

Newsletter of the Old Tiffinians' Association No. 228 June 2006

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Copy for next
edition by 18th
August, please.

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From the Head's Study

Dear Friends

On Thursday 11th May Tiffin School was given the opportunity to recognise the most generous bequest of Old Boy and Life Vice-President of the OTA, Christopher Deighton (1911-2002). We had invited Mrs Seffert, Christopher's niece, in to visit the School and, in particular, to see the huge impact of his gift in our new Dempsey Learning Resource Centre. Upon entering the Centre the visitor will notice a plaque mounted on the opposite book case with the following inscription:

*The library furniture in this LRC
was provided through the generous
bequest in the will of
Christopher Deighton (1911-2002)
a Life Vice President of the OTA*



The idea of library furniture being funded by such a donation may appear to be a little unglamorous, but this gift is making a huge difference. Firstly, the unique shape and design of the building meant that shelves, cases, chairs and tables needed to be functional, aesthetically pleasing and complement the internal, airy spaces; secondly, the furniture needed to be able to withstand the trials and rigours of daily use in a school with over one thousand students; and finally, in order to maintain the memory of our benefactor and support the excellence of this superb environment, we felt that the furniture should be of the quality that would still look good in ten, fifteen, twenty years time.

But the real impact of this gift is that Christopher Deighton's generosity is seen by the students, used by the students and valued by the students. The Learning Centre has become the hub of the School – entirely appropriate when so much learning takes place here in so many different ways – where students work and study, either individually or in groups. With newspapers and periodicals available, as well as books and CDs, students are engaged in a variety of reading habits and styles. And this activity follows different patterns throughout the course of the day. Before the school day begins, most activity is computer based, a number of students putting 'finishing touches' to work that probably needs to be submitted later that morning! During the course of the morning the atmosphere is determined by a significant Sixth Form presence, alternating with booked, teacher-led classes from the rest of the school. At break, and particularly lunch-time, the activity becomes more frenetic, the Learning Centre offering an opportunity to begin homework and research projects, follow up on the morning's lessons or simply enjoy a good book. The afternoon, by comparison, is slightly calmer and, as the Centre remains open after school has finished, some students will stay on to work before heading home.

Tiffin School is an incredibly busy place and a day in the Learning Centre captures its true essence. How wonderful that Christopher's gift not only contributes to this atmosphere but is also witness to it on a daily basis.

I should like to express my continued thanks to all Old Tiffinians who continue to support the School in a variety of ways. The summer term's calendar is busy with many events and it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible in attendance.

Sean Heslop

OTA Old Boys' Dinner



Friday 24th November 2006
Malden Golf Club
Cost : £25



We are delighted to have secured Malden Golf Club and Dave Tyrrell as our resident host for the OTA Dinner again this year.

Please put a positive reservation in your diary
and contact us to secure your place:-

Contact - Dick Rumble: 01342 843663, Stu Vidler: 01590 678789 or
Huck Wright: 0208 337 8965

Alternatively you can make contact or make your seating preferences clear by emailing us at: otadinner@hotmail.co.uk

Please post off your cheque as soon as possible for £25 per person (payable to "The O.T.A.") to Dick Rumble at his home:

35 Alma Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0DN

We will send full details and tickets in due course. Hope to see you there!

OTA Dinner Committee

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 18th June

- OT Cricket Club VP Lunch

Tuesday 20th June

- OT Golf Society at Guildford

Wednesday 28th June

- Henley Royal Regatta begins

Thursday 29th June

- School v. MCC cricket

Thursday 6th July

- OTA Social Lunch

Saturday 8th July

- Kingston Regatta begins

Saturday 15th July

- 'Tiffin-in-the-Garden' event at the School
- OT Cricket Club BBQ at Grists

Sunday 16th July

- School Cricket 6-a-side competition
- Tiffin Youth Orchestra in Kingston Parish Church

Monday 17th July

- House Rowing Regatta

Tuesday 18th July

- House Swimming

Wednesday 19th July

- School Sports Day

Thursday 20th July

- Founders' Day Service & Widger Match

Friday 21st July

- School Term ends

Tuesday 5th September

- Autumn Term begins

Tuesday 12th September

- School Oratorio rehearsals start

Thursday 14th September

- Leavers' Celebration (Speech Day)

Tuesday 19th September

- Thames Youth Orchestra at Cadogan Hall

Friday 22nd September

- OT Golf Society at Rusper

Saturday 7th October

- OT Cricket Club Dinner/Dance

Thursday 12th October

- OTA Social Lunch

Wednesday 22nd November

- Association AGM

Friday 24th November

- OTA Annual Dinner

(Further details of school events can be found later in this newsletter or on www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk)

Chairman

Greetings, Old Tiffnians,

Do you like the rig? It is an advertisement for one of the outstanding School events of the year: *Tiffin in the Garden*, which takes place on 15th July. I shall be there with my wife, wearing my blazer, so I should be visible to any of you whom I have not yet met, who want to say 'hello'. The event is a relaxed affair with recitals during the afternoon by many groups of the School's musicians and also some from other schools with which Tiffin is working. Refreshments will be available, courtesy of Friends of Tiffin Music. The atmosphere is relaxed, and you can drift in and out according to your own schedule; in the evening there is an all-ticket concert in the Hall (box office 020 8546 4638 x 133). Please come; support the School; be amazed at the range and depth of talent, and enjoy an uplifting occasion.



There is another event in which you could demonstrate your support for the School, and enjoy a day or part of a day watching cricket: the School match against the MCC takes place at Grist on Thursday 29th June, starting at 11.30am. It is an occasion for us to take pride in our School's position in cricket terms, and I hope that I may see many of you on the day.

Congratulations are in order to Peter Smith; his appeal in the last Tiffnews has brought donations totalling over £7,000. Much of this has been given under the Gift Aid scheme, bringing in further welcome funds. The purpose of the appeal is to provide the finance to smarten the Dean Pavilion and for essential repairs and renewals, which, if not attended to now, will lead to higher costs in the future. External decoration work has already been put in hand. I have heard it said that to spend money on the pavilion is throwing good money after bad: I can't agree with this. That the Ground Company is unable to find the funds itself for essential repairs is a graphic illustration of where we find ourselves; to watch the fabric disintegrate before our eyes would be in dereliction of our duty; and yet I sympathise with the sentiment, because operating hand to mouth does nothing to put Grist on a sustainable footing. It is all very challenging.

I like the Arab aphorism: 'in the search for wisdom, visit every tent'. Over the last few months I have visited several tents in searching for a solution to the long-term problems of Grist, and I will be visiting a few more over the summer. My interim observations on the issues are set out in a separate piece opposite. Please read this and challenge my analysis, or give me your support if you judge it warranted. The essential truth is that we cannot go on as we are; action must be taken before the Ground Company's reserves are exhausted; we cannot allow Grist to become a burden which threatens the financial integrity of the OTA itself.

I have come to the chairmanship of the OTA without any involvement with Grist since my soccer-playing days finished in the late 1960s; this absence from the affairs of the Ground Company does at least allow me to address the issues with a clear mind, and I bring with me some business skills accumulated during a working lifetime.

In getting involved with a radical approach to Grist I have an acute sensation of treading on thin ice: the sensible advice would be to remove myself to where it is thicker. I have no wish to be consumed by an icy chill, but I declare that I regard it as the essential task and duty of my period as your Chairman to address the problems.

The responsibility of ownership of Grist is with the OTA Council: it is for the Council, taking account of the whole OTA membership's interests, to decide how Grist is run. I see my role as Chairman as providing leadership to the Council in moving away from the present status quo to a managerial and ownership position which reflects better the realities of today and a common vision of the future within the wider Tiffin community.

Yours in fellowship,

HOWARD MALLINSON

Grists - The Future?

In my analysis the Grists' *status quo* is unsustainable in the medium and long terms. There is no implied criticism of the work of the Ground Company: when change progresses inch by inch – as it has – it is all too easy to focus on the immediate issues, which are at least containable, while putting off the implications of the fact that elements of buildings have a finite life. This inevitability is compounded by the fact that our market has changed.

Today the Dean Pavilion is a chronically under-used resource. It is unappealing for third party lettings, because of its location as well as its condition, and there are no resources, actual or prospective, with which the OTA could refurbish it to modern requirements. The playing sections are struggling and survive only by the now long-standing inclusion of non-OTA players. The trend of OTA members using the facilities at Grists is on a downward slope and, while the inclusion of outside players has enabled the playing sections to survive, it does nothing to address the problems which the OTA has as owners of Grists. Quite the opposite, in fact, because the mounting problems of Grists confront a reducing number of OTA playing members: as the problems mount, so the volunteers decline. If we cast our minds back in decades, an active and enthusiastic core of OTA playing members would have solved the problems – did solve the problems. The world has changed: we cannot expect that the playing members of the OTA will provide the leadership to take Grists into the world which we now inhabit. We saw (*Tiffnews* No. 227, March 2006) that the Chairman of the Ground Company, Tony Millard, flagged up the shortage of human resource as well as financial, as problems in running its affairs.

In my assessment the facility at Grists is unviable, except on a hand-to-mouth basis, because: there is no realistic basis on which the OTA can, unilaterally, fund the refurbishment of the Dean Pavilion, nor – and this is the telling point – is there any prospect of the present generation of Tiffinians being able to emulate either that far-seeing generation of 60 years ago, who by their toil and treasure, bought the freehold of Grists (and built the first hut) so that it would be available for ever to succeeding generations of sporting Old Tiffinians; or that worthy successor generation of the 1960s, who moved us on from the primitive accommodation, which we then endured, to the modern structure that the Dean Pavilion was 45 years ago. The continuing decline of the Dean Pavilion could perhaps be protracted for a period measurable in years, but it is more likely to be truncated by an unwillingness of today's (or tomorrow's) OTA playing members to provide its human resource to press on the wheel.

