

# AbingdonNews

The Newsletter of the Abingdon Foundation Schools



## EAST MEETS WEST



The Tokai School Orchestra

The Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, provided the magnificent setting for a historic Anglo-Japanese concert on 23 March, performed by the orchestras of Abingdon and Tokai School, Nagoya, Japan. The concert was part of the *Japan-UK150* celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Yedo, which opened up diplomatic and trade relations between the two countries.

Ties of friendship were reinforced by the tour – the Japanese orchestra staying two nights with Abingdon host families – and there are now plans for Abingdon to return the visit in 2010. We are very grateful to Sony and to the Anglo-Japanese Society for their support for this concert.

## Fame at Last!

Oh No My Dog!



Congratulations to Pierre Leveque whose witty claymation *Oh No My Dog!* has just won first prize at the Leeds Young People's Film Festival. Last term saw *Gravel and Stones* become the first AFU film to be included on the International Movie Database, Will Abell's film *The Lamp* selected for the Future Film Festival at the British Film Institute and James Yan's *Dance with Stacey* for the Dance on Screen programme at the Phoenix Picturehouse. These and past AFU screens can be viewed on their impressive website – [www.abingdonfilmunit.com](http://www.abingdonfilmunit.com)



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## News

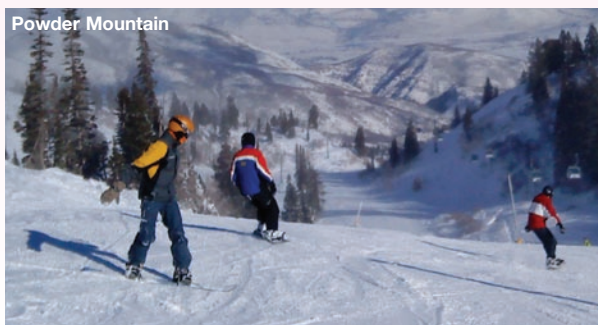
### Dog Sledging in Åbisko

In temperatures sometimes as low as minus 30°, an intrepid group of boys spent a week in Åbisko, 250 km above the arctic circle, dog sledging and cross-country skiing. In fact, minus 30° is even too cold for huskies so they had to wait for the temperature to rise to minus 20°. The group, who were in northern Swedish Lapland, travelled 20 km a day through birch forests and across frozen lakes and were rewarded several times with good sightings of the Northern Lights.



### Skiing in Switzerland and the USA

Conditions were excellent for two parties of boys who went skiing over the Christmas holidays: one group to Powder Mountain, Utah, USA and the other with the CCF to Wengen in Switzerland for the third annual Adventure Training Ski Camp.



### Madrid Study Trip

Sixth-form Spanish students made their first ever visit to Madrid last term, taking in the culture and sampling the local fare. High culture was appreciated at the Prado Museum and the Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, which houses Picasso's Guernica. A trip to Valle de los Caídos, where General Franco is buried, continued the theme of the Spanish Civil War. A lighter note was struck by the visit to the Santiago Bernabeu football stadium, the home of Real Madrid.



### Business in New York

The Business Studies group who went to New York over the February half term were looking at how it had become such a diverse and economically powerful city. The visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island brought home the reality of the mass immigration that fuelled economic growth. There were also visits to the financial district, the Rockefeller Centre and the Federal Reserve Bank, where some boys were able not only to see but also to touch the gold bullion.



### German Exchange – Bielefeld

The Abingdon-Bielefeld exchange is now in its 42nd year, possibly one of the longest-running exchanges in the country. The mixed group, which included girls from St Helen's, spent time in the classroom attending lessons and out and about visiting both Bielefeld and Munster universities, Cologne Cathedral and a chocolate factory.



### Abingdon

Among all these photographs of foreign cities and snow, here is one of the School looking unlike its usual self on 5 February.





## Governor Profile – Jane Cranston

Jane is one of the School's longest serving Governors having been appointed in 1992. She has served on the Financial and General Purposes Committee, the Staff Committee and was one of the first Joint Governors with the School of St Helen and St Katharine. Jane chairs the Liaison Committee, looking into beneficial ways for the two schools to co-operate and is currently the Chairman of Governors at St Helen's. She also sits on the Abingdon Preparatory School Committee and is a Governor of The Manor.

Not surprisingly, Jane believes passionately in the importance of education and that further co-operation between Abingdon and St Helen's will lead to the best of both worlds – the best of single-sex and co-education. She is a keen supporter of the *Abingdon 4 Education* initiative, which reflects the shared educational philosophy of the four autonomous schools – Abingdon, Abingdon Preparatory School, St Helen's and The Manor – and their wish to cooperate over the practical arrangements for parents who have children at a combination of these schools.

Outside her education commitments, Jane is a founding shareholder and the Managing Director of the Oxford wine importers Stevens Garnier. She loves outdoor pursuits – gardening, walking and tennis – and enjoys music, particularly opera.



## Top House?

There is a new competitive spirit abroad in the Houses at the moment, fostered by the reinvigoration of inter-house competitions and the introduction of new ones made possible by the opening of the Sports Centre. In addition to the inter-house tag rugby, badminton, hockey, road relay, cricket, athletics and chess competitions that already exist, tug-of-war was re-introduced last Summer term, an inter-house ergos competition was introduced last term and there will be inter-house swimming and water polo matches this term.



## Inter-house Ergo Competition

For the new ergo competition the nine Houses competed in teams of four in the Sports Centre's ergo suite. School House won the senior competition in a time of 5.50 minutes; Older's the intermediate competition in 6.14 and O'Doherty's the junior in 7.03.6.



## Road Relay



The 41st inter-house road relay took place on 23 March with 105 teams of boys taking part. Franklin's sixth-form team – Alexander Veale, Thomas Watkins, Joe McDonagh and Alex Muir – won the competition in a time of 36.33 minutes. The fastest boy was Thomas Watkins in 8.25 followed closely by Alex Muir in 8.30. For other results and records see page 11.

## Congratulations

Among the many boys who deserve congratulations are the seventeen who have won offers of places at Oxford and Cambridge; Andrei Smirov and Henry Dunbar who have been awarded Arkwright Scholarships for their design-technology work; Abingdon's School Challenge team who beat the City of London School 890-390 to become regional champions and James Yan who was highly commended in the Prayer Book Society's annual Cranmer Awards.

## Arts

### Abingdon-Tokai Concert



The concert saw the premiere of *Abingdon-Tokai, a Festive Overture*, by Abingdon's composer-in-residence Simon Whalley, performed by the School's First Orchestra. Abingdon then joined forces with the seventy-five musicians from Tokai to make an orchestra of a hundred and eight instrumentalists who produced a huge sound for a performance of the overture to Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*. After the interval Tokai gave an outstanding performance of Schumann's *Symphony No. 1*, which was followed by an equally impressive rendition of Dvorak's *Carnival*.

### Salata at Tate Modern



Neil Salata's painting *Seeing Herself, Not in the Mirror, But in the Dream* was one of twenty-four works to be exhibited at Tate Modern in January following his success in *The Times* Painting Challenge competition. The competition asked for work that had been inspired by the Surrealist art in the Poetry and Dream display at the gallery. Neil said of his painting that he had been attempting to explore the impression that dreams leave on the mind.

### Hope Springs

*Hope Springs*, a Middle School dramatic collaboration with St Helen's, was performed in Abingdon's drama studio, producing an intimate setting for this examination of what happened at a correctional unit on a remote desert island when the teenagers took the law into their own hands.



### Our Day Out

The Junior Drama production combined comedy with pathos in its story of a group of illiterate children from an inner city area whose day out in the countryside seems to be all they will ever have to look forward to in their lives.



### Chamber Music



An afternoon of master classes, led by a series of distinguished visiting musicians, was followed by an evening of performances by eighteen different Abingdon chamber music ensembles on 5 February. Six of these ensembles then went on to win places at the regional semi-finals of the *Pro Corda* National Chamber Music Competition, which were held at Wycombe Abbey in March.

### Congratulations:

to Fergus McIntosh who sang a live solo on Radio 3 when performing with the Rodulfus Choir at Douai Abbey on New Year's Eve; David Mears who won the Lennox Berkeley Cup for Composition at the Oxford Music Festival and Anthony Lloyd who received his Diploma in Flute Music Performance in December.



## Cross Country

A very successful cross-country season has seen the School virtually sweep the board at recent competitions with some spectacular achievements: Joe Kempton recorded the fastest lap of the day at the Wellington Relays; the Senior As came first by a margin of almost two minutes in the Radley Relays and Abingdon's U17 runners took the first five places at the Marlborough run. At the end of the season Alex Muir was the fastest runner in the county and one of three Abingdon boys to qualify for the National Cross-Country Championships.



## Hockey

It has been a busy term for hockey with the School regularly fielding nine teams and occasionally, as in the matches against Radley, thirteen. The U15As have been the team of the season, not only remaining undefeated in their thirteen interschool fixtures, but doing so in a very impressive manner. From the middle of the season their results read 6-0, 7-1, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 against St Edward's, Stowe, Wellington, Rugby, Radley and Bradfield respectively. Ending with a resounding 5-0 defeat of MCS, they had a total season score of 63 goals with just 12 conceded. This is a team that works very well as a unit, and enjoys playing with and for each other.



## Fencing

Congratulations to Will Fotherby who among his recent fencing successes has won the Senior Sabre Trophy for Abingdon School at the Public Schools' Fencing Championship on 26 March. Last January, Will was selected to fence for Great Britain at the Euro Cadet Championships to be held in France. Congratulations also to Thomas Chan who, representing the School, reached the semi-finals of the National British Youth Fencing Championships and won a bronze medal for the U16 Boys' Épée.



## Boat Club



Abingdon was placed second in the team trophy at the Schools' Head of the River, rowed over the Boat Race course on the River Thames on 10 March. They were beaten by Eton but in their turn beat Hampton, all of which promises well for the new regatta season especially as the 1st VIII, who came fourth out of forty-two crews, still came inside the previous course record.

## Swimming and Water Polo Club

The Club's first competitive swimming match was a triumph and both U18 and U16 teams beat Radley easily in every event, including the U18 backstroke, which was won by Michael Esney, who is in the Second form. Two Abingdon swimmers, Guy Giles and Drew Finnegan, were members of the 4x50m freestyle relay team that set a new county record at the County Championships.



The newly formed Water Polo team met with less success in their first match, against Stowe, but although defeated both teams showed tremendous resolve and excellent team spirit.





# Abingdon Preparatory School

## Carrots – a tremendous performance



Around 100 actors and musicians from Abingdon Prep School, The Manor, St Helen's and St Katharine's and Abingdon School collaborated for the first time in a musical production of *Carrots*, which tells the story of Dr Thomas Barnardo who founded the Barnardo Homes back in Victorian England.

After months of rehearsals the musical opened on 5 February which coincided with the coldest snap for two decades. Despite the snow chaos, the show had to, and did, go on, and we were treated to performances that warmed the heart of the coldest theatre-goer. 'Poignant', 'funny', 'fantastic' 'as good as you would see in the West End' were all comments from the audiences who battled through the snow to see the show. With such a talented cast, it is hard to single out individual performers but the tap dancing of Nobby (Eliza Tracey) and the superb comic timing of PC Hartle (Ben Oliver) certainly stole the show for many.

We were delighted that, Peter Canwell, who wrote the musical, was able to see the performance and we were treated to a wonderful letter from Dr David Barnardo, great, great nephew of Dr Thomas. The profits from the show, along with other fundraising events taking place at Abingdon Prep School, will go to Barnardo's, and we hope to raise in excess of £5000.

## Success in the Salter's Challenge



On Tuesday 17 March, four boys from Year 8 set off to Oxford University to take part in the Salter Festival of Chemistry competition. 'In the morning we investigated the colour effects different salts can give to a flame and tried to identify a mystery salt, "substance x". It was great fun and very exciting. During the afternoon, we did an experiment changing the colours of different solutions which proved challenging, and very enjoyable! After this, we were given a chemistry show, where we saw many exciting chemical reactions. This science competition was brilliant fun, all the way through. We were pleasantly surprised to come second in the university challenge. We got some fun prizes and the science department received some molecular model sets which will be very useful in chemistry.'

## Artistic Talent



Thomas Howard

The Art department has had a very exciting and productive time this term. Trips to the Modern Art and Natural History Museums, Botanic Gardens and *Earth from the Air* Exhibition, as well as visiting artists and scholarship projects, have fuelled the children's imaginations and inspired a wonderful array of art. Bright, Georgia O'Keeffe style, plant work adorns the walls and Henri Rousseau oil pastel jungles set the imagination on fire. Local portrait artist Ruth Swain worked with our Year 7 boys on using tone and shading to produce wonderful self-portraits. The new kiln has been fired for the first time and pottery workshops and classroom activities are planned for every year group.



John Wiejak

The Art awards to Abingdon School are a fantastic achievement for Thomas Howard, Boxall Scholarship and John Wiejak, exhibition. Their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work have been duly rewarded.



## Up Beat in the Music Department

This was a very lively term, the high light of which was the African Drumming Workshop on 19 March, involving all boys from Years 5 & 6. Each group had an hour-long session during the afternoon, culminating in a performance to parents at the end of the day.

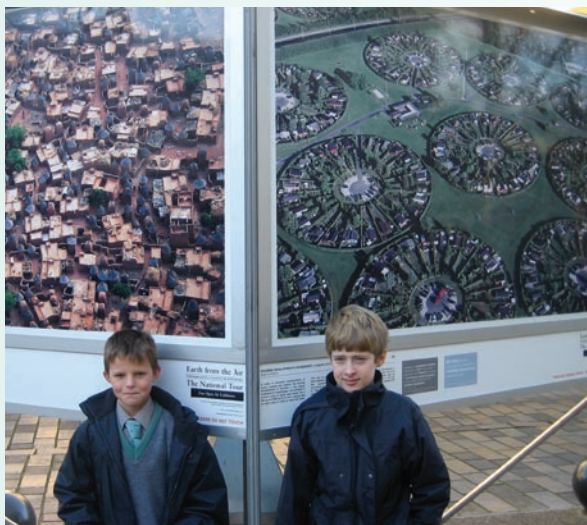
The term started with an Instrument Taster Carousel on 15 January. Boys were invited to 'try out' all sorts of instruments, with experts on hand to give advice and this resulted in several boys taking up new instruments. The concert platform series grows in popularity, with more and more boys, some as young as Year 2, taking part. Special mention must be made of Gus Miller, Year 2, who had only received three saxophone lessons prior to his first performance.

Congratulations! - the Prep School enjoyed 100% pass rate in the Associated Board and Trinity/Guildhall music exams, with boys taking exams on a range of instruments, including our first ever jazz candidate, Mungo Graham Year 7.

## Scholarships

Congratulations to the six boys who have won scholarships and awards to their senior schools, three of which are to Abingdon.

## Out and About



Year 4 visited Christ Church in Abingdon and found the trip surpassed expectations. 'Off we went expecting to find an old church with a spire and stained glass windows. We were surprised that Christ Church didn't look anything like that! It used to be a tithe barn for the monks in Abingdon Abbey, so in fact it looked like a barn! When we walked inside we were in for a few more surprises, like a drum kit and an electric guitar! This wasn't what we were expecting at all! It didn't smell old either, it smelt like polish. The most exciting bit was when we went up to the communion table and instead of seeing bread and wine we saw chocolate drops!'

This term saw the boys visiting a variety of places. Here are just a selection:

Year 6 visited the *Earth from the Air* exhibition at Oxford Castle which inspired the boys to consider the environment and our effect upon it. 'The photographs were beautiful, stunning, striking, upsetting, distressing, awe inspiring, magical and in some cases, quite unbelievable – until you realised that they were actually natural forms. I thought that it was amazing, I loved it.'



The Look Out Discovery Centre took on Year 3 and kept them fully entertained with more than 70 interactive displays. The different zones focused on aspects of the curriculum. 'I liked the rocket because it went up so high and also because it was powered by water and pressure which was really clever.'



## Football Round Up

Football finished the Lent term in a blaze of sunshine; snow-bound pitches and biting winds were consigned to distant memories of January and February. 73 games were played altogether by 17 teams, from the 1st XI to the Under 9 Es. The most successful of the teams were the 1st XI (played 8, won 3 and a handful of draws), the 2nd XI (played 7, won 4), 3rd XI (played 6, won 4), Colts A (won 4 from 6), and the U10 A and B Vlls (who won, combined, 7 from 11 games). Notable results included the U10s wins against Prior Park, Pinewood and St. Hugh's; the 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI wins against Oratory; and the U9s fine results against Ashfold. In addition to matches against other schools, training sessions and games lessons have been supported each week by a member of Oxford United's coaching staff who has worked with every boy in Years 5 to 8 at some point over the term.

## New Name, New Focus!

Abingdon School Parents Association – ASPA is the name voted in by parents to replace TASS (The Abingdon School Society). The new name should make it clear to everyone, and especially to new parents, that this is the School's parent body. We hope it will encourage more parents to get involved and build on TASS' achievements.

In the past, TASS focused on fund raising for 'extras' for the School. These days this is ably undertaken by the Development Office so that now ASPA can spend less time on fund raising, and more on networking and social events for parents, whilst still providing some funding for special initiatives for the boys. The forty-year-old constitution has been revised to reflect this.

Our perception is that Lower School parents are very well looked after but, with the increased intake in Third Year, there are fewer opportunities for parents to get to know each other. Last September we trialled the creation of a House contact list for Third Year parents. This has worked well, even leading to one or two Houses running their own social gatherings for Third Year parents, and we plan to repeat this annually. Once created by ASPA, the list will be handed over to volunteer House Reps who will undertake to be a point of contact and keep their list up to date.

Feedback has also suggested that parents would like social events for their year group. Starting in Michaelmas Term we will trial a programme of three new events, one for each of the Middle School year groups. The Third Year event will take place in November with further events for the Fourth and Fifth Years in the following terms.

A Lower School 'Family Treasure Hunt' is taking place on 10 May, jointly run by the Lower School masters and ASPA, and may also become a regular feature.

The main funding activity will be the ASPA-Paul Tappin Memorial Fund Travel Awards, which provide bursaries to boys undertaking challenging and worthwhile activities. Previously intended for U6 boys taking a gap year, the awards will now be open to any Sixth Former with a suitable project. Other funding will also be available to support initiatives that would not fall under the School's remit but which ASPA Committee feel would benefit the boys. Where possible, income will also be used to contribute to the Annual Fund managed by the Development Office.

The Association will continue to support parents' evenings and Open Day, where we traditionally serve refreshments and talk to current and prospective parents. The Secondhand Uniform Shop (SUS) also comes under ASPA and we hope to run an annual Secondhand Ski Wear Sale every Michaelmas Term, starting next term.

The current ASPA Committee is keen to welcome new members, not least because we have set ourselves an ambitious new agenda and we will need all the assistance we can get, but also because we hope new volunteers will help make ASPA a genuinely useful and relevant group for both present and future members of the Abingdon community!

## Join us!

Come and find out more at ASPA's Social on 12 May, attend the next committee meeting on 1 June or visit the website. For other details contact the Secretary, Leila Beggin, on [aspa@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:aspa@abingdon.org.uk)

## Who's Who on the Committee

Officers		Son's Year
Chair	Susan Williams	5th
Secretary	Leila Beggin	L6
Treasurer	Carol Thorn	U6
Members	Philip Bell	4th
	Karen Brombley	L6
	Sally Carpenter	1st
	Penny Farmer-Studdy	4th
	Peter Garratt	3rd
	Tim Gunn (MCR Rep)	
	Richard Mason	L6
	(Music Society Rep)	
	Elizabeth Oastler	L6
	Will Phelps (MCR Rep)	
	Nicki Peirce	2nd
	Margot Scholey	2nd
	Suzette Wilson-Macdonald	4th
Ex- officio		
Headmaster	Mark Turner	
Registrar	Jane Jorgensen	
Development Director	Jan Glover	

## ASPA's sources of funding

- Annual contribution from every Abingdon School family
- Revenue from SUS
- Revenue from events

## ASPA's key activities

- House contact lists for parents in Third Year
- Annual event for parents in Middle School, by year group
- ASPA – Paul Tappin Memorial Fund Travel Awards
- SUS (Secondhand Uniform Shop)
- Secondhand Ski Wear Sale in Michaelmas Term

## Dates for the Diary

### 12 May – ASPA Social

8.00-9.30pm – Sports Centre

Come and meet members of the Committee, and other parents, over a relaxing glass of wine, and find out how you can contribute to the Abingdon School community.

### 18 May – First Years Parents' Evening

ASPA Committee members will be on hand to talk to parents and to serve refreshments.

### 1 June – ASPA Committee Meeting

Christ's Hospital Room at 7.45 for 8pm. All welcome!

### 8 June – Fourth Year Parents' Evening

There will be an ASPA table at the Fourth Year Parents' evening where parents will have the opportunity to sign up for a new House contact list. This is a new venture aimed at putting parents in touch with each other.

## Second Hand Uniform Shop

Opening hours 12.15 to 1.15pm

Sat 25 April	Weds 29 April
Sat 9 May	Weds 13 May
Sat 6, 20, 27 June	Weds 10, 24 June

New address [www.abingdon.org.uk/go/aspa](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/aspa)



## Shaping our Future

For the first time, Abingdon School and Abingdon Preparatory School are publishing their strategic plans and a copy is included with this edition of Abingdon News. The document outlines both schools' aims and objectives for the next few years and each school's priorities. It is an ambitious plan and some of our priorities for the next few years may be limited by the current economic climate. However, at the heart of our strategy is the educational opportunity that we provide; distinction in academia combined with the balance of the Other Half. Whilst we may move forward more slowly with the buildings and infrastructure that supports this, we will continue to develop excellence in teaching and learning and strive to offer that opportunity to any able boy regardless of their financial circumstances.

We hope you will enjoy reading the brochure and we would welcome your feedback. Please do contact Jan Glover our Development Director with your comments or if you would like to know more about our plans.



## The Annual Fund

The School's Annual Fund is an appeal which aims to support the provision of additional resources that can, and do, make an immediate difference to teaching and learning in the School. So many of our wider community have been extremely generous and the amount raised during the Michaelmas Term was 12% above the total raised in the same period last year. However, the economic climate has now started to impact on our efforts although many of you have still indicated a desire to support us. At this time of uncertainty, bursary funds become a very immediate priority, not just for those joining the School but for boys who are already in our care. The gift of education is a precious one and, if you can help, we would be most grateful. We have set up a new website to give details of our funding priorities and where you can give online: [www.shaping.abingdon.org.uk](http://www.shaping.abingdon.org.uk). Please do take a look or contact Jan Glover, our Development Director, if you would like more information.

## Developing Links with St Helen's



Two recent initiatives have strengthened the School's links with St Helen's. For the first time in eight years the Middle School drama production, *Hope Springs*, was produced jointly with the girls' school, and a new event appeared in the social calendar when a St Helen's-Abingdon Fifth-form ball was held at Oxford's Four Pillars Hotel on 13 March. The ball was a great success and promises to be a popular annual event. There will be closer links between the two Sixth forms when joint General Studies classes are introduced in September, the same month that will see the institution of a shared bus service involving Abingdon, St Helen's and The Manor.



## Developing the Curriculum

As from September 2009, History, Geography, French, German and Spanish will be added to the subjects Abingdon Fifth-formers already take at IGCSE – International GCSE – as opposed to GCSE. The School feel that the IGCSE courses in these subjects are both more stimulating and the methods of assessment more suitable for Abingdon boys. Abingdon adopted IGCSE Chemistry two years ago and IGCSE Maths four years ago despite the fact that by so doing it automatically consigned itself to the bottom of Government compiled League Tables, which tend to rank schools by the number of pupils who pass GCSE Maths, Science and English.

# Out of the Past

## Mrs Thatcher



Mrs Thatcher, then Secretary of State for Education, visited the School in July 1973 to turn the first turf for the development of a new dining hall. If you think you might be able to spot your youthful self in the background, go to [abingdon.org.uk/go/archives](http://abingdon.org.uk/go/archives) where you can magnify the image.

## Quantitative Easing?

Some say that the Treasury's easing of the money supply amounts to little more than printing money; well, it's been done before. A parent, Roger Spriggs, has sent the School a 2,000,000 mark Reichsbanknote, printed in Berlin on 9 August 1923. In June 1922 a loaf of bread cost 3.50 marks; in September 1923 it cost 2,000,000 marks, in October 1923 670,000,000 marks and in November, 8 billion marks. The Government printing presses must have been busy.

The School Archives also possess two assignats printed by the French Revolutionary government in 1793, together with two Mafeking notes printed in March 1900 for use whilst the town was under siege during the Boer War.



## Abingdon and Old Abingdonians at War 1939-1945

The School will mark the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War this September with an exhibition, *Abingdon and Old Abingdonians at War 1939-1945*. The archivist, Sarah Wearne, would welcome your wartime memories together with any photographs, especially of you in uniform. If you have anything you think might be of interest please contact her – 01235 849108 [sarah.wearne@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:sarah.wearne@abingdon.org.uk)



**Terence Charley**

Lieutenant Terence Charley, OA 1933, who died last year, served with the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery and was taken prisoner when Singapore fell to the Japanese in February 1942.



**Bill Dockerty**

Flight Sergeant Bill Dockerty, OA 1939, served as an Air Gunner with 640 Squadron, RAF Leconfield, on bombing raids over Europe. He was killed on 2 February 1942 when his plane exploded on take-off.

## Listen Again!

Andrew Iddles, OA 1969, has recently sent the archives a record of the music from the Quatercentenary Celebrations in 1963. It includes the music played to HRH The Princess Margaret as she toured the School, the Founder's Day service in St Helen's Church and the music from the Evening Entertainment in the Jekyll Garden, which includes *The Highway Code* sung by the Mastersingers, and that well-known Beatles song *A Me Ad Te (From Me to You)*! You can listen to the whole record by going to: <http://study.abingdon.org.uk/quater>



## Common Room Photograph 1963

Thank you to everyone who suggested who the unidentified members of staff might be in the photograph in the last issue of the Abingdon News. The general consensus was that they are David Manley, Geoffrey Leake, Frank Booth and Keith Rutherford.

To see the photograph go to [abingdon.org.uk/go/archives](http://abingdon.org.uk/go/archives)



## Reunion Lunch

A reunion for leavers up to and including 1959 was held at Abingdon School on Saturday 14 March. Tours of the School, followed by a drinks reception, lunch and an opportunity to view the new sports centre were enjoyed by all who attended.



OAs present included:

1942: Don Hayter, Geoffrey Hill, John Rayson; 1943: Ian Crudginton; 1944: David Barrett, Gordon Dodge, Peter Jones; 1945: Ross Gibbs, Peter King, Guy Willson; 1947: Robert Pezaro; 1948: Tony Clay, John Lacey, David Wheaton; 1950: John Winter; 1951: David Heavens; 1952: Geoffrey Crockford, John Edelsten, David Free, John Hullett, Michael Matthews, Richard Millard, Bill Robbins; 1953: Colin Brown, Hugh Leach, Garth Round, Barrie Whiteford; 1954: Clyde Aylin, Ken Smith; 1955: Barry Hiscock, Patrick Sarsfield-Hall, Richard Spring, Alan Binning; 1956: George Brown, David Emmett, Graham Gingell, Martin Iredale, Ian McLoughlin, Cyril Woodruff; 1957: Christopher Coble, Robert Elliott, Richard Powell, Forbes Wastie; 1958: Ian Oliver, John Pritchard, Derek Privett; 1959: Phil Davis, Don Kirk, David Morris, Andrew Rowles, Tony Stockwell, Bill Warburton, Roger Heavens

## 60s OA Event 8 October

Terence Libby (1961) has volunteered to organise the next OA 60s event. A visit to the Leather Technology Centre in Northampton will be followed by dinner at the Sunley Management Centre. The Leather Technology Centre is part of the new University of Northampton and the only one of its kind in the UK. The Sunley Management Centre is also part of the University, and on the same campus as the Leather Centre. There is ample parking and guests can stay overnight, at reasonable rates, if they wish.

## Congratulations

Chris Lillycrop (2006) has been elected Chairman of Cambridge University Students' Union for 2009-2010.



## East India Club Reception for 2000-2008 Leavers

Over 60 OAs gathered at the East India Club in London for their first ever OA reunion on Tuesday 17 March. This well-attended event gave our young alumni the chance to catch up with each other, the Headmaster and members of Common Room, both past and present. OAs present included:

2000: Thomas Brown; 2001: Roshan Doostdar, Thomas Matheson, Liam Pearce, Kelvin Shaikh, Will Skjott, Thomas Tarrell, James Willcox-Jones; 2002: Roger Balch, Nick Betteridge, Jamie Brockbank, William Burdall, Alastair Fairbrother, Joshua Farrant, Tom Gallard, Henry Greaves, Nick Hopkins, Richard Kershaw, Tom Kingham, Ewan Macdonald, Colin Manners, Simon Mayhew-Archer, Laurence McTier, Angus Pang, Dickon Prior, Max Reyner, David Rowley, Matt Stalker, Robert Turnbull; 2003: Philip Bickerton, Ben Carter, Matt Derrick, Tom Dyson, Ed Heaney, Justin Henley, James Pargeter, Darshan Puri, Tom Rendell, Andrew Rowe; 2004: Tom Gater, Jonathan Lillycrop, Andrew Marsh, Stewart McMahon, James Nicholls, Will Poole, Bo Zhao; 2005: William Beaufoy, Harry Cook, Brian Cullen, Christian Davies, Oliver Diamond, James Dingwall, James Dyer, Adam Hall, Siddharth Kapoor, Peter Lyons, Michael Rothkopf, Peter Rowe, Michael Scopes, Thomas Swarbrick; 2006: Joshua Baines-Buffery, David Emerson, Chris Lillycrop, Edmund Lo; 2007: Jeffrey Lee; 2008: Michael Chan

## Griffen Rugby 7s Tournament

Sunday 15 March

Four OA teams competed this year against six other sides including Old Cheltonians, Old Radleians, Old Waynfletes and St Edward's Martyrs. The tournament cup was won by Westcliff and the shield was awarded to the OA team Dan James Owls. A full report of this increasingly popular tournament can be found on the OA website.



Full details of forthcoming events are available on the OA Club website:

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

*Tel: +44 (0) 1235 849098  
e-mail: [oaclub@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:oaclub@abingdon.org.uk)  
[www.oaclub.org.uk](http://www.oaclub.org.uk)*

## OA Road Relay Team



Gary Armstrong (1995), Francis Malone-Lee (1998), Pete Moloney (1995) and Rob Walker (1993) re-lived old times

by running in the Road Relay on 23 March achieving a team time of 35:21 and individual times of 9:22, 8:12, 9:08 and 8:39 respectively.



Francis was 14 seconds slower than his schoolboy time of 7:58. The record is believed to be held by Nick Smart who ran 7:53 in 1968. The course record is held by Nick Pritchard who ran it in a time trial in 7.47.

# Old Abingdonians

## Abingdon's Rowing Gold Medallists



It's becoming a familiar scene, Matthew Rossiter (left), OA 2008, standing on the rostrum wearing a gold medal. This photograph was taken in Australia in January where Matthew, competing at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in Sydney as part of the GB team, won gold in the coxless pair, the coxless four and the eight. Max Gander, OA 2008, coxed the eight so it was a double gold medal crew for Abingdon – very many congratulations to both Max and Matthew.

## David Tanner CBE

Following a year in which Great Britain achieved their best Olympic medal results for a hundred years, David Tanner, OA 1966, was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours List. David, the Amateur Rowing Association's International Manager and Performance Director since 1996, was Britain's Rowing Team Leader in Beijing. He said of his CBE, "I am privileged to have been awarded this honour on behalf of my sport."



## An OA at the Olympics



Rob Walker, OA 1993, who usually comments on boxing, rugby, triathlon and snooker swapped to sailing for last summer's Beijing Olympics, and thanks to the success of the British crews you will have seen a lot of him on your television screens. Interviewing the medallists just after they had crossed the finishing line, Rob mentioned on his Olympic blog how impressed he was by the dedication of all the athletes he spoke to, and of how honoured he felt at being able to share their moment of triumph.

## Abingdon's Iron Men

Philip Hatzis, OA 2007, competed in Ironman UK 2008 last September and completed the gruelling course in 11 hours 58 minutes and 29 seconds, a magnificent achievement for a race that requires you to swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and run 26.2 miles. Having got the taste for it, Philip now intends to compete in both Ironman France 2009 and Ironman UK 2009. Nor is he Abingdon's only Ironman, two members of the Abingdon staff, Alexis Christodoulou and Simon Balderson can also claim the title as can Jonathan Crick, OA 1989, who competed in Ironman France 2008.



## Radiohead's Grammy Award

Congratulations to Radiohead – Thom Yorke, OA 1987, Colin Greenwood, OA 1987, Jonathan Greenwood, OA 1990, Ed O'Brien, OA 1986, and Phil Selway, OA 1985, whose *In Rainbows* won the 2009 Grammy award for the best alternative music album.

