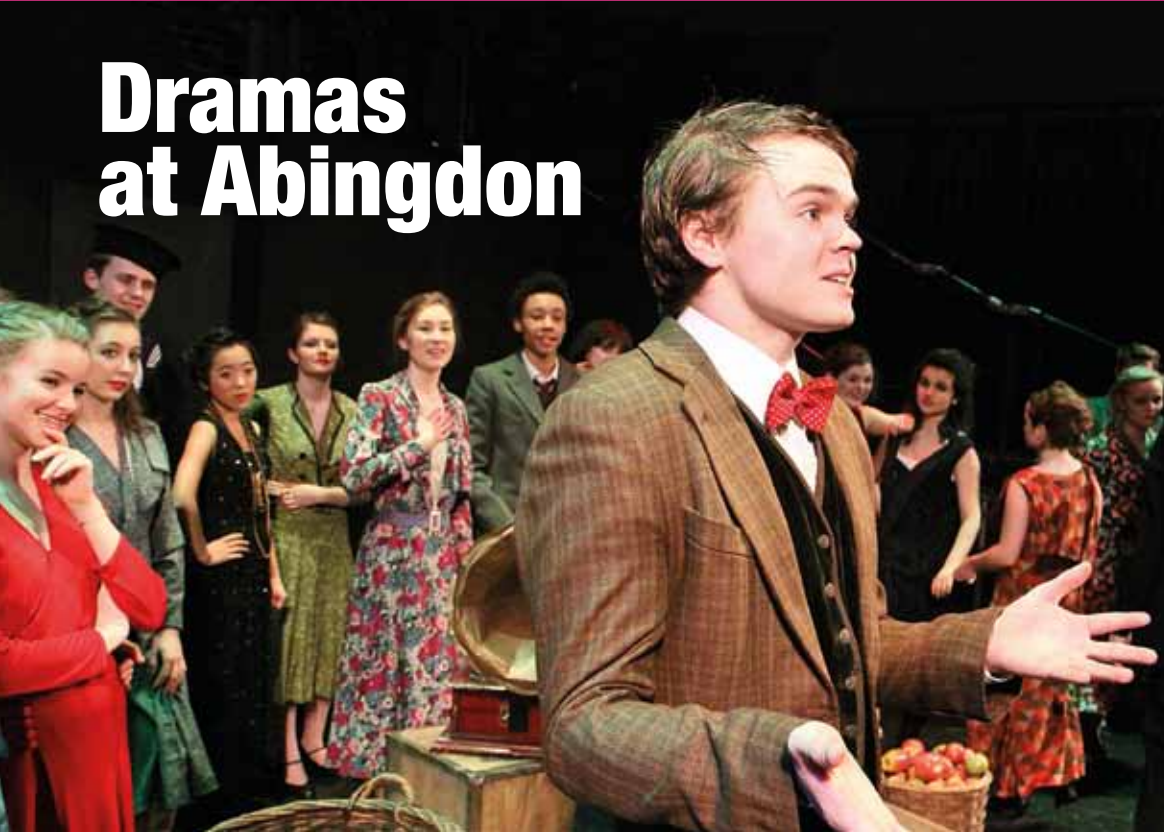




Dramas at Abingdon



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News



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Arts



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Prep



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Out of the Past



Filial disobedience, suspected marital infidelity, an armed house siege, serial dating, young man seduced by nightclub singer, political dissidence ... Abingdon School saw it all last term in the five drama productions that made up the Abingdon Drama Festival together with a spectacular production of *Cabaret* at St Helen's. See page 6. ■



Lectures

Wednesday 10 January

The Body's Response to Low Oxygen Levels

Professor Christopher Pugh, Professor of Renal Medicine, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine

4 pm: Charles Maude Room

Tuesday 17 January

Evolution of Music

Mike Hurst, singer, songwriter and guitarist.

A Joint General Studies Lecture with The School of St Helen and St Katharine

1.15 pm: Amey Theatre

Friday 20 January

Tony Baldry, Conservative MP for North Oxfordshire

A meeting of the Edmund Society
5.30 pm: Ingham Room

Tuesday 7 February

Animal Magnetism

Professor Peter Hore, Department of Chemistry University of Oxford

4 pm: Charles Maude Room

Wednesday 8 February

Addiction and Change

Dr Stephen Blake, a Scholars' Lecture

5.30 pm: Charles Maude Room

Thursday 23 February

Roman Emperors and Greek Heroes in the Sebasteion at Aphrodisias

Professor RRR Smith, Lincoln Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art at the University of Oxford, Classics Society Lecture and Dinner

5.30 pm: Charles Maude Room

Thursday 1 March

Turing's Morphogenesis

Dr Jonathan Swinton, a Sixth-form Mathematics Lecture

5.30 pm: Amey Theatre

Friday 2 March

The Plundered Planet

Professor Paul Collier, Department of Economics, University of Oxford, Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies

4 pm: Sports Centre Hospitality Suite

Tuesday 6 March

Coral Reef Ecology – the Oxford Way

Dr Martin Speight, Tropical Ecology and Entomology Research Group, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford

4 pm: Charles Maude Room

Monday 12 March

Rome and Hollywood

Professor Stephen Harrison, Professor of Latin Literature at the University of Oxford. A Roysse Society lecture followed by dinner.

6.30 pm: Amey Theatre

Friday 16 March

Surviving the Recession

Graham Varney, Chairman and Managing Director Benfield and Loxley. An Economics Society talk with St Helen's

4 pm: Duffield Library, The School of St Helen and St Katharine

Tuesday 27 March

Oculi Mentis – seeing, looking and watching with Ovid

Jo-Marie Claassen, formerly of the University of Stellenbosch

5.30 pm: Charles Maude Room

Drama

Friday 3 February

Lower School Drama Evening

7 pm: Ingham Room, Amey Theatre and Foyer

Events

Friday 23 March

Professional Development Dinner: Medicine Turning the World Upside Down – what the NHS can learn from low income countries

Speaker Nigel Crisp, former Chief Executive of the NHS and Permanent Secretary of the UK Department of Health. Open to pupils, OAs and parents with a professional interest in medicine
6.45 pm: Amey Theatre and afterwards in the Dining Hall

Music

Friday 13 January

Piano Masterclass with Giorgos Kontantinou

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Wednesday 18 January

Music Scholars' Concert Number 2

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Thursday 26 January

New Year's Charity Concert

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

Tuesday 31 January

School Organists' Joint Recital

5 pm: School Chapel

Wednesday 8 February

Chilingirian Quartet Workshops and Evening Concert

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Tickets: £12, £6 students

Wednesday 22 February

Chamber Music Evening

7 pm: Charles Maude Room

Sunday 4 March

Abbey Chamber Concert for A-level recitalists

6 pm: St Nicolas Church, Abingdon

Thursday 8 March

Music Scholars' Concert Number 3

7 pm: Amey Theatre

Tuesday 13 March

Abingdon Choral Singers' Platform

7 pm: Amey Theatre

ASPA

www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

Friday 20 January

Fourth Year Parents' Italian Supper

7.30 pm: Sports Centre Hospitality Suite

Friday 3 February

Third-year Parents' Social Evening

7.15 pm: Parasol Chinese Restaurant, Abingdon

Friday 10 February

Charity Coffee Morning

10 am - 12 noon: Sports Centre Hospitality Suite

Friday 24 February

Lower School Parents' Supper

7 pm: Sports Centre Hospitality Suite

Friday 2 March

Quiz – Parents and Friends

7 pm: Sports Centre Hospitality Suite

Friday 16 March

Sixth-form Parents' Social Evening

7 pm at a local restaurant

Check details of all these events on the calendar at abingdon.org.uk



Congratulations!

Among last term's achievements Zander Cornish-Moore won the senior heats in the Oxford Diocese of the Cranmer Reading Competition and goes forward to the national finals in the spring; Thomas Salt won a prestigious Roentgenium award following his participation in the new Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and William Nott won second prize in this year's Institute of Economic Affairs Student Essay Competition. Jordan Anning was awarded an Arkwright Scholarship, in recognition of his potential in engineering and design, and Julius Coventry won an army scholarship and a place at Sandhurst. Ethan Clarke gained a place as an oboist in the National Children's Wind Sinfonia for 2012 and Thomas Dingwall won an Oxford Cricket Board player of the year award for the second year running, this time in the U12 category. The senior debaters had a good win in the opening round of the English Speaking Union's National Debating Competition, while Thomas Salt, Phoenix Tse, Omri Faraggi and Julian Ting, won the regional final of the UK Mathematics Trust senior Maths Challenge without dropping a mark. Very many congratulations to everyone. ■

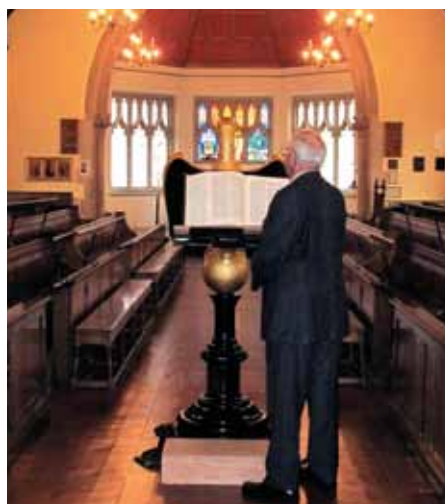
Visiting the Past

Last term's new timetable, that schedules no academic lessons on Saturday mornings, has allowed the boarders, amongst others, to participate in a full programme of visits and activities. One of their outings last term was to Portsmouth where they saw what life had been like on Nelson's flagship *HMS Victory*. ■



Celebrating the King James Bible

During last term, members of the whole School community marked the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible with a series of readings from its books. On 14 November, David Barrett, OA 1946, read from Philippians II. ■



Staff profile: Rebecca Cottam



Rebecca Cottam is the School Examinations Officer, responsible for the administration of external examinations, a job she enjoys for the methodical discipline it requires. Having worked at the School for almost 10 years, she became the full time Examinations Secretary in 2003, taking over as the Examinations Officer on Dr Wilmore's retirement.

At the beginning of last term she became a section officer with the RAF side of the School CCF. She had been briefly involved with the RAF after leaving school and missed being part of the organisation.

In her spare time Rebecca, who is married with one daughter, is a UKA Level 2 Athletics coach with Radley Athletics Club. Her main interest is the high jump though she is qualified to coach sprints and hurdles too. Her daughter is the current county champion at discus and shot putt and her husband is also an athlete as well as a coach. ■

Abingdon News online

It has always been possible to read *Abingdon News* as a pdf online – and all the back issues are there – but this issue will be in a new online format. ■

www.abingdon.org.uk/abingdon_news

Turkish Delight

The spectacularly positioned hill-top theatre at Pergamon, the recently excavated stadium at Magnesia, the incredibly well preserved houses at Ephesus, a reconstruction of the legendary wooden horse at Troy and the new museum at Aphrodisias were just a few of the amazing sites visited by forty-two classicists who went to Turkey over the October half term. ■



Tsunami Appeal Bike Ride

In the blazing heat of Japan in August, Milan Banerjee raised £450 from a sponsored bike ride, which took in 465 km of the 720 km perimeter of the island of Shikoku. The money raised went to the *Save the Children* Japan Earthquake Tsunami Relief fund. ■

See <http://parisandmilan.com/milan>



Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day was observed on 11 November with the customary CCF parade and two minutes silence at 11 am, which this year followed straight on from a service of Remembrance for Middle and Upper School in the Amey Theatre. ■



Foreign Exchanges

German students from the Ratsgymnasium in Bielefeld arrived for a ten-day exchange on 9 October. Whilst some of their time was spent in school, the rest was spent sight-seeing in Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick Castle and Portsmouth's historic dockyards. ■



Joint Modern Language Club

The School celebrated European Day of Languages on 26 September with a specially created international menu and the launch of a number of language related activities, including the inaugural meeting of the Joint Modern Languages Society with St Helen's. The popular Lower School Modern Languages Club (also run with St Helen's), celebrated German Unity Day on 3 October and at the beginning of December created Christmas cards in five different languages. ■



As the German students left for home, Abingdon's Spanish linguists departed for a week with our exchange school in Santiago de Compostella, with its beautiful thirteenth-century cathedral where the boys were lucky enough to see the famous botafumeiro ceremony. A day spent at La Coruña took in the oldest lighthouse in the world and the Aquarium Finisterre. ■

A Multilingual School

About one tenth of the current school population is bilingual and over eighteen different languages are spoken throughout the school on a daily basis. Watch the fascinating 1.09 minute film that OA Will McDowell made on the subject. ■ www.abingdon.org.uk/european_day_of_languages_sep10

Kids' Lit Quiz

Two Abingdon School teams pitted their literary knowledge against thirty-five other teams in the regional heat of the Oxfordshire / Berkshire Kids' Lit Quiz. Abingdon 1 were beaten into second place by a mere 1½ points. Abingdon 2 came 16th. ■



The Return of Books

Reports of the 'death' of books have been much exaggerated – at least at Abingdon School. As highlighted in the first issue of the new Waste Court newsletter, the House computer room has been fitted with bookshelves and stocked with books by popular request of the boarders. ■



Michaelmas Music

It was the chance of a lifetime when Tim Davies, watching an open rehearsal of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, was plucked from the audience to join them, impressing the conductor sufficiently to be invited back to perform with them that night.

Franklin's won the House Singing Competition with a performance of Cee Lo Green's *Forget You* conducted by Henry Jenkinson and with Henry Binning at the piano.

While the New College Choir were on tour, Abingdon's Chapel Choir, in fine voice under new director John Cotton, sang Evensong in New College Chapel on 12 November.

A strings masterclass in November saw world-renowned violinist Levon Chilingirian work with six Abingdon violinists, encouraging them to greater excellence. Later in the month the Joint Choral Society of Abingdon and St Helen's together with members from Our Lady's Abingdon gave a disciplined and balanced performance of Verdi's *Requiem*. ■



Out and About with the Art Department

From the art of classical antiquity to that of the present day, Abingdon's sixth-form artists saw it all during their absorbing three-day visit to Berlin in October (see right).

A week earlier they had been to Tate Modern to see Tacita Dean's new installation *Film* and the Gerhard Richter retrospective *Panorama* before going to the sculpture exhibition *The Shape of Things* at the Saatchi Gallery. Fourth-form artists also visited Tate Modern as part of their study of this year's theme 'Inside Outside'.



Fifth-form artists were invited to take part in a Big Sculpture day at the School in September. The twelve who accepted produced fantastic sculptures of a bird and a fish (below right and left) which have been adorning the top of the drive ever since. ■



Verdi's Requiem

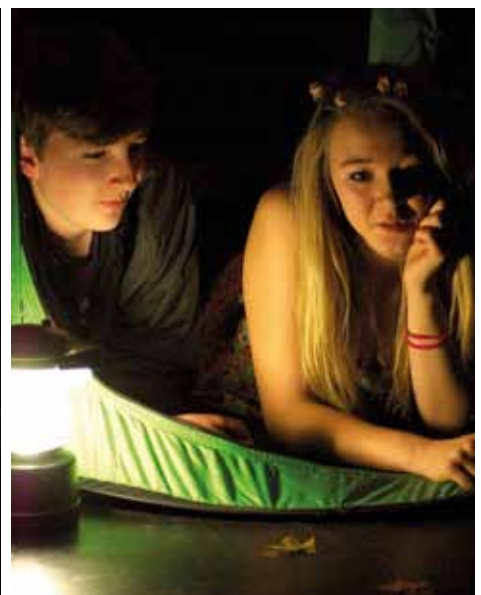
Cabaret!

A combined cast from St Helen's and Abingdon with Lucy Taylor as the charismatic Sally Bowles, Will Abell her American boyfriend Clifford Bradshaw and Toby Marlow as the enigmatic Emcee, all put in sensational performances in the musical *Cabaret* at St Helen's at the end of last term. By turns joyous, poignant and horrifying, the cast had the audience with them all the way. ■



Drama Festival

The Drama Festival saw Abingdon and St Helen's fifth- and sixth-formers perform five plays a night for three nights in a variety of spaces in the Arts Centre. The plays were a pared down version of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*; *One Million Tiny Plays about Britain*, a series of piercing windows into other people's lives; *The Shape of Things*, one woman's devastating experiment in shaping another person's world; *Cruising*, a seventy-year-old woman's search for a partner and *Come out Eli*, which explores the impact on the local community of the sixteen-day 2002 Hackney siege – the longest in British History. ■



Rugby Round Up



1st XV v Radley

Following their successful tour to South Africa over the summer holiday, the 1st XV were runners-up in the pre-season Esher Tournament, auguring well for a season that later saw them defeat Radley convincingly, 27-13, in front of a large OA crowd. In the *Daily Mail* Cup on 7 December they beat RGS High Wycombe 12-7 to win a place in the last 16.

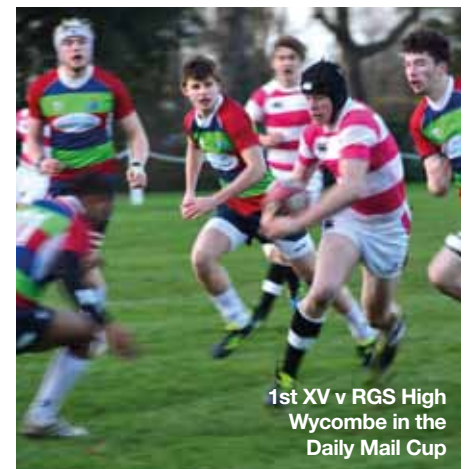
The Club as a whole has played 220 matches, winning more than 57% of them, and the U15As finished the season unbeaten. The U14s returned unbeaten from their half-term rugby tour to York demonstrating their strength in depth by fielding an U14E team.

Congratulations to Joe Hogan who has been selected for trials for the U18 Schools and Clubs' squad, and to Gregor Hearn and Peter Allan selected for trials for the Independent Schools' Barbarians XV, while player-of-the-year Michael Dewar deserves special praise for his play last season.

More than 160 people attended the Touchliners Dinner where Abingdon's rugby supporters were joined by guest-of-honour Michael Owen, former British Lion who led Wales to their 2005 Grand Slam victory. ■

World Polocrosse Championships

Henry Christiansen was a member of the winning GB Pony Club team at the Polocrosse World Cup last July. Later in the summer he competed in South Africa as a member of the medal-winning Junior British Tent Pegging Team. He has just been awarded a scholarship by the UK Polocrosse Association to play in Australia next year. ■



1st XV v RGS High Wycombe in the Daily Mail Cup



U14s at York



U15A XV v Marlborough



At the Fours
Head of the River



River-borne in the USA

Rowing

With 11 boys in GB teams last summer, Abingdon maintains its record of having produced more GB oarsmen over the last decade than any other school. There were also two OAs, Max Gander and George Rossiter in GB teams at the Under 23 World Championships. Both won bronze medals.

At half term, 18 oarsmen went to Philadelphia to train on the Schuylkill River and to take part in the Head of The Charles Regatta where the VIII came 11th out of 77 crews.

At the Fours Head of the River on the Tideway, the Junior IV came a strong second to Eton and the Junior Quad crew came 17th out of 47 crews. ■



British Schools Shooting Team

Ben Bryant and Finn Ryley were among the six members of the British Schools Shooting Team who took part in a three-way championship with Denmark and Sweden last summer. The British Schools came a close second to Sweden. Finn Ryley won a silver medal in the overall individual championship and later represented the British Schools against Denmark at Bisley. ■

Swimming Records

Just five years after the start of competitive swimming at the School, four Abingdon swimmers – Adrian Au, Michael Esnouf, Nicholas Whitehead and Luke Teh – qualified for places in the national finals of the 4 x 50 freestyle relay and the 4 x 50 medley relay at the English Schools' Swimming Association national championships. They set school records for both events on the day. ■



Artistic Abingdon Prep



Saturday 8 October saw a group of our 10 to 13 year old boys thoroughly enjoying a creative workshop. The boys made sculptures out of wire, tissue paper, wax and glue under the expert guidance of artist and educator Ian Shearman, a former Head of Art Education at Cambridge University. The boys made wire drawings and used a range of techniques to create their sculptures.

The sculpture workshop was followed by a *Sketchcrawl* later on in the term when Year 8 boys, from across the Abingdon Foundation, took part in *The Big Draw* – a national campaign to encourage drawing. The boys explored the Prep School grounds creating a series of sketches using new materials and were encouraged to look at familiar sights with fresh eyes. ■



Encouraging Creativity



The Prep School is celebrating the opening of a stunning new drama studio and a completely refurbished CDT suite. The Drama Studio is a hub of activity, designed for filming, short plays, script writing, puppet shows, improvisation (we may have the next star of *Whose Line is it Anyway?* or *Just a Minute*) and confidence building games to name a few. The CDT suite is already being put to good use with cooking, spinning aliens, electric circuits, digital photography and model boats just some of the projects being undertaken. The boys are unbelievably excited about our new spaces and we are channelling their enthusiasm into 'dramatic' lessons and projects which they can be proud of. ■

Sport round up

The Autumn Term has seen huge sporting success. Five boys have been selected for Oxfordshire County Cricket winter squads, our fencers have had excellent results in regional competitions and Rhys Humphries, John Corran and Rory Parsons all won full Rugby Colours. The U8 A tag rugby team had an unbeaten season and were winners of the inaugural Abingdon Preparatory Tag Tournament. The U10 A team also tasted success by winning the Cokethorpe tournament. This season the U13 A XV has gone from strength to strength winning five of their last six matches. They have been particularly successful on the sevens circuit, reaching the semi-final of the Pinewood tournament and were joint winners of the inaugural Abingdon Prep School Sevens Tournament. ■



Supporting Children in Need

The Prep School enjoyed a spotty Pudsey day on the 18 November - raising money for *Children in Need*. Money boxes were raided, relatives held to ransom and pocket money was donated all in a good cause. The total amount raised from the whole school was an amazing £ 360. ■



Cricket in Kenya



During half term, two Abingdon Prep members of staff, Rob Shaw and Claire Delo, visited Jimba Gede Primary School, our link school in Kenya. The Jimba Gede pupils, some of whom were preparing for national examinations, were able to use Rob and Claire's expertise during revision sessions they ran in Religious Education and Science. Claire and Rob took some science equipment with them and the pupils were able to use a microscope for the first time. The children were also introduced to cricket which proved hugely popular, with over two hundred pupils turning up to the first session! Good progress was also made on the construction of a permanent library at the school, with the help of Rotary Clubs in Abingdon and Malindi in Kenya. ■

Prep Schools Quiz

Abingdon Prep's senior team once again performed with credit in the annual Prep Schools Quiz Tournament at Magdalen College School. Suitably refreshed and stimulated by an impromptu visit to Oxford's Botanic Gardens, the team scored consistently in all rounds except, perhaps forgivably, 'Popular Culture'. The team was captained by Jonah Walker and ably assisted by Oliver Beaumont, Alexander Jorgenson, Darius Oraee and Jake Pennington. ■



Bushcraft Lessons

As part of a Bushcraft weekend at Cornbury Park, a group of Year 6 pupils set up camp in the Wychwood Forest, learnt to build shelters and camp fires and put their newly-acquired cooking skills to the test, including trout cooked over the open fire. ■



Music



The Music Department has had another busy and successful term. Some of our musicians enjoyed the annual Woodwind, Brass and Percussion day at Radley College. They spent the day rehearsing in preparation for a concert in front of their parents. Our own Concert Platforms are becoming increasingly popular with more and more boys of all ages and abilities taking part. Pre-prep performed this year's nativity, *Born in a Barn*, with their usual vigour and enthusiasm to a packed hall of very proud parents and grandparents. Our Carol Concert was held for the first time in St. Helen's Church, Abingdon and was a huge success. The sound of beautiful singing almost lifted the roof. Senior Choir had their annual carol-singing trip to the Westgate Shopping Centre in Oxford, raising money for this year's charity, *Children in Need*. ■

Phonics Open Morning

Tuesday 28 Feb – 09.30 am

Come and see our Phonics teaching in action.

Reception to Year 3.

www.abingdon.org.uk/prep/open_day



School ties on top of Kilimanjaro



School scarf at St Tropez



ASP A Photograph Competition

Items of Abingdon uniform can be found in the strangest places as the ASP A Photograph Competition can testify, from the Great Wall of China to the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden. The first prize in the latest competition was awarded jointly to Christian Reedman, for his picture taken at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, and to the Jefferson family for their appropriately colourful entry taken in St Tropez. Both prizewinners received cheques for £25. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry.

The Competition will now be judged annually rather than termly so the deadline for future entries will be the first Friday of the Michaelmas term, which next year will be Friday 7 September 2012. There will be a first prize of £50 and a runners-up prize of £25. You can send your entries at any time before the deadline to aspa@abingdon.org.uk ■

Call for Volunteers

ASP A has a small core of parent volunteers who, around their daily work, organise events within the School for other parents. We would welcome additional volunteers. Please contact a member of the committee or send your details to aspa@abingdon.org.uk ■

Children in Need Coffee Morning

About fifty people attended this coffee morning in the Sports Centre Hospitality Suite on 2 December, which raised £154 for the charity. There was no charge for the coffee, soft drinks, muffins and cookies, instead people were asked to make contributions to the charity. We thank Mrs Chadder from the ASP A Committee for organising the event and for the coffee and cakes. ■

Parents' Survey

Thank you to over 300 parents who replied to the ASP A survey – a great response.

The majority of respondents were very supportive of ASP A and there were several suggestions for increasing the number and range of events including coffee mornings/afternoons, drinks receptions, pub meals, family picnics, games evenings, a craft bazaar, boat trips, friendship groups and informal buffets. All suggestions will be considered. We have decided to have coffee afternoons once a term and a quiz night is planned for March 2012.

More detailed information including a Q&A section on the survey can be found on the website. ■

Fifth-Year Parents' Evening

Fifty Fifth-year parents had a very enjoyable evening on 25 November when they took over the whole of the Parasol Chinese restaurant in Abingdon for supper. Many thanks to Wong and his team who did the group proud with a superb set menu and excellent food. It was so successful that a Third-year event is planned for Friday 3 February. ■

Summer Boat Trip

Parents from various year groups braved the dubious weather back in June to board a Salters Steamer at the Nags Head in Abingdon. They cruised up to Dry Sandford and back, thoroughly enjoying themselves despite the weather, listening to music from the likes of *Abba* and *The Stranglers* while enjoying the buffet food and well stocked bar. ■

ASP A Events in 2012

- 20 Jan** Fourth-year Parents' Supper
- 3 Feb** Third-year Parents' Supper
- 10 Feb** Charity Coffee Morning
- 24 Feb** Lower-School Parents' Supper
- 2 Mar** Quiz Night
- 16 Mar** Sixth-form Parents' Supper
- 18 May / 2 June** (TBC) Parent Event

Check website for details
www.abingdon.org.uk/aspa

The Loose Limbed Collective



In an initiative designed to support all those who have committed to careers in Drama or Film after their time at Abingdon, the Drama department has this term established The Loose Limbed Collective, a network for mutual support, contacts and the development of new projects. The first project is for senior and former members of the AFU who are seeking to make careers in the film world. Working with renowned documentary maker Michael Grigsby, OA 1955, the School's new Director-in-Residence, the Collective will make an original film a year; the first film should be ready for screening in the autumn of 2012.

OAs on Stage:

Richard Holt (Webber), OA 2003, plays John Walker in the musical *Swallows and Amazons*, at the Vaudeville Theatre until 14 January followed by an 18 week UK tour.

Paddy Gervers, OA 2008, and **Jon Donahoe (Margree) OA 2001**, have formed a new comedy band *Johnny and the Baptists*; they are being supported in their current UK tour by **Chad Mason, OA 1999**.

Huw Parmenter, OA 2007, has been understudying Nigel Havers in the comedy *Basket Case*.

Playwright **Mike Bartlett, OA 1999**, currently has a new play, *13*, in the Olivier auditorium of the National Theatre. Mike's *Collected Plays 1* were published by Methuen in November with a launch at the Royal Court Theatre.

Simon Evans, OA 2002, is now resident assistant director at the Donmar Warehouse in Covent Garden.

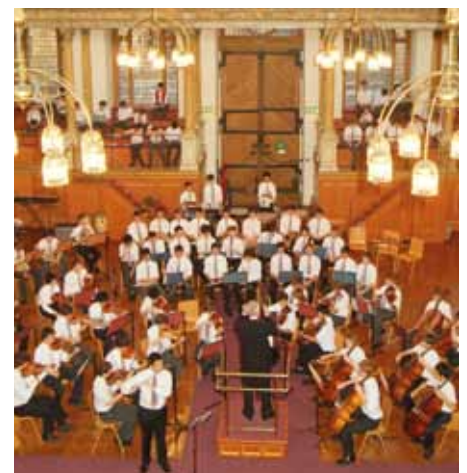
Max Hutchinson, OA 2007, has a part in the Agatha Christie Theatre Company's touring production of *Murder on the Nile* opening on 10 January at the Theatre Royal Windsor and closing in Newcastle on 28 July. ■



Dedication of New Chapel Windows

The Bishop of Oxford, the Right Revd John Pritchard, will dedicate the new Nicholas Mynheer windows at a service in the School Chapel on Friday 27 April at 6 pm.

Invitations will be circulated but if you would like to be included please contact Samantha Roberts at the OA office. ■



Celebration Concert at the Sheldonian

A concert celebrating the School's musicians in the Sheldonian Theatre on 23 June will also mark the 25th anniversary of Michael Stinton's appointment as Director of Music at Abingdon School. It is hoped that the concert might be an opportunity for OAs, former members of the School's orchestras and bands, to take part in the celebrations. ■

Samantha Roberts 01235 849074
samantha.roberts@abingdon.org.uk

Professional Dinners

Law

On Friday 7 October the School welcomed over 50 OAs, parents and current pupils to the second career networking dinner for law, hosted on behalf of the Old Abingdonian Club by His Honour Judge David Morris, OA 1959.

Medicine

There will be a professional development dinner for those interested in a career in medicine on Friday 23 March.

The dinner will be preceded by a talk: 'Turning the world upside down – what the NHS can learn from low income countries' given by Nigel Crisp – former Chief Executive of the NHS and Permanent Secretary of the UK Department of Health, a former Abingdonian parent.

Contact Samantha Roberts
01235 849074
samantha.roberts@abingdon.org.uk

Why? 63

1563 – at the end of the two-minute silence on Remembrance Day the School bell rang 63 times – why 63? It's not, as some might think, because 63 members of the Abingdon community died in the two world wars – that number is 122 – it's because 63 is the number that has been associated with Abingdon School ever since 1563 when a former pupil, the sixty-three-year-old John Roysse, donated £50 towards the cost of refurbishing part of the old Abbey as a new schoolroom to replace the old medieval one. There was to be space for 63 free scholars and tradition has always claimed that the room was 15 feet wide by 63 feet long. The room, now known as the Roysse Room and part of the Guildhall, is certainly 15 feet wide but whether it was ever 63 feet long it's no longer possible to say. In addition to this outright gift, on his death in 1571 Roysse bequeathed the School two properties in the City of London, the rents from which augmented the Headmaster's salary for the next 300 years. ■

1763 – for the 200th anniversary of Roysse's endowment, the Headmaster Henry Bright presented the School with a wooden board painted with a newly devised coat of arms together with the dedication, 'To the honour of the Blessed Trinity, John Roysse of London, Mercer, founded this Free School AD 1563 Aged 63 for 63 boys.' But, however much Protestant eighteenth-century Abingdon might want to deny its school's Roman Catholic origins, John Roysse did not found Abingdon School in 1563; the School had been in existence since at least 1256 and quite possibly since the establishment of Abingdon Abbey in 650 and Roysse himself had been a pupil there in the 1510s. It is unthinkable that an important town like Abingdon would not have had a school until 1563. Roysse was a vital benefactor of the post-medieval school out of which the modern school has grown, but he was not its founder. ■



1863 – the Tercentenary celebrations were combined with the laying of the foundation stone for the statue of Prince Albert in Albert Park. The combined celebrations were marked by a civic dinner at which there was a choice of more than thirty dishes including mock turtle soup, turkey, chicken, goose, duck and three different types of beef. ■



1913 – by the 350th anniversary the School had moved to its current site and celebrations included lunch for over 300 people on Upper Field. ■



1963 – much was made of the number 63 for the Quatercentenary and in addition to a visit from Princess Margaret an appeal was launched to raise £63,000; the prefects took part in a 63-mile walk from Worcester to Abingdon and on 1 May 1963 – 1.5.63. – the Cross-Country team organised a 63-mile relay from the Houses of Parliament back to School. ■

2013 – the School will celebrate the 450th anniversary of John Roysse's endowment, now seen as marking the establishment of the modern school. It's a date that is embedded at the School's heart in the main switchboard number –

01235 521563

Hong Kong Reception



Another well-attended Hong Kong Reception took place on Tuesday 27 September 2011 at The Excelsior, Causeway Bay. Over 100 OAs, parents and friends of Abingdon School attended the event to hear news of the School and to meet Felicity Lusk on her first Hong Kong visit as Abingdon's Head. ■

OA Antipodean Reunion

To coincide with the 2011 Rugby World Cup taking place in New Zealand, Richard Bampton (1961) organised an Antipodean Reunion on behalf of the OA Club. After England's win against Scotland, Richard hosted a barbecue at his home on Sunday 2 October 2011. This was followed up with a dinner at the Auckland Sky Tower restaurant on Tuesday 4 October 2011. ■

OA City Lunch



Robin Joy (1978) hosted an OA City Lunch on Friday 4 November 2011 at Bangers Bar & Grill, attended by Andrew McMillan (1971), Simon Hills, (1975), Gareth Morris (1976), Robin Joy and Russell Taylor (1978), Hugh de Lusignan (1979), Martin Haycock (1991), James Peterson, Ian Priest and Jack Whibley (1997), Darshan Puri (2003) and Ben Strickson (2008).

Next Event: OA City Dinner

This will be held at Chez Gérard Chancery Lane on the evening of Thursday 22 March 2012, hosted by Darshan Puri (2003). Tickets now available online at www.oaclub.org.uk/members ■

OA Open Afternoon and OA Club Annual Dinner



It was a pleasure to welcome so many OAs back to School on Saturday 15 October 2011 for our annual OA Open Afternoon, the highlight of which was the resounding 27-13 victory of the Abingdon 1st XV against Radley. Many OAs stayed on after the match to take a tour of the School. The OA Club's Annual Dinner that evening, hosted by Jon Gabitass (Governor and former Second Master), celebrated Abingdon's long tradition of rugby.

We were delighted to welcome over 70 OAs, partners and members of staff, spanning seven decades of Abingdon's history, including: 1947 Basil Margrave, 1952 Geoffrey Crockford, 1953 Ted Brown, 1958 Mark Dunman, 1959 Andrew Rowles, 1961 David Brice, Terence Libby, 1962 John Bunce, 1965 Charles Cox, Anthony Johnson, 1972 Kelvin Sykes, 1975 Simon Hills, Simon Johnson, 1976 David Blomley, Gareth Morris, 1978 Barry Burles, 1979 Phillip Ashby, Andrew Carrie, Michael Dacre, Jon Davies, Jonathan Grosvenor, Graham Halsey, Gareth Hoskin, Michael Hurry, John Madgwick, Ben Messer, Alastair Robertson, Nicholas Williams, 1982 Alexander Cullen, Andrew Hall, Nick Rice, Krystian Volak, John Warchus, 1989 Bryn Davies, Tony Edwards, Leigh Hedges, Max Henderson, Guy Peddy, Hedley Tomlyn, 1999 Lloyd Bowden, 2006 Jeremy Thomson, 2007 Max Wood. Also former Common Room: Chris Biggs, David Crawford, Jon Gabitass, Keith Hasnip, Bill Potter, Stephen Page and Stuart Hamilton with current Common Room: Andy Broadbent, Peter Coke, Jeff Drummond-Hay, Andrew Hall and Mike Litchfield (1994). ■

20th Anniversary Reunion – 1991 Leavers



On Saturday 10 September 2011 the School hosted a 20th Anniversary Reunion for leavers from 1991. The event was a roaring success, with over 50 OAs, partners and members of Common Room (past and present) attending. Many thanks to Pete Mildenhall who co-ordinated the event, all the way from Australia!

OA guests: Andy Ashley, Ed Atkins, Alex Bailey, Jake Barton, Mike Bowen, Matthew Buckley, Darran Chadwick, Ben Clothier, Paul Crutchlow, Rob Dalby, Mark Davis, Julian Denée, Barry Gale, Andy Glyn-Mills, Louis Golding, Spencer Hickson, Adi Himpson, Nick Hodgson, William Hutchings, Richard Inman, Christopher Jones, Andy Lyon, Pete Mildenhall, Robb Milne, Richard Newman, Ed Nolan, Neville Pegram, Dante Peters, Jon Richards, Alistair Ross, Matthew Trump, Jon Turner, Jon Twinn, Jeremy Whetter, Doug Williamson, Andrew Wood, Brad Yendle. (Also Josh Mandel, 1990). Common Room guests (past and present): Andrew Broadbent, Ian and Jenny Fishpool, Mike Litchfield (1994), Munna Mitra, Bill and Angela Potter and Nick Revill. ■

20th Anniversary Reunion – 1992 Leavers

OAs who left in 1992 will be invited to return to School in September 2012 for their 20th Anniversary celebration. The date will be in the next edition of Abingdon News.

Looking ahead to Lent Term 2012...

- Thurs 8 Mar London Drinks Reception National Liberal Club, London
- Fri 16 Mar Modern Languages Dinner, School
- Thurs 22 Mar OA Dinner, Chez Gérard, Chancery Lane, London
- Fri 23 Mar Professional Dinner: Medicine School
- Fri 30 Mar Hockey: OAs v 1st XI Iffley Road, Oxford



Toby Jones is 'Tinker'

Toby Jones, OA 1985 plays the self-serving Percy Alleline, 'Tinker', in Tomas Alfredson's adaptation of John le Carré's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, released last September. ■



Phil Selway at the Pegasus Theatre



Radiohead drummer Phil Selway, OA 1985, inaugurated Oxford's Pegasus Theatre's 50th anniversary programme with two sell-out concerts at the theatre in November. The programme is designed to raise money for its young people's performing arts courses. ■

Award for David Mears

David Mears, OA 2011, currently studying at King's College, Cambridge, has been awarded a Conwell Scholarship intended to help him further his musical performance skills. On 20 November, David played the clarinet in Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* at a concert in King's College Chapel. ■



Varsity OA



Hong Kong international Sebastian Perkins, OA 2001, played for Oxford in the 130th Varsity match on 8 December when Oxford beat Cambridge 28-10. Sebastian, who is studying for a PGCE in Biology, is the second OA in successive years to play for Oxford. ■

Agent Zigzag



In BBC 2's *Timewatch* on 15 November author Ben Macintyre, OA 1982, presented the story of the British wartime agent, Eddie Chapman.

A month earlier Ben's former history master, Dr Hubert Zawadzki, appeared in the unlikely company of Len Goodman in *Who Do You Think You Are*. Dr Zawadzki was Len Goodman's Polish interpreter. ■

