

# AbingdonNews

The Newsletter of the Abingdon Foundation Schools



## WIN WIN a winning term

As pupils 'take their marks' for the exam season, the School can look back on a 'winning' Lent term that saw three musicians reach the finals of the National Chamber Music Festival; two mathematicians win gold in the British Mathematical Olympiad, gold for three chemists in the BA Crest Awards, and gold too for a fencer representing Great Britain in a home international. *Underground Village*, made by the School's Film Unit, won selection to the National Young Filmmakers Awards, there was a first place in the South Regional KUGB Karate Championships and the selection of eight rowers for GB trials; all this on top of an extremely successful hockey and cross-country season and the award of twenty-three provisional places at Oxford and Cambridge.



## Youth Speak

No we're not talking text-messaging here but rather the Rotary Club's *YouthSpeak* Public Speaking Competition. Five teams from Abingdon School entered and a Lower School team with Luke Carter, Tom Sishton and Edmund Lewis qualified for the zone final. Fifth-former Philip Gardner's speech, 'Impossible is nothing', received particular praise as one of the finest pieces of rhetoric that the Society has heard.



Abingdon Preparatory School  
The Abingdon School Society  
Development  
Old Abingdonian Club

p 6  
p 8  
p 9  
p 11

## Golden Awards for Maths and Chemistry

Harry Desmond, Tim Middleton and John Morgan have won the British Association for the Advancement of Science Gold Crest Award for their investigation into the metallization of polymer surfaces. The boys' research, carried out in conjunction with the Department of Chemistry at the University of Oxford, will be of significant interest to the electronics industry. Timothy and John have places to read Natural Sciences (Physical) at Cambridge and Tim, Physics at Oxford.



In the British Mathematical Olympiad the standard is so high that most entrants manage a score of about 10 out of 60. However, Geoff Penington, in the fifth form, achieved a score of 40, which won him a silver medal. Ben Ai, with a score of 52, and Howard Loh with 59, won gold medals and were respectively 11th and 3rd in the country. Both Howard and Ben have places to read Maths at Cambridge.

## Half Term in Paris

The School's biennial study trip to Paris is designed to help boys studying A level French acquire an understanding of French culture and society as a background to their course content. Fifteen sixth-formers and two members of staff took the Eurostar from St Pancras to the Gard du North where, over the next few days, they packed in visits to the city's many historical and cultural sites.



## The Irish Question



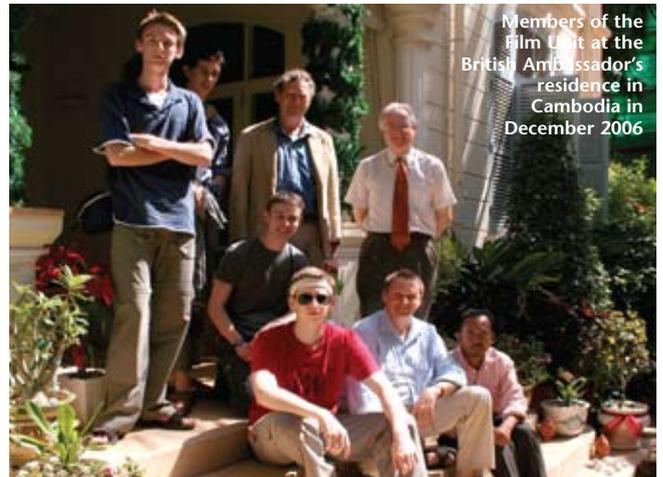
In an attempt to understand the Irish Question, especially the Easter Rising of 1916 and the ensuing War of Independence, a group of sixth-form historians visited Dublin over half term. The National Museum of Ireland provided them with an introduction to Irish history in general whilst Kilmainham Gaol showed them where the leaders of the Rising had been executed. An intensive period of study at the Guinness Storehouse gave the group an in-depth understanding of the history and economics of a certain dark brown beverage.

## Film Awards

*Underground Village*, a documentary made by two members of the School's Film Unit, Matthew Copson and Patrick Reece, has been selected to compete for a Young Filmmakers Award, part of the Leeds Young People's Film Festival. The documentary features the Annesley mining community in Nottinghamshire.



Meanwhile, *Gravel and Stones*, the Film Unit's documentary about disabled people in Cambodia, was shown at the Curzon Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue on 1 April as part of the prestigious London International Documentary Festival.



Members of the Film Unit at the British Ambassador's residence in Cambodia in December 2006

## £11,985 Raised for Charities

Over the Lent term the School raised this magnificent sum for a variety of charities:

### Helen and Douglas House

A cheque for £2,050 was presented at the end of January to *Helen and Douglas House*, the local charity that provides respite and end-of-life care for children and young adults. The money was raised by parents, staff and boys who were sponsored to run in December's Bicester 10K Road Race.



### Asha, Oxford Radcliffe Children's Hospital, Afghan Connection and Local Charities

The Third-Form Charities Group raised £455 from a sponsored silence and a doughnut sale for the Indian charity *Asha* and the Oxford Radcliffe Children's Hospital. *Asha* also benefited from an Own-Clothes Day that raised over £1,500 for a group of local Abingdon charities as well as for the *Afghan Connection*, a charity that targets specific projects aimed at improving the health and education of the people of Afghanistan.



### Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal, Children's Trust



The musicians raised £1,560 from their Christmas and New Year Concerts for the *Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal*, and helped to raise £5,000 from a concert at Pangbourne College for the *Children's Trust*, which supports children who have suffered life-threatening disabilities as a result of accident or illness.

### Meningitis Research, SSNAP

Dan Harris, inspired by the work of the John Radcliffe's Special Care Bay Unit, which cared for a neighbour's premature twins, raised £1,150 for the charity *SSNAP* from the pantomime he wrote and directed for Franklin's House, *Willy Wonka and the Temple of Doom – A-lad-in-Trouble*. Later in the term, Lower School footballers raised over £270 for *Meningitis Research* in a charity football tournament.

## RAF Section Visit

The RAF Section of the CCF paid an exhilarating visit to RAF Brize Norton last term where they saw the USAF's massive C17s – the Globemaster Transport Plane – and the RAF's VC 10s, now used as tankers. They were given experience on the VC10 simulator, the smoke simulator and elements of parachute training.



## Easter Tea Party

Residents of Cygnet Court, Old Station House, Lady Eleanor Court and members of the Older and Bolder group were invited to an Easter tea party in the School at the end of last term. They were entertained



by some close-harmony singing from the *Abingdon Academics* and by the *Music in the Community* group.

The party was organized by the Upper VIth who received special thanks for their contribution to Community Service throughout their time at the School.



## Sergeant Pepper's Children

*Sergeant Pepper's Children* charted the fortunes of three generations of the Pepper family between 1914 and 1968: from Jack Pepper whose golden future was destroyed by the First World War to his grandson, an anti-war campaigner. This senior production, created by the performers themselves, was an entertaining and creative mix of film clips and photographs, comedy, drama and music.

## Oliver!

A talented cast from the Junior Drama Club brought a sparkling production of Lionel Blair's musical *Oliver!* to the Amey Theatre at the end of February. After dreaming of food glorious food in the workhouse, Oliver is recruited into Fagin's pocket-picking gang, where his career doesn't go too well. All the boys were very impressive, not only with their rendition of the songs but also their mastery of the dance routines so that, all in all, they should consider themselves a great success.



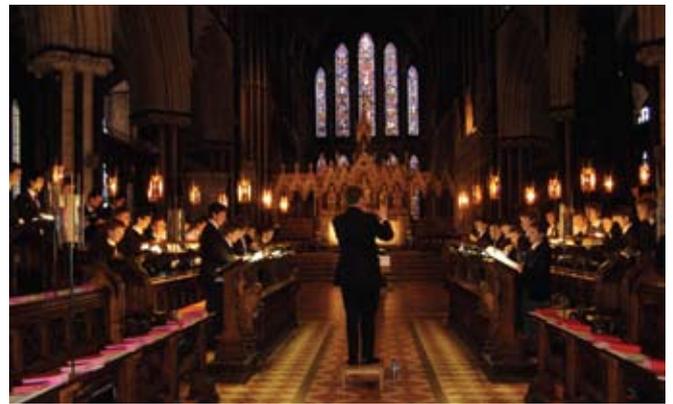
## A Winning Trio

Adrian Lo, Anthony Lloyd and Joe Mason, playing Martinu's *Trio* for cello, flute and piano, were among four finalists in the U16 category of the National Chamber Music Festival held in London last March.



This is a tremendous achievement for these musicians and epitomizes the current high standard in the Music Department, which saw Anthony Lloyd win three categories in the Oxford Music Festival last term, where David Mears won the Leon Goossens Woodwind Cup playing the Mozart *Clarinet Quintet*. David will be playing this at the Thames Vale Orchestra concert at the Sheldonian Theatre on 9 May, 8.00 pm, to which all are welcome, tickets at the door.

## Evensong at Worcester Cathedral



The Chapel Choir sang Evensong at Worcester Cathedral on 6 March in a service that included *Lord Let Me Know Mine End*, the best-known work of the eighteenth-century composer and Master of the King's Music, Maurice Greene.

## Art Workshop

It was a 'no-go' area in the Printmaking Studio last January when a huge still life was created for a GCSE Art Workshop on the theme of 'barriers'. Students worked in a variety of media and produced some exciting work, which will be on display at the Art Department's Annual Exhibition, 6.00 – 8.30 pm, Thursday 22 May, to which all are welcome.



If you would like to come, please RSVP to James Nairne, Head of Art. [james.nairne@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:james.nairne@abingdon.org.uk)

## Hockey

The Hockey Club had an excellent season as the following results show:

- 1st XI: Won 9 Lost 3

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- 2nd XI: Won 4 Lost 7

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- 3rd XI: Won 3 Lost 4 Drew 3

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- U16A: Won 6 Lost 4

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- U16B: Won 8 Lost 1

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- U15A: Won 4 Lost 5 Drew 1

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- U15B: Won 6 Lost 1, Drew 3

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- U15C: Won 3 Lost 1 Drew 1

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- U14A: Won 6 Lost 3

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- U14B: Won 1 Lost 7 Drew 1

The 1st XI were in particularly good form, which they were able to demonstrate in an excellent warm-up game prior to the Varsity match at Southgate Hockey Club on 4 March. Despite losing 2-1, they showed the skill and teamwork that contributed to their successful season. The U14s too had a good term, beating Bloxham, MCS, Radley and St Edward's to win the County Championships.



The 1st XI at the Varsity match

## Shooting

James Boreham, vice-captain of the Shooting Club, Finn Ryley, Kris Cao and Peter Wood have all been selected to join the Junior GB Shooting Squad on a four month trial, an achievement that demonstrates the strength of the Club at the moment.



James Boreham

## Karate

Karate is a relatively new sport at Abingdon but Oliver Verdon, who has only been training for 18 months, has recently done extremely well in the South Regional KUBB Karate Championships. He came first in the *kyu kata* and third in *kumite* sections for his age group, beating two black belts on the way. After the competition, Oliver was tipped as a possible future member of the GB karate squad.



Oliver Verdon

## Fencing

In a recent home international, William Fotherby captained the England Under 16 team that won gold. Following the European Under 17 Fencing Championships in March, involving over 600 fencers from 32 countries, William is currently ranked 47th in Europe.



William Fotherby

## Cross Country

First is becoming a familiar place for the Abingdon cross-country teams: the U19s came first at the Vale of the White Horse Schools' Cross-Country Championships as did the U17s and the U15s. The U17s also won the County Championships, as did the U15s, and the Radley Relays, whilst the U15s won the Wellington College Relays. Individual firsts were also achieved by Alex Muir in the U17s at Marlborough and in the VWH Championships, and by Alistair Duff in the U15s at the VWH.



Training at Wittenham Clumps

## Rowing

The 1st VIII overtook Radley to win a magnificent second place at the Schools' Head of the River on the Tideway on 4 March. The 2nd VIII took tenth place, the J16A and B and the J15A Vllls all came third whilst the J15B VIII came second. Matthew Rossiter won the Senior Singles 3 skulls event at the Peterborough Head. With such success it is no surprise that eight members of the Boat Club have been selected for GB trials.



The 1st VIII overtake Radley at the Schools' Head

## Boys Go Dutch



40 boys from the Prep School enjoyed a football tour of Holland over half-term. Staying in the ominously named Badhotel in the coastal resort of Scheveningen the party arrived after an uneventful trip via Heathrow, Schiphol and The Hague.

The first fixture was under floodlights against Rava Houtwijk, who fielded three under 12 teams of varying ability. Both the Prep School's U11 teams coped admirably against the older age group, producing determined efforts but just falling short. The U12 team faced Rava's best footballers and struggled to cope with the level of skill they displayed. However, despite three defeats, the experience of playing under floodlights was one that all the boys were thrilled by.

Day two provided one of the highlights of the tour with a trip to Ajax's stadium, the Amsterdam Arena. As the pitch was due to be replaced the next day we were granted the special honour of playing on the hallowed surface. The boys' excitement was palpable and the distinction of being the first scorer became a mighty contest for all. Will Whitworth, in his quest to find space to implement his not inconsiderable skills, made the serious error of releasing Anne Parker (Head of Maths) down the right wing. With searing pace, Anne closed in on goal pursued by a baying pack of boys. Despite fluffing her first shot, she somehow managed to convince the goalkeeper to allow her to have another go. Knocking three or four ten year old boys out of the way (Anne's competitive nature is a thing of legend), she managed to beat the one legged keeper from six yards and become the first to score at the Amsterdam stadium!

After finishing our tour we were able to watch the first team training. This was a fantastic opportunity for the boys to see what professional sport is all about.

Day three mixed business with pleasure; a visit to Scheveningen Sealife Centre followed by our final fixtures. SJC Noordwijk were the opponents and the boys were suitably inspired by the previous day's excursion. The U11 B team played with great determination but couldn't contain another skilful club side. The U12's team played their best football by some way but also lost out in a well matched game. It was left to the U11 'A' team to try and chalk up a tour victory. In front of a packed crowd, the boys turned on the style and recorded a resounding win. A great way to finish!

## Scholarships and Awards

We are delighted to announce that, so far this year, we have received a record number of scholarships and awards to leading senior schools including our first ever awards for Art and Drama at Abingdon School. We hope that, once all the results are known, one in three of our Year 8 leavers will have received an award.

Many congratulations to all the boys concerned.

## Wild Waste



The Prep School is very keen to become more environmentally friendly and as part of this initiative we have an Eco Team, with representatives from all the year groups, which meets weekly to discuss ideas to help the School improve. One such idea was to invite 'The Wild Waste Bus' to visit. The bus is a scheme run by the Northmoor Trust to raise awareness of the problems caused by waste. Each year group had an opportunity to visit the bus and take part in activities such as, making recycled paper and finger puppets from old cards. They discussed how we could reduce our waste by reusing, reducing, recycling and refusing. A strong message for the pupils to take home.

## Music

In February, over 80 boys from years 5 and 6 took part in the Headington School Singing Day. The boys thoroughly enjoyed being part of this extravaganza, learning a wide selection of new songs about topics as varied as potatoes, bones and motorway cones! A really enjoyable day was had by all.



This term has seen the Concert Platform series go from strength to strength. These concerts are an informal performance once a month where the boys have an opportunity to "air" some new or exam pieces. We now regularly have at least 8 performers in each concert, helping to boost the boys' confidence and provide enjoyment for all.

## Football Round Up



The whistle has been blown on another football season. Players and coaches can reflect on a thoroughly enjoyable term, Colts A and Colts C were unbeaten - Colts A for the second year running - and the U11 and U12 tour to Holland was superb. The over-riding element of this season is the insistence that quality football be played, rather than a 'hoof-it-and-chase-it' approach. From the 1st team down, boys have been looking to keep the ball on the ground and develop their passing techniques. Alas, this approach has meant that we have suffered some losses against physically stronger opponents, but we are confident that it will serve all our boys and teams well in coming seasons.

## Bugsy Malone

HELP! Was one prominent note on the play script next to Tallulah's solo as we pondered the problem of performing Bugsy Malone with an all male cast. As the auditions began, it soon (thankfully) became obvious that we had the perfect actors to fill the shoes (high-heeled), wigs and make-up required to transform the boys.



The truly versatile Joe Westcott, who has been awarded the first Drama Scholarship given by Abingdon School, brought a sassy sophistication to the role of Tallulah; while Will Sellers was brilliantly comic in his blustery manner as Fat Sam. Miles Beirouti showed a wonderful sense of vulnerability in the role of Blousey (never seen without her trusty bag and baseball bat). Peter Moore presented us with a calculating, stylish and urbane Dandy Dan. A suave and charming Bugsy Malone was played by Chris Young, whose dynamic dancing during his modern take on his solo wowed the audience and the rest of the cast.

The production was accompanied by a live band consisting of teachers and Campbell Baum on saxophone. Campbell, a Year 8 pupil has won a music scholarship to Radley School. The band added to a very vibrant atmosphere and complemented an authentic 1920's feel with the audience seated around tables as part of the 'Speak Easy' bar. The most prominent feature of the production was the immense enjoyment the boys gained from their efforts on stage.

## Oxbridge Successes

We would like to congratulate Old Boys Joe Delo and Michael Coldwell who have been awarded places at Magdalen College, Oxford to read Medicine and St Catherine's College, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences.

## Korky Paul Inspires

On 14 February Korky Paul, the renowned children's illustrator held a variety of workshops for years 3-8. Korky is well known for his work including the stories of Professor Puffendorf, Winnie-The Witch and many monster poem anthologies. Korky captured the children's attention the moment they entered the room and filled their heads with images of characters, explaining how they emerged from his imagination.



## A Taste of Tudor Times



On a treacherously stormy day in January, 40 Year 4 pupils, hammered down the front gates of Sulgrave Manor looking for shelter. We were greeted with a welcoming 'Good Morrow' by the son of the proprietor of the establishment, a Lord Robert Washington. He

kindly provided us with warmth and a change of clothing, transforming the boys into young masters (and maidens!) in the process.

The day included a re-enactment of the Tudor dynasty complete with religious upheaval, divorce, and beheadings with Kings and Queens taking great care to die with befitting dramatic flamboyance. Blood shed, potage and meat pies were followed by an informative and interesting tour of the Washington Manor.

Lastly, the masters and maids were sent off to purchase some Tudor souvenirs, only to return with an abundance of toffee. We bade our kind hosts farewell, transformed back into modern day children, and collapsed into the minibuses, having had a thoroughly enjoyable Tudor experience.

# TASS – The Abingdon School Society

## Highland Fling!

The ninth Burns Night Supper was held for the first time in the Abingdon Guildhall and, as always, great fun was had by all. A piper welcomed the guests and piped in the Haggis, which was ceremoniously addressed by Mark Shaw-Brookman. The enthusiasm of the one hundred and thirty guests was tangible. They danced their way through the latter part of the evening following a delicious supper and a quiz on the life of Robbie Burns.

Raffle prizes, most generously donated by parents, staff and local businesses, helped raise £1,330 for the TASS coffers.



## Second Hand Uniform Shop (SUS) Opening Times

Open from 12.15 to 1.15pm

Sat 19 April	Weds 23 April
Sat 10 May	Weds 14 May
Sat 7 June	Weds 11 June
Sat 21 June	Weds 25 June
Sat 28 June	

For further information on TASS activity visit [www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass)

New members are always welcome, contact Leila Beggin, TASS Secretary, [tass@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:tass@abingdon.org.uk)

## Beneficiaries of TASS

The essential purpose of TASS is to raise funds to assist with the funding of Other Half activities (i.e. the more than fifty activities that are additional to basic academic studies) including organising social events for the financial benefit of all pupils.

The following is a list of the TASS awards, totalling £3,897, that have been agreed by the committee for 2008.

Chess Club	£300 for clocks
Cross-Country Club	£500 for coaching
DT	£677 for casting machine
Kayak Club	£700 for trailer
Rifle Club	£360 for jackets
Sailing club	£500 for harnesses
Tennis Club	£500 for machine to restrung rackets
Water Polo club	£360 for a mini water polo kit

## Anyone for a lift?

TASS is currently exploring the idea of launching a website-based car sharing initiative and would like to gauge the amount of interest that such a scheme would generate. It is proposed that any parents who are interested in sharing lifts to and from School would register their interest via the TASS page on the web site to a central contact who would then 'match' people up who could share. It should be stressed, however, that car-sharing should only be used for those who live off the Abingdon bus route circuit. Anyone who would like to sign up for such a scheme should go to [www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/tass) and register their interest.

## Dates for the Diary

**12th May** – 7.45pm for 8pm  
**TASS Committee meeting**  
in the Christ's Hospital Room,  
Mercers Court.

**19th May** – **First Year Parents' Evening** with food and drinks served by TASS Committee.

**18th June** – **Jazz on a Summer's Night** with champagne and strawberries served by TASS. The jazz evening will feature the best of Abingdon Jazz including the Big Band, under Simon Currie's inimitable direction, and our two smaller ensembles, the group, *Funk Lore*, from the Upper Sixth and the fifth-year Jazz Quartet. The Big Band is on particularly good form at present with some really strong senior players in all sections. The Band is considering making a recording and embarking on a tour next year, so it promises to be a sparkling evening!

7.30pm – Amey Theatre  
Tickets £8, £5 concessions, £20 family – 2 adults and 2 concessions  
[www.abingdon-booking.info](http://www.abingdon-booking.info)  
[arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk)  
01235 849063

**28th June** – **Griffen Ball**  
7.15pm – 1am  
Tickets £60 if purchased before 1 May, £65 thereafter, £40 for U6 boys and partners.

Contact Nicky at [griffen.ball@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:griffen.ball@abingdon.org.uk)

## Plans for New Chapel Windows

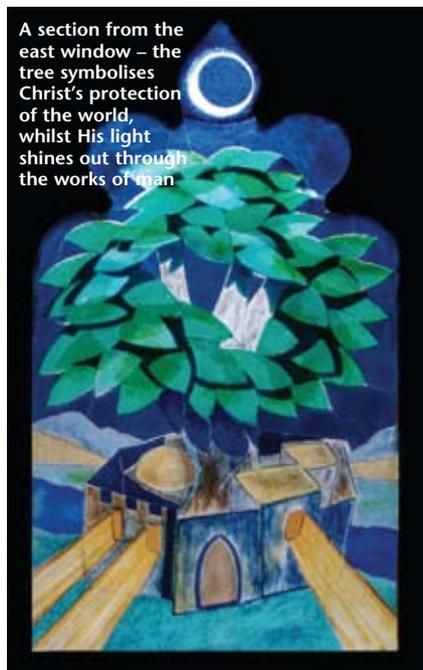
To celebrate the centenary of the Chapel in 2003, the School commissioned a new east window from the Oxford glass artist, Nicholas Mynheer. When Hugh Randolph died in 2006, the new glass was able to be extended as a result of his bequest to the School. Nicholas Mynheer has now designed a scheme for the whole Chapel and it is hoped that one day it will be possible to see it completed.

The Chapel has a total of ten three-light windows, three of which have already been completed: the central east window depicts the Trinity, to which the Chapel is dedicated, whilst the windows on each side extend the theme in largely uncoloured, sandblasted glass. The proposal is to have a further three coloured, pictorial windows – each window representing a term in the School year and a relevant season of the church – together with four sandblasted windows with the one nearest to the war memorials carrying references to the three armed services.



The services window with its references to the RAF – an aeroplane; the Army – a tank; the Navy – a ship

Suggested design for the Summer term window with references to cricket and rowing and to the Resurrection



A section from the east window – the tree symbolises Christ's protection of the world, whilst His light shines out through the works of man



## New Scholarships

Next year the School's first Drama and Sports scholars will take up their places: Joe Westcott, an Abingdon Prep School pupil, has been awarded the new drama scholarship.



All scholars, whether in sport, drama, art or music, always have to meet Abingdon's academic standards, but the extension of the awards is an acknowledgement by the School of the numerous ways in which talent can present itself. Joe has not only had leading roles in the Prep School productions but has also appeared at the Oxford Playhouse, the New Theatre and for the BBC.

## Whitefield



Whitefield was bought for £17,000 in 1965 from Jack Mobbs, OA 1929, with help from the Quatercentary Appeal Fund. For many years, the ground floor was used for classrooms whilst the upper floors provided staff accommodation. Once Mercers Court was built, in 1994, the classrooms could be moved out and eventually the ground floor was let to the Unicorn School for Dyslexia. This summer, the Unicorn School will move to new premises and the ground floor will once more be used by the School, this time for much needed office space.

The house has a long association with the School having been owned by Arthur Preston, OA 1867, a long-term Governor of the School, President of the OA Club in 1903, a generous benefactor and the prime mover in the purchase and conversion of Waste Court into a boarding house in 1928.

## Beverley House

Last summer, the Abingdon Foundation took the opportunity to buy Beverley House, Frilford when it came on the market. In view of the expansion of Abingdon Preparatory School, the chance to buy these premises, positioned as they are right next door to the School, seemed too good to miss. With its seven-acre garden, coach house, granary and other outbuildings, Beverley House and its grounds provides the School with valuable possibilities.



Beverley House

## Arctic Airman

*Arctic Airmen*, a recent gift to the School archives, highlights the skill and endurance shown by Dennis Healy, OA 1931, during his wartime service with RAF Coastal Command. Entrusted with a series of 'most secret' high latitude reconnaissance flights between March and September 1942, his detailed record of the sea-ice edge from Iceland to north Russia during these months was not only of the highest operational value to the Russian convoys but remains a valuable comparative record of ice conditions in that year. Healy was awarded an immediate DSO for a rescue mission to Spitsbergen involving ninety-seven flying hours over a nine-day period. On 25 September 1942, whilst on the final flight of his Arctic tour of duty, Healy was the only casualty of an attack by a Ju88. He is buried in Severomorsk in the Russian Federation.

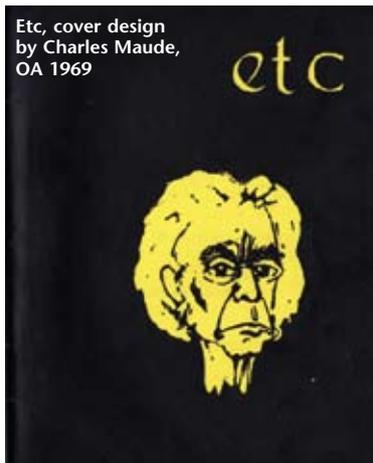


Flight Lieutenant  
Dennis Healy DSO

*Arctic Airmen*, Ernest Schofield and Roy Connors Nesbit, first published William Kimber and Co Ltd 1987, republished Spellmont Ltd 2005, donated to the School by NK Hammond, OA 1957, MCR 1966-1993

## And Etc...

The article in the last issue on boy-produced newspapers stirred many memories and moved Mike Watt, OA 1961, to send the School a collection of *Octopus*, *Scum*, *Albatross*, *4th Science Times*, *The 1-X Times* and *The Gryphon*. Among the verse, match reports and 'in' jokes, their pages reflect the preoccupations of the 1950s: Malaya, Cyprus, Taiwan, Formosa and Tibet. Primarily an outlet for the School's creative talents, *Etc* dates from the late 60s, early 70s hence its preoccupations with napalm, protest marches, nuclear fallout, Trades Unions and the Common Market. We have copies of all these publications in the School archives but of *Zebra*, *Camel* and *Organ* we only have the memories of John Bowles, OA 1969, and Hugh Wilson, OA 1969. They remember articles on Tariq Ali, the Paris riots and the famous occasion when *Organ* made the front page of *The Guardian*.



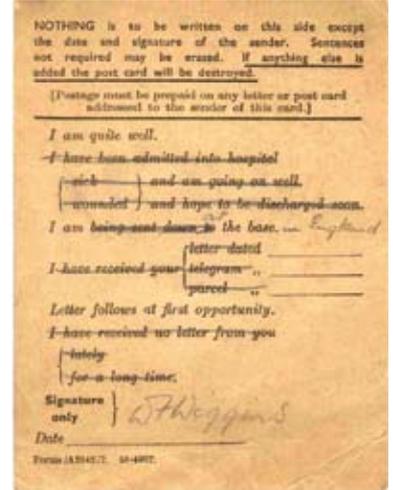
Etc, cover design  
by Charles Maude,  
OA 1969

## End of an Era

Fred Wiggins, OA 1934, who died last autumn, was the last of the seven Wiggins brothers who attended Abingdon School. Fred served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War and his nephew Colin Wiggins, OA 1953, has in his possession a Field Service Postcard on which Fred broke army regulations by adding three words so that the card read – at the base in England.

Not very exciting you might think but for the postmark – Ashford, Kent 31 May 1940. Fred was indicating to his family that he had escaped safely from Dunkirk.

Alan Wiggins, OA 1938, the youngest of the brothers, was killed when he was shot down over Belgium in 1944. Archaeologists from the Belgian Aviation History Association recently excavated the site where his plane came down and research has revealed that it was brought down by 'friendly fire' – another RAF plane.



Alan Wiggins

In 2009 the School will record the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of war in 1939 with an exhibition, *Abingdon and Old Abingdonians 1939 – 1945*. The archivist, Sarah Wearne, would welcome information and contributions. [sarah.wearne@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:sarah.wearne@abingdon.org.uk) 01235 849108

## Boaters 1888 to 1968

Among other items, Robin Moorshead, OA 1963, has donated his boater to the School where it can currently be seen in an exhibition of uniform in the Library. The wearing of boaters came in during the 1880s and went out at the end of the 1960s.



The exhibition can be viewed online at [www.oclub.org.uk.uk/go/uniform](http://www.oclub.org.uk.uk/go/uniform)

## OA Open Day Saturday 17 May 2008

Old Abingdonians and their families are warmly invited to attend this special day. There will be reunions for all decades, tours of the School and of the new sports development together with a chance to catch up with current and former members of Common Room. Take the shuttle bus to the Boathouse for an afternoon of House/OA regattas and Mike Martin's farewell presentation celebrating 18 years as Head of Rowing. The President of the OA Club, Jonathan Gold (1988), will host the OA Annual Dinner at School during the evening. Please join us for part or all of OA Open Day - full details and programme on the OA Website. We look forward to meeting you!

## Griffen Rugby 7s Tournament



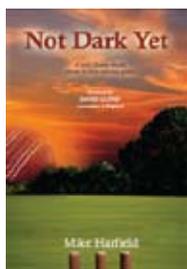
A full report on the successful Griffen Rugby 7s Tournament can be found on the OA Website.

Below is the combined OA and MCR winning team.



## Not Dark Yet

For the past thirty years, a Mike Harfield (1969) XI has played cricket against Clifton Hampden - *Not Dark Yet* is the story of these matches. The book, whose foreword was written by the Sky commentator David Lloyd, also features fellow OAs Colin Day and Hugh Parry.



For more information - [www.mybackpages.co.uk](http://www.mybackpages.co.uk)

## OA Reunions

Two very enjoyable reunions have taken place. On Friday 29 February we welcomed back to School the following year groups 1963-65, 1973-75, 1983-85. Among OAs present were:

(1963 - 1966) David Bent, Roger Booker, Edward Broadway, John Burbank, Roger Chester, John Clack, Martin Evans, Martyn Holloway, Tim King, Ian Lamberton, Garth Lewis, Roger Limerick, John Mellor, Cavell Portman, Jim Randall, Andrew Rogers, Alan Williams, Paul Williams and David Willis.

(1973 - 1975) James Allen, Jolyon Barton, John Boulton, Aidan Cairns, Iain Cowan, Pieter Cox, Chris Driver, Stephen Fabes, Roger Geere, Hugh Gibaud, John Gotelee, Guy Green, Tim Gresswell, Simon Hills, Gwyn Jones, Jonathan Leach, Nigel Litchfield, John Minshall, Nigel Morgan, Vyvyan Pugh, John Samsworth, Matthew Savastano, Nigel Tait, Jeremy Taylor, Roger Thomas and Chris Williams

(1983 - 1985) Frank Bailey, Chris Coupland, Adam Crosskey and Mark Herd

On Tuesday 18 March a reunion at the East India Club, London, was held for leavers of 1993-98. Among the guests were:

(1993 - 1995) David Lindgren, Andrew Mortimer, Stephen Turner, Philip Baker, Daniel Collins, James McCormick, David Smith, Mark Alexander, Gary Armstrong, James Barr, Edward Cooper, Ed Conway, Rob Duncan, Matthew Fletcher, Paul Harrison, Matthew Hodges, David Hutchins, Andrew Jones, Jody Kingzett, Peter Lindgren, David Lourie, Gideon Margo, Tim Mortimer, Dominic Partridge, Anthony Pavlovich, Peter Moloney, Paul Shrimpton, Patrick Voss and Marc Walford

(1996 - 1998) Richard Binning, Alex Moss, John Oldham, David Payne, Kai Tsang, Gary Window, Thomas Burton, Peter Ewing, Matt Jones, Victor Lee, James Peterson, Ian Priest, Ed Ryder, Douglas Stewart, Harry Wearne, James Willats, James Wilson, Jack Whibley, Ed Knowles, Matthew Hodgson, Richard Pinckney, Simon Rowe and Chris Stockford



## Future Events

### 'September Steam' 60s OA Event

Rodney Pitt (1961) is organising this year's OA 60s event. Enjoy a boat trip on the Thames with a jazz band followed by dinner at St John's College, Oxford. Further details are available from Rodney - [rodney.pitt@googlemail.com](mailto:rodney.pitt@googlemail.com).

### OA Cricket 2008

The OA Office would love to hear from cricketers interested in playing for the Abingdon Alligators at their 2008 fixtures.

**Headmaster's X1** (part of OA Open Day)  
Saturday 17 May - 2.30 pm, Upper Field

**Downside Wanderers**  
Sunday 6 July - 11.30 am,  
War Memorial Field

**Old Whitgiftians**  
Monday 7 July - 11.30 am,  
War Memorial Field

**St Edward's Martyrs**  
Saturday 19 July - 11.30 am,  
St Edward's

**Radley Rangers**  
Sunday 27 July - 11.30 am, TBC

## OA Diary Dates 2008

Tuesday 13 May  
Golf, Frilford Heath

Saturday 17 May  
OA AGM, 10.30 am,  
Christ's Hospital Room

OA Open Day  
(including 'An Afternoon at the  
Boathouse' and the OA Annual  
Dinner hosted by the President)

*For full details please see the  
OA Club website:  
[www.oaclub.org.uk](http://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](mailto:alumni@abingdon.org.uk) or  
[oaclub@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:oaclub@abingdon.org.uk)  
[www.oaclub.org.uk](http://www.oaclub.org.uk)*

# Old Abingdonians

## OAs in the City

At a recent careers evening held at the School for pupils of the three Abingdon independent schools, much interest was expressed in the City: three OAs describe their careers there so far.



### Matthias Bader, OA 1999

Matthias is an analyst with corporate finance advisors *Hawkpoint*. He took Maths, Business Studies, Chemistry and History at A level and then read Computing at Imperial College. He followed this with an MSc in Advanced Computing and then a Graduate Diploma in Law. He joined the graduate training scheme at *Hawkpoint* where, two years

later, is now an Associate. He would describe his core activities as analysis and project management on a variety of corporate finance issues for companies in both the public and the private sector.

### Tom Burton, OA 1997

Tom took Maths, Physics and Business Studies at A level and then studied Business Studies and Information Systems at Sheffield. After university, he joined the Corporate Finance department of *KPMG* where he spent three years and specialized in private equity funded company acquisitions. He then spent three years in corporate development before returning to the Financial Services industry when he joined *Jamieson Corporate Finance*. Here his work is concerned with institutional and private investors executing leveraged buyout transactions, fundraisings and company disposals.



### Jack Wearne, OA 1998

Jack is a credit trader with *Citi*. He took Maths, English and Geography at A level and then studied for a BSc in Economics and Econometrics at Nottingham. After graduating, he worked in financial control with *Rabobank*, from where he moved to *Citi*, joining their analyst programme in 2006. He now trades high yield bonds and credit derivatives in three European sectors: gaming, paper and packaging, and travel. He would be the first to admit that these last few months have been 'interesting'.



## Tim Dawson, OA 2008

Look out for the new series *Coming of Age* on BBC3 in May, not only was it written by Tim, but some of the street scenes might look familiar.

## Brodie Steers Oxford to Victory



Nick Brodie, OA 2004, coxed Oxford's Blue Boat to a six-length victory in the 154th Boat Race on 29 March. Following as it did three previous Boat Race defeats, two in the Isis Boat and one last year in the Blue Boat, it was a sweet moment for Nick who is President of the Boat Club this year. Whilst at Abingdon, Nick coxed the 1st VIII to their famous 'triple' in 2002: the Schools' Head of the River, the National Schools' Regatta and the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley Royal Regatta.

Robin Bourne-Taylor, OA 1999, President of Oxford University Boat Club in 2004-05, is a member of the British Olympic rowing squad training for this summer's games in Beijing.

## Gareth Butler, OA 1982

Gareth Butler, who died of a heart attack on 29 February at the age of 42, was "one of the cleverest, most knowledgeable and likeable people in broadcasting", wrote Jon Sopel in his obituary in *The Guardian*. At the BBC, where he had worked since 1987, Gareth was admired for his ability to hold in "his head facts and figures, policy details and statistical quirks that never ceased to amaze", and for the intellectual rigour and delicate editorial judgement that he brought to all his work. Gareth had been deputy editor of *The Politics Show* since 2003 and his final programme, in January, came from the World Economics Forum in Davos where he had gone to interview the prime minister.

