



STARRY EYED!



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News



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Arts



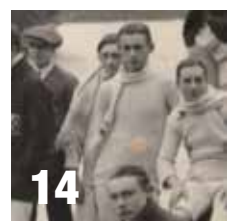
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Out of the Past

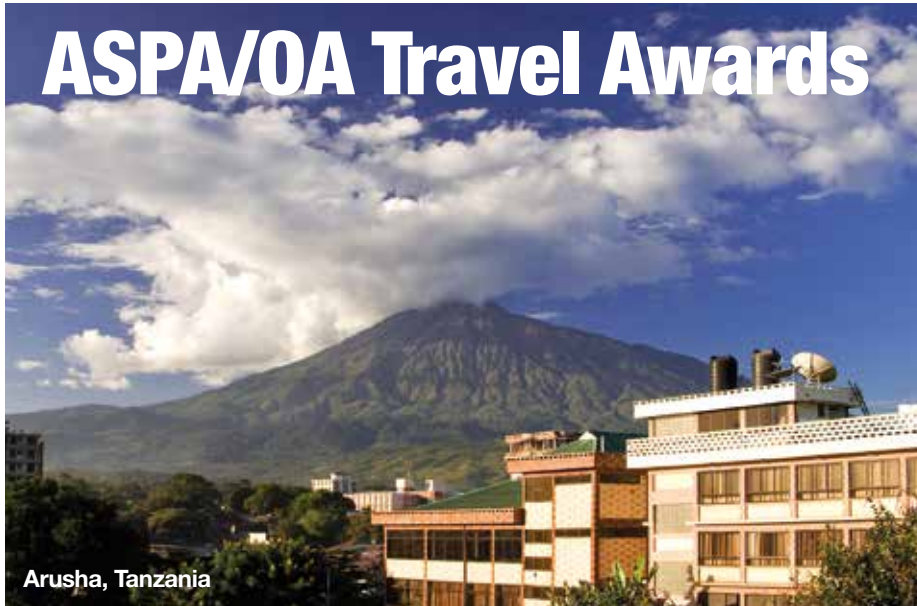
With a record number of A* grades – almost 33% – at A level, and nearly 48% at GCSE, Abingdon pupils have every reason to look happy. The A level results are especially pleasing given that the number of A*s awarded nationally has fallen for the first time ever. Across the country, GCSE English Language grades have also fallen but not at Abingdon where 89% of candidates gained A* or A in the subject. What pleases the School most about these results is the fact that the boys manage to achieve them whilst contributing at the top level in so many other fields. Over the summer boys have represented Great Britain in rowing, kayaking and at the International Linguistic Olympiad. They have taken part in a music tour to Barcelona, helped run a summer school in Moldova and undertaken challenging expeditions with the CCF and D of E. Boys, staff and parents are all to be congratulated! ■

A breakdown of the results can be seen at:

www.abingdon.org.uk/a_level_statistics_2014 and www.abingdon.org.uk/gcse_statistics_2014



ASPA/OA Travel Awards



Arusha, Tanzania

Jonathan Ainslie, James Telford and Alex Turner have won this year's ASPA/OA Travel Awards. Jonathan will be working in a school in Arusha in Tanzania, helping children with their English, basic arithmetic and with extra-curricular activities. James is travelling with 'Think Pacific' to the outer Fiji islands to spend 6 months working with poorer communities helping to build classrooms, clinics and fresh water supplies, whilst also participating in youth and community work. Alex is undertaking 13 days of scientific research in Borneo's tropical rainforests, assessing the impact of land use and climate change and working alongside Dr Glen Reynolds, a Research Fellow from the Department of Geography at the University of Swansea.

The ASPA/OA Travel awards are made jointly by ASPA and the Old Abingdonian Club to members of the Lower and Upper Sixth who are undertaking some form of travel and activity either during the summer holiday, between finishing school and starting university, or in their gap year. Up to £2,000 is awarded each year; the amounts awarded individually depend on the activity being undertaken and on the benefits of the received activity to the community in question. ■

Applications should be submitted during the Summer term for the year in question.

Details of the award can be found online at:

www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa_oa_travel_awards



Fiji



Borneo



Ken Kerby

There was standing room only in St Michael's Church, Abingdon for Ken Kerby's funeral on 30 July. Governors, staff and colleagues, both past and present, came to pay tribute to a man whose cheerful helpfulness and complete loyalty to the School was acknowledged in a moving tribute from Andrew Hall. Ken and his wife Shirley joined the School in 1994. They both worked in the maintenance department before Shirley became School Receptionist and together they undertook the role of school caretaker.

Born and bred in Abingdon, Ken spent his whole life in the area – but for a brief interlude in Newcastle. Before coming to Abingdon he had worked at MG, for his father's building firm and for his own painting and decorating business. The School will miss not only his positive presence but also his practical skills. ■

Science Centre Progress



Want to know how the Science Centre is getting on? Well you can keep an eye on its progress at www.abingdon.org.uk/science_centre_construction where a time-lapse video is recording its progress.



