went first. They were the fastest schoolboy coxed IV at the qualifiers but missed out on making the Prince Albert Cup by two seconds. The 2nd/J16 VIII composite raced next, attempting to qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup. They put out an inspiring performance but missed qualifying by just six seconds – a great achievement considering the increasing competition in the event. The 2nd/J16 VIII: James Chitty, Dominic Graham, Charlie Uden, Andrew Halls, Felix Newman, Edward Griffiths, Thomas Pagel, James Tracey and Alexander Fisher.

On the Wednesday, the first day of Henley, the 1st VIII raced Norwich.

Pumped with adrenalin, we had a flying start and were a length ahead by the end of Temple Island and won convincingly. The next day we faced Dulwich College who went out hard but we soon took control of the race and were able to win whilst holding something back for Friday's race, which, as predicted, was against Eton. We were dropped off the start, but when we hit our rhythm we began to hold them but they went on to win the race by one and a quarter lengths. We were all proud of our performance and happy that we had got closer than anyone else to the eventual winners. The Henley 1st VIII crew: Hugo Mendus, George Rossiter, James Carter, Jakob Schleu, James Cook, Vassilis Ragoussis, Will Sadler, Jamie Copus and William Davey.

I speak on behalf of all the senior squad when I thank Mr Hundermark, Peter Haining and Mr MacDonald for all the effort and time they have put in. We all wish Mr MacDonald the best of luck back in South Africa and also luck to all the leavers this year.

*William Davey 6 SAE*



The four Abingdon members of the GB VIII in the GB France match: L to R Felix Newman, Alexander Hatzis, Neil McKenzie (front), James Tracey, Andy Halls

## Abingdon's GB Rowers

Over the past decade, Abingdon has produced more GB junior oarsmen than any other school. This year was no exception with ten boys securing seats in various crews in the summer internationals. George Rossiter and Jamie Cook were selected for the VIII to race at the Junior World Championships, which was held in Racice, Czech Republic. After posting fast times in the heat, the crew looked to be in contention for a minor medal in the final. Having started well, they came through the 500m mark in second place but struggled to maintain the exceptionally fast pace and the leading crews drew away. The USA came in first and GB finished fifth. Two of the boys in the USA crew came from St Joseph's Prep School. We share excellent links with St Joseph's who host our crews when we compete in the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta. Well done to Lou Lombardi and Pat McGlone on their success.

Jamie Copus, John Carter and Vassilis Ragoussis were selected to represent GB crews at the Coupe de la Jeunesse held in Hazewinkel, Belgium. All three

boys returned with gold medals from the event.

James Tracey, Andrew Halls, Felix Newman, Alexander Hatzis and Neil McKenzie won the coxed IV trials and were selected to go as part of the VIII to the annual GB France match held in Nantes, France. The boys combined with four Radley boys to make up the VIII, and raced exceptionally well to hold off the French in the 1500m race and win the event.

Three Old Abingdonians were in action at the U23 World Championships held in Belarus. Matthew Rossiter picked up a silver medal in the coxless four event to add to his gold from 2007 (JWC) and bronze in 2009 (U23). Max Gander coxed his crew to a bronze medal in the coxed fours event, and Nicolai Jurgens, representing Germany, narrowly missed out on the medals coming fourth in the coxless pairs event. Matthew and Max then went on to seize gold medals in the British VIII at the World University Rowing Championships in Szeged, Hungary

*Athol Hundermark*

## J16 Rowing

For eight boys in the squad, J16 rowing started with a trip to America to race at the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia during the October half term. For all of us who went it was a fantastic experience. The skills we gained there, and the training we did, proved to be vital when we came to the proper season after the Christmas break.

On a wet and cold day in January, the J16 rowers assembled themselves in the boathouse to be greeted by our coach for the season, Mr MacDonald, who promised us nothing but hard work and pain if we wanted to win this season. Due to the snow and the mock exams, our schedule was a little curtailed to start with. However, full training quickly got under way. In a blur of weights, ergos, and sessions on the water, we got to grips with rowing again, and blew away the cobwebs that had accumulated over the Christmas break, and for some of us over the whole Michaelmas term.

Our first race was due to be Wallingford Head, but unfortunately it was cancelled due to the poor weather, so our first competitive racing came at Peterborough Head on a cold and misty day in the first week of February. After a hard race in the J16 VIII we came third to King's Chester and Eton, and realised that if we were to be successful in the rest of the season we would need to up our game.

By far the most important race of the Lent term was the Schools' Head of the River, held in London on the Tideway. All the school crews would be there, so we knew it would be the first real test of how good we were, and where we lined up against the other crews, as well as being a prestigious event to do well in. Unfortunately,

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the crew of Alexander Hatzis, Felix Newman, Andrew Halls, Alex Sunderland, Thomas Pagel, Alex Fisher, James Tracey, and Robbie Brough, coxed by James Chitty, only managed to take sixth place, even though we were not that far behind many of the other schools.

Training continued until the end of term, and then in the last week of the Easter holidays we headed off to Temple-sur-Lot, in the south of France, for our annual rowing camp. We trained for a week and despite the blisters, the sweat and the hard work, I think it is safe to say that we all enjoyed the week as it came with the added bonuses of go-karting and watching classic action films. After an elongated departure due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland, we headed home in time for the Summer term, by far the busiest in terms of rowing, with the most regattas, and the most intense training in preparation.

There was no let up to our schedule and two weeks into term we raced at Wallingford Regatta, with a revised crew following seat racing on camp. In the J16 VIII we came third to St Paul's and a strong Radley crew, who looked like they could be our main competitors for the rest of the season. This was a good result, and it was clear that we had improved a lot since the Schools' Head back in March. However, the day got better when we won the Novice Vllls, holding off the St Paul's crew who had beaten us earlier in the day. We came home with our first tankards of the season, and one of the largest trophies we had ever seen.

Training continued even though we were now on study leave and, working around our revision schedule, we continued our preparation for the National Schools' Regatta, the most important race of the year for us.

However, two weeks before the main event we had our last chance to race competitively at Bedford Regatta, a mere sprint at just 1250 metres. We entered two boats. The first was an VIII consisting of James Richards, Alexander Hatzis, Andrew Halls, Felix Newman, Thomas Pagel, Robbie Brough, James Tracey, and Alex Fisher, coxed by James Chitty. After a close race against Eton in our heat, we beat St Paul's in the semi-final to come up against another Eton crew who we beat in style to take the J16 VIII. James Tracey, Alexander Hatzis, Andrew Halls, and Felix Newman, coxed by James Chitty, also entered the J16 IV. After a relatively easy first race against a Bedford Modern School crew, we came up against Radley in what was our closest race of the day. Having beaten them by half a length, we raced St Edward's in the final. Although unsure as to how strong they would be, we took that race, winning the coxed IVs. It was a great confidence boost, and between us we had fourteen tankards to take home, a good haul for one day. The big weekend finally arrived. On a Friday afternoon we drove up to Nottingham where the National Schools' would be held over the weekend. The J14s had already won a gold medal when we arrived so we knew that we would have to race hard in order to live up to everyone's expectations. After a short training session on Friday evening, and a carbohydrate-packed meal, we settled down that night and tried to prepare ourselves mentally for the biggest race of the season.

Saturday came; we headed down to the lake and waited in the late afternoon as we only had one race. After hours of waiting and watching the other Abingdon crews, we finally warmed up, had the team talk from Mr MacDonald, and from former head of rowing Mr Martin, who told us to go

out hard and do some damage. When we got to the start that was exactly what we did. Our start had been good all season and this one was one of the best. We were in lane 2 and held off an early push from Hampton, in lane 4, to be ahead of Radley, in lane 3, by just under a length with 750 metres gone. We held them there until about 750 metres from the end when they started to pull us back. Despite us giving everything, we could not hold them off. At last they overtook us with about 400 metres to go, leaving us to take second ahead of Eton. While we were disappointed with losing, we had a fantastic race and had improved massively since the Schools' Head. On Sunday, James Tracey, Alexander Hatzis, Andrew Halls and Felix Newman raced in the coxless IV. They did well to get to the final despite very poor conditions and very little time training in the IV.