With the help of the membership, or at least with its goodwill, I want to establish a new basis on which the financial and managerial footings of Grists, whilst kept within the Tiffin Community, are held fast for the future in a manner which is best able to exploit the resource for the benefit not just of the OTA and its playing sections but of the School at large.

Having considered the issues during my first months of chairmanship and the consultations made so far, I am comfortable in advancing the outline of a set of solutions. I suggest that the present managerial roles at Grists, as between the OTA (as represented by the Ground Company) and the School should be inverted. I believe that the School

(if it is willing) should take the management responsibility for the whole site – all the playing areas and both pavilions – which would mean settling service level agreements with the playing sections of the OTA, just as is done with any third party lets. This would take away from the Ground Company the responsibility for providing the playing surfaces and lettings, both existing and new; it would also put the management of the total Grist resource into a single vehicle – a worthy aim for its own sake – but the more valuable because of its having better durability than our own Ground Company. There are, therefore, two benefits from such a move: sustainability and the removal of the blurred edges of duplication.

As part of the package, I suggest that the freehold of Grists is sold to Tiffinian Limited (if they are willing to buy it) at market value, with a management contract with the School. There are two reasons for proposing the Tiffin Community's charity-registered vehicle: it would tie in succeeding generations of parents to the arrangements; it is the parents who largely fund Tiffinian Limited. Moreover, it is likely to be a useful conduit for seeking funding, perhaps from the National Lottery, for a visionary redevelopment of the joint facilities at Grists: what visionary redevelopment? Plainly, this needs considerable input, but what I advance for debate is the demolition of both the existing pavilions and their replacement with a single facility to meet the needs of the School, the OTA, and crucially, the market and the community.

To help fund this we must revisit the redevelopment of part of our land. I have no illusions about how difficult it will be to achieve any redevelopment within the Metropolitan Green Belt, and I know it has been thought of before: we must try again. There is one aspect of this which has changed in our favour: the government's targets for new housebuilding are so onerous that planning authorities are no longer able (or willing?) to dismiss incursions into the Green Belt quite so peremptorily as they once did. I do not say we can succeed here; I do say that now, working closely with the School, is the time to find out, and cut our coat according to the cloth.

The School has shown itself to be well capable of managing (and funding) capital projects: it is much the best organ for advancing the shape of future facilities at Grists. I have no doubt at all that the OTA today could muster neither the enthusiasm nor the human resource to repeat the signal efforts of their predecessors of 40 to 60 years ago: the School has both these necessities, and does anyone challenge the essential precept that the OTA and the School should bind themselves more tightly together?

I intend that the proposals for Grists should receive the maximum exposure to the OTA membership before they come before the OTA Council. The views expressed here are my own, but, when they have been refined after input from my further consultations (with the membership, the School and Tiffinian Limited), I hope that they will be put to the Council as a package with the help of a small task force. If there are to be any objections to my vision – any that can be sustained will be given due weight – I would like these tabled before I go to the Council with a resolution.

Howard Mallinson, Chairman, OTA

The Dean Pavilion

Kings Cottage, 13 Kings Drive
Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0TH
Tel: 020 8398 4748

12th May 2006

Dear Old Tiffinian,

DEAN PAVILION – GRISTS

I am writing to say 'Thank You' to those who have responded to my appeal in the last 'Tiffnews'. It is remiss of me, I know, not to reply to each of you separately, but I decided it would be better to thank you collectively and to list the names of the subscribers.

Brian Holden dug out a photo of me when I was Chairman of the OTA in 1971, and this has provoked a series of comments in the letters you have sent me with your donations. These have varied from "Who's the fellow in the photo?" to "Have you still got that Box Brownie?"

Seriously though, it has been nice to receive so many friendly letters and to be reminded of the good times we had together. It was particularly good to get the replies from overseas members – in Australia, America, Dubai and Switzerland to date.

At this point in time I have had donations from 44 people and promises from several others. These range from people who are still playing for the OTA clubs to people even older than I am ! Obviously there are a lot of members out there who intended to send me a donation but have let it slip their mind. DO NOT WORRY, there is still time to rectify that omission – I shall be pleased to receive anything you can afford at your earliest convenience.

I have listed the donors to date in alphabetical order, and I do thank you most sincerely. The total collected so far is in excess of £7,000 (plus the



Gift Aid effect in most cases). This will go a long way towards the refurbishment work, which I am now told will cost more than my original guess of £10,000 plus.

Thank you all.

PETER D SMITH (1949–56)

List of Donors

Armstrong G H	Jagger D	Scanlon B
Bradford M J	Jenkins K A Q	Smith P D
Brain T J	Kirkwood R G	Staff D E
Bryan D H	Lovett C K	Stickland R G
Cope J C H	Mason D K A	Summers M D
Crocker M	Millar S R	Taylor M C
Daunt A	Mylchreest G	Taylor A R
Dixon J H	Neville R H	Tink J T
Douglas R C	Offer R F	Turner L F
Ebenezer J E	Orsman R C J	Vidler S R
Edgington W A	Pembery R J	Ward G D
Glasscock J L	Phillips J L	Warn P
Gosling B L	Phillips K L	Webb J W
Hackman R	Picknett K B	Woan P
Holden B A T	Saunders M J	

When sending your donation to Peter, please be sure to make your cheque payable to "Tiffinian Ltd" and make the following Gift Aid declaration:

I am a UK taxpayer and have paid income tax at least equal to the tax that I want Tiffinian Ltd to reclaim on my donation of £.....

Name:

Home address:

Old Tiffinian Social Lunch



Park, he managed to persuade Stan Slinger to attend. It is good to see new faces attending, but I thank the regulars for keeping the event going. Comment was made about supporting the Grist Pavilion Appeal.

The Summer date will be **Thursday 6th July**. The Autumn date is **Thursday 12th October**.

All are welcome, and, if you wish to attend and bring guests, please let me know on 01483 850705. Early notification will be appreciated.

GREER KIRKWOOD

Our forty-sixth Lunch was held on Thursday 30th March at our usual venue, viz. the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

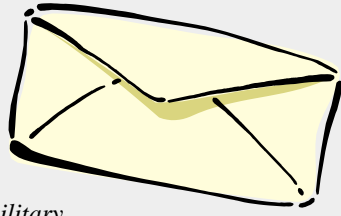
Those present were :-

Jim Aston, Dennis Barnard, David Chaffey, David Evans, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Derek Higham, Brian Holden, Ken Jenkins, Ted Key, Greer Kirkwood, David Larmar, Howard Mallinson, Gordon Mylchreest, Peter Shepherd, Stan Slinger, Chris Towlson, Ron Truin, Colin Waterfield, Howard Watson & John Wright.

Our Spring Lunch numbers were again over the 20 (21 named above). Now that John Wright is living back in Worcester



Letters



Dear Brian,

Jim Aston's recollection of the Army's use of the Range during the war reminded me of our military neighbours. At the time I was living in Birkenhead Avenue, and at some stage the house next to ours was commandeered by the Rough Rider Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery. It was this battery that was responsible for manning the Bofors gun on the cricket field. Shortly after its arrival, the crew cut a gate in the school fence opposite the house, in order to give direct access to the gun (doubtless to the displeasure of the caretaker).

Some benevolent residents of Norbiton Hall afforded the crew facilities for a hot bath, and I have memories of an alert one Sunday morning, when the duty NCO, a Bombardier Veneer (an improbable expert on Shakespeare), was seen leaning out of a Norbiton Hall window screaming orders at the crew. His authority seemed undiminished by the fact that he was wearing nothing at the time.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Ison (1950)

Dear Brian,

School Rule No.20 ('Boys are not permitted to talk to girls in the street'), mentioned on the History page of the December 'Tiffnews', is the sole rule of which I have any recollection. It was, I believe, still in force (and observed), when I left at the end of 1935. The rule must have presented certain practical problems. For instance, when the performance of 'Floradora' was mooted, I assume that a special emissary was despatched to Tiffin Girls to negotiate for the availability of potential pretty maidens who could be asked, tunefully, whether "there are any more like you".

Yours,

Jack Minnitt (1935)

Dear Brian,

It has been good to read in 'Tiffnews' how well David Barker has fared in Australia. I was very sorry to learn of his brother's death last year. I first encountered John, when we joined LVI Arts in September 1947. We got on very well, and I always found great pleasure in his company. He had a most infectious way with him and was truly inspirational. I have fond recollections of one afternoon after school, cycling with John to his home and chatting with him, David and their mother. Mrs Barker had a lovely accent, Somerset I guess, and was so outgoing that I realised why they were too.

One of my fond recollections was cycling to a farm camp at Talbenny in Pembrokeshire in the summer holidays to work there for a fortnight helping to gather in the harvest. I borrowed my brother's tandem, and Peter Henwood and I rode on that, and John was on his bicycle. It took us two and a half days to get from home to Haverford West, from where we were transported by truck to the camp. In the evenings all those present would congregate in the main building and there would be ballroom dancing. Peter and I were out of contention, but guess who could already dance and used this skill to meet the ladies !

I did meet John a couple of times, when I was at the Financial Times and at Pearson Head Office. It was a great coincidence to learn from the solicitor with whom I liaised on pension matters at the FT that he was joining Rowntree and that the person he was replacing was coming south to join Colgate Palmolive. I was most interested to learn that this person was none other than John ! He came to lunch with me at the Pearson HQ, when I was appointed Company Secretary. The president of Colgate Palmolive was then, and is now, a non-executive director of Pearson plc, and John came over to give me the low-down on him. That was about fifteen years ago, and I really regret not having seen John after that.

I remember Robin Glasscock, whom you met at the Oxbridge Dinner. Occasionally I would cycle home from school with him and his brother, John, as far as South Lane, New Malden, and they would go on towards Worcester Park.

The photo shows John Carder (whose letter you published in December's 'Tiffnews') and myself at my home in Bath.

Yours aye,

Gerald Collett (1949)



Editor

I am immensely pleased to see the support generated by Peter Smith's **Pavilion Appeal** in our last edition. It is good to hear that work is already in hand to remedy the chief problems. If you planned to join in, but have not done so yet, please send off your cheque THIS WEEK. Your contribution is very much needed.