New 1st XV Rugby Pitch

The 1st XV pitch on Waste Court Field was completely re-laid earlier in the year ready for the start of the new season. The pitch now has its own irrigation system, which should greatly improve its all-weather playability. Thanks to the generosity of Touchliners, the rugby parents' support group, and to the School Fund, the pitch also has new 17 metre high posts. ■



Prize Giving

Ben Macintyre OA 1982, author, broadcaster and *Times* columnist, was the guest of honour at Prize Giving at the end of last term. In a brief but pertinent speech he told the leavers to make their own decisions and to not only challenge themselves but to take responsibility for themselves too. Among the leavers were joint head boys Leo Wood and Thomas Kelly who both expressed their gratitude to the staff and to their parents for their Abingdon education. As Leo said, "it is not the academic opportunities for which I will be most grateful, nor the sporting and musical opportunities, but the opportunity to develop personally in a positive and nurturing environment where individuality is encouraged, not penalised, academic success is respected, not scorned and intellectual curiosity prized, not derided". ■



Leo Wood

Thomas Kelly



Staff Profile: Charmian Hart

Charmian has been the Arts Centre Secretary since 2005: writing letters, administering outings, selling tickets, creating posters and programmes, hiring costumes, arranging dinners and cast parties and reunions – and tidying up after everyone afterwards! Her proudest achievement was ticketing the Lyric Theatre event in London in 2006 when, before the days of online ticket sales, she made 850 tickets for numbered seats and sold them all without a hitch. Her favourite work has been to do with costuming: researching the look of the show, sourcing the costumes from charity shops, *Primark* and costume hire companies. She says she has loved the contact with the boys and her continuing relationship with them and as she moves on now to pastures new she just wants everyone to know what a lovely time she's had! ■

First World War Centenary Lecture

Thursday 20 November

7.30 pm: Amey Theatre

Abingdon School

All welcome, admission free

Gary Sheffield is the Professor of War Studies at the University of Wolverhampton and a leading expert on the First World War. The lecture is open to everyone - including the general public.

The lecture will be preceded at 6.30 pm by a drinks reception at which the school archivist, Sarah Wearne, will give a brief, illustrated talk on Abingdon and Old Abingdonians at War 1914 – 1918.

For further details and to reserve a place at the drinks reception, please contact Elizabeth Robson:

elizabeth.robson@abingdon.org.uk

01235 849074



Where on Earth?

During the past few months, Abingdon pupils have been up mountains, down caves, in trenches and under waterfalls, all in the pursuit of knowledge – knowledge of themselves, of other people, of past ages or different cultures. Some of their destinations can be seen on these two pages. ■



In the Lake District on the Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition in July



On the Great Wall whilst at a study camp in China



At the site of a Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall with Lower School classicists



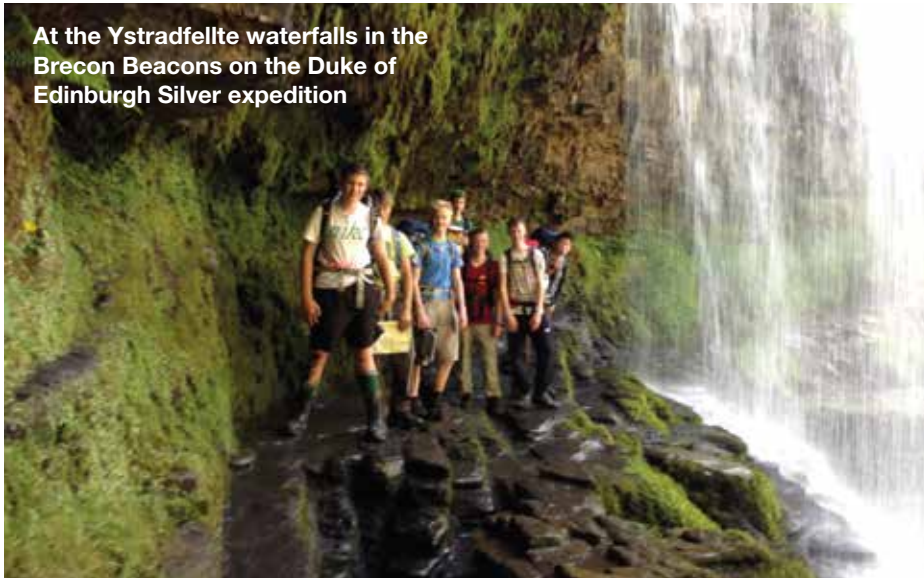
Teaching a group of children in the Moldovan town of Ialoveni on the annual Moldovan Project trip



In the stocks at Les Baux on the fourth-year French Exchange to Aix-en-Provence



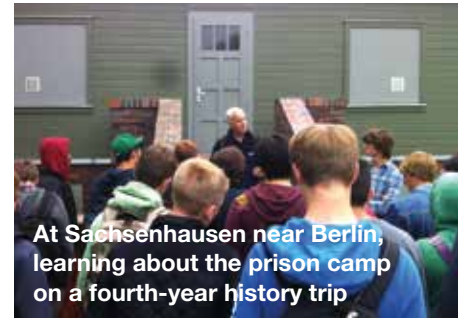
Caving in the Brecon Beacons on the second-year adventure trip to Plas Pencelli in April



At the Ystradfellte waterfalls in the Brecon Beacons on the Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition



Learning about Louis XV at the Louvre on a sixth-form-historians' study trip to Paris



At Sachsenhausen near Berlin, learning about the prison camp on a fourth-year history trip



The First years on a raft they built themselves whilst at an Adventure Camp at Liddington in April



Examining a bronze statue of Elsje who once owned a sweetshop in the Unterer Markt Strasse, Boppard on the Lower School trip to the Rhineland



First years at the Roysse Room, Abingdon's schoolroom from 1563 to 1870



In the trenches at Bayernwald near Ypres, Belgium, on the fourth-year Battlefield Trip



Playing cricket in Dubai on the U15 tour in April

Journey's End

Reflecting the commemorative mood, fourth-year drama pupils performed extracts from RC Sheriff's classic First World War play, *Journey's End*, for their exam piece last term. With an impressive trench 'dug-out' for the set, and period army uniforms for costumes, the cast succeeded in producing an extremely convincing piece of theatre. ■