The National Schools' Regatta marked the end of the real J16 season as we would not race again as a J16 VIII. A week after half term, the coxed IV had an easy victory at Reading Amateur Regatta, but the crew split up after half term. Alexander Hatzis went to row with the 1st IV+, while Andrew Halls, Felix Newman, Thomas Pagel, James Tracey and Alex Fisher joined the remaining senior squad to form a 2nd VIII in order to attempt qualification for Henley Regatta. As a school crew, it was a disadvantage to enter a university competition. This was shown, although we did come a respectable six seconds behind the slowest qualifier.

Arguably the last J16 rowing was from the coxed IV of James Tracey, Alexander Hatzis, Andrew Halls, and Felix Newman now coxed by Neil McKenzie, trying to qualify for the GB vs France J16 match. In a tight race in the qualifiers at Nottingham, we beat a strong BMS crew, overtaking them from





**Winning J14 Quad Reading Town Regatta L to R – Cox  
Luke Wiggins, Jamie Pearson, Joe Tollet, Henry Lambe**

a length down with 300 metres to go. We joined up with a strong Radley four, putting aside our differences to make up the VIII. On a sunny day in Nantes, we beat the French national champions by one and a half lengths, ending our season on a high note.

Many thanks must go to our coach, Rod or more correctly Mr MacDonald. Although he has now had to go back to South Africa, he was a great coach and a true inspiration for all of us. While we all had potential, it was him who unleashed it in the early mornings and trained us to be the rowers we are now by the long sessions on camp. Further thanks to all the other coaches who helped us at other times, in particular Peter Haining, and the boatman, Austin.

#### *Felix Newman 5 MB*

**J16 squad:** Robbie Brough, Alex Fisher, Andrew Halls, Alexander Hatzis, Felix Newman, Thomas Pagel, James Richards, Alex Sunderland, and James Tracey.  
Coxes: James Chitty, Neil McKenzie and Toby Ross.

## J14 Rowing

As usual, a large number of Third-formers signed up for sculling in a cold, wet January, with the summer seeming a long way off. Early season was spent watching the river in spate while learning the techniques in a boat up on trestles on land, but already the coaches were impressed with the focus and understanding shown by the boys. The first term of the season was rounded off with the customary match against St Edward's and the Bedford Quads Match, with several crews winning and a good atmosphere in the group. The holidays saw the first group of J14s (five of them) attend the training camp in France, usually open only to the older year groups, where they gained a glimpse of what real training was like. Meanwhile there was a less continental, but equally beneficial, camp back in Abingdon for the rest.

The Summer term saw the squad quickly settled into crews, but with little to split the top three VIIIs, such was the depth of talent. Early races at BASHER (Bedford, Abingdon, St Paul's, Hampton, Eton, Radley) Regatta and Bedford saw promising performances

from the lower boats, but repeated catastrophe for the A crew, breaking blades rather than records. Still further disappointment lay in wait at the National Schools' Regatta when gusting wind played havoc with the time-trial and the A crew failed to make it through; they were not a particularly big crew this year and lacked the power to complement their technique. The B and C crews on the other hand produced a massive surprise, the B crew winning the 2nd boats' event, rowing through Radley with 50m to go. On the other side, the C crew beat several B crews to qualify for the semi-finals, and produced a time that ranked them the fastest C crew in the country.

The rest of the Summer term was spent in sunshine, getting experience of smaller boats, with many showing how far they had come this season by whizzing around in a single scull.

The A crew produced a much more encouraging performance at Marlow Regatta over the longer 2K course, putting them in a good position for next year against the big names. The squad turned out almost in full for Reading

Town Regatta with over forty boys taking part. All raced in their various events with great skill, and with many victories over the local rivals Radley.

Two trophies were won, in the B quads and in the VIII, which made the season one of the most successful of recent years. All through the season the boys showed great commitment and enthusiasm; often, long outings in team boats ended with requests to go out again in a single scull.

Many thanks in particular to Cherry Briggs who has endured with good cheer several years of launch engines cutting out, broken footplates and hyperactive boys (though it hasn't put her off wanting to get out sculling herself in Colombo); also to Peter Brombley, who as an injured Sixth-former volunteered to help coach and has been acting like another staff-member, so great his manner and respect among the Third-formers. One of the defining moments of the season was seeing him route-marching the boys around Dorney Lake, having been asked by me to 'get the boys warmed up' – and all the boys obeyed him without hesitation!

*Hugh Price*

### Crews:

#### National Schools' Regatta

**A crew:** Harry Stott, Leo Wood, James Hearn, Jonathan Lord, Edward Antonian, Joseph Tollet, Henry Lambe, Jamie Pearson, Ben Yaxley

#### B crew (winners of the Dulwich Cup):

Edward Bryant, Thomas Padfield, Francois Macé, Adam Ashman, Kieran Routledge, Jamie Aspinall, Jack Squizzoni, Jacob Miron, Toby Butterworth

#### Reading Town Regatta

**Quad (gold medal):** Harry Stott, James Hearn, Jonathan Lord, Edward Antonian, Henry Lambe

**Octuple (gold medal):** George Burrage, Ben Yaxley, Matthew Cammack, Adam Ashman, Kieran Routledge, Alex Fanshawe, Jacob Miron, Thomas Padfield, Francois Macé





## Inter-House Quads Competition

The competition was raced in beautiful conditions this year between some fast crews. The seeded crews: Boyd's, O'Doherty's and Southwell-Sander's were looking strong, while Phelps' and Crescent were showing good crew unity. Most of the faster crews had two Third-formers and two Fourth-formers in the crew, a good combination of power and technique.

The first round featured three races between three Houses, with the slowest being eliminated. In the end the third place was often trailing, particularly after Christodoulou's indulged in some strange crew selection, leaving out their captain. Webb's, featuring an all Third-former

team, also struggled. But the surprise exit was that of Franklin's, last year's champions, still with two of that crew, who had looked promising until they caught a crab.

This left six impressive crews for three one-on-one semi-finals. In the first, O'Doherty's held off Boyd's, who had lost by only a bow-ball to Crescent in the first round, while the second featured a boarding house derby between School and Crescent, won by Crescent. Finally Phelps', looking technically the best of the crews, won a close-fought race against Southwell-Sander's, who were missing their captain.

The final was a contest of style versus power as Phelps' and O'Doherty's

vied against each other on their respective banks, with Crescent trailing in the centre. O'Doherty's eventually prevailed, a crew consisting of two Third-formers from the A VIII and Fourth-formers from the A VIII and B VIII, coxed by Max Brittan.

**Gold:** O'Doherty's: Max Brittan, Henry Lambe, Kristian Wood, Jonathan Moloney, Edward Antonian

**Silver:** Phelps': Ian Middleton, Will Horlock, Ben Yaxley, Alex Fanshawe, Milan Banerjee

**Bronze:** Crescent: Edward Bryant, Edward McLaughlin, Jonathan Lord, Luke Derrick, Jamie Irwin



House Quads – O'Doherty's lead School House and Christodoulou's



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# Sailing



A team consisting of Guy Stephens, Tom Pugh, Sam Delo, Richard Matthews, Finley Curran and George Rothwell competed in the National Schools' Team Racing Championship and made it to the final where they narrowly lost out.

As reigning champions, the Sailing Club was looking forward to this year's National Schools' Match Racing Championship but unfortunately, due to a lack of wind, no races were possible so we kept the trophy by default. Two Abingdon boats entered the National Schools' Championships: an RS500, helmed by Will Summers and crewed by Jonty Cook, and a Laser helmed by Tom Pugh. Both came in respectable positions, even in winds gusting up to 20 mph.