Do apply NOW for your ticket(s) for the **Annual Dinner** (details elsewhere). Last year the venue was filled, so it will be no surprise if some are turned away this time.

I have been reading with interest the book by **Laurie Lewis**, mentioned in our recent Book Column. Unfortunately the title was wrongly quoted there - it should be '*Breakfast in Bed*'. I personally found it an enjoyable

and well-crafted collection of stories. They contain some subconscious references to his Tiffin days.

There is understandably much talk of football at the moment. The School has recently heard with interest that it was an OT in the 1920s who may well have been the first Englishman to go off to play for Real Madrid. His name was **Charles Harker (1915)**, and we received this piece of information from his nephew, who lives locally (in East Molesey).

Many readers, I suspect, have been changing their email addresses recently, not least because of the growth of access to broadband. If yours has changed and you are not sure we have it on our database, please send me a quick email to notify me.

BRIAN HOLDEN

OT Football Club

As reported previously, our playing sides have struggled this past season. A shortage of players, injuries and absences have all had an influence on individual team progress. The end result has been relegation spots for the 3rds and 5ths, survival for the 1sts, stabilisation for the 2nds and a Club best of 4th for the 4s. On a positive note, I am pleased to confirm the Club is now back in profit and debt free and I thank everyone involved for their efforts.

Errol Walker, past Chairman Mike Taylor and I were delighted to be able to represent the OTFC and attend the centenary banquet for local rivals Old Suttonians' Football Club at Epsom Grandstand. An interesting history item was that Sutts very first game was against Old Tiffs. (No, Mike says he wasn't playing.)

The Club held a BBQ at Grists on Cup Final day, which was attended by over 40 players, many with wives and children, and was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Chris Fells, Tony Cleeve and head chef Tim Robini for their efforts, and to all who contributed to fund raising efforts on the day.

First Team

The Firsts completed their fixtures, losing their last two games, home and away, to Southgate County, who went on to finish top of Senior 1. Fortunately other results had already gone Tiffs' way, guaranteeing Senior 1 status for next season.

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
18	4	3	11	22	38	-16	15	8th

Second Team

The Seconds had seven games left at the time of the last report. Three wins on the trot, two against Old Bromleians (home and away) and a 5-0 victory over Comets had the team thinking of a top three position. However, absences and injuries disrupted the side, and frustratingly we lost the next three games by the odd goal, when we knew we could have done better. No complaints, however, about the final game against Chertsey, who beat us 0-3 to confirm that they were worthy winners of the League.

Having started the season as the 3s, this new 2s side have acquitted themselves well and shown that, with effort and application, they can hold their own at this level and with one or two new signings will be looking for a top three finish next year.

The team was consistently selected from: Mike Dash, Colin Waters (OT), Dan Ward (OT), Dave Collins, Ralph Stadie, Ian Lulham (OT), Simon Keane(OT), Jon Angell (OT), Steve Johnson (OT), Ian McDermott (OT), Neil McDermott (OT), Kevan McDermott, Ernest Fowler, Peter Phipps.

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Pos
20	6	3	11	47	60	-13	20	8th

STEVE JOHNSON

Thirds

The new 3s have struggled for players all season and finished in a relegation spot, thanks to a 3 point deduction for failing to field a team against Suttonians away.

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Pos
18	3	7	8	38	45	-7	13	9th

Fourths

A very satisfactory season, all in all, considering the initial difficulties of fielding anything near the same side from week to week, and on a few occasions only having 10 or even 9 players on the Saturday morning – in fact, we actually started and completed two full games with only 10 men. However, through this adversity early on we gathered resolve and a fairly steady group of about 8-10 regulars, and we managed to finish in 4th spot in the league. If it weren't for a defeat by Thorntonians in December (a team we had already beaten 3-0) our League position would have been

second and would have secured us a deserved promotion. The team had a good blend of ageing experience and youthful exuberance who all managed to get along well enough, and that will mean the majority will hopefully return for another season. Our keeper was fantastic, as good as I've seen at old boys' level, the back four got better and stingier as the season went on, the midfield was boosted by the injection of youthful talent and goals, and upfront we had some wily old players mixed in with power and determination.

As voted by the team, our player of the season was none other than 42 year old (I think?) veteran centre back Nigel Dominy, closely followed in votes by the equally ancient Mark Christie. We had joint top goal-scorers in new signings Brett Waugh and Gabriel Taylor. Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable season and I am already looking forward to the next one.

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Pos
18	9	3	6	43	34	9	3	4th

JULIUS MILLER

Fifths

A very erratic year culminated in our inability to fully reverse the poor first half of the season, and avoid relegation. The team struggled to ever put out a regular/consistent side, with the use of no fewer than 61 different players. This was primarily driven by shortages every week in teams above us, but some of the changes in the second half of the season almost turned things around.

We clearly need new players with which to enter next season. There is a core in the side that I believe would be a useful platform, but we are open to any interest from those in their final year at the School or indeed from associates of those at the School.

The standard is good. We need new blood to replace retiring legs. If you are interested, do contact me on 07887 896402.

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
18	4	2	12	41	57	-16	14	10th

JOHN DICKENS

With the World Cup to look forward, to I am sure all players will be itching to kick a ball again in July/August and I look forward to seeing as many as possible at pre-season training. New players of all standards are always welcome. If you would like to play Saturday afternoon football next season, then please contact Club Secretary Errol Walker in the first instance on 07984 473 074.

You can follow all our fixtures and results on the League website www.amateurfootballcombination.com

STEVE JOHNSON

OTA 100 Club

Since the last report draws have taken place as follows :-

		Previous win	
Feb '06	£50	Gordon Mylchreest	Wonersh '00
Mar '06	£50	John Bradford	East Molesey '05

The above draws were held at a recent OT Ground Company meeting.

I am pleased to report that we have gained two new members in Sid Millar and Derek Higham this year. The next set of draws will include the 'Big One' for June.

Thanks to all members for their support.

The 100 Club makes a major donation towards the Association's income, so do please consider becoming a member. The cost is £60 per annum (or £5 per month) by standing order. The prizes are £50 each month, plus half-yearly major prizes of £1,000. Further information can be obtained from me at 28 Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9LX (Tel: 01483 850705).

GREER KIRKWOOD

93rd OTA Skiff Marathon

This year's Skiff Marathon was all about the Old Masters and the Freshmen.



Tim Pitt & Andrew Ward, with Rachel as Cox, receive their trophies from the Chairman

Four strong crews competed in the 93rd anniversary event, with the new boys of Tim Pitt and Andrew Ward competing in their first skiff marathon. With just two practice outings and not having rowed for many years, they were given a generous handicap of two minutes. Yet their youth, size and skiffing skill proved too much for last year's handicap

winner of Andy Powell and John Roberts. Tim and Andy started very sedately but soon realised this was a true race and got into a good race rhythm, staying ahead of all the crews.

The race for the main event was another close affair: David Gattey and David Powell turned last year's 10 second loss into a 20 second win and pulled away from Julian Kapica and Tony Ellis.



David Gattey & David Powell regain their title



Tony Ellis & Julian Kapica show the strain in a close race, when they caught up!!

Prizes were kindly presented after the race by the Chairman of the OTA, Howard Mallinson. Thanks must continue to go to Dittons Skiff and Punting Club for their continued support, with providing boats and the bar. They are always looking for new members to try the sport; so why not give it a go and join us next year for the 94th OTA Skiff Marathon.



David Gattey & David Powell, with Charlotte as Cox, receive their trophies

If you are interested in competing next year, then give me a call on 07774 123348 or emailtony.ellis@ge.com

Results:

	Race time	Handicap Time	Handicap
David Powell David Gattey	23.28	25.20	1 min 52 sec
Tony Ellis Julian Kapica	23.48	25.50	2 min 2 sec
Tim Pitt Andrew Ward	24.20	24.20	zero
Andy Powell John Roberts	25.40	25.28	12 sec

TONY ELLIS

OT Cricket Club

The gradual resurgence and further progress made by the OT Cricket Section has been very encouraging to see at the beginning of this new 2006 cricket season. Although a few more issues remain yet unresolved, mainly on the improvement of facilities, playing surfaces and on the membership front, it was immensely satisfying to see all concerned pulling in the right direction to make it a real success.

My gratitude must go to the OTA and the sports ground committee for addressing our immediate concerns promptly and allocating the very limited funds where and when necessary. My thanks also go to our many club vice presidents who have donated generously to our cause this year.

On the playing front, the Saturday 1st XI remains unbeaten after the first four matches. The side had also successfully negotiated the first round of the league cup knock-out and at the time of writing were due to play Chobham (Away) on 29th May, in the second round. After the first two league matches, the team are well placed at the top of the league.

The early batting form of Faisal Khan had been very impressive; four 50s and a good league hundred already in his first seven matches is a testament to the fact. Ravi Shankar, Zahid, Sohail Butt and Waseem Butt also seem to be prospering well with the bat so far. The evergreen Ted Wightwick had already snared a couple of 'Michelle Fiffers'! Good contributions have also come from Matthew Bennett, Danny Boustead, Ali and Justin Smith, amongst others. It all certainly augurs well for the rest of the season.

The 2nd XI, under the captaincy of Jim Kinstler, has had mixed fortunes so far. One draw and one loss in the league, but, with availability of better players, it is certainly hoped that their fortunes will change for the better very soon. The Sunday side had also been in good form. The one loss so far had unfortunately been in the Sunday Old Boys League, but with better player availability this could have easily been avoided.

A few important function dates have been revived again this year; it is sincerely hoped that they will be well supported:

Sunday 18th June 2006 – Vice Presidents' Annual Lunch – 12.30 pm in the Dean Pavilion, Grist. All OTCC VPs and friends are welcome.