Music's Spanish Tour



Chapel Choir in the basilica at Montserrat

Immediately after term was over both First Orchestra and Chapel Choir left for a week-long tour of Catalonia

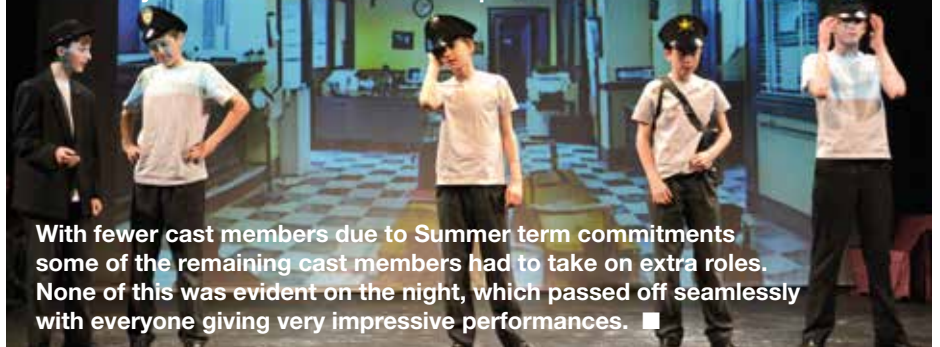
in northern Spain. Based in the town of Corbera, just outside Barcelona, the musicians gave performances in a number of venues including Barcelona's gothic cathedral, Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, the Romanesque cathedral of Tarragona and the basilica of the monastery of Montserrat. The tour was a fine finale for many of the members of the group whose Abingdon swansong this was. ■



Announcing the concert with bagpipes outside the cathedral in Tarragona

Who You Gonna Call?

Delayed by illness from its scheduled date last March a new slot was eventually found for the Lower School production of *Who You Gonna Call?*



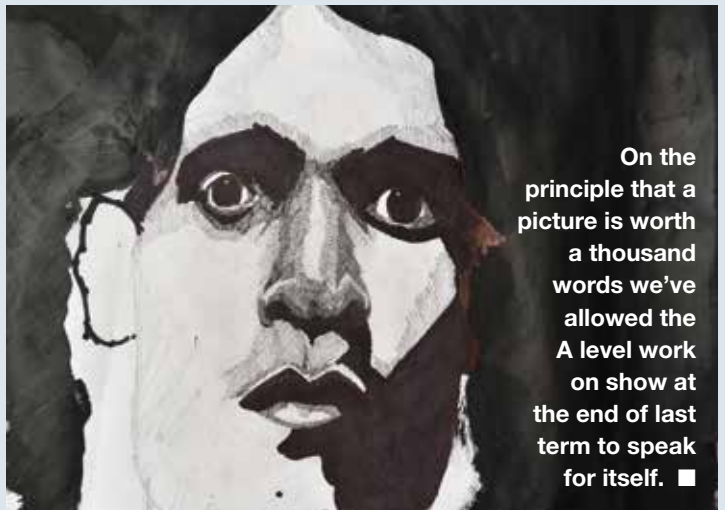
With fewer cast members due to Summer term commitments some of the remaining cast members had to take on extra roles. None of this was evident on the night, which passed off seamlessly with everyone giving very impressive performances. ■

Getting to Grips with Shakespeare



Designed to introduce young pupils to Shakespeare, and make them realise that he's much more interesting than they think he is, the Lower School Shakespeare Day on 20 June did just that. The boys were divided into four groups and each spent the day preparing for a performance of a summarised version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet* or *The Tempest*. The boys surprised themselves by just how much fun the whole thing was and as one boy put it, "I think the School should do this type of day more often". ■

Summer Art Exhibitions



On the principle that a picture is worth a thousand words we've allowed the A level work on show at the end of last term to speak for itself. ■



Lower School Gala Concert

With its mixture of solo performances, ensembles, bands and orchestras, the Lower School Gala Concert on 25 June confirmed that the future of Abingdon School music is in safe hands. ■



Michaelmas Term Music Calendar

Monday 6 October

Evensong, sung by the Chapel Choir
5.30 pm: Gloucester Cathedral

Wednesday 8 October

Music Society AGM
5.45 pm: CMR
Music Scholars' Concert No 1
6 pm: CMR
Admission free

Thursday 16 October

Brass Masterclass with Crispian Steele-Perkins
5 pm: Amey Theatre
Trumpet Recital Crispian Steele-Perkins
7 pm: Amey Theatre
Tickets: £10 adult, £6 (student), £25 (family)

Wednesday 12 November

Music Scholars' Concert No 2
5-7 pm: CMR
Admission free

Wednesday 19 November

Violin Masterclass with Levon Chilingirian
6.00 pm: CMR
Admission free

Sunday 30 November

Handel's Messiah
Joint Choral Society Concert
7 pm: Yolande Patterson Hall
School of St Helen and St Katharine
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

Friday 5 December

Christmas Concert
7 pm: Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

The Boat Club



It's tough at the top and the competition is very steep. Abingdon, who have won the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley Royal Regatta for the past three years, this year had to yield the trophy to Eton, who beat them in the semi-finals. However, at the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham in May, the 1st VIII beat Eton to retain the cup in the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Championship Eights. Two members of the 1st VIII, Tom Digby and Henry Lambe, were selected to represent Great Britain in the Junior World Championships held in Hamburg in August. Henry was selected for the VIII and Tom, at the age of 15, for the coxed IV, which won silver. ■