The Sailing Club has done a lot of yachting this year. A new venture and a highlight, was James Boreham, Sam Delo, Jonty Cook, Ben Haveron and Will Summers' practice expedition sailing along the coast of Devon and Cornwall.

Six pupils and three teachers went on a one-week trip, sailing on a 49 ft yacht in the Aegean Sea. The party enjoyed hot weather and fantastic scenery. Next year we hope to sail around the islands north of Kos just off the coast of Turkey.

The Friends of Abingdon School Sailing Club have been busy this year, firstly arranging a sailing dinner, then later in the year a barbeque down by the reservoir. In June, they organised a

very successful family sailing day. The FASSC raised a large amount of money which contributed to the purchase of a second RS500 and 29er. In the future we hope to buy another Laser.

Unfortunately this year we are losing our captain, Guy Stephens. Guy's knowledge of tactics and his experience in team racing, fleet racing and match racing has been invaluable. We wish him the best of luck for the future.

Next year we are looking forward to taking our small fleet of RS500s to the World Championships to be sailed on the Olympic course at Weymouth.

*Richard Matthews 4 RKJ*

# Badminton

As part of the effort to keep in touch with our history we have held two more 'playing reunions' of current, recent and not-so-recent badminton players. In September 2009 we entertained Alexander Smith OA (Captain 2008/9), Tim Middleton OA, whose play has been far from spoiled by a year at college, and Ken Ma OA, Yin Yao Dong OA (Captain 2000/01) and Andrew Lui OA who all three left Abingdon in 2001 and are now doctors of various sorts! Among the entertainment was a captains' game where David Choy, Julian Martin, Yin Yao Dong and Alexander Smith fought it out, and a 'youngest with oldest' game where Ken Ma and Andrew Lui took Adam Uberoi and Jonathan Chung as partners.

After all the end-of-term brouhaha, players from the 1970s and 1980s were particularly invited to another reunion but the hostile weather and proximity of Christmas made December 21 an ill-advised choice. Nonetheless we managed to assemble Alex Smith, Jun Tao and Tim Middleton, who the current players know of old, and Patrick Gale, who none of them had ever heard of as he sat his A levels in 1978, long before they were born and six or seven years before we had a sports hall to our name! ('Ah yes, I remember it well ... *Gigg*). Patrick's play prompted more than a little respect among the striplings and he seemed to get some entertainment out of his visit: he has now returned to live in Milton, so we hope that he will be willing to visit again. We also have expressions of interest from Mr David Taylor, Richard Haynes and Ian Sargeant.

Arguably historic was the revival of an old fixture with Bradfield College, while a fresh departure was the establishment

of a link with King's School, Bruton, which is currently very strong. We had also arranged to renew contact with Bromsgrove in the new year but were thwarted by the snow. Hm: snow, snow, thick, thick snow! A joke is a joke but – as they might say in the West Riding – 'that can go s'far'. The first three fixtures in January went west because roads in Somerset were impassable, Bromsgrove's hall was declared unsafe to use and the return match against Bradfield yielded to the 'mock' exams that perforce continued to occupy our sports hall. Boarders and some hardy local souls got a little practice at the Vale of the White Horse centre while we were waiting for normality to be resumed, but January's games programme was never in danger of being described as 'slick'.

National sports organisers seem to focus mostly on maintained schools at the expense of independent. For us the effect is that compared with the palmy days of the Oxford Schools' Badminton Association, when each season Abingdon could get matches for six-man teams of U14s, U16s and U19s with half a dozen state schools, the current system yields but one day in the year when our U14s and U16s get to play local schools in teams of four only. To progress to this 'county' round of the Center Parcs Schools' Championships, Abingdon's U14s and U16s played Magdalen College School on December 9. The score line (5-0, 4-1) looks like a heavy defeat for MCS but many of the game scores ran to 17 or 18/21 and some tired Abingdon players had to dig deep to get the winning couple of points.

Two participants take up the story: 'On Wednesday 10 February 2010 the U16s competed in the Oxfordshire round of the Center Parcs Schools' Championships. We met fierce opposition from the other members of our group of three (St Birinus and Bartholomew) and unfortunately lost to them 1-4 and 2-3 respectively. The level of play from the other schools was very high – Johnny Chung (our number one) was against the number ten in the country in his first singles match, although he did manage to get 12 points. Having come last in our group, we competed in the fifth place playoff against Cheney. This time, on the other hand, we did manage to win by four games to three so at least we won back some respect!'

*Ed O'Brien 5 DJB*

Four U14 boys, Daniel Chen, Adam Uberoi, Gem Vongseenin and John Wiejak, went to play in the Oxfordshire Schools' round of the Center Parcs Schools' Championships. After a shaky start they barely beat Henry Box School 3-2 in games but had a much more convincing victory against Cheney School winning 4-1. This meant that they progressed to the final where they faced Faringdon, a very strong team made up completely of county players. After some very close games they lost 3-2 but, for instance, Daniel Chen had a narrow defeat 21-18 to their number 1, and Adam Uberoi lost 21-19 to their number 2. But the whole team had a great performance with some great games from Gem Vongseenin and John Wiejak.

*Adam Uberoi 3 DMH*

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Other than in school matches, boys from Abingdon had some badminton fun and success on Sunday 21 February 2010 in the Oxfordshire Schools' Badminton Championships (still technically during the half term holiday). Our entry was at least as numerous as last year and seventeen U13s – Lower School boys – had a happy morning competing against old and new friends. Leon Wu looked slightly surprised to survive five rounds and reach the semi finals of the singles competition; then in an ad hoc partnership with Alex Turner he won an all-Abingdon U13 doubles final and a medal.

Abingdon's representation in the U15s was limited to three. Gem Vongseenin and John Wijek caused not a little difficulty to the announcer with their apparently intractable names and, although U14s, did well in the U15 doubles: they emerged as runners-up. James Zhou got a medal for winning the singles competition against locally fancied opposition; his technique and understanding of the game were noted by an observer from the Oxfordshire Badminton Association.

Charlie Leslau and Rupert Waterson formed a good enough doubles pair to win two out of four U17 matches despite being a year young for the group.

Peter Zeng entered the U17 singles – his natural age group – and won outright. He also partnered Gary Ling in the U19 doubles against opposition from St Edward's School and elsewhere, as well as the 'old firm' from Abingdon's Upper Sixth. The final of the U19 boys' doubles was a competitive but good-humoured all-Abingdon affair between Peter with Gary and the eventual winners Julian Martin with Richard Moon, who had discovered fluent and imposing form during the day.

The U19 singles final was also an Abingdon monopoly, this time Edward Callow beat Richard Moon: medals to both.

More medals were to be had in the U19 mixed doubles, which were dominated by Abingdon, now combined with St Helen's. Winners were Julian Martin and Louisa Green, runners-up Ramon Bonfield and Aislinn Baird. In all, 28 from Abingdon entered, they gained nothing but credit for the way they presented themselves and participated, winning or losing.

Early March in the School Calendar brings the Inter-House Badminton Competition. Each year we see one or two tyros cheerfully learning the hard way in public, and when established badminton pairings don't come from the same House even practiced players have to establish a modus vivendi with an unfamiliar or inexperienced partner. In the days before the competition Nick Topping was seen trying out talented sportsmen from O'Doherty's as possible partners and on the day Richard Brown did his best to follow captain Julian Martin's sage advice.

Webb's, Christodoulou's, School, Boyd's and Phelps' were eliminated in the first round of the Middle School part of the competition, but Duncan Chow had found a powerful partner in Bernard Ng and can anticipate greater success next year. Southwell-Sander's and O'Doherty's went out in the second round, so the final was between Franklin's and Crescent with Franklin's, in the shape of established pair Daniel Chen and Adam Uberoi, prevailing 21-11, 21-9.

The first round of Upper School games eliminated School House, Southwell-Sander's, O'Doherty's and Franklin's. Boyd's and Webb's fell out next (Boyd's after a very close game,) so the final

was between Phelps' and Crescent. Both members of the School's regular first pair, David Choy and Gary Ling, happened to be in Phelps' so it wasn't a complete surprise when they won, 21-18, 21-5.

Back to our historical theme and Abingdon's restoration to the Wellington Quadrangular. On 6 March we took several supporters and a reasonably strong team to Wellington College to play Harrow, Wellington and Eton in this year's quadrangular tournament. We benefited from having strength in depth and won the event overall by taking 22 out of a possible 24 games. Our two 'missing' games went to Eton (which came second with 18 games) but the team could hardly have done a better job.

Such was the enjoyment had even by Harrow and Wellington that it is proposed to hold the competition twice next year.

There is now a trophy for the quadrangular and at the presentation Julian Martin and David Choy, as co-captains, shared the applause.

2010 was the hundredth year of the All England Badminton Championships and 10 March found players from Abingdon School in Birmingham assisting as spectators on day two. Hot news in the badminton world is that a smash of 421kmph has been struck with the latest Yonex racket. (That's 261mph in old money, and pundits tend to deem tennis serves ballistic if they exceed 130mph.) Yonex's display at the All England Badminton Championships in the NIA featured the wonder weapon and a radar speed gun: in emulation of Top Gear's 'star in a reasonably priced car', members of the public were invited to have a go. England player Andrew Smith had topped the table



with 184kmph and various Abingdon aspirants kept rejoining the queue! Several got over the hundred barrier, Jonathan Chung scored 135kmph and David Choy's best effort was 146kmph. These went with quite a bang so the 421kmph smash may have been audible in a nearby star system.

This, and more, serves to remind us of why we go to watch world class badminton: we see no displays of peevishness, we note the players' respect for officials, we gasp at the apparent nonchalance with which they cover the court and create opportunities against volleys of seemingly sure fire winners. After half a day we come away with a renewed awareness of just what can be done, a clearer appreciation of our own modest place in the sport's food chain and the determination to try harder.

*Ian Macdonald*

### **Personalia: the 'old firm', Abingdon's Upper Sixth Leavers**

Julian Martin's captaincy has been brisk, purposeful and effective – rather like his play on court. His particular take on the job has been to reinforce loyalty and ownership of the Club among former players as well as the regular team players. In seven years he has cultivated a good deal of skill and come to relish the innovative aspects of Badminton. He has readily stood aside and given the top spot to the player most likely to win, but when his turn has come he has seized it and played some storming games. More than one spectator has noted that Julian's feet often leave the ground when he is going for a full smash!

David Choy – co-captain with Julian – is a formidable and fluent player. It took about ten seconds for him to show the deftness and explosive speed reminiscent of Winnoc Lui OA

who left Abingdon in 1999. David has also begun to respond to the social possibilities of the game: it's taken a while, but having been seen playing left-handed for fun he evidently has gained enough confidence and trust to risk a little cheerful 'arfing about!' In a fine partnership with Gary Ling he has set a standard of skilful play and modest dignity which opposing schools have been quick to appreciate.

Ramon Bonfield probably underestimates his own talent: he's quite a versatile sportsman and the quick reactions and balance that make him capable on the football field are just as productive on the badminton court. In view of this it's hard to say quite why he is so accident-prone! On match days no-one is more natively turned out than Ramon.

Edward Callow hits the shuttle as hard as any player we've had for a while and is particularly good at boosting the confidence of a junior partner. But among the explosions and broken strings there are more dainty shots than the opposition expects. Edward also brings the transparent enjoyment and good humour that make Abingdon's badminton teams so easy to spend time with.

Richard Moon usually shows a classic technique: he strives for variety and nicely produced shots but his sharp reflexes make him a doughty competitor even if pressed into his 'B' game. Like his peers he finds fun in a sport that for some people becomes a mite precious.

We shall miss all these when the 2010-11 season starts but they know that they will be welcome at playing-reunions and there can be no doubt that they have set the bar high for future generations.

### **Results:**

#### **Michaelmas Term, 2009**

- 9 Sep: A and B teams v Bloxham (9-0, 8-1)
- 6 Oct: v Bradfield (away) (5-0, 5-1)
- 10 Oct: v Cheltenham College (6-3, 9-0)
- 20 Oct: v Rugby School (9-0, 9-0)
- 4 Nov: v Millfield/ King's Bruton (doubles 5-4, 8-1 Singles 4-8, 10-2)
- 11 Nov: A and B teams v Bloxham (9-0, 7-2)
- 14 Nov: v Radley (8-4)
- 18 Nov: v Cokethorpe
- 19 Nov: v Wellington (2-2, 4-0)
- 28 Nov: 3 way v Cheltenham + Malvern (6-3, 9-0)
- 2 Dec: U19 v MCS (6-1)
- 5 Dec: A & B v King's Bruton (4-5, 5-4)
- 9 Dec: U14 and U16 v MCS (5-0, 4-1)

#### **Lent Term, 2010**

- 21 Jan: U9s v Cherwell School OSBA (7-0)
- 30 Jan: v Millfield / King's Bruton (8-1, 9-0)
- 5 Feb: U19 mixed v Bartholomew's (1-8)
- 6 Feb: v Wellington College (4-0, 4-0)
- 23 Feb: v Rugby School (9-0, 9-0)
- 27 Feb: v Cheltenham (6-3, 9-0)
- 3 Mar: Inter-House Competition
- 6 Mar: Wellington 'quadrangular' v Harrow, Wellington and Eton (won 22/24 games)
- 10 Mar: v Cokethorpe (6-0)
- 12 Mar: U19 mixed v Henry Box School (1-9)
- 20 Mar: v King's School Bruton (11-4, 8-7)

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# Tennis



Joel Morris

The Tennis Club continues to grow, with more teams representing the School in inter-school fixtures and the win percentage throughout the School improving. The 1st VI set the tone for the success throughout the Club, winning 11 of their 15 matches this season, whilst this year saw a first competitive outing of a 5th and 6th VI. Tennis is certainly on the rise and with five of the 1st VI players returning next season, things are indeed looking bright for the future.

Our resident tennis professional Martin Butler has made a huge difference, altering the way the players train and demanding high standards, which has led to improvements across all abilities. There is a great deal of focus in training and he has generated a real buzz on court this summer. There have also been huge sacrifices made by all the staff that have looked after tennis in the various age groups and their enthusiastic approach to tennis has provided excellent motivation.

As with previous years, the Tennis Club commenced the season before term started with a pre-season camp run by Alex Harvey, coach at the LTA centre, Roehampton. This provided a great opportunity for all players, throughout the age groups, to get the feel back, feet moving and some quality coaching. There was a huge turnout over the four days and real excitement about the upcoming season.

## 1st VI

The 1st VI was captained by Euan Campbell, who brought three-years experience at 1st VI level. He was partnered by vice-captain Sam Murrell and together they formed an irresistible partnership with the left hand right hand combination. At second pair was a Fifth-year pairing of Joel Morris and Jack Wilson, who came from an unbeaten season together at U15 level. The third pair was Josh Ridley and Giles Waterson, who turned out to be the most consistent

pairing in the team. Even though Giles is still an U14, he and Josh won all but three of the sets they played this season, allowing the 1st VI to coast to some comfortable wins.

The inter-school matches began on the grass at Magdalen College School and saw the 1st VI get off to an impressive start. Euan Campbell and Sam Murrell won all three of their matches and the new pairing of Giles Waterson and Josh Ridley saw us home for the win. They played very solidly all day and worked well together with Giles Waterson looking solid from the back of the court and Josh Ridley showing some good movements and touches at the net.