Please confirm your attendance NOW, if you have not already done so, to me on 020 8946 6999 (Mobile: 07966 301 851) or to Peter Smith (Tel: 020 398 4748).

Saturday 15th July 2006 – Summer BBQ Night at Grist. An informal occasion with food and music. All are welcome. Tickets are £10 for adults and any willing contributions from others. Current school cricketers free. For tickets, contact: me on the phone numbers above (or by email at ravioshankar@aol.com), or Simon Clews (020 8274 1963 and 07768 121 262 or email simon.clews@blueyonder.co.uk), or Jim Kinstler (07799 740 207).

Saturday 7th October 2006 – OTCC Annual Dinner & Dance (Black Tie). A suitable & convenient venue will be arranged soon. Tickets will be in the region of £25 each for a 3 course dinner, music and dancing. Tickets will be limited to 140 guests. All are welcome – friends, ladies, girlfriends, partners, etc. Please support the cause. Contact one of the three above or any OTCC officials to indicate your interest and to book tickets.

Finally, on the resurgence theme, it is hoped that we can register another side (3rd XI) in the League on Saturdays next year, and/or another social playing side on Sundays. This can only be achieved if we can get firm commitment from potential players / members who wish to join and play regular cricket for OTCC next year. Players of any age and standard are welcome; the only condition is to be available on a regular basis and have fun playing cricket in good surroundings. Please contact one of the above-named to register your interest, or contact any OTCC official.

RAVI SHANKAR KAMINENI

People



TOM BLOXHAM (1983) and his award-winning company Urban Splash continue to make headlines, as new property developments come on-stream. In a Daily Telegraph property supplement in April there was a major article on his refurbished Victorian mill building in Castlefield, Manchester. This is novel, in that the purchaser has the opportunity to decide on the exact number of bedrooms and bathrooms, as well as the

configuration of the kitchen and the provenance of the flooring materials. The developer finishes the exterior of the building and organises all the essential services, before handing over the floor-space to the purchaser who has six months to transform the interior according to his or her wishes (as long as these conform to planning regulations). Other developments (nine in all) were featured in a full-page advertisement in a May edition of the DT property supplement.

The company Urban Splash, founded 13 years ago and now with 129 staff, continues to appear on the Sunday Times listing of the 100 Best Small Firms to Work for in the UK (this year rated at No.25). This is due in no small measure to the motivation supplied by Tom, who is Chairman and co-founder. The Company has gained 170 awards for design, architecture, regeneration and enterprise.

RICHARD COEKIN (1980) was mentioned in the press recently because of his appeal against the decision of the Bishop of Southwark to strip him of his licence, after he 'parachuted in' a bishop from South Africa to ordain three deacons. This historic move broke with church tradition but was supported by a resolution passed by the Reform National Conference of evangelical churches. He had staged the irregular ordination in defiance of his bishop in November 2005, because he had to "take a stand" over homosexuality. Richard is quoted as saying that he did not refuse canonical recognition to the Bishop of Southwark, but claimed that his authority was limited by canon. He said: "It needs to be recognised that if the removal of my licence is sustained, then mine has been removed while other clergy, whose teaching is far removed from the 39 Articles to which I still hold still retain theirs". The ordinations in question were attended by a number of evangelical leaders and supported by the conservative group Reform at their National Conference. The move was also supported by 500 in the congregation. (*STOP PRESS: On 5th June Richard won his appeal*)

Richard went from Tiffins to Jesus College, Cambridge, where he studied to be a solicitor. He later attended Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and was ordained Deacon in 1991, Priest in 1992. He served as Curate in Cheadle 1991-95, and then as non-stipendiary Minister at Wimbledon Emmanuel Ridgway Proprietary Chapel. He is currently Minister of Dundonald Church in Wimbledon, planted by Emmanuel Chapel in 1990. It meets in Dundonald Primary School and is part of the Co-Mission initiative family of churches.

PHILIP COEKIN (1983), brother of Richard (above), attended Wye College, London, where he took a BSc in Agriculture in 1987. He later went on to Oak Hill Theological College, where he gained his BA in 1993. He was ordained Deacon in 1996 and Priest in 1997. He served as Curate at Eastbourne All Saints 1996-2000, before taking up his present post as Vicar of Emmanuel & St Mary in the Castle in Hastings.

MAX FREEDMAN (1997), together with three of his contemporaries, took part early this year in the TV 'Eggheads' contest.

MIKE HAYNES-COOTE (1986) is currently Health & Safety Officer at De Montfort University, Leicester.



CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS (1986), our tireless Old Tiffinian MEP, is also a qualified football referee and is therefore taking more than a passing interest in the European Union's plans to seize control of domestic football. The scheme, unveiled last month and enthusiastically backed by our Sports Minister, proposes an EU-wide 'good governance' structure to overrule national football associations on almost every

issue. It will include strict rules on the ownership of clubs and even a salary cap for high-earning players. The present system, they say, favours very rich clubs (such as Chelsea, Manchester United and Real Madrid) and is prone to corruption. Chris is quoted as saying: "I would hate to see the EU have direct control over the game. It should aim to do less but do it better, rather than doing more."



AIDAN LANG (1977) is moving to New Zealand in July, to take up the prestigious appointment as General Director of the NBR New Zealand Opera. He has a very successful track record, having worked in a variety of roles in the opera world for the past 23 years — 15 years continuously in senior artistic positions. He has achieved extensive experience both as a freelance stage director and a senior arts manager with notable opera companies and arts festivals in the UK and Europe. He is the former

Artistic Director of Opera Zuid in Maastricht, former Principal Associate Director at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Director of Production of Glyndebourne Touring Opera. Currently he is Artistic Director of the Buxton Festival, a position he has held for the last six years. There Aidan has been considered a key figure and pivotal in the building of the Festival's artistic success, audience growth and reputation as the UK's premier arts event in this field.

SEAN LANG (1980) was again quoted in the national press in April. He is Secretary of the Historical Association and was this time voicing its concerns about the errors apparent in the latest edition of the potted history of the UK handed out to immigrants. His Association was so incensed by the sloppy account originally printed that it provided the Home Office with a seven-page list of corrections a year ago. However, the latest edition is still riddled with errors. Sean has also expressed concern about bias creeping in and about the guide's selective approach. His '*British History for Dummies*' has been a great success and has just gone into a second edition, and '*European History for Dummies*' has just been published.

PETER LAWLEY (1967) has recently been in touch and has joined the Association. He now lives in Warwick, where he is currently a freelance educational consultant, OFSTED inspector and Open University associate lecturer. He has taught in schools around the country, ending up as Deputy Head of Sidney Stringer School and Community College in Coventry. His wife is an educational psychologist, his son a sculptor and his daughter a teacher in a sixth form college. He enjoys choral and solo singing, still taking great pleasure in music and the arts, following the inspiration of David Nield and Bruce Pullan at School.

PAUL MARTIN (1980) continues to divide his time between a job in the Civil Service and a very active singing career (where he is known as Paul Charrier). He was interested to read in the March Tiffnews of another OT cathedral singer, **Laurence Notley (1960)**. He knows **John Nixon (1970)** is at Westminster Abbey, and Paul himself is a lay clerk at Guildford Cathedral (where they had the Royal Maundy service this year), but he wonders how many more there are out there. There are certainly plenty of OT professional singers — at the recent memorial service for Merlyn Rees at St Margaret's, Westminster all three basses were Old Tiffinians (**Colin Hawke, Sam Evans and Paul**), as well as the organist (**Richard Pearce**). He also has OT colleagues at the Department for Work and Pensions: **Steve Ellerd-Elliott (1990)** is the man in charge of forecasting Housing Benefit expenditure, among other things — a job of equivalent difficulty to nailing jelly to a wall. Paul has recently changed jobs (still in forecasting) and he now runs the team responsible for monitoring benefit spending against their Budget allocation (getting on for £120 billion this year).

A glutton for punishment, Paul is again this year undertaking a 52-mile sponsored bike ride for the Leukaemia Research Fund in July. The easiest way to sponsor him is to go to <http://www.justgiving.com/paulcharriermartin> and follow the instructions.

DAVID MILES (1965) has been in touch with the School again after many years. He was particularly interested to read the published obituary for former Headmaster John Harper, for whom he had great respect. David served for thirty years in local government education departments (starting with the GLC), before retiring early. He married Patricia Ann (ex-Wimbledon School of Art) in 1969, and they have a daughter, Sarah, who is an English Honours Graduate of London University. His hobby is genealogy, and he has managed to trace some lines in his family tree back as far as the fifteenth century.

JONNY LEE MILLER (1989) was originally planning to support Mencap by taking part in the 150-mile Marathon des Sables in the Sahara in May. It was a blow to the charity, when, despite training for the event, Jonny had to pull out at the last minute owing to work commitments. He was needed for filming in Los Angeles at that time. His forthcoming film is apparently entitled '*Marathon!*'



ADRIAN PAYNE (1971) on leaving School took a year out before reading for a BSc Honours degree at University College, London. He then obtained a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of London in 1978 and joined the Wellcome Research Laboratories in Beckenham, Kent, as a post-doctoral staff scientist. He subsequently held various senior scientific, managerial and project management positions at Wellcome, before leaving in 1990 to become Head of Biology at Italfarmaco in Milan. He returned to Wellcome in 1991

to take up the position of Head of the Cardiovascular and Anti-inflammatory Section. He left Wellcome for the second time in 1995 to become Director of Pharmacology at Jouveinal Research Laboratories in Paris, before leaving to join British American Tobacco in 1997 as Senior Scientific Advisor. At British American Tobacco Adrian subsequently became International Scientific Affairs Manager in 2000 and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility in 2002. Adrian and his London-based team are responsible for the formulation and recommendation of corporate CSR strategy including British American Tobacco's award-winning global social reporting programme. Adrian is married with three children, and his outside interests include DIY, watching football, dining out, modern history and foreign travel. He and his family live in Biggin Hill, Kent. At Tiffins he was a House and School Prefect and Captain of Cross Country Running.