U15 County Cricket Champions

Playing on their home ground, Abingdon's U15 cricketers won the Oxfordshire T/20 County Cricket Championships, beating Bloxham by 46 runs. With a score of 136, including 38 from Tom Guthrie and 26 from Alexander Sayeed, Abingdon dismissed Bloxham for 94. ■



Golf Finalists

Twenty schools won through to the finals of the Independent Schools Golf Association tournament, which were held at Carnoustie last April. The Abingdon team of Aman Patel, Charlie Normanton and Alex Curtis finished in a very creditable sixth place. Aman and Alex won gold medals for finishing in the top third of scorers and Charlie Normanton, narrowly missing out, won silver. ■



Blenheim Triathlon

The two Abingdon teams that entered the Blenheim Triathlon on 8 June achieved spectacular results being placed 3rd and 9th out of an entry of 352 teams. Their times were 1.08.34 and 1.13.34 respectively. Michael Esnouf competed the swim in 9.13, recording the fastest non-elite time of the weekend. Alex Fanshawe, competing in the junior elite category, completed his event in a time of 1.16.30. ■

The Griffen Gala



In the first of what is hoped will become an annual event, swimmers from Abingdon School and the School of St Helen and St Katharine combined to compete against Abingdon Vale Swimming Club for the Farnell Cup on 18 June. It was a highly enjoyable evening and the competition was fierce with the Vale emerging as overall winners on this occasion. ■

Theo Brophy Clews



Sixth-former Theo Brophy Clews' rugby talents continue to be recognised by the England selectors. Theo, who plays for London Irish, was a member of the 26-man U18 squad that went to South Africa in August to play Wales, France and South Africa. In the England 23:6 win over France, Theo, playing at fly half, contributed a penalty and two vital conversions to the score. ■

Magnus Gregory



Magnus Gregory's potential in international kayaking has been recognised by a *SportsAid* award, to help with equipment and travel costs. At the European Marathon Kayak Championships in Slovakia in June, Magnus won silver in the K1 and came sixth in the K2. He has been selected for GB U18 at the Marathon Worlds in Oklahoma this month. ■

Athletics



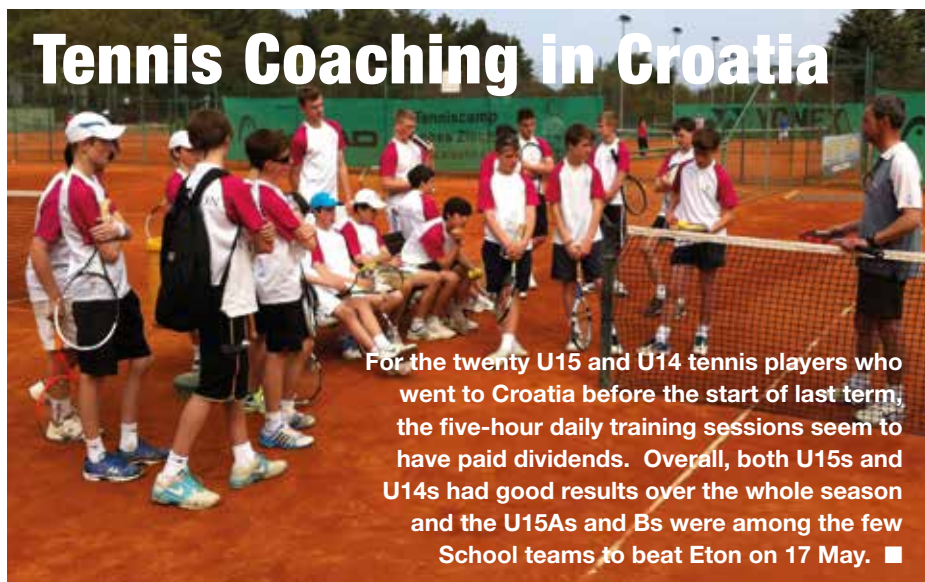
At the Achilles relays, held on Oxford's famous Iffley Road track in April, Abingdon's Senior team of Alex Munro, Tom Fabes, Nat Jones and Christian von Eitzen, won the 4 x 800m relay, the second time an Abingdon team has won this race in the last three years. ■

U12A's Unbeaten



Abingdon's U12A cricketers completed an unbeaten season when they defeated Chipping Norton School in the final of the Oxfordshire section of the Bunbury Cup. Abingdon made 181 for 3 – both James Coombs and Hector Chambers scoring half centuries – and restricted Chipping Norton to 124 for 4. ■

Tennis Coaching in Croatia



For the twenty U15 and U14 tennis players who went to Croatia before the start of last term, the five-hour daily training sessions seem to have paid dividends. Overall, both U15s and U14s had good results over the whole season and the U15As and Bs were among the few School teams to beat Eton on 17 May. ■

Jazz on a Summer's Evening



Abingdon Prep joined Abingdon School and St Helen's in the Amey Theatre for a Jazz on a Summer's Evening concert. The prep boys performed first and were then able to relax and be inspired by the older musicians, in particular Abingdon School's Big Band. The Prep School also enjoyed their own concert when Years 3 to 8 performed beautifully for parents at the end of term. ■

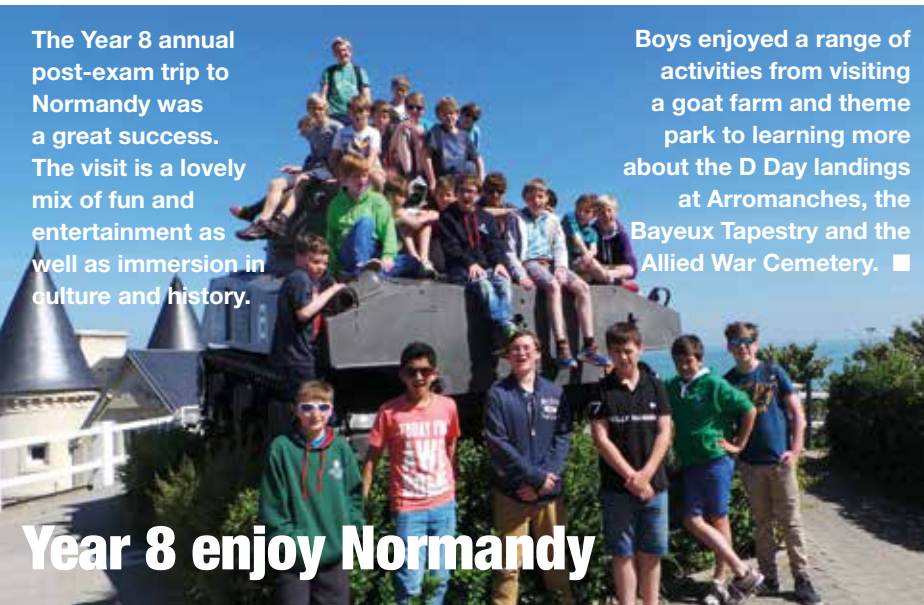
Sports Day



One of the highlights of the Prep School's sporting calendar is Sports Day and once again the weather held. There were a number of excellent performances on both the track and field, which meant the House Cup was keenly contested, eventually being awarded to Phoenix. Records in the 400m, 800m, 4 x100m relay and the high jump all tumbled to various year groups. Joe Torlage won the victor ludorum in the under 9 category and honours were shared in the under 11 category between Oliver Deans, James Fernandez and Thomas Kent. Henry Insley once again broke the 800m record in Year 7 and the Under 13 victor ludorum went to two boys Matthew Wiblin and Archie Delafield. ■

The Year 8 annual post-exam trip to Normandy was a great success. The visit is a lovely mix of fun and entertainment as well as immersion in culture and history.

Boys enjoyed a range of activities from visiting a goat farm and theme park to learning more about the D Day landings at Arromanches, the Bayeux Tapestry and the Allied War Cemetery. ■



Year 8 enjoy Normandy

On a beautiful morning in June Reception and Year 1 arrived at the Cotswold Wildlife Park for an 'Around the World' animal adventure as part of their 'Sailing the Seven Seas' topic. Reception became detectives, using clues to solve the big bones mystery and finding out about animal conservation. Year 1 went on an African animal safari, spotting creatures from one of the hottest continents. With picnics, ice creams, close-ups with camels and a ride on the train, the day was certainly a great success!. ■



Reception and Year 1 investigate the wildlife park



Senior Choir tours Venice

Following the success of the Senior Choir's first overseas tour to Germany two years ago, this term the choir embarked on a trip to Venice. Following months of rehearsal everyone was very excited and thoroughly enjoyed performing at the beautiful venues of St. George's Anglican Church and Santa Maria dei Miracoli Church. Both concerts were extremely well attended by tourists, locals and some of our parents. Besides the performances the boys also enjoyed the sights with a guided tour of St. Mark's Square, including St. Mark's Basilica and Doge's Palace, a Three Island Boat Tour and the Sealife Centre. ■



Walking the Ridgeway

Following a hearty lunch, Year 4 set off for the Ridgeway with much enthusiasm. The boys walked from West Ilsley to the overnight stop at Court Hill Centre, Wantage. Tired feet were grateful to see the centre where the boys relaxed and ate copious amounts for supper and breakfast! The next (very) early morning, the boys set off for their destination, White Horse Hill at Uffington. At the finish there were sighs of relief all round, not least from the staff! ■

Prep boys enjoy poetry



The boys were busy this term learning a huge variety of poetry for the Verse Speaking competition. Heats were held and every boy in Years 3-6 took part. The range of poems on offer was staggering and included everything from Alfred Lord Tennyson to Benjamin Zephaniah. Choosing two finalists from each class was incredibly difficult and all the boys were congratulated on their performances. Steve Dineen, a professional actor and LAMDA coach, had the difficult job of judging the final of the competition. After an enjoyable afternoon listening to verse the winners were chosen. Congratulations to Leo Carniaux, Henry Doerrer, Henry Morris and Ollie Wheaton. ■

And finally farewell

At the end of the summer the Prep School said goodbye to Mike Rees, our Deputy Head, who moves on to pastures new as Headmaster of St. Michael's Prep in Jersey. We wish Mike the very best of luck and thank him for all he has done in his 12 years at Abingdon Prep. We will miss him! ■



Summer Term Roundup

The Summer term saw two highly successful ASPA events, three ASPA/OA travel awards presented, £5,000 raised for the charity *Blue Skye Thinking*, the installation of the new ASPA-funded cricket scoreboard and donations made to all Houses. All in all, it has therefore been a very fitting valedictory term of activities for long-standing ASPA Chair and Vice-Chair, Margot Scholey and Wendy Lambe. On behalf of the rest of the ASPA committee and all Abingdon parents, we sincerely thank Margot and Wendy for all their work leading ASPA for the past three and four years respectively. We would also like to thank Carol Lole-Harris, Tigist Chadder and Nicki Peirce who stood down from the ASPA Committee this summer as their boys are now moving on to university. Finally we would like to welcome Kerensa Butler and Anne-Marie Nugent to their new roles of Chair and Vice-Chair and wish them every success. ■

www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa



Charity Barbecue

The wet weather plan swung into action for the school BBQ on the Friday before half term, with a full house of parents enjoying their BBQ indoors in the Dining Hall. The evening fulfilled its dual objectives of thanking parents for their support for ASPA throughout the year and also raising money for *Blue Skye Thinking*, the charity set up by the Hall family to support research and treatment of childhood tumours. Just under £2,500 was raised on the night following very moving and informative talks from Mr Hall and Dr Lane from the Oxford Children's Hospital. ■

Eynsham Hall

On Friday 16 May Eynsham Hall was the venue for the ASPA whole-school black tie dinner, which 150 parents attended. It was a perfect summer evening. On arrival guests sipped a glass of fizz on the terrace overlooking the landscaped gardens while listening to the talented Abingdon School Jazz Trio – Tim Davies, Sebastian Johns and George Burrage – all very Downton Abbey! We would like to express our sincere thanks to our two event sponsors: Breckon & Breckon (Sales and Letting agents) and John Stenton-Putt.



After a delicious four-course dinner in the Green Room and Library, the raffle was drawn. We should like to thank everyone who so generously donated prizes. The evening raised a large sum for *Blue Skye Thinking* and ASPA Funds for the benefit of Abingdon School boys (split 75:25). Many thanks also to Scotts Photography, who took photographs throughout the evening and kindly donated all proceeds to *Blue Skye Thinking*. ■

ASPAs donations

Following a donation from ASPA in the Spring term, the new cricket scoreboard was successfully installed on the War Memorial ground where it was much appreciated by the cricket teams during the Summer term. Last term ASPA donated £250 to each House, with the boys responsible for deciding what they would like to purchase for their individual House rooms. ■

Thank you!

We are extremely grateful to all individuals and companies who have acted as sponsors or donated prizes during 2014. For the Eynsham Hall and BBQ events these included: Ashmolean Museum; Aston Pottery; Bear & Ragged Staff, Cumnor; Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa; Breckon & Breckon; Nicola Blackwood, MP; Blenheim Palace; Sarah Blomfield Photograph; Cook Home; Daisies Flower Shop, Oxford; Deservedly-So; Designers Guild; Eileen Fashion; The Garden Design Company; Peter & Julie Garratt; Guards Polo Club; Hampton Cookery; John Stenton-Putt; Mamma Mia Restaurant; Miele; Oxford Brookes Restaurant; Oxford University Rugby Club; Oxford Wine Company; Portabello Restaurant; Porsche; The Park Club, Milton; The Randolph Hotel; Scotts Photography, Witney; Virgin Active, Oxford; White Horse Leisure. ■

The Second-Hand Uniform Shop

Michaelmas term opening 2014:

Wednesdays 12.15 -1.15 pm

September 10 / 17

October 1 / 8 / 15

November 12 / 19 / 26

December 3

www.abingdon.org.uk/sus

Saturdays 11.00 -12.00 am

September 6 / 13 / 27

October 4 / 11

November 8 / 15 / 22 / 29

December 6

More than £140,000 raised for Annual Fund 2013-14



The Annual Fund was set up in 2007 to raise money for additional school equipment, projects and experiences through the help of parents, Old Abingdonians and friends. The Fund aims to build on our provision of bursaries, to widen and improve academic and extra-curricular activities, to enhance pastoral care, and to undertake small buildings and grounds projects. Since 2007, more than 700 individuals and organisations have donated £625,000 (including Gift Aid) to the Annual Fund in support of these five aspects of School life.

This past year, some **63** individuals and groups, including the Abingdon School Parents Association, the Second-Hand Uniform Shop, and Josca's Parents Association, donated **£40,983** (including Gift Aid) to the 2013-14 Annual Fund. In addition, one anonymous donor made an immensely generous donation of **£100,000** for bursaries.

At Abingdon School, the Annual Fund paid for new science equipment and models, CCF service dress, iPads for Economics, iPods for Languages,

robotics kits for the Computing Club, improvements to day and boarding houses, and equipment for rugby, hockey, rowing, canoeing and fencing. Also, one pupil was given the support of a 90% bursary. At Abingdon Prep School, the Annual Fund paid for two school trips, playground equipment and a table tennis set.

Your collective support of the 2013-14 Annual Fund had a major impact on many aspects of School life.

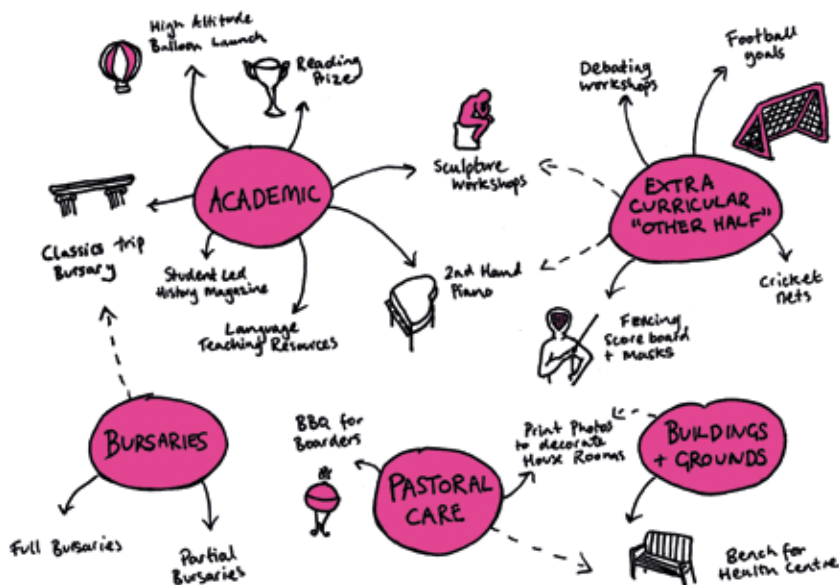
Thank you! ■

The names of all our 2013-14 donors can be found at: www.abingdon.org.uk/annual_fund_donors_2013_14k

Announcing Annual Fund 2014-15 Projects

We now look ahead to the 2014-15 Annual Fund. Already, Abingdon's teachers have submitted new funding requests, and with your help we hope to raise enough money to support several projects in the following 5 categories: academic, 'Other Half', buildings and grounds, pastoral care and bursaries.