The match against Stowe was another convincing win, with Joel Morris finding some outrageous angles and hitting some of the flattest forehands ever seen. Sam Murrell and Euan Campbell again proved too strong and the latter was in commanding form at the net,

flying across the court to slam some interception volleys away. This was followed by another good win against St Edward's on the AstroTurf courts. The boys adjusted very well, having played their first three matches all on different surfaces.

In the Glanville Cup, we were drawn against Radley B team in the first round, with the winner progressing to play Radley A team. The team of 4 would play a singles match against their opposite number and a doubles match. The seeding had to be based on rankings, meaning that we sent our U14 Giles Waterson in at number 1, with Joel Morris at 2, Sam Murrell at 3 and Euan Campbell at 4. The match against Radley B was a competitive one, but all the singles matches ended in an Abingdon win, meaning the tie was over after the singles rubbers.

The match against Radley A was a different story and although many of the matches were tight, Radley came through to win and eventually progress through to the quarterfinals. Giles Waterson fought well to make it difficult for Radley's number 1 seed. Against an U18, with a ranking of 5.2, Giles was always going to be up against it, but he put in a hugely impressive display, losing 2 – 6, 2 – 6. Joel Morris' match could have gone either way with the two players adopting different tactics. Joel Morris was the more aggressive but the consistency of the Radley player eventually saw him come through to win on a deciding tiebreaker.

Wins against Shiplake, Bloxham, Oratory and Pangbourne were backed up with a win against an Eton 2nd VI. This was a convincing display, with Abingdon blowing away the opponents with some aggressive hitting, in particular from Sam Murrell and Joel Morris, who were competing for the biggest forehand of the team. The match also saw the debut

of Henry Mills and Henry Kibble at 1st VI level; both players have been great servants of the Club and fully deserved their call up.

After half term, the 1st VI took part in the Oxfordshire Independent Schools Tournament at MCS. With Edward Howe and Xilin Song bolstering the team, we started off with sound wins against St Edward's and MCS, before losing to the old enemy Radley.

Towards the back end of term, there was a loss on the indoor courts at Bradfield and a good win against St Edward's before the big one against the staff. The staff team were supplemented by a couple of coaches and OAs in Oliver Raban and Cody Yellowlees-Bound, but the core of the team was still very much Common Room based. The match was played in searing heat and the superior fitness levels of the staff team, was evenly balanced against the youthful exuberance of the 1st VI. The match was finely balanced at 4 matches all, with the staff pairing of Mr Forth and Martin Butler still to play the 1st VI's number one pairing of Euan Campbell and Sam Murrell. The game was on a knife-edge with the bumper crowd enjoying the clash, until the staff team was broken at the back end of the set, to send the 1st VI into euphoria.

#### 1st VI Results:

MCS	W	6-3
Stowe	W	8-1
St Edward's	W	7-2
Shiplake	W	7-2
Bloxham	W	5-4
Oratory	W	7-2
Radley B	W	4-0
Radley A	L	0-4
Eton	W	8-1
Pangbourne	W	7-2
OXIST	2nd	
Bradfield	L	1-8
Wellington	W	6-3
Staff	W	5-4
Harrow (ISTA)	W	2-0
Eton (ISTA)	L	0-2

## 2nd VI

Henry Mills captained the 2nd VI and led his team by example throughout the season. It was a very strong 2nd VI that took to the court every week and all of those who played could have slotted into the 1st VI at any stage. Henry Kibble's enthusiastic approach meant that the Mills-Kibble pairing were a fine example to the rest of the team. Xilin Song's hard-hitting, aggressive tennis saw him play a few matches for the 1st VI and he will certainly be a threat next year. Dan Bayley worked hard throughout the season and also stepped in well to play a few 1st VI matches. Hugh Brash and Edward Howe made up a fine 2nd VI and their results reflected their ability.

## 3rd VI

Alexander Black captained the 3rd VI and never let his side down. He was the motivational force behind his young team as he guided them through the season. Alex Veale and Harrison Gray teamed up well to gain some vital wins, whilst a team including Chris Wilkinson, Josh Bradlow, Hadrien Combe Orsoni and Daniel Choi was always going to be a strong unit.

## U16 Tennis

Taking out the U16s two strongest players was always going to affect the results, but the Revill/Fishpool coaching partnership brought out the best in them. Edward O'Brien and Charlie Leslau were solid to say the least, and Tom Jeffery and James Edwards added some flair to the performances. Alex Jeffreys, Nick Earl and Jake Ampleford looked good bets to feature at the top end of the senior teams next year and competition for places will again be high.



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## U15 Tennis

The U15s had a hugely successful season under the guidance of Mr Forth who managed to get some good results from the talented players. There were wins against Stowe, Eton, Marlborough and St Edward's to name a few and the only losses came against Radley, Bradfield and, in the deciding set, against an unbeaten Wellington team.

Peter Honey and Freddie Locock-Harrison played at first pair all season and were one of the most successful pairings in the School. They played alongside Matthew Kitchen and Elliott Mills at second pair. There was massive competition for places at third pair with Sanjay Bhattacharya and Toby Brown eventually securing the role. This team put in a massive amount of effort, training five days a week and being pushed to their limits by the coaching staff.

James Zhou, Nick Leah, Patrick Lawson-Statham, Mensun Yellowlees-Bound and Richard Matthews were all potential A team players and will undoubtedly continue to develop.

## U14 Tennis

Throughout a difficult season, there were big improvements in almost every player. There was a real determination to improve their games and lunchtime squad sessions were always well attended. In the absence of Giles Waterson, George Ruck and John Wijek were the big players in this age group. They both have a good deal of potential and were ably supported by the likes of Thomas Kelly, Sam Hogan, Gem Vongseenin and Robert de la Harpe. The hard work of both the players and the coaching staff, Dr Wijek and Mrs McRae, will pay dividends next year as the group step up to a strong inter-school fixture list.

## U13 Tennis

Will Clamp-Gray captained the junior tennis team this year and they performed well against Dragon, MCS, Moultsford and Cothill. Gus Mills, Marcello Cau-Tait and Jack Walsh all look to be decent bets for the future, as they made up a strong A team. In the First Year, James Bourdon showed great athleticism around the court and together with Freddie Stretch, Harry Anderson, Leon Wu and Joseph Kelly, will form an exceptionally strong U13 team next year. The Lower School doubles tournament was won by Alex Turner and Alex Gatenby, and the singles tournament by Marcello Cau-Tait who beat James Bourdon in the final.

*Steve Brenchley*



**Freddie Locock-Harrison**



**Sam Murrell**

# Athletics



## Achilles Relays 6 May

It was a strong team with great hopes of success that travelled to this year's Achilles Relays. Our best chances were in the Inter 4x100m hurdles and the Senior 4x800m. Both teams gave very strong performances but were sadly outrun on the day by the teams from Harrow and Southend. In years gone by we might reasonably have expected to win both races, but every year the competition gets hotter, so this result, which equals our best in recent years, must be seen as outstanding. As a consolation, the Inters' 4x100m team broke its own record with 46.9s, but were just out of the final.

## Vale Athletics Team Trials 11 May

On a cool Tuesday, Abingdon School Athletics Club took a small group of athletes to the Vale Team trials at Radley. To their delight, and the interest of a local reporter, Abingdon swept the board in two events, picking up the first three places in the Senior 1500m with Kempton, Muir and Watkins following each other in quick order. Not to be outdone, the Inters' sprinters managed to go one better, taking all four top slots in the 100m. Sadly the reporter seemed to have left by then. Had he remained to would have seen Barnshaw, Keown and Nott cross the line practically simultaneously with Boddington only a few steps behind.

## Radley, St Edward's, Wellington, Abingdon Competition 13 May

It was an optimistic Athletics Club, with the Inters being particularly confident despite being weakened by injury and illness, which travelled to Radley for this four-way competition. In the event the Inters confidence was spot on and they cruised ahead of the opposition to register their second win of the season, thus maintaining their unbeaten record in full school matches.

Highlights of the day included Stuart Jones cruising to a nearly 80m victory in the 1500m (nearly 30s ahead of the nearest opposition runner). Other victories were Will Nott (100m 11.7s),



Peter Barnshaw (400m and hurdles), Will Barnes (shot 10.88m), Patrick Sardeson (javelin) (A-string), David Jorgensen (400m), Matthew Hartshorne (800m), Luke Terry (1500m), Patrick Sardeson (high jump), and Ben Bryant (shot).

In the Juniors, Nick Boreham won the shot (10.80m), and in spite of times of 11.9s and 25.0s was just pipped at the post in the 100m and 200m. Jonathan Rothwell, Jamie Aspinall and Tom Fabes also deserve mention for competing against the odds, with Tom being rewarded with a personal best time of 5.02.8 in the 1500m.

The Seniors team of Tom Foxon, Olly Mallett, James Humberstone, David Snead and Nick Williams seemed happy to fill any gaps they could, and were rewarded with some pretty creditable performances.

#### Inter-Schools at Harrow 15 May

The Club knew they were in for a tough time at Harrow this year, not only were Harrow stronger than ever but injury,

over-competition, a Chemistry exam and the FA Cup final, were conspiring against us. In the end, even the Inters' team were beaten by Harrow, and not only by Harrow but also by a much-drilled Brighton College, so they had to settle for third place. On full strength we might well have caught them, but it was still our best Harrow result so far.

The hot competition led to some fine performances. In the 100m Niall Keown (11.3s – a School record) and Nick Boreham (11.9s) seemed to be on fire, with Nick also winning the shot (11.55m). The most dramatic of senior 800m races saw the first four through in under 2 minutes, with Joe Kempton slashing the School 800m record by over 5 seconds to 1:57.5. Our Inters' 4x100m team finally got together the four Vale winners to lower the School record for the third time this term to 46.7s.

While there were many other performances of note – not least from Peter Barnshaw (in the 400m and 400m

relay), Tom Fabes and Patrick Sardeson (in the javelin), Zander Cornish-Moore (400m) and Alex Muir (800m) – the most dramatic victory of the day in any event, by any competitor, went for the second year running to Tom Watkins. He seemed to effortlessly ease to victory in the 2k steeplechase, more than half a lap ahead of the competition, smashing his own School record in the process and setting a new mark 6:28.1.

#### ESAA Track and Field Regional Final

After a strong performance at the county English Schools' Athletic Association Track & Field Cup, Abingdon U16 team travelled to Tipton with a clear target: to do their best. Two weeks careful preparation, with the support of outside coaches Kevin O'Hara and Alan Lerwill, meant the team had done all they could to be ready. Some fine sprinting by Niall Keown and Patrick Sardeson set us up for a good final, though our most successful track event was the 80m hurdles with Kieran Boddington (11.6s) and Charlie Stenton-Putt (12.6s) getting







us 49 points. In the field, Nick Boreham topped the points with the shot (12.60m, 24 points), with Charlie Stenton-Putt (1.65m high jump), Niall Keown (5.78m long jump) and Patrick Sardeson (39.56m javelin) not far behind. The discus throwers kept the team's chances up with Azarel Adebanjo and Christopher Tayler both scoring well (27.46m and 25.86m respectively). The other members of the team all did their bit with Charles Kruczko-Cousins, Jamie Aspinall, David Jorgensen, Mathew Hartshorne, Jacob Templeman, Thomas Fabes and George Stoneham all getting valuable points. In the end we added 41 points to our previous total, achieving as much as anyone could ask, but it was not enough to catch the teams in front and the winners, Northampton School, were well ahead on 476 points. Still, it all bodes well for next year's U17 team and for the future of athletics at Abingdon School.

### Inter-House Athletics

Abingdon's annual Inter-House Athletics Competition occurred on a brilliantly bright and hot day with a strong wind running straight down the 100m track. Such conditions were ideal for the 100m,

which led to some fast times, including 11.6s for Nick Boreham, which broke Michael Summers' five-year-old record. The conditions also suited the javelin and helped the talented Patrick Sardeson to 43.83m, breaking his own record by a good 3 metres. It was, however, no help to the discus throwers at the other end of the field, but did not stop some fine performances with Christopher Tayler just missing the U17 record, and Sam Adamson adding more than a metre to the U15 mark with a throw of 26.00m. On the day there was little chance of any great middle-distance times, but it did not stop some fine performances, not least from Tom Foxon who was way ahead in the 1500m, and Laurence Lilley whose fine finish forced Thomas Fabes into second place, but most dramatically from Michael Fabes, who not only soundly beat all the Second Years but came over a minute ahead of the next First Year. The inaugural Golden Mile proved a two-horse – Watkins and Muir – race, with the very tough conditions making it extremely hard for all the competitors. In the end, Watkins and Muir crossed the line together, the time unimportant compared with the symbolic end to two outstanding Abingdon running careers.

Well done to O'Doherty's for achieving the overall victory, helped by victory in the Sixth Year, second in the Fourth Year and fourth in the Third Year. Christodoulou's did well to come second with a victory in the Third Year, with Franklin's coming a very respectable third overall. Southwell-Sander's won the Fourth Year but were let down by a largely absent Sixth-form team.

It was a hugely demanding day for all and many thanks must go to all the staff and boys who made it such a fine event.

*George Moody*

Peter Barnshaw competed for the Oxfordshire Schools' Intermediate Boys' team in the ESAA Combined Events National Final at Stoke-on-Trent on the 18/19 September, coming 11th with a score of 4458, setting a personal best in the 100m hurdles (14.29s) and helping the Oxfordshire team to second place, Peter's teammates coming 4th and 15th.

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# Cross Country



## Senior Squad – undefeated!

Possibly the most successful year to date... here's how it unfolded:

### Longworth Village 10k 20 September

Nineteen runners attended the Longworth Village 10k race. The weather was gloriously warm and sunny, perfect conditions for our runners, including three members of staff. Out of a field of around eighty recreational and club runners, Thomas Watkins, Alexander Muir and Joshua Ridley scored 3rd, 4th and 5th places overall, with comfortable sub-40 minute times. Other notable performances included Alistair Duff, Stuart Jones, Luke Terry and Christian Reedman scoring times comfortably under the 43 minute mark.

### St Alban's School Relays 25 November

We competed against ten or so other schools over the 3km, undulating farmland terrain, which gave us the opportunity of surveying the opposition who were the usual suspects: The Judd School, St Alban's School, RGS Guildford – teams that have traditionally stood on the podium at the Knole Run – together with many other hopefuls including Tiffin School, Highgate, Haberdashers' Aske's, Loughborough Grammar etc. Interestingly, the mean times for both A and B teams were reassuringly close, suggesting a strength-in-depth that would prove very valuable later on in the season. Newly appointed captain Alexander Muir did an outstanding job as last-leg runner for the A-team, and in organizing the athletes on the day. The A team came third in their division, missing

second spot by about 10 seconds; they would have been second overall had the faster B team runners been included in the team! The B team therefore scored a very impressive second place, just behind The Judd. Notable performances came from three B team runners, David Wills, Alistair Duff and Luke Terry.

### Bicester Village 10k 13 December

The Cross-Country Club travelled to the outskirts of Bicester Village to compete alongside 430 or so senior runners in an open 10k road race, which annually attracts some of the best club runners across the country since the course is completely flat. It was a crisp and sunny day, the best conditions possible for racing in an event that serves as a time trial and part of a selection process for some of next term's important races.



Alexander Muir was the first Abingdon runner with a time of 35:21, he was swiftly followed by another five boys, which saw six Abingdon boys in the top twenty – and two of them were Middle School boys – all placing sub-37 minute times. Special mention should go to Stuart Jones, Alistair Duff and Luke Terry who scored 36:04, 36:06 and 37:33 respectively, also to David Wills and Christian Reedman who clocked 38:06 and 38:17 and were the fastest improving athletes so far this term. What was most encouraging was not just that six of our runners posted sub-37 minutes for 10k, but that a large cluster of Lower Sixth and Middle School boys came very close behind them.

### Vale of White Horse Championships 28 January

The U13s won their event with Michael Fabes and James Bourdon coming 2nd and 3rd overall in their category. The U15s scored a disappointing 2nd place but continued to gain experience. The U17s provided an excellent spectacle with Alistair Duff, Stuart Jones and Luke

Terry placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall and hence winning their category easily. The Seniors placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th overall with Thomas Watkins, Alexander Muir and Joe Kempton crossing the finish line at almost identical times – easily ahead the field.

### County Championships 2 February

The U15s continued to gain race experience while scoring some top 20 individual positions. The U17s dominated their race as a team, scoring first position overall with Alistair Duff crossing the finish line triumphantly, closely followed by Stuart Jones – the two of them, along with Luke Terry (6th), qualified to represent Oxfordshire in the All England race in March. Most improved and impressive runner was Mathew Hartshorne who is on the reserve list for the All England race after scoring 10th position overall. The U19s treated the crowds to a brilliant display of teamwork, and a devastatingly quick pace, to win their age category convincingly. Alexander Muir crossed

the finish line 1st overall with a broad smile and a one-last-time victory salute alongside Thomas Watkins (2nd); they qualify for the All England race too along with Joshua Ridley (5th), Joe Kempton (6th), Michel Baumgart (8th), Robin Veale (9th) and Alexander Veale (10th).

### Wellington College Relays 6 February

The day seemed as though it would be a success from the very outset: we were the first school to arrive, which gave us a good opportunity to do a careful reconnaissance of the course. Although familiar, the course is short enough to allow individual tactical errors to turn into mistakes, which the whole team could pay for later on.

Joe Kempton ran the fastest lap of the day, and indeed since 2001, at 06:50 – he was the first to set off from the U19s along with all the other runners and, spectacularly, he returned first to the hand-over chute to the disbelief of the onlookers. Tom Foxon, Josh Ridley, Tom Watkins and last-leg Alex Muir then



Senior squad L to R – Chris Burgess, Alex Muir, Tom Watkins, Alex Veale, Robin Veale, Joe Kempton, Michel Baumgart, Josh Ridley





The U15A team improved from 3rd place in the Wellington College Relays to a fantastic 2nd place with Jack Walsh, Luke Teh, Robert O’Kelly and Thomas Fabes exhibiting remarkable courage under adverse weather conditions and a great deal of pressure – they ran a very impressive race. The B team unearthed some huge talent in the form of Michael Fabes who was easily the ‘man of the match’. His time was excellent and meant that his team of Jonathan Rothwell, Angus Parker and Yegor Pomazounov scored 6th place.

### Marlborough College Races 25 February

Our opponents here were Marlborough, Harrow, Cheltenham, Radley, Kingswood, MCS, Winchester, and St Edward’s. The course provided a classic cross-country running challenge and the weather made sure that it was as difficult as possible too. Conditions underfoot were muddy, slippery and at times simply impossible to get any speed going. However, our runners relished the course, and the conditions, using both as an opportunity to prepare for the forthcoming South East Schools’ Championships, but also enjoying a tough course for what it was. The Juniors were really starting to show a wonderful team spirit with Angus Parker and Jack Walsh working very well together on the harsh hills of Wiltshire. Luke Teh, Michael and Thomas Fabes and especially Robert O’Kelly were really quite impressive to watch as they quickly picked up the tricks of pacing, attacking on the inclines and shadowing the opposition. The Intermediates simply dominated with seven runners in the top 8 – Alistair Duff won the age category. Special mention should go to Fourth-former Mathew Hartshorne who came 4th after an excellent race – very well done to him. The Seniors enjoyed themselves, is the best way to put it: Thomas Watkins won the race, closely followed by his trusted lieutenants

treated everyone to a masterclass of exciting and how-to-win-in-style running. They were over a minute ahead of the second team and collected their gold medals shortly afterwards – and again in School assembly on Monday.

The U17s won but not by the margins they are used to, or by the U19 margins. While their talent remains irrefutable there is still experience and wisdom to be gained. Nonetheless, Stuart Jones, Rory Marsh, Christian Reedman, Luke Terry and Alistair Duff ran a successful race worthy of gold medals too. Special mention should go to Luke Terry who ran what the coaches thought was the ‘gutsiest’ leg. In the U15s, special mention should go to Luke Teh who stepped into the team at the very last moment when needed – he, Jack Walsh, Angus Parker, Rob O’Kelly and Tom Fabes ran a great race, which saw them being awarded bronze medals – well deserved indeed.

### Radley College Relays 11 February

Six four-man teams attended the Radley Relays to race against Eton,

Radley, Winchester, Magdalen College School, The Piggott School, Mill Hill, Wellington, Westminster, Marlborough and St Edward’s. The U19A team won in emphatic style with Joe Kempton, Josh Ridley, Thomas Watkins and Alexander Muir bringing their very own perfection to the race for the others to compete against, with the result that Abingdon dominated again. The B team beat another five A teams and all other B and C teams to score 4th place – another 17 seconds would have seen them in 3rd place. Michel Baumgart, Nicholas Williams, Clym Buxton and Robin Veale ran superbly and next year, sadly without Michel, they will have the opportunity to improve hugely on those times. The U17s were clearly more serious and supremely concentrated on this occasion; they are gradually finding the chance to be unbeaten all season a rather tantalizing one: Stuart Jones, Christian Reedman, Luke Terry and Alistair Duff were no match for anyone or any team. The B team came 4th, beating four other A teams and as many B teams: Edward Wigmore, Mathew Hartshorne, Edward Firth and Rory Marsh showed our strength-in-depth.

Alex Muir and Joe Kempton. Most impressive though were Robin Veale and Nicholas Williams who demonstrated huge maturity and good pacing – very promising indeed. Naturally, the post-match supper was an excuse for some to eat as much as possible, and the journey back was, as usual, highly entertaining.

### South East Schools' Championships – Harrow School

#### 6 March

This race saw us crowned the fastest school for cross-country running, something that for the senior runners was the culmination of three years of waiting and, especially for this season, seven months of very hard training. All of a sudden the weekly two-hour runs on the Ridgeway, and coach Ashton's speed sessions in the cold November afternoons, in faint light and when everyone else had gone home, were well worth it. The seniors won, beating all their main rivals convincingly. There was no strong independent school missing from the fixture list, the course was very hard, and all the other teams looked very strong indeed so this was no easy success. Interestingly, the fact that our six scoring senior runners were so very close to each other suggests that we do not rely on the luxury of talent alone

for our success, rather we train hard and smartly. Suffice it to say that after Saturday's race, many raced on Sunday in the Oxford Mail league, and then the next day completed the usual brutal Monday speed session... 'nough said...

### Birmingham Lucton Trophy Relays 17 March

This was the trophy that got away from the senior team last year by a margin of 10 seconds over 2km with a six-man relay team! The pressure was mounting for the runners, partly because if the seniors won it would mean they'd had an undefeated season, but more importantly for both the Seniors and Intermediates, it was the final opportunity to test the opposition in a different part of the country. We were very nervous day as we had never raced against some of the schools taking part and hence their potential prowess was unfamiliar to us. The Intermediates took off first with Alistair Duff, Christian Reedman, Luke Terry, Mathew Hartshorne, Rory Marsh and Stuart Jones. Essentially each runner gained us about 8 seconds on the opposition and by the end of the race Abingdon had a margin of 50 seconds. I am still struggling to find the runner who impressed Mr O'Doherty, Mr Middleton and me the most. I think that all six ran

a fantastic leg with brilliant athleticism and total dedication. So they won comfortably. The Seniors were next and their nervousness was palpable. Josh Ridley, Robin Veale, Michel Baumgart, Thomas Watkins, Alex Muir and Joe Kempton knew that they absolutely had to win – there was no other option. We were up against some very strong opposition and after the third leg things began to look very tight indeed and the coaches started to get nervous too. However, when I see Tom, Alex and Joe about to race, I always have a little saying that goes through my head: '... bombs away...' and indeed it was just that. The first three legs held the enemy at bay; the last three did the damage. I guess you had to be there to enjoy the spectacle for what it was: running at its best, teamwork at its best and sacrifice at its best. Even when they knew they were comfortably ahead they still pushed hard, crossing the hand-over chute on their knees gasping for oxygen in serious lactic-acid induced pain, fully extended. Why push so hard? ... Abingdon School Senior Cross-Country Running Squad 2009-2010 ... UNDEFEATED!

*Alexis Christodoulou*



J16s L to R – Luke Terry, Christian Reedman, Mathew Hartshorne, Stuart Jones, Alistair Duff, Rory Marsh, Edward Firth, Joe Greenman

# University Places taken up by Abingdon boys in 2010

## Aberdeen

Computing Science with Industrial Placement

## Aberystwyth

International Politics with French

## Bath

Chemistry (4 years with study year abroad)

Biochemistry

Mechanical Engineering

## Birmingham

Modern Languages with Business Management

French Studies

Geography

Business Management

Geography

Geography and History

Mechanical & Materials Engineering

Geography

## Brighton

Geography

## Bristol

Spanish & Portuguese

Geography with Study in Continental Europe

Ancient History

Economics & Management

Medicine

English & Classical Studies

Chemistry

Civil Engineering

## Cambridge

Politics, Psychology & Sociology  
*Clare*

Natural Sciences

*Peterhouse*

Politics, Psychology & Sociology  
*Trinity*

Philosophy

*Peterhouse*

Medicine

*Queens'*

Natural Sciences

*Jesus*

Classics: Greek & Latin

*Robinson*

Classics: Greek & Latin

*Trinity Hall*

Economics

*Christ's*

## Cardiff

Ancient & Medieval History

Architectural Studies

Medicine

English Literature

Architectural Studies

## City

Management

## Durham

Classics

Philosophy, Politics & Economics

Modern Languages

Economics

Business Economics

Chemistry

Chemistry (International)

Natural Sciences

## Exeter

Geography

Geography

Geography

History & Ancient History

Business Economics

Economics & Finance

Engineering

Economics

Arabic & Middle East Studies

## Harper Adams

Agriculture with Farm Business Management

## Imperial College London

Biochemistry

Physics with Theoretical Physics

Biomedical Science

Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Medicine

Geology

Information Systems Engineering

Medicine

Medicine

## King's College London

French & Hispanic Studies

Classics

War Studies

History

Business Management

Physiotherapy

French & History

Classics

## Lancaster

Marketing

## Leeds

Economics & Philosophy

Product Design

Geography

International Business

## Liverpool

Veterinary Science

Architecture

Latin American & Hispanic Studies

## Loughborough

Chemistry & Sports Science

## London School of Economics

Economics

## Manchester

Chemical Engineering

Medicine

Modern Languages & Business and Management (Italian)

Economics

## Newcastle

Biomedical Sciences

Medicine

Medicine

## Nottingham

Economics

## Oxford

Engineering

*St Hilda's*

Biochemistry

*St Catherine's*

Classics

*Queen's*

Law with German Law

*Balliol*

Music

*Lincoln*

Classics & French

*Brasenose*

Economics & Management

*St Hilda's*

Medicine

*Brasenose*

## Oxford Brookes

Architecture

## Peninsula Medical School

Medicine

## Queen Mary UL

Information & Communications

Technology in the Business

Environment

Medicine

## Royal Agricultural College

Rural Land Management

## Royal Holloway UL

English & Classical Studies

German & Italian

## St George's UL

Biomedical Sciences

Medicine

## Sheffield

Aerospace Engineering

Mathematics

## School of Oriental & African Studies, UL

Chinese (Modern & Classical)

## Southampton

Geography

Ship Science/Yacht & Small Craft

History

Mechanical Engineering

Geography

## St Andrew's

Ancient History

Medicine

Classical Studies

## Sussex

English

## Swansea

Geography

Business Economics

## University College London

Classics

Economics

Biochemistry

Medicine

Chemistry

Statistics, Economics & Finance

Mechanical Engineering

Biochemistry

History

Geography

History of Art with Material Studies

## Warwick

Mechanical Engineering

Economics

History

Sociology

Mechanical Engineering

Engineering Business Management

History

## Westminster

Commercial Music

## York

Chemistry





## Upper Sixth Leavers 2010

Luke Abbott	James Carter	Rob Fife	James Hutchings	Jasper Marlow	James Pickard	Liam Smith
Bobby Aigbogun	Alexander Carver	Thomas Finch	Will Hutton	Julian Martin	James Plumb	Joshua Stedman
Alexander Anderson	Daniel Choi	Charlie Floyd	Ali Ibrahim	Joe Mason	Stephen Poland	Guy Stephens
Ben André	Matthew Choi	William Fotherby	Jonathan Ient	Joe McDonagh	Mark Power Smith	Barry Stephens
James Baldwin	Kenneth Chow	Jacob Fries	Thomas Jenkinson	Richard Meadows	Jonathan Prest-Smith	Michael Summers
Freddie Barber	David Choy	Eric Gartz	Tian Ji	Richard Milford	Sam Prior	Lewis Swain
Jonathan Barrow	Mihai Clapaniuc	Julius Gerstmeyer	Nam Hweu Jo	Henry Mills	Tommy Pritchard	Ted Thompson
John Bartlett	Freddie Cleworth	Harrison Gray	Joe Kempton	Caspian Mitchard	Zahi Qamhawi	Jack Tinker
Tom Bateman	George Constable	Anthony Grieveson	Callum Keown	Richard Moon	Stuart Rankin	Oliver Todd
Ulrich Bauer	James Cook	Robert Henley	Henry Kibble	Hugo Morrison	Ben Read	Alexander Veale
Michel Baumgart	Matthew Copson	Matthew Hinkins	Laurence Krall	Alex Muir	Oliver Read	Alexander Ward
Alexander Beech	Andrew Dart	Ben Hogan	Leon Lai	Andrew Nagi	Tim Richards	Thomas Watkins
Henry Beggin	Alexander Davis	James Holland	Simon Lam	Sam Newman	Charlie Robertson	Nathaniel Watkins
Alexander Black	Andrew Doll	Freddie Howe	Gabriel Ling	Sanford Ngai	Dylan Robinson	Aidan Watts
Daniel Boddington	Jasper Done	Edward Howe	Anthony Lloyd	Alistair Nicoll	Dylan Robinson	James Wilson
Ramon Bonfield	Henry Dunbar	Thomas Hughes	Robert Lloyd	Richard Oastler	Jack Rogers	Thomas Wilson
Charles Brampton	James Edwards	James Humberstone	Adrian Lo	William Otterburn	George Rossiter	Robert Winearls
Peter Brombley	Christopher Edwards	Fred Humphrey	Stuart Lonergan	Alex Park	Jakob Schleu	Jonathan Wong
Richard Brown	Beno Edwards	Edward Humphries	Tom Lowenthal	Luke Parker	Alexander Shukhobodskiy	Henry Wood
Chris Burgess	Nigel Emodi	Robert Hussey	Max Makarov	Richard Parkin-Mason	Richard Slade	John Yoo
Edward Callow	Alex Ereat		Olly Mallett	Bhavik Patel	Andrei Smirnov	
Euan Campbell	Dami Etomi		Veeral Manek	Geoff Penington	Joshua Smith	



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ABINGDON