CHRIS RUNDLE (1972) visited the School earlier this year, when he was on a visit to the UK, and was pleased to meet the new Head and see the buildings (new and old). Chris remarried two years ago, and then semi-retired from the law and moved from Florida to Vermont, to start a new life. He is now happily settled in that beautiful part of the world.

NICK SCROXTON (2005) ran for Oxford 4th team in the Varsity Match, and **Chris Morris** reputedly ran for Cambridge in the same series of matches.

TONY TAYLOR (1961), living in Wolumla NSW, Australia, has now retired. He and his wife run a Bed & Breakfast. OTs very welcome!

ALEX THOMAS (2005) has been running extremely well for Kingston and Polytechnic Harriers.

TIM WEEKS (1998), a former Deputy Head Boy, is now running for Belgrave Harriers and is still doing well on the triathlon circuit.



FRANK WHATELY, former Head of Drama at the School, who left Tiffins in 2001 to set up a new BA Honours course in Drama at Kingston University, is waiting on tenterhooks to see whether the planned Master of Fine Arts degree in classical theatre can go ahead as planned this September. Unfortunately it depends on the opening of the Rose Theatre in Kingston. At the moment the funding for all the fitting

out is not available. The plan was for students on the new course to take a diploma at the end of their first year and then to join the theatre's resident company as apprentices. When the course goes ahead, it will admit up to 15 actors, two directors and a designer.

DAVID WOOD (1945) has recently rejoined the Association after a number of years. He is now retired from being Italian Manager for his company and i/c oil inspection movements, then International Marketing Manager, travelling the globe trouble-shooting for the company. More recently he spent ten years on the Mole Valley Local Council. He is now living in retirement in Bookham and keeps in touch with several OTs, including **Stan Reynolds (1945)**, **Rev John Palmer (1946)** & **Rev Vic Read (1945)**.

(See the History pages for David's contribution to our published memories of wartime Tiffins.)



ATHAR YAWAR (1994) went from Tiffins to study Medicine at Balliol College, Oxford, where he was elected to a Newman Exhibition, and finished up as a doctor working for the Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. It was not long after his house jobs that he found himself working with survivors of torture. He found this a raw form of medicine, handling considerable grief and sometimes very pressing

needs, not least the need not to be sent back to face further torture. He says it is also very rewarding and very educational: there are times when he has, metaphorically, sat at the feet of his patients, absorbing their perspectives and their experiences. The torture survivors of Britain, many of them, are asylum seekers: many, although not all, lead lives blighted by penury, prejudice and fear. Some have deportation orders hanging over their heads. Despite this, they tend to be determined and even, through their grief and fear, like sunlight through clouds, cheerful people: they do not wish to be victims.

In July 2005 Athar wrote in the 'New Statesman' a spirited defence of the Routemaster Bus, about to be phased out. He pointed out that the reasons for withdrawing it seem flimsy. Pollution seems a poor argument, as they could be fitted with new engines, and with their lightweight construction might well pollute less than other types. Doors could be fitted, if considered vital on Health & Safety grounds, as more than 200 were delivered that way. Moreover, Routemasters have conductors, enhancing security and providing help to those needing it because of a disability or with luggage. Athar also had an article entitled 'The Doctor as a Human Being' published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Book Column

'**Hardcastle's Airmen**' by *Graham Ison*
(published by *Severn House*)

This is the fourth novel in the Great War detective series featuring Divisional Detective Inspector Ernest Hardcastle of the A or Whitehall Division of the Metropolitan Police.



Graham left Tiffins in 1950, and after five years in the army, embarked on a distinguished 30-year career in the Metropolitan Police, most of which was spent at New Scotland Yard. He had started writing as a hobby while still at school (having been taught English by Alfred Tuddenham), but it was not until 1988, after he had left the police (as a Commander in Special Branch), that his first novel, 'The Cold Light of Dawn', was published. The book attracted good reviews from Ted Willis, Douglas Hurd and others, and he was soon appearing in public discussions alongside the likes of P D James, Colin Dexter and Ruth Rendell. He is paid an annual sum from Public Lending Right, a publicly-funded organisation that pays writers just over 5p for each book borrowed from public libraries in the UK. His last return showed that he was in the top 8% of borrowed authors registered for PLR. He also manages to find

time to give the occasional talk about writing books or about assassination (his police speciality).

His publishers, Severn House, specialise in sales to libraries both here and in the USA. They publish his books simultaneously on both sides of the Atlantic and are planning to produce one every nine months: alternately, one of the Divisional Detective Inspector Hardcastle historical series (at their request to be confined to 1914-18, as the Americans are very interested in the war period) and one of the (contemporary) Detective Chief Inspector Brock series. Graham continues to keep his publishers happy — and also his readers on both sides of the Atlantic. He has now written some 22 novels. For all this he thanks the late Alfred Tuddenham, who enabled him to get a credit in English Language in the School Cert! Graham still gives talks to budding authors on how to write books. A member of the Society of Authors, Graham has a website at www.grahamison.co.uk

Graham's books are obtainable from Murder One, the specialist crime bookshop, at 71-73 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0AA, and from Amazon.

'*Hardcastle's Airmen*' (ISBN 0 7278 6368 1)
is published by *Severn House* at £18.99.

De Mortuis

JOHN FRANK REGINALD SQUIRE 1919 – 2006 John Squire



became the legend of the Strollers and OTA Soccer. I was his friend for over fifty years and, knowing him all that time, it is surprising that I now find difficulty in deciding how best to describe his life — albeit to many of my fellow Old Tiffinians who may have known him better — other than through soccer. The longer you knew John, the more enigmatic he became. He was, nevertheless, a legend to most of us playing in that institution, otherwise known as the Strollers, but founded as the Old Tiffinian Veterans' XI in 1964. He

also played his part in Association affairs, serving on the OTA Council as Soccer Representative and later as Hon Secretary for over ten years. He was elected Chairman of the Association in 1953.

To go back to the beginning, John lived in Kingston and joined the School in 1931 on a free place scholarship and soon adapted himself to all sports offered, representing both Scott House and the School during his educational period. Leaving School in 1936, John joined Barclays Bank, following an accountancy career like his father. In 1935 John played his first game for the OTFC, achieving good ability and eventually captaincy from the half or full back positions. It was not until the 1950s that I had the pleasure of playing alongside John in his latter days in the 1st XI, but more memories were to follow, as he became skipper of the Reserve XI, a team I was to be part of for many years and from where the Vets or Strollers were formed. This was John's idea and it blossomed quickly, principally to avoid the enormous travelling explorations we made all over Greater London. It provided good strong Old Boys type soccer and encouraged the social side of the game, thus bonding together a nucleus of past Tiffin pupils and friends of theirs. This is exemplified by a large number of tours, on which John was an ever-present. His diligence and enthusiasm were eternal, no matter whether we were in Belgium, Holland or Jersey, not to mention regular forays to Bournemouth and Hull. His appearance in 1985, on reaching fifty years in one club, was depicted on BBC TV Grandstand with Bob Wilson. He appeared together with wife, Peggy, his devoted

partner, who never feared for John's safety from injury, but rather revelled in his agility. The show went nationwide, and this author received many calls from other teams anxious to play us, alleging they were both older and better. John's enthusiasm never waned, but time was marching on, and one Saturday, on being dropped against his beloved Old Hamptonians, John pretty much gave up the game, save for his passion for the Reds of Arsenal. The proof of John's popularity was apparent when we played ad hoc teams composed of John's pals from our opposition over the years. Even now the Strollers will be asked: "What happened to that old player of yours at full back?"

During the 1980s John and Peggy decided to move from Hampton to live in Worthing, where John continued to do some accountancy work, but his health was not 100%. Sadly Peggy died in 1995, but John kept in touch with his son, Patrick. He made it up to Walton a couple of years ago to see the current Strollers ("Still going?!", I hear you say), but at 84 travelling was not a joy.

It was a pleasure, if a sad pleasure, to be among some stalwarts of the OTA and the Strollers at John's funeral (more a wake) in mid-February. It was the most secular funeral that most of us had ever attended, and the chosen music included 'Strolling', 'My Way' and 'In the Mood'. John would have been proud to know that Dave Baron, Bill Champion, Mick Eastwood, Graham Evans, John Glasscock, John Hall, Ken Hutchinson, Al Macpherson, John Matthews, 'Dicky' Webb, John Wyatt and myself, Dave Edney, were there for his last appearance, complete with the Club shirts atop the coffin.

D E E

CHRISTOPHER GEORGE DEIGHTON 1911 – 2002

On Thursday 11th May a plaque recording Chris Deighton's generous bequest to provide library furniture in the new Tiffin Learning Resources Centre was unveiled by his niece, Mrs M Seffert. Also present were Mike Taylor (Chairman of Governors), Sean Heslop (Head), John King (Assistant Head) and Lyn Foden (LRC Manager).

Chris was a much respected Life Vice-President of the OTA. (*A full obituary appeared in the 2001/02 magazine.*)



Friends of Tiffin Music



Lower School performing 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'

It seems like only yesterday that I was writing a piece for the last issue of Tiffnews, but here we are again! The Music Department had another fantastic term culminating in the virtuoso playing of Qiming Liu and the Tiffin Youth Orchestra performing Mozart's Clarinet Concerto – four times!! If you weren't able to attend any of these concerts (the first in the Kingston Parish Church, and the other three at the School), then you missed a real treat. I have recently started learning the clarinet (crosswords and sudoku just didn't appeal somehow!), and, while I know I will never be able to play in the way Qiming does, it does give me something to aim for. As ever, the Friends were there behind the bar and the support of all the parents has helped us in our perennial search for funds. Talking of fundraising, we have done jolly well in our quest to raise the money for the complete refitting of the studio next door to the Walden Hall, and the work will take place over the summer. By the time the boys return in September, it should be ready to use

and they will then be able to go in and record themselves on CD, whatever the kind of music they play, in the renamed Friends' Studio. This is all part of our aim to open up the Friends' membership to supporters of all kinds of music, and we are delighted at the positive response this project has produced.