Full details of all 2014-15 Annual Fund projects can be found at: www.abingdon.org.uk/annual_fund



“ I am delighted by the generosity of current and former parents, alumni and friends who have made this past year's Annual Fund, as well as the recent Science Centre Appeal, so successful. Funds raised make a big difference in terms of what we are able to do at both the senior and prep schools, and I wish to thank everyone who has made a donation or given their time to support our schools. ”

Seleidy Lusk

Abingdon School Boat Club 4 March 1914

Exactly five months before the outbreak of the First World War, twenty-one past and present members of Abingdon School Boat Club posed for a photograph during an afternoon of racing on the River Thames. By the time the war was over four and a half years later, every person in the photograph had seen military service, nine were dead and one had been blinded.



Donald Cullen, stroke in the 2nd IV (the boat against the bank) left school that summer and attempted to join up but at 16 was too young. He enlisted in the London Scottish in October 1915 and was killed in August 1918. In the 1st IV (to the left of the 2nd IV) Alan Eason (stroke) left school in 1915 and died of appendicitis in January 1916 while serving with the Royal Berkshire Regiment. Frank Lupton (2), having served in Ireland during the Easter Rising, was killed on the Somme a few months later in August 1916, and Arthur Davenport (3), serving with the Royal Tank Corps, was killed in August 1918. Coach Harold Baker, wearing the pale blazer, was the science master. He volunteered in 1915 and was killed in the German Spring Offensive in March 1918. Melville Channing Pearce, another coach, is to the left of him. One of the OA boats was made up of OA undergraduates at Oxford: Wilfred Williams (Pembroke), Harry Burkett (Hartford), George Woods (Keble) and Cyril Cook (Pembroke). They were all killed. They can be identified to the right of the photograph by their dark college blazers. ■

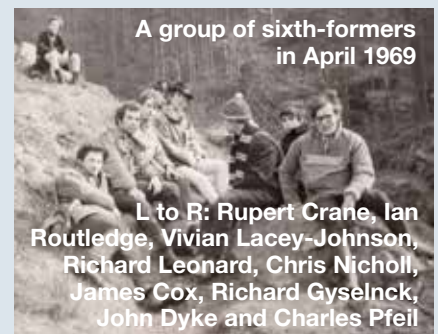
Dolgoed

In January 1968 the *Abingdonian* reported the acquisition of a farmhouse at Dolgoed in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, which the School “hope to use as a place for field study and ‘outward bound’ work”. The first party of boys arrived that Easter when “The main work undertaken was to rehabilitate and extend a very silted up drainage system round the house and to level, drain and build up the rough track – there are two miles of it – to the house”.

The School continued to use the property until the early 1980s. By that time improvements meant that, “water comes from a nearby stream, heat from a voracious *Joetul* wood-burning stove, light from portable gas mantles and sanitation from the remarkable preservative powers of methanol ... Cooking is effected by a calor gas stove. There are four bedrooms, with no beds of course ...”. As has been said before, “The past is a foreign country!” ■



A school working party painting the exterior of the farmhouse in 1968



A group of sixth-formers in April 1969

L to R: Rupert Crane, Ian Routledge, Vivian Lacey-Johnson, Richard Leonard, Chris Nicholl, James Cox, Richard Gyselnck, John Dyke and Charles Pfeil



The farmhouse in 2009



Part of the track to the house in 2009



Henley Royal Regatta

2-6 July 2014

Supporters of the Boat Club, OAs and parents, enjoyed Pimm's and strawberries during Friday's tea interval. Not only were the School 1st VIII rowing but so were a number of OAs in Club crews. ■
(see page 16)



OA 50s/60s Day

9 May 2014

Each year the 50s/60s OA group holds a reunion in a place of interest. This year Richard Leatham (1964) organised a tour of the Inns of Court and Royal Courts of Justice. This included a visit to Temple Church, lunch in the 16th century Middle Temple dining hall, a tour of the latest technological court with Sir Vivian Ramsay (sitting High Court Judge and OA 1968) and dinner at Lincoln's Inn. Attendees enjoyed the interesting and fun tour and even lawyers present were surprised to find hidden treasures. ■

www.abingdon.org.uk/oa

Forthcoming Events Michaelmas term



Saturday 20 September

Old Abingdonian Rugby Day

A match between Under-25 and Over-25 OAs at 1.30 pm. Afterwards the current 1st XV will take on a 2013 XV. Free dinner and drinks for players. Spectators welcome. To join a team, please contact:

elizabeth.robson@abingdon.org.uk



Saturday 27 September

School Open Day

An informal opportunity to visit Abingdon on School Open Day from 11.30 am, and to join the Club at a BBQ lunch from 12.30 pm. Partners and family of OAs are welcome. No charge. Please book online:

www.abingdon.org.uk/oa/events

Monday 29 September

Hong Kong Reception

A reception for OAs, current and former parents, and friends of the School. 6.30 pm at the Excelsior Hotel. Please email:

elizabeth.robson@abingdon.org.uk

Saturday 11 October

OA Club AGM

All Old Abingdonians are welcome to attend the OA Club AGM, starting at 12.30 pm in Lacies Court. If you would like to stay for lunch, please email: oa.club@abingdon.org.uk In the afternoon, Abingdon will play their annual rugby fixtures against Radley. Matches at Abingdon and Radley start at 2.30 pm.



Friday 17 October

CCF Centenary Dinner

A formal dinner to celebrate 100 years since the start of the CCF at Abingdon School. There will be no charge for the meal. To book, please email:

elizabeth.robson@abingdon.org.uk



Friday 14 November

London Drinks Reception

A drinks reception for all OAs at the Hospital Club in the heart of Covent Garden. 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Please book online at:

www.abingdon.org.uk/oa/events

Thursday 20 November

First World War Centenary Lecture and Reception

'The First World War – Myths and Realities', Professor Gary Sheffield. 7.30 pm Amey Theatre.

All welcome, admission free.

There will be a reception before the lecture for parents, OAs and pupils at which the School Archivist will talk about the School and the war.

6.30 pm admission free.

To book for reception please email:

elizabeth.robson@abingdon.org.uk

2015 Events

Monday 16 March

Abingdon School Road Relay

Sunday 19 April

Cricket: 1st XI v Recent Leavers

Friday 8 May

50s / 60s Event 2015

Tuesday 12 May

OA Golf Day

Friday 3 July

Henley Royal Regatta

www.abingdon.org.uk/oa/events

OAs at Henley and at the U23 World Championships



As one of the world's top rowing schools it's hardly surprising that there were so many OAs competing in top club crews at Henley this year. In the Temple Challenge Cup, Cornell University (Joel Cooper, OA 2013) made it to the semi finals. Brown University (Neil McKenzie, OA 2012) reached the final where they were beaten by Oxford Brookes' A (Rory and Jamie Copus, OAs 2009 and 2011).

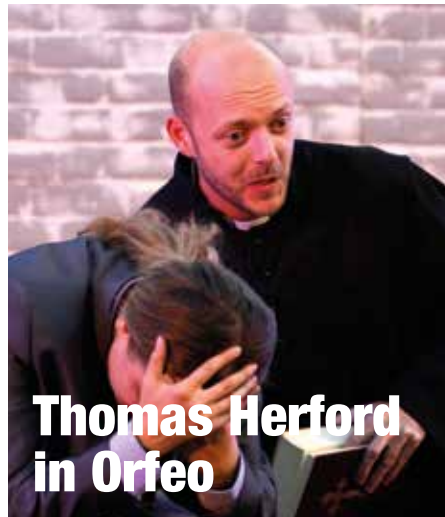
Harvard (Matt Carter, OA 2013) were finalists in the Prince Albert Cup. Thames Rowing Club (Nick Turnbull, OA 2005) were semi-finalists in the Thames Challenge Cup, as were University of London (Matt Rossiter, OA 2008, and Jamie Cook, OA 2010) in the Visitors Challenge Cup. Upper Thames Rowing Club (Michael Nagi OA 2008) won the Wyfold Cup. Leander and East Molesey (Ian Middleton, OA 2013, and Tom Pagel, OA 2012) reached the semi finals of the Ladies Challenge Plate, whilst Leander (George Rossiter, OA 2010, and Tim Clarke, OA 2009) made it to the final.

Later in the summer several OAs competed at the Under 23 World Championships. Tim Richards and Jamie Copus won silver in the Lightweight Men's IV, Ian Middleton and Tom Pagel came 6th place in the Men's VIII, and Jamie Cook and George Rossiter were 5th in the Coxless IV. ■



Tim Parker New Chairman of the National Trust

Tim Parker, OA 1973, is to become Chairman of the National Trust when the current chairman, Simon Jenkins, steps down in November. Tim, currently Chairman of the Trust's Commercial Panel, is also Chairman and Chief Executive of *Samsonite*, a company whose fortunes he has done much to revive since he took over in 2008. His career has seen him lead a management buy-out at *Kenwood*, turn round the fortunes of *Clarks* the shoemakers, the car repair chain *Kwik-Fit* and the *AA*. ■



Thomas Herford in Orfeo

Among Thomas Herford's recent opera engagements was one this summer with Bampton Classical Opera. The company, which specialises in breathing new life into little known eighteenth-century works, performed Bertoni's *Orfeo* in which Thomas sang the part of Imeneo. An experienced stage performer, Thomas also sings oratorio and very much enjoys teaching both individuals and workshops. ■



Toby Jones to Play Captain Mainwaring

There are reports that a new feature film is to be made of the classic TV sitcom, *Dad's Army*, and that Toby Jones, OA 1985, will play Captain Mainwaring, officer commanding the Warming-ton-on-Sea detachment of the Home Guard, with Bill Nighy his second-in-command, Sergeant Wilson. The castings have been welcomed by fans of the television version who have been further reassured by producer Damian Jones' promise that the new production will remain true to the spirit of the original.. ■

Max Hutchinson



Max Hutchinson, OA 2007, has been in evidence both on the London stage and in the Amey Theatre during the past year. In London he played the supporting lead, Lucas Cleeve, in a revival of Arthur Pinero's *The Notorious Mrs Ebbsmith* at the Jermyn Street Theatre. In Abingdon he has led workshops on a range of projects including the third year production of *Biggles Flies a Fokker* Home and the sixth form production of *The Events*. ■