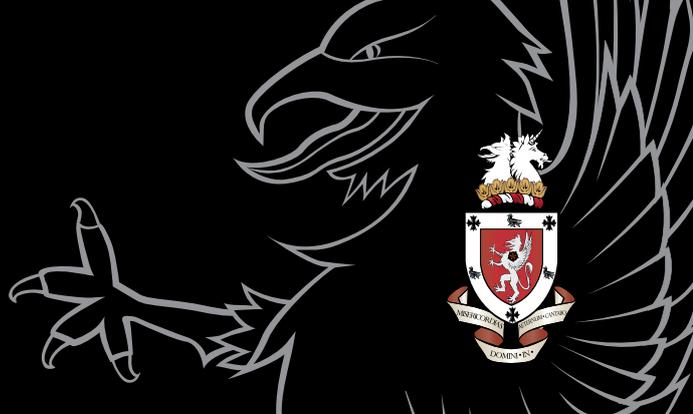


AbingdonNews

The Newsletter of the Abingdon Foundation Schools



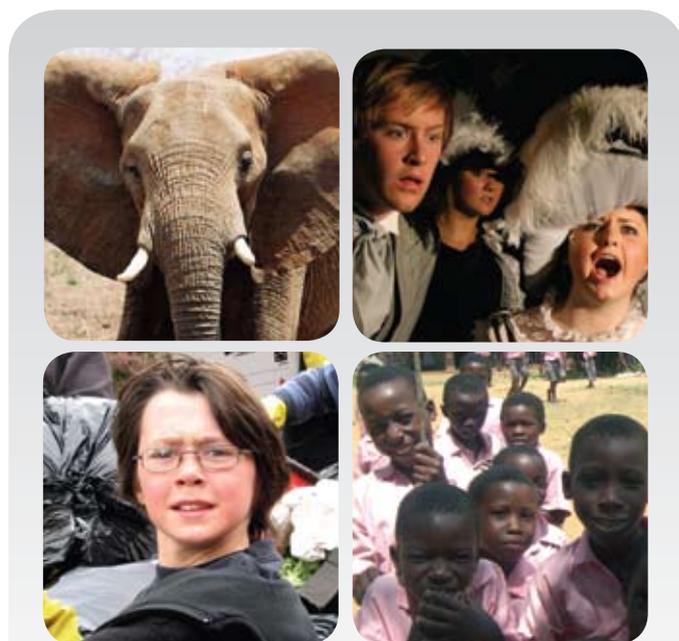
WORLD CHAMPION

Matthew Rossiter won a gold medal at the World Junior Rowing Championships held in Beijing at the end of last summer. In the words of his coach, 'A sensational performance by a superb athlete'. Matthew, second from right in the photograph, was a member of the prestigious Coxless IV, the blue riband event of the Championships. Earlier in the year, he won a silver medal rowing with the Great British Junior team in Munich. Since winning gold, Matthew, who is 18, has won the J18 British Indoor Rowing Championships and achieved a creditable 21st place out of 50 in the Great Britain Under 23 Sculling Trials.



London Premiere for *Gravel and Stones*

In a rare honour, the AFU film *Gravel and Stones*, featuring the plight of disabled people in Cambodia, received its premiere at the National Film Theatre on 19 November. Shown at two screenings, the verdict of the capacity audiences, including industry professionals and representatives from the Foreign Office and the UK NGO *Landmine Disability Support*, was that this compassionate film showed a maturity way beyond the years of its schoolboy makers.



Abingdon Preparatory School
The Abingdon School Society
Development
Old Abingdonian Club

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Recent Successes

The School not only has a World Champion in its midst but also a number of other high-flying achievers.



Army Awards

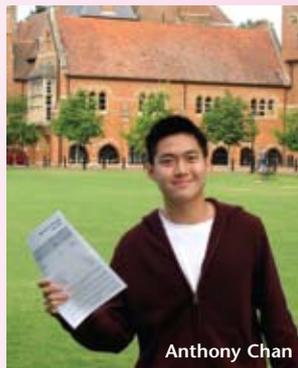
Sam Walton, Matthew Winters and Ben Kemp have all recently passed the highly competitive entrance exam into the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Candidates are drawn from across the UK and undergo a rigorous selection procedure, including a variety of aptitude and fitness tests, leadership skills and interviews. Matthew and Ben have also won Army Sixth Form Scholarships.

Top Ten

The excellent results from last summer's public exams include those of two boys that put them with the top candidates in the country. Anthony Chan not only achieved seven A grades at A level but out of 6,000 candidates his Chemistry marks put him with the top ten in the country. Guy Cutting's GCSE Music results put him with the top ten in that subject out of 2,400 other candidates.



Guy Cutting



Anthony Chan

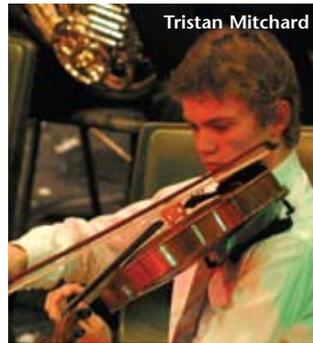
Arkwright Award

Chris Davis has won an Arkwright Scholarship, these are awarded to high achieving sixth-formers to encourage them to consider a future in design and engineering. Chris, one of 800 candidates to apply, won one of the fifteen Design Technology specific awards.



Fine Musicians

Abingdon's top musicians continue to impress wherever they go. Nicholas Ereaut and David Mears won extremely prestigious places in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, putting them among the top ten players under the age of 20 in this country. Meanwhile Adrian Lo, who is 15 and Tristan Mitchard, 17, have both been awarded professional performing diplomas – the Dip ABRSM – for violin and piano respectively.



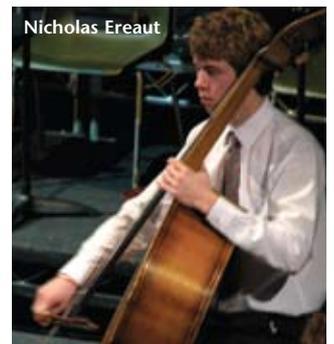
Tristan Mitchard



David Mears



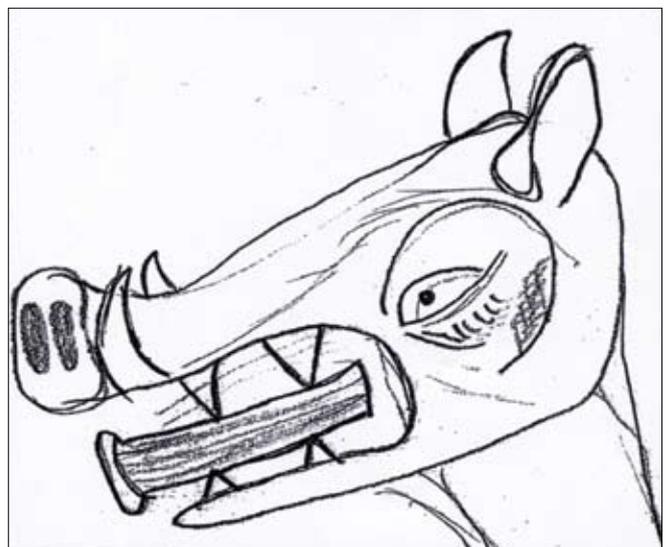
Adrian Lo



Nicholas Ereaut

Millennium Monster

Ben Bryant has won a University of Oxford *Millennium Myths and Monsters* competition to design a gargoyle for the Bodleian Library. Ed Vaizey, MP for Wantage, presented winners with certificates at the Divinity Schools on 14 December. Ben's design, a boar with a book in its mouth, will now be carved in stone on the northwest face of the Library.



Join Abingdon and See the World!

Even by Abingdon's standards, there were an unusual number of boys visiting other parts of the world over the Michaelmas half term: Tanzania, Morocco, the Caribbean, Spain, Sicily and Boston, USA.

Spain

A mixed group of pupils from Abingdon and St Helen's and St Katharine's visited our exchange school, Colegio Manuel Peleteiro, in Santiago de Compostela. Whilst in Santiago they witnessed the 'Botafumeiro' ceremony in which the largest censer in the world is swung in a 65m arc across the transepts of the cathedral creating huge clouds of incense as it goes.



Tanzania

A number of boys studying Biology went to Northern Tanzania where they visited the Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti and Tarangire national parks, the Olduvai Gorge and a Masai village in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. It was an excellent opportunity to observe some of the most incredible ecosystems on Earth as well as experience the very different culture that is found in Tanzania.



Morocco



A group of boys took part in the World Challenge Expedition to Morocco. Divided into three groups, one headed for the Todra Gorge in the Atlas Mountains and spent four days trekking in near deserted nomadic lands, sleeping in caves and tents. Another group went to Jebel Siroua and the third to Jebel Toubkhal where they tried to reach the peak of Morocco's highest mountain but were foiled by the weather.

Sicily



A party of classics students went to Sicily, once an important trading centre of the ancient world. The civilisations of both Greece and Rome have left behind impressive ruins – temples, theatres and mosaics, of which the Roman mosaics at Piazza Armerina are among the finest and most extensive in the world.

Tackling the 3 Rs

Re-use, Recycle and Reduce, the new three Rs, are the aim of the recently formed Abingdon School Waste Force, part of the charity Global Action Plan. The project began early last term when one day's rubbish was collected outside the Amey Theatre so that everyone could see exactly how much the School produces. The target is to reduce by 40% the amount of our waste that goes to landfill sites before April 2008.



My Fair Lady

A visually exciting and polished performance of the musical *My Fair Lady*, based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, was the first of this year's joint senior drama productions with the School of St Helen and St Katharine. Beautifully costumed and professionally delivered the production was a credit to all those involved. Don't miss the next joint production, *Sergeant Pepper's Children*, on 13, 14 and 15 February in the Amey Theatre.



The Return of FxP2

Two years on from their first show and *FxP2*, always extremely entertaining with their comedy sketches on life – particularly school life – the universe and everything, are now also extremely slick. In their 12 October show, a capacity audience in the Amey Theatre was treated to their latest repertoire. They were assisted by Joe Buckley, the music of Funk Lore, and by Lynne Hussey and Kate Shlugman from St Helen's. *FxP2* now have their sites firmly fixed on the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer.



Abingdon's Got Talent

So claimed the posters, a statement confirmed by the impressive array of talent that made it through to the finals of the show on 14 November. Among the blues, rap and rock, tribute bands, dance groups and comedy turns, the winning performance came from James Yan and Saskia Hill's non-stop dance routine. The show was the idea of four sixth-formers, Josh Ogle, Gus Rafferty, James Rhodes and Joni Bayfield, and raised more than £2,800 for the Community Church Mission Project in Sierra Leone.



House Singing

The annual House Singing Competition took place just before half term in front of an extremely vocal and partisan audience, which produced a keen competitive spirit. Ralph Allwood, Director of Music at Eton, judged the competition and chose Crecent House's rendition of *Bridge Over Troubled Water* to be the winner.



The Big Draw

Fourth-formers studying for the Mixed Media Art GCSE took part in the *The Big Draw* on 9 October. Over 1,000 venues across the country participate in this campaign, which invites people to make use of drawing to engage with the past, present and future. At Abingdon, pupils were encouraged to spend half a day working on extended drawings exploring still life, landscape or portrait work.



Rugby

The table tells its own story of the term's good solid rugby results. However, it does not tell of the 1st XV's exhilarating 15 – 6 victory over Radley, nor the 2nd XV's nail-biting 25 – 24 victory over St Edward's who the Senior Colts A, B and C beat 29 – 0, 34 – 0 and 57 – 0 respectively, and the Junior Colts 87 – 0.

All team results can be found at www.abingdon.org.uk

1st XV: Won 8 Lost 7 Drew 1

2nd XV: Won 9 Lost 3

3rd XV: Won 5 Lost 5 Drew 1

4th XV: Won 3 Lost 5 Drew 1

Senior Colts A: Won 7 Lost 5

Senior Colts B: Won 9 Lost 1

Senior Colts C: Won 9 Lost 1

Junior Colts A: Won 6 Lost 8, Drew 1

Junior Colts B: Won 7 Lost 2, Drew 1

Junior Colts C: Won 5 Lost 5

Junior Colts D: Won 1 Lost 3

Juniors A: Won 9 Lost 2

Juniors B: Won 9 Lost 1

Juniors C: Won 8 Lost 3

Junior D: Won 4 Lost 2



Badminton

The School's Badminton record is second to none and last term, even though the team had to play every match away because it was not possible to use the Sports Hall, they notched up impressive victories over Wellington College, Malvern, Cheltenham, Rugby and Millfield.



Michael Nagi at the Longworth 10K run

Cross Country

Good results were gained at Cross Country events last term: at Longworth, Alex Muir was the fastest runner in his age group and at Blenheim five runners finished in the top 20 whilst Michael Nagi came third out of a field of 2,100 runners. The Club entered a team in the Bicester 10K Road Race who, whilst managing to record some very fast times, also raised money for the charities *Helen and Douglas House*.

An Invitation to Parents ...

to form a team for the Blenheim Triathlon on 7 and 8 June in order to swim 750 m, bike 20 km and run 5 km in the beautiful grounds of Blenheim Palace. A number of staff and OAs have already entered the event so we just need some parents now. Please contact: simon.balderson@abingdon.org.uk

Sailing

Last summer, Guy Stephens and Rory Spriggs came second in the Cork Feva European Championships, an Abingdon crew came fifth in the National Youth Match Racing competition and Guy Stephens and Tom Altmann competed in the 420 National Championships. Guy Stephens has now been selected for the 420 national squad and Jamie Hawkes for the Hobie catamaran national squad.



Rowing

The Boat Club made their annual visit to Boston, USA, in October for the Head of the Charles Regatta, the world's largest two-day rowing event, which attracts more than 7,500 competitors from all over the world. In their race on the Sunday, the first crew ended in a creditable 18th position out of 56 crews.



John Driver Wing and Sports Hall Opening



Parents, friends, staff and pupils at Abingdon Preparatory School enjoyed a memorable morning on Saturday 29 September when the School officially opened the John Driver Wing and the Sports Hall. The new building was named after the Governor who retired in 2004 after 25 years on the governing body, and 16 years as the Chair. The new facilities include a sports hall, classrooms, an art room and changing rooms.

Four year old Benjamin Reed, the youngest pupil in the School, led the celebrations by cutting into a stunning replica cake of the new buildings. The cake was the creation of Mrs Lucy Jury-Simpson, a parent at the School. The chocolate sponge took forty hours to make and contained twenty eggs and twelve 200g chocolate bars!

Year 7 have been studying war poetry in English which has inspired many thoughtful pieces of work including this poem by Michael Bicarregui.

Ode to an Early Death

Here we stand, ready and armed to kill,
Nothing will cease this fate.
Through my veins there flows a thorough chill,
We know it is too late.

I am numb - my arms have departed,
My eyes have found their grave
I can taste the gas that is coming,
I know I must be brave.

Over the top! The soldiers lurch,
I barely run a yard.
In front of me, there is a gun
Its bullet hits me hard.

As the light is passing, the fields are filled with song
The lads in the trenches – they know this cause is wrong.

Year 7 Join the Legion

Year 7 enjoyed a step back in time on 31 October when the boys joined the senior school and Combe primary school to attend a Roman re-enactment by Legion XIII at Abingdon School. The morning was spent taking part in a typical Roman day, a topic which was also being studied as part of the Latin syllabus, so the boys really enjoyed bringing the subject to life. Latin was spoken for simple greetings and the names of different Roman artefacts were explained. Boys took part in demonstrations of Roman dress, education, the role of slaves and marriage. Volunteers were taught how to carry out a Roman drill, tried throwing a pilum (with varying degrees of success), and putting on Roman armour. A more unusual aspect of the morning for the boys was seeing how a Roman woman would have been made up – with one or two boys actually taking part.



And They're Off

Thursday 11 October saw the annual Preprep sponsored Toddle Waddle which this year raised £551 for the The Meningitis Trust. The event was blessed with glorious, warm weather. The boys were enthusiastic from the start making fantastic duck masks and collecting sponsors.



World War II Veteran makes History

On 4 December Year 3 pupils enjoyed a rare opportunity to hear at first hand the experience of a World War 2 veteran, as part of their wartime history project. Tim Robson, who is 85 years old, was an RAF wireless operator in the Second World War. Tim is related to James Messenger who is a Year 3 pupil at the Prep School and through James's project, the School invited Tim to come and talk to the boys. Tim said, "I was surprised by how much the boys knew about the war and the questions they asked were very thoughtful. They were interested in all aspects from whether I was ever afraid, to how cold it was in the plane. I thoroughly enjoyed talking to them."





Forging Friendships in Kenya

Over the October half term holiday, Jaany Ravenscroft, who teaches Art and Year 5, visited Kenya to develop a school link with Jimba Gede Primary School near the village of Watamu on the east coast of Africa. This exciting project has evolved over the last year and culminated in a very productive and positive visit. The purpose of the link is to create a learning partnership between the schools, which will involve curriculum based work and the nurturing of global citizenship. The aim is to build a long lasting friendship with Jimba Gede and for the pupils at both schools to benefit from the possibilities this project offers.

There are, of course, obvious differences between the schools – there are 1,200 boys and girls at Jimba Gede; it is not unusual to have 50 or more pupils in one class and many children walk up to 9 km to attend school. Amongst the similarities are the importance of sport, music and drama and at the heart of both schools are the interests of the pupils.

Enjoying the new Art Facilities

Kieran Stiles, a successful Oxford artist, visited Abingdon Prep on the Open Day to help celebrate the new art room and facilities. The Year 5 boys enjoyed a messy workshop involving moulding plaster and shells. The new facilities have inspired the boys to produce some tremendous pieces of work this term, below is just a small selection.



Record Breaking 1st XV

Abingdon Prep 1st XV had a superb season winning all eleven fixtures against some strong opposition. Schools such as Winchester House, Cokethorpe and Cothill were all defeated in exciting, narrow-margin victories. The team spirit and commitment of all eighteen players were fundamental in achieving their success. In all they scored 244 points, including 42 tries, and conceded just 39 points – denying the opposition from scoring in a remarkable seven matches. They must be heartily congratulated on their achievement and take their place in the School's fifty year history as being the only rugby team to remain undefeated.



The Nativity

This year the Pre-prep department put on a performance of *It's a Baby* which tells the story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of the innkeeper. The story is told through songs which were performed enthusiastically by the children with actions. Henry Steinsberg and Jack Lester filled in the gaps with rhyming narration in beautifully clear voices. Luke Jones excelled as the innkeeper and the angels sang a very moving lullaby which brought many a tear to the eye. The Reception performed perfectly as stable animals creating wonderful farmyard sounds and we even had a couple of funky chickens.

Christmas Concert

Tuesday 11 December saw the Abingdon Preparatory School annual Christmas concert. A truly festive occasion, the audience enjoyed performances from pupils between Years 3 and 8, including songs by individual year groups, ensembles and solo performances, all interspersed with readings.



TASS – The Abingdon School Society

Quizzical

Over 120 people attended the Quiz Evening in November, raising over £400 for TASS in the process. The questions varied from general knowledge, children's books and old TV programmes. After a closely fought last round the *Newcomers* were pipped at the post by the *Norfolks*. The School kitchens provided a wonderful fish and chip supper while members of TASS served drinks.

Thanks to all the members of TASS who helped, especially Siobhan Graham who marked all the answers and Rosie Hawkes who helped with the picture rounds.

Touchliner's Dinner 07

John Bentley, an Honorary President of the charity *Wooden Spoon* and a former member of the Lions Tour to South Africa, entertained over 150 guests at Touchliners' 5th Annual Dinner in December. The event was great fun and raised £2,000 towards rugby at Abingdon. Thanks are due to Kevin Brennan, the School's Director of Rugby, and to Helen and Claire Smith for all their help in making this such a successful occasion.

Touchliners is the parental support group for rugby at Abingdon. The organizers of this year's events, Andy Smith and Neil Redman, are now stepping down from the committee and we are looking for some more parents to take over their positions. If you are interested in helping at future events then please contact kevin. brennan@abingdon.org.uk

Dates for the Diary

14th January – 7.45 pm for 8pm
TASS Executive Committee Meeting in the Christ's Hospital Room, Mercers Court.

26th January – 7.30 pm for 8pm
Burns Night – Abingdon Guild Hall.

15th March – 7.30 pm
Barn Dance with the Woodpeckers, pig roast and bar, organised with the St Helen and St Katharine PA at the St Helen and St Katherine Old Sports Hall. All the family welcome. Tickets £12.50 each, numbers limited so buy your tickets early.

Enquiries to carol.thorn@ntlworld.com

The Value of TASS

As a result of its fund-raising activities TASS is able to assist a number of boys each year who elect to undertake community work, often overseas, during their gap years.

This report is adapted from a letter written by Matthew Smith who received a TASS award in 2006. He went to the *Love Care Centre* near Chennai, South India, intending to stay three months but remaining for nine, developing in the process a deep commitment to the orphanage in which he worked where he was both Class Teacher and House Parent.



The orphanage has about 150 children, a mixture of orphans, semi-orphans and destitute children who come from all over India and speak many languages, the common tongue being English. Aged from four to eighteen, most unusually, boys outnumber girls three to two. They are always smiling and are very grateful for all the help given to them; consequently they study very hard.

After three months, Matthew didn't want to leave so decided to stay until June. During that time the orphanage was given 17 acres of land near Kanchipuram, a town 70km away. Over the May school holiday, Matthew redesigned the website (www.lovecareindia.org), created a comprehensive bio database of the children and produced an initial budget for the building of a new orphanage – all of this with a view to facilitating the international funding that will be needed.

In June, most of the children were moved to new rented premises in Kanchipuram and 73 of them were installed in the local English Medium School. Caught up in the action, Matthew now agreed to stay into July and for one month was parent to 100 children on his own. The time management required was phenomenal: every morning he was responsible for ensuring that 73 children were up, dressed, had breakfast, their correct school uniform/bags/books/packed lunch/signed homework diaries and got to school before 9am.

Over the 7 months he became incredibly attached to the children, speaking to them about their problems, dispensing first aid and medicine, helping them with their homework and saying goodnight to them at night. It was with a heavy heart that he left them in August to travel in North India and Nepal.

He returned to the *Love Care Centre* for five days in September before finally leaving for the UK with a promise that he would return as soon as possible, and, in the meantime, do everything possible to raise the £100,000 that will be needed to build the new orphanage.

Matthew finishes his letter –

'I would recommend that everyone should take a Gap Year. I have seen that what one person does, given time and perseverance, can make a huge difference to many lives and would urge other people to discover this.'

Anyone who would like to contribute to the fund-raising effort for the new orphanage should contact Matthew at mdcsmith@gmail.com

Second Hand Uniform Shop Opening Times

Open from 12.15 to 1.15 pm

Sat 12 Jan	Weds 16 Jan
Sat 02 Feb	Weds 06 Feb
Sat 01 Mar	Weds 05 Mar
Sat 15 Mar	

Want to Help?

TASS needs a steady stream of new members to maintain effectiveness. If you think you would like to help send an e-mail to tass@abingdon.org.uk or visit www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass

Immediate Results for Annual Fund

Launched in November, Abingdon's new Annual Fund has already managed to raise £33,000 from parents, Governors and senior members of Common Room. Given the option of choosing where they would like their money to go, donors have so far opted for biology, music, ICT, bursaries and the School's general funds. We are extremely grateful for all these donations and hope that many of you will feel able to contribute to this new initiative in the future. The prime focus of the Fund is on facilities that will be of immediate benefit to the current boys rather than on long-term development projects. The Annual Fund will be extended in the New Year to include the School's alumni and other friends.

See How it Grows

Meanwhile, behind the hoardings over on Waste Court Field the new Sports Complex grows apace – as these two photographs show. The swimming pool is clearly evident and there are walls on the side of the building. There are currently between 30 and 45 workers on the site in any one day; 8 bricklayers and 7 labourers are building the squash courts, which will take 29,220 bricks. The whole project is still on target for completion in the autumn of this year.



Last summer



January 2008

For any enquiries regarding development please contact Jan Glover, Development Director, at the School, she would be delighted to talk to you, 01235 849129.

Cobban Bursary

After James Cobban's death in 1999, a group of 1960s leavers led by Terence Libby, OA 1961, John Bunce, OA 1962, and John Kelly, OA 1961, determined to raise money for a bursary to be set up in their former headmaster's name. The first beneficiary of this award entered the School in September 2002 and he is now in his final year. The School very much hopes that others will continue to give in Sir James' name so that more boys in the future will be able to benefit from an Abingdon education.



James Cobban, headmaster 1947-1970, with the prefects in 1961.



The 1961 swimming pool

Swimming Pool

Abingdon first had a swimming pool in 1961, built with money raised by the Quatercentenary Appeal – before that the boys used to swim in the river. The new Sports Complex is to have a 25 metre indoor swimming pool, the benefits of which will not only be felt by the boys but by our near neighbours since it will be much quieter for them!



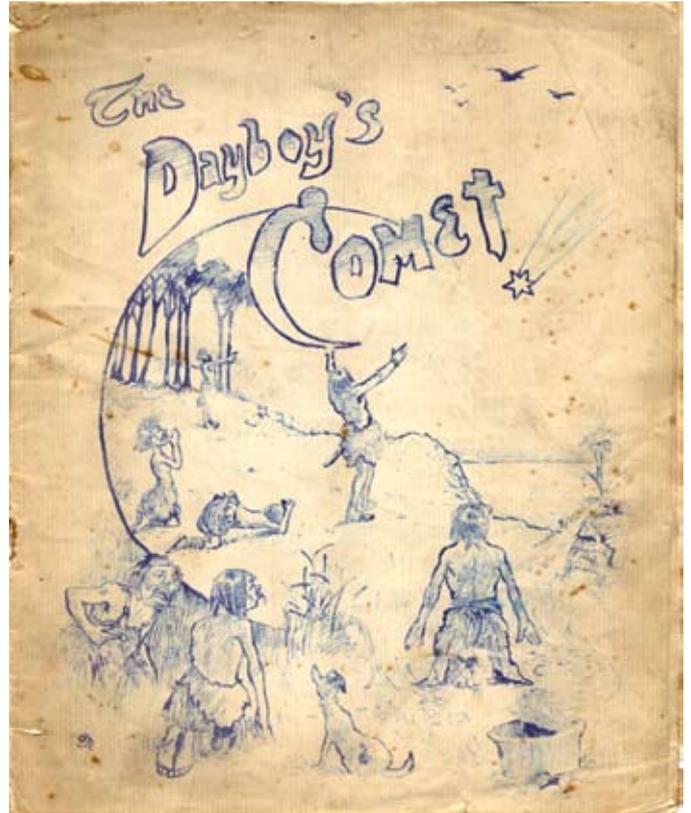
How the finished swimming pool will look

Have I Got Old News ...

The Martlet, which made its first appearance last term, is the latest in a long line of boy-produced School newspapers of which *The Bordereau*, published 1899, is the earliest. This was followed in 1900 by *The Dayboy's Comet*, so called by the editors because a comet 'makes no engagements as to its time of appearance; neither shall we', but when it does appear, 'its splendour astounds nations.' Both publications, full of topical news about the Boer War, had very short runs – two issues. This was easily beaten by the twenty-five issues of *Octopus* that appeared between July 1958 and July 1959, a publication that some readers might remember for the controversy raised by its Christmas crossword. There is only one copy of *Scum* in the archives, Number 4 of Volume 2, probably dating from 1961. This is a publication of a rather different hue as its motto implies: *Scum Semper Surgit* – Scum Always Rises.



The *Scum* masthead, July 1961 – *Scum semper surgit*



Cover of the first issue of *The Dayboy's Comet*, July 1900

Uniform Fashion

The editors of *The Dayboy's Comet* can all be seen in the 1900 photograph. Sixty years later, in 1963, the boaters, suits and ties might look the same but it's the absence of waistcoats, caps, boots and watch chains that betray the passage of time. However, only fourteen years after this there are several waistcoats and even a watch chain but this time the ties and the flares spell a different decade – the 1970s, 1978 to be precise.

There will be an exhibition of Abingdon School uniform over the past 150 years in the Grundy Library during the Lent term



The Sixth form in 1900

OA Open Day Saturday 17 May 2008

Old Abingdonians are warmly invited to attend this special day. There will be –

- Reunions for all decades with designated meeting points
- Family picnics
- Tours of the School
- A Silver Anniversary Lunch for the 1983 Leavers
- Cricket
watch the 1st XI v St Edward's
- OA Cricket v Headmaster's XI
- Rowing – House Regatta and Farewell to Mike Martin
- OA AGM
- OA Annual Dinner (hosted by the President)

If you have any further ideas for the OA Open Day, please contact the OA Office.

Professional Development Awards

Henry Dorling (1997) has been awarded £400 towards a part time MSc in sports management. Henry's current rugby coaching responsibilities include:



- Rugby Coach at RFU Level 2
- Forwards Coach with Winchester Rugby Club First XV
- Assistant Coach for Hampshire Under 10s
- Rugby Coordinator and HND Sport Development lecturer at Basingstoke College.

Other OA Club PDA recipients 2007:

Jamie Anderson (2003) – £400 to part fund an equine embryo transfer training course

Ralf Bader (2001) – £250 for project as visiting researcher at Stamford

Matthew Burnard (2003) – £250 for Arabic studies in Yemen

Information on the Professional Development Awards can be found on the OA Website.

Seeking Your Support

Recent sixth form leavers are being recruited to take part in an exciting initiative. During Easter 2008, we will endeavour to telephone as many OAs as possible to seek your thoughts and support and update you on developments at Abingdon School. We are keen that the fusing of School and OA activity continues and look forward to your feedback.

Forty Years On



A reunion dinner was held on Friday 16 February to celebrate the 40 years since Keith Hasnip's appointment as Housemaster of Waste Court. The guests, who included OAs who were in the boarding house in 1967, Mr and Mrs Hasnip and Mrs Janet Taylor née Wells (Matron), enjoyed a champagne reception in Waste Court Library, followed by dinner in 'Big Dorm'.

There will be more reunions in 2008 – please visit the OA Website for information on these – it could be your year!

60s OA Event Visit to Bletchley Park



Over 50 OAs and their guests met at Bletchley Park on 12 October for a visit to this fascinating museum. Among the guests were Roger Baker (former MCR) and his wife Ruth. The visit was followed by a dinner, many thanks to Canon Randell Moll for organising the whole event.

OA Rugby

We are confidently expecting a good turnout for the Griffen Rugby Sevens tournament on Sunday 16 March 2008. The tournament will be held at Cox's Fields, Frilford from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. If you would like to play or

raise a team, please contact Richard Bampton – angelarichard@hotmail.com. The OA Office would love to hear from cricketers interested in playing for the Abingdon Alligators at their 2008 fixtures.

Moldova

The Old Abingdonian Club has donated £1,000 to help cover the costs of the July 2008 summer camp in Moldova. Boys from Abingdon will help to prepare and run activities for a group of 25 Moldovans aged 11–13. Activities will range from woodworking and crafts to English lessons and plenty of games and sports.



OA Diary Dates 2008

Friday 29 February

OA Reunion for Leaving Years – 1963-65, 1973-75 and 1983-85
6.30 – 8.30 pm, Abingdon School

Tuesday 18 March

OA Reunion for Leaving Years – 1993-95 and 1996-98
6.30 – 8.30 pm, East India Club, London

Sunday 16 March

Griffen Rugby Sevens Tournament, Cox's Fields, Frilford

Tuesday 13 May

Golf, Frilford Heath

Saturday 17 May

OA Open Day (including the OA Annual Dinner hosted by the President)

All planned events will be listed on the Club website and invitations will be issued in the usual way.

For full details please see the OA Club website: www.oaclub.org.uk.

Please do contact us if you have any news or would simply like to get in touch:

*The OA Club,
Abingdon School,
Park Road, Abingdon
Oxon OX14 1DE*

*Tel: +44 (0) 1235 849074
e-mail: alumni@abingdon.org.uk or
oaclub@abingdon.org.uk*

Old Abingdonians

Downloading *Radiohead*

Radiohead, whose five members all attended the School, challenged the rock world last autumn when it became the first band to launch an album as a digital download with no fixed price, two months before the standard CD version went on sale. The album, *In Rainbows*, has met with great critical acclaim and unofficial figures estimate that 1.2 million people downloaded it in the first two weeks alone. The band will embark on a world tour in May.



The New *Radiohead*?

Are *Foals* the new *Radiohead*? asked *The Daily Telegraph* on 6 December. Well if they are – which they can't be because they're *Foals* – then OAs Walter Gervers and Jimmy Smith, who both left Abingdon in 2002, will form 2/5ths of their success. The band, who have just signed to *Transgressive Records*, have not yet released an album but you could catch them in Oxford on 15 March.



Alex at the Arts Theatre

Alex, hero of the long-running newspaper comic strip co-authored by Russell Taylor, OA 1978, took to the stage for an eight week run at London's Arts Theatre last autumn. Alex, a one-man show, starred Robert Bathurst as city banker Alex Masterly alongside a cast of animated characters from the strip. The play will go on tour this autumn.

World Champion Bronze Medallist



Robin Bourne-Taylor, OA 1999, third from right, rowing in the British men's VIII, won a bronze medal at the World Rowing Championships in Munich last September on his return to international rowing after a two-year break. Robin, a member of Britain's Team GB squad, is in training for this summer's Olympic Games.

Agent Zigzag

Ben Macintyre, OA 1982, brings to life the true wartime adventures of flamboyant double-agent Eddie Chapman who gained an Iron Cross from the Nazis and a pension from the British. The book is based on the recently opened MI5 files on espionage training in the Third Reich. Ben Macintyre, who writes for *The Times*, visited the School last year to give a talk to the History Society.