A date for your diary is Saturday July 15th, when Tiffin in the Garden will take place again. Details are still a little sketchy, but the general plan is to have school ensembles (Brass Band, Concert Band etc.) alternating with groups of children from our link schools during the afternoon, and then Jazz in the Garden with the Swing Band during the evening – we can even dance if we want to! The Tiffin Parents' Association will supply a barbecue, and (yes! you've guessed it) the Friends will provide a bar. Tickets will be on sale later in the term, so I do hope that you will be able to join us, as this is always a fantastic event. The following day, at 4pm, the Tiffin Youth Orchestra will perform Saint-Saëns' Organ Concerto in Kingston Parish Church, so do please put that date in your diary too. For full details of all these events, take a look at the school website at www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk or www.tiffinparents.co.uk – the latter is the Parents' Association website. If you don't have access to the internet, then give the School a ring on 020 8546 4638, ext. 133 – that will take you through to the Music Office.

If you would like any information about how to become a Friend of Tiffin Music, then please call me on 020 8395 7146, or email me at miranda.fagandini@which.net Membership includes discounts on school concert tickets and three newsletters a year, as well as an annual Friends' Night. We look forward to welcoming more Old Tiffinians at future events.

MIRANDA FAGANDINI

Tiffinian Lodge

We are now coming to the end of our 94th year as a Masonic Lodge, and we have had an enjoyable and productive year. On 23rd March we had an Open Evening, where friends and relatives of members of the Lodge, and a number of others who were interested in freemasonry, were invited into the temple after our regular meeting, and were treated to an illustrated talk on the regalia which we wear at meetings. Following this, a splendid dinner was enjoyed by all. One guest expressed his interest in becoming a mason in the Lodge, and we look forward to his doing so in the coming masonic year. We intend to have another Open Evening in November, to which all are invited. Details will be in the next issue.

In our April meeting Richard Feltham, who had been initiated into the Lodge last January, was passed to a higher degree in a ceremony conducted by our current master, Geoff Brook, which was enjoyed by all. The Lodge also elected David Jagger as Master of the Lodge for the coming year, and we look forward greatly to his installation ceremony in October, and to a great year to follow. David will be the first Master in our 94-year history to serve as Master of this Lodge for the second time.

We had hoped to reach our centenary without this occurring, but at the present time we are not attracting a sufficient number of new entrants. This is due to the fact that the Lodge is only open to the Tiffinian community, and we do intend to maintain this policy, as it makes the Lodge very special.

Two of our members have been promoted, one receiving a provincial award for the first time, and they will receive their awards at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey's Annual General Meeting held in the Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, on 28th June. They are Mike Giddy, promoted to Provincial Senior Grand Deacon, and Eric Fogg, awarded Provincial Grand Standard Bearer. They are both to be congratulated.

We should love to hear from anyone thinking of becoming a new member of the Lodge, and therefore extend a warm welcome to any Old Tiffinian, any member or ex-member of staff, or any governor or past governor of the School who may be interested in becoming a freemason. Please do not hesitate to call me, the Lodge Secretary, on 020 8979 0107, if you would like any further information.

MICHAEL BECKERMAN

Internet Corner

One of the most impressive sites I have been introduced to recently is www.earth.google.com Unfortunately this is only accessible to those who have a pretty modern PC or MAC set-up AND who are on Broadband. The necessary programme can be downloaded free of charge from the site, and gives access to amazing aerial photos of anywhere in the UK or the USA — as well as other countries, with rather smaller scale views. UK postcodes can be keyed in, to obtain views precise enough, for example, to identify cars parked outside your own house ! The actual views appear to date from about 2-3 years ago, but are presumably updated periodically. The definition is variable across the country, but of very good quality in the London area.

John (Huck) Wright confirms that the above site is impressive. He also recommends www.hubblesite.org which has some amazing sights on it.

If, like me, you have been slow to take up broadband, you may well have noticed with interest the 'Free Broadband for Ever' offer by Carphone Warehouse's TalkTalk. This has recently been reviewed by a leading computer magazine, trying to find catches in the small print, but they found none. I am impressed that with them many foreign calls are free. Their deal may prove of particular interest, therefore, to readers with family members living in Europe or even in North America or Australia/New Zealand. For full details go to www.talktalk.co.uk and enter your postcode and phone number to check current availability.

BRIAN HOLDEN

Oxford & Cambridge Dinner 2006

This year's gathering took place at St John's College, Cambridge. We were extremely grateful to Gareth John (2003) for organising the arrangements so successfully. It was a great pity that Gareth wasn't able to attend himself, as he was required to sing Bach in a concert elsewhere. He missed some very fine wine and food, but then one suspects that he must eat that way at St. John's all the time.



Sean Heslop and Simon Toyne

We were pleased to see twenty-four current students joined by fourteen current staff of the School and five former colleagues. A modest gathering compared to earlier dinners, but no less enjoyable. It was good to see at the dinner our OT John's Fellow, Robin

Glasscock (1954), and also his contemporary David Barker, who was over in the UK from Sidney, Australia, to take up a Visiting Fellowship at Wolfson College for three months.

The Wordsworth Room in St. John's was a superb venue — apparently William Wordsworth lived in this 450 year old room when he was an undergraduate in the 1780s. Indeed, it is even described in his 'Prelude.' No poetry was inspired on this occasion, but there will be plenty of stories to tell in future — no doubt many derived from our sojourn in the Maypole after the formal proceedings!

Next year we shall be holding the Dinner in Oxford at The Queen's College. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible — maybe Gareth could make it this time!!

IAN COOKSEY



Jon Epstein, John King and Mike Gascoigne

Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives :

- a) From Brian Brown (1945) a useful example of the Report Books in use during his time.
- b) From Trevor Heathorn (1976) a number of Speech Day programmes and other items from the 1970s.
- d) From the son of the late John Squire (1936) various OTA Dinner menus, a seating plan of the 1954 Dinner, his Chairman's presentation gavel and various Soccer Club photos.
- c) From Gerald Collett (1949) an archive photo of some of the best Rugby Sevens players produced by the School or the OTA (in the mid-1950s). Their contemporaries will easily recognise the players shown:



Further useful reminiscences of the war period have been received from David Wood (1945):

As a prelude to my starting at Tiffins in the September of 1939, we visited the School to see their drama section put on the play *'Miss Hook of Holland'* which was held in the main assembly hall. Even at that age of ten I was impressed by the size of the School, and also by the booklet which stated the various activities, such as football, rugby, cricket and rowing.

There was at that time a tailor whose office was situated in the Elmfield building, and in the late Summer I went with my mother to get my new uniform, which included long trousers, a first for many boys at that time. I had been informed that I was to belong to the House named Gordon, after the famous General, so, besides my long trousers, I received the school tie and the house tie, together with my blazer and school cap. One could buy a new blazer or a good condition second-hand one, exchanged by parents of pupils who had grown out of their initial blazers, and this helped towards the cost of a new one. My mother and I were told that, as the summer season was ending, the straw hat that was worn instead of the cap would be available next spring.

During the summer holiday period Britain went to war with Germany, so I started school at the beginning of the war and, besides wearing the school uniform, I, like every other boy, had to carry a gas mask. I with about 30 other boys was attached to the Junior School, which was in the building where my school uniform had been purchased, the class room being upstairs, whilst the rooms on the ground floor contained the school kitchen and dining room, where school lunch was taken, whilst on the other side of the building was the school tuck shop selling sweets, cakes and drinks. This, because of the war, was to have a short life.

Our first inkling that we were in a war was the news that the Form Master for the Juniors had been called to the services and that a master who had recently retired, a Mr Smith, had been called back from retirement to teach us.

The only difference to me in this new school was not the choice of lessons but the fact that Wednesday afternoon was given over to sport - and the fact that we attended school on Saturday mornings from 9 to 12 o'clock. The sport period varied between rugby, football and cross-country running, which used to be in Home Park and Bushy Park. The first cross-country run was quite a thrill, as it was the first time I had been in a paper chase, where one followed a trail of paper left by the 'foxes', whilst we the 'hounds' followed. It was also the last time we had a paper chase, as the war demanded that all paper was to be saved to help the war effort.

An innovation I enjoyed was morning assembly for the whole school, where we had prayers, information from the Head Master, Mr Dean, and

this was followed by a short talk by the music master who then played a record of classical music, which started me on a love of music that has lasted to this day.

It was in the Spring of the following year, 1940, when the war got more intense with the invasion of Norway and Denmark, followed by the attack on Holland and Belgium, that it was decided that Saturday morning school was to be abolished. Also, straw hats would not be available any longer for the summer period. It was also at this time that one morning we arrived at School to find an army unit setting up camp on the main playing field with an anti-aircraft gun. Most of us were amazed as the School was surrounded by houses and also by many factories making arms, so the area was a military target.

That summer the full force of the war fell upon England, and my new Autumn Term was now in the main school. It was in the first few weeks of that term that, during an air raid in the early morning, the gunners on our anti-aircraft gun shot down a low-flying raider, to everybody's delight. It was shortly after this that the gun and the army unit moved out, leaving us once again with our sports field.

The School grounds during the summer of 1939 had been dug and air raid shelters had been built underground where we went during the raids. However, not all the shelters were for our use, as the ones on the sport field were also shared by the (mainly girl) workers from the local factories, and they used to have sing-songs and play cards, so those boys 'lucky' enough to be in the same shelter also learnt many card games, especially poker and whist.

Later that Summer I was evacuated to Cornwall, where I attended Newquay County School and later Blackpool Grammar school. My parents had no difficulty in getting me into these schools, as the magic entrance word was 'Tiffin Boys School'.

In late 1942 I returned to Surrey and re-entered Tiffin School, the main change was that nearly all the masters were elderly and had been retired, but had returned because of the war. We did have one or two younger masters: these had been wounded and discharged from the services, so they were welcomed back into the teaching profession.

During the holiday periods we were all expected to 'do our bit' to help the war effort, so many of us went to work on farms or market gardens. In addition to this, we were expected to join one of the cadet organisations, the Navy, Army or Air Force, for which the School had proud record. We were also joined by boys from the Kingston Grammar School. I was in the Air Training Cadets, known as 26F Squadron, and we met after school to learn signalling, radio, aircraft recognition and navigation, as well as the usual marching. We were taught either by some of our masters and masters from the Grammar School who had been on a training course or by instructors. To add to these after-school activities, we also attended week-end and week long camps on major RAF stations, to advance our knowledge, as well as having the chance to fly in various types of aircraft, to prepare for when we were finally called up for the services, so that when we did our military service our training period would be very limited.

In late 1943 and early 1944 German air activity had been increasing, and we were asked to volunteer for fire-watching duties at School, to protect it from incendiary attack etc. You can imagine the comments that were forthcoming (!), but, apart from the comments, many volunteered. Three boys would be on duty each night with a master, and the duty would be once a fortnight, but at weekends it would require three boys every weekend. I and two friends volunteered for the Saturday night shift, and we found that we would be on duty with our Form Master. We were lodged in the Common Room used by the masters during the day, and four bunk beds were installed so that we could sleep when no air raid was on. During any raids we were to patrol the school building, but if no raid was in progress we were allowed to go into town (a few minutes away) to get a drink and a cake at the Black & White milk bar, which was always full of service men of all nationalities and girls. Should the sirens sound, we returned to School within a few minutes. Our duty was from 7pm until 8am the following morning and for this we got the handsome sum of three shillings and sixpence (about 17p in today's money). At this time of the war most of us had been trained in fighting fires from incendiaries from the early days, but still we had further training. We did a good job, as the School is still there. The worst part of our fire-watching period was during the V1s, and later the V2s. These latter had no siren to warn

us, and one night when we were in our camp-beds we were shaken across the room by a V2 which dropped nearby. One thing our service did for us was to get a better appreciation of our form master, a Dr Guttman, who was a refugee from Germany or Austria.

At times the war was brought home to us in the classroom; I well remember when four aircrew visited our English master, who had been their Form Master, and a few days later our master told us that those four airmen had perished, having crashed in the Alps in bad weather while carrying Air Marshall Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory to his new posting in Burma. On another occasion, when we were having a French lesson, our teacher, Mr Sumner, was called from the class room and told his son had been killed at Arnhem.

I have mentioned the attack by the V1 flying bombs. These kept us in the shelters for hours, and it was during the main examination period that we kept on going to the air raid shelters. Life was very trying, but on all sides, pupils and teachers, we all came through the war, not only having managed to learn for the future but also having learned how to live with one another with a smile under great strain, which helped us to develop into better citizens.

Request for Information:

Brian Bunker points out that we are looking for answers to the following queries concerning grey areas in our records.

- The Scout Hut was at the Old School in September 1926 apparently. It was one of a pair in the junior playground and was handed over to the scouts in March 1927. Can anyone say when it arrived on the Fairfield ?
- The magazine of Summer 1928 states that the scouts are converting a 'corner of Elmfield' to a 'highly desirable open-air headquarters'. Can anyone explain what was being converted and where in Elmfield ?
- Was it intended that the scouts would take up residence in Elmfield and not intended that the scout hut should come down from the Old School ? Was all this altered by the fire that took place in November 1929 ?

d) Can anybody state when the Bofors gun arrived on the school field ? A suggestion has been made that it was at the time of Dunkirk (June 1940). Also, when did it leave ? The school magazine says that 'partial use' of the Scout Hut (where the gun crew were billeted) was returned to the scouts in 1942/43, and 'full use' in 1943/44. What does partial use mean ?

e) How long and for what purpose was a yellow biplane, possibly a Tiger Moth, parked on the school field circa 1940 ?

f) The Juniors ceased in July 1941 'due to the effects of the war'. We took that to be that their room in Elmfield was taken over, though several OT's affirm that there was no military presence in Elmfield. However, the 1942/43 school magazine states 'the warden' post still flourishes in Elmfield, which also contains an elaborate signals room for the use of the ATC'. It also states that 'a company of the Home Guard also has its HQ within our domain'. Can anyone tell us exactly where these visitors were located ?

g) When did the 'canvas hut' appear between the toilets and the woodwork shop, and when did it leave ? What was its purpose ?

h) We are told that in Autumn 1939, before the air-raid shelters were built and the boys collected work to take home to do, they went to collect it from a big, old house in the Fairfield area. Can anyone identify the house ?

FUTURE PLANS

We said last time that we hoped to relate the history of the Scout Hut from its construction to its demolition, together with any significant changes in the Scout organisation. Jenny Deeprise (daughter of Keith Southan, and very much involved with the Scouts and the rowing activities at the time) has kindly agreed to consult with her father and provide us with useful information (and even photographs) for a future edition. If the keen Scouters amongst you are also able to supply information, this might help us to produce an in-depth article.

BRIAN HOLDEN

Membership Matters

I must firstly prod those members who are in arrears with their payments. Should you be one of these, you will find a reminder enclosed.

Now to subscriptions, which become due on 1st October annually. The current rates are :

Ordinary Members, wherever resident	£20.00
Pensioners (i.e. 65+ on 1st October)	£15.00
Young Members (i.e. under 25 on 1st October)	£15.00
Those receiving full-time education	£10.00

All of the above less £5, if payment is made before the end of October

Please note that the £10 Student Rate does NOT include a copy of 'The Tiffinian'. If students wish to receive a copy of the School Magazine, they should send an extra £5 towards the cost and postage.

My address is
**40 Bramshaw Rise,
New Malden,
Surrey
KT3 5JU.
(Telephone: 020 8942 9768)**



DENNIS BARNARD

OT Golf Society

With 29 players, we were a few less than usual for our Spring Cup meeting at Surbiton. Apart from one short shower the weather was kind to us, and this was reflected in some useful scores – at least for some people! The best was by Dillwyn Rosser, with 41 points (playing off an 8 handicap), closely followed by Steve Cathcart on 40, with Alec Pringle third with 37. The other prizes went to John Ebenezer (for the front nine) and John Pitchford (coming back). The guest prize was won by Malcolm Custance (an ex-Surbiton captain).

At the AGM Paul Baker was duly elected Captain for 2006, and I am pleased that Geoff Coaker has agreed to be his Vice-Captain.

The winners of our 2005 competitions were announced; the Victor Ludorum Cup was won by Ian Redington, and the Eclectic Competition by Dillwyn Rosser. Last, but by no means least, the Knock-out competition was won by John Edney. Congratulations to all the winners of 2005!

After a month of rain and another doubtful weather forecast for our match against Old Kingstonsians at Tyrrells Wood, it actually turned out to be a fine afternoon. With 18 players against the 12 of Old Kingstonsians, we should (in theory) have won the match easily, but in the end we won by just 284 to 282! However, a win is a win, and I think everyone enjoyed the afternoon. Everyone seemed to find some problems on the course (particularly with the bunkers), and Geoff Howes was our best scorer with 33 points. Alan Bonfield took second place from John Ebenezer on countback. Allan Piggott and Norman Mayes must also have played well, at least some of the time, to take the nine-hole prizes.

Our next match is against Old Surbs at Guildford on **Tuesday 20th June**. This is a good venue – we just hope that the weather is better than we had to suffer last year, and that we can continue our winning run !

Our final meeting of the year will be at Rusper for the afternoon of **Friday 22nd September**, with the option to play in the morning as well for those who still have the stamina.

We are always pleased to be joined by new members or guests. We hope that nobody will be put off, because they think that we are super golfers or a secret society – we are not! I am the Secretary and can be contacted on 01372-274441.

ALAN (GUS) DAUNT

Queen Elizabeth Road News

School Boat Club

This year the Schools' **Head of the River** was split into two events: sculling took place at Henley on 8th March, and sweep rowing took place on the Tideway the day after. Both events were a summation of many hours of training over the winter months and before the Regatta season started in the Summer term.

Under **Ruth Jenkins'** leadership, **Dr Dixon** helped with the J14 year scullers, to take on monsoon-like rains to race in two quads and two octuples, the largest Tiffin J14 entry at this event. The B quad were the fastest in their category, and the A quad of **Alex Thomas, Henry Heath, Jonathan Williams** and **Sam Herridge**, expertly coxed by **David 'Iggy' Rochman**, stormed through opposition to achieve silver medal as the second fastest quad of the day.

Year 12 rowers raced in quads at Henley. The A quad, despite showing real speed in training, did not click on the day and came seventh out of 34 entries. While the C quad finished 26th, Tiffin's B quad of **Kristian Brauten-Smith, Adam Williams, Alexei Chernikov** and **Sam Grayer** followed in 8th position overall and comprehensively beat all other B quads to win their category.

The next day the rowers took to the Boat Race course, but in the opposite direction on the Tideway. The Junior under 15 eight struck a good rate of strokes per minute down the course, to come 22nd out of 33 entries. The Year 11 under 16 coxed four acquitted themselves very well, despite being hampered by illness and sporadic training sessions, to come 7th out of 11 in their category. The Schools' Head, however, belonged to the J16 eight. After winning at Henley Head, beating the likes of Eton and Abingdon School, could they prove this to be not just 'a one-off'? Could they beat St Paul's on their home water? The crew of **Freddie Seimers, Sam Hawkins, Nick Edwards, Komsan Duke, Kelvin Wong, Mathew Stevens, Mark Nixon** and **Day Moran** were all expertly coxed by **Mathew Brice**, who steered them down the course carving up the opposition. Their efforts and mental determination did not go unrewarded, as they equalled King's College Wimbledon's time of 18 minutes 24 seconds to become the fastest J16 eight in the country. This is no mean feat in what is considered the blue ribbon event of rowing. This also means that Tiffin's Junior 16 level 'A' crews have been undefeated and the fastest boats at this National long distance event for three consecutive years. Overall this was the most successful set of School's Head results Tiffin has achieved, demonstrating both breadth and depth within the Club.



J16 Eight, winners at Schools Head

Victory for some crews, however, came a week later, after the Schools' Head at **Kingston Head**. In a race which seemed to mimic the Oxford & Cambridge boat race, the J15 coxed four battled not only through swans but also clashed oars with Hampton's coxed four. In the end, **Rupert Price, James Bott, Ieuan Thomas** and **Rowan Bailey** won the category. The Junior 14 quad eventually received their rewards for flying down the course, after initial timing errors by the organisers which, on amending, meant Tiffin's quad beat King's College School Wimbledon and finished first. Amongst the many other Tiffin crews entered the Senior 4 eight, made of both J16 and senior oarsmen, acquitted themselves very well as a scratch crew against ten other crews including a well-drilled Jesus College, Cambridge, who pipped them to the first position.

Last year we were drenched at Pangbourne during the **Easter training camp**. Following the famous saying 'control the controllables', it was agreed that, despite having the Geography teacher, Miss Jenkins, as part of the Tiffin coaching team, it would be not be possible to alter the weather but would be more feasible to move the camp to the lake in Banyoles, Spain. This is a FISA lake which was used for the 1992 Olympics and more recently for the Junior World Championships 2003 in which the Tiffinian Jonty McNuff rowed for Great Britain. On 17th April four staff and 31 boys, including six

Year 9 oarsmen, flew out and enjoyed a week of training and racing on an idyllic lake, with snow-capped mountains as the back-drop. The boys were perfect ambassadors, so much so that the hotel proprietors said that of all the international, club and school rowing clubs that have stayed at their hotel, Tiffin were the best group of oarsmen they have ever had. By the end of the week every crew and boy had significantly improved and had hands full of blisters as souvenirs!

On the Bank Holiday weekend one week after the camp, Tiffin's senior coxed four raced at **Wallingford Regatta** in the Novice category. Having only changed disciplines from sculling to rowing during the camp, **Sam Grayer, Michael Robinson, Kristian Brauten-Smith** and **Adam Williams** coxed by **Alex Reynolds**, demonstrated their versatility and proceeded through the heat to the final. They capitalised on what they had learnt and went on to win their event over five other crews such as Marlow and Reading. Tiffin's other crews (J14 octuple, J16 eight and J18 quad scull) raced well in higher status categories and boat types but were not able to match the successes of the four. With the biggest rowing event of the year, National School Regatta, only two weeks away, the entire Tiffin Boat Club packed in some racing, with rowers racing at Thames Ditton Regatta on the Saturday or on the Sunday at the Royal Docks for Poplar Regatta. At **Thames Ditton Regatta** Tiffin quads and doubles raced well in choppy and busy waters; the J14 B quad were runners-up in the plate final. At **Poplar Regatta** the senior quad of **Jeff Wilkinson, Andrew Parrish, Olly Offord** and **Michael Harris** lined up in their final against the likes of Sir William Borlaise School. After a confident start Tiffin created a lead of half a length over the competition, which they opened up further to clear water by the finish line. The name Tiffin School will not be stamped onto the Regatta Bowl trophy for the second consecutive year.

The weather forecast did not bode well for **National Schools Regatta 2006**, especially after all racing was eventually cancelled last year. Nevertheless Tiffin ventured up to Nottingham's Holme Pierpoint for the J14 races on the Friday. Tiffin's J14 A quad started well, proceeding through their heat to make the semi final. When it came to racing for the final however they were unable to change gear to remain with the other crews. The B quad however achieved a place in the final after their straight semi. They managed to move up on their opposition, but not fast enough to achieve bronze medal, finishing in fourth place one second behind Kingston Grammar School.

This year National Schools marked a new direction for Tiffin, taking on the big schools in the big boats with an eight entered at J15 and J16 level and a four in School coxed fours category. Due to numbers entered in certain categories a processional time trial was used to determine semi finalists. The School coxed four achieved this with great aplomb. Their campaign continued in the semi, where they came second with a place in the final. With an uncharacteristically slow start, however, it was too much for the four to move up on any of the opposition, finishing 6th. With high expectations, the J16 eight took on the best in their straight semi final and raced according to their form. The size and scale of the opposition however proved too much for Tiffin to better 4th place and to gain a place in the final.

The J15 eight, however, have been the dark horse, ably coached by **Ian Watson**, and have shown the greatest improvement during and since the camp this year, producing some of the best percentage times. They raced accordingly to reach their final. In the final they blasted out of the blocks but were pipped into fourth place by a mid-way burst by Kingston.

Sunday saw the senior quad race through their time trial to the semi-final. A cross-wind meant that Tiffin were placed in the middle and the biggest competition to their left. Despite putting in a good race the competition in Championship Quads had clearly proved to be even higher this year, 12 months on from the previous year when they achieved 6th position in the final. The J16 eight of Saturday broke down into a coxless four and a pair. With only a few practice sessions in these boats prior to the Regatta, the four performed well to reach the semi final. The coxless pair, however, surpassed themselves to reach the final. Could they produce something to win a medal, so that National Schools Regatta 2006 was not without medallists? Indeed,



Silver Medallists Komsan Duke & Freddie Seimers, with Ian Watson (left) & Chris Grimble (right)

in their final **Freddie Seimers** and **Komsan Duke** raced off the start on a mission. Initially Freddie took the aggressive tactic too far, when off the start he was unable to prevent their boat verging and then clashing with the Shrewsbury pair next to them. Fortunately they were unfazed by this and rated over 40 strokes a

minute off the second start. They attacked the rest of the course, rating no lower than about 37 strokes a minute, to achieve silver medal.

The remaining half of the Summer Term includes, Marlow Regatta at Dorney Lake, Henley Royal Regatta, Kingston Regatta and of course the House Regatta. Boat naming will take place at this year's **House Regatta**, along with the usual action-packed racing from the boys, including the Staff versus the Parents, and Old Tiffinians versus present Tiffin oarsmen. Of course everyone is welcome to get involved or to participate with the usual refreshments on offer. I look forward to seeing you there.

CHRIS GRIMBLE

School Athletics

Year 7 — Semi-Finals

The year 7 athletics team travelled to Wimbledon College for the semi-final of the London Schools Indoor Athletics Championships. After winning the first three rounds and the quarter final of the tournament, Tiffin had to finish in the top two of this match to go through to the final at Brunel University. The Year 7 competition is mixed and Tiffin Boys' teamed up with Tiffin Girls' School for the semi-final. This was always going to be a tough competition, as Wimbledon College won the semi-final and the final last year. Danoush Mohajeri and Mithun Sathanathan gave Tiffin their first boost of confidence in the sprints by running at their best, to put Tiffin into 4th place going into the field events. A personal best of 55 jumps in 20 seconds in the Speed Bounce by Thomas Latimer and a solid 8m launch of the Shot Putt by Richard Clarke helped propel Tiffin into 1st place going into the final three relays. Fluent running from Adam Salisbury, Edmund Figueiredo and reserve Sanford Brown were not enough against the experienced Wimbledon College on this occasion, as Wimbledon won the last two relays and the match by 10 points. The final score was Wimbledon College 104 and Tiffin School 94. On only their first attempt Tiffin had qualified for the London Schools Indoor Athletics Final to be held in two weeks time.

Year 7 — Final

The Final was held at Brunel University in Uxbridge and featured school teams from Wimbledon College/Ursuline, St Gregory's, Barking Abbey, Bishops Stopford, St Anne's/Enfield Grammar. Over 200 spectators filled the sports hall for this eagerly anticipated final. Danoush Mohajeri and Mithun Sathanathan held their own in the sprints, as did other team members, but Tiffin were only able to achieve 5th place going into the field events. With only 11 points separating all six teams, Adam Salisbury and captain Thomas Latimer didn't disappoint in the jumps and throws, as the whole team worked hard to close the gap on the leaders, Wimbledon College/Ursuline, going into the final three races. Edmund Figueiredo and Sanford Brown demonstrated class running and smooth baton changes, combined with excellent pace judgment by Richard Clarke, to help Tiffin finish in fifth place just 10 points away from the medals. Wimbledon College/Ursuline went on to win the competition for the second year running with a score of 58.5 points. All boys who took part in the final and the earlier rounds (30 pupils in total) have achieved a great deal and their commitment in training and competition has put Tiffin School in a good position for next season, as the boys are now more prepared and will be more experienced next year. All boys received T-shirts and certificates for finishing 5th out of 97 schools from London and Greater London.

Year 8/9 — Final

With only one team going through from the semi-final, the Year 8/9 team had knocked out Wimbledon College to reach the final of the Indoor Athletics Championships at Brunel University. This competition was held only one day after the Year 7 team had achieved 5th place in the final. The first few races were all very close, and Tiffin School didn't disappoint, with exceptional performances from Joe Cooper and Rhys Perry for the Year 8 team, and Gurvir Grewal and Richard Smeaton for the Year 9 team. Year 8 captain Adedeji Oyefeso also ran a superb race, which kept Tiffin only two points behind leaders St Aloysius. Erik Tate cleared 2.20m in the standing long jump

while Joe Latimer threw consistently in the Javelin. Fine throwing by Jeremy Griffith also helped Tiffin stay within contention of the top position. Going into the final three relays, Tiffin had to run their best relays ever to achieve a place on the podium. Year 9 captain Jay Yasin showed strength and talent in the relay, as did Henry Latham, to gain Tiffin's first win at a crucial stage of the competition. Matt Cragg and Nicholas Matthews also gave 100%, to achieve second place behind Barking Abbey. The score line was close between all four schools, and Tiffin had fought back to achieve third place, just missing the silver medal by three points. First place went to Enfield Grammar School, who achieved 35.5 points to Tiffin's 28.5 points. A great accomplishment for all boys who competed in the final and all reserves that helped the boys reach the final over the last five months. Reserves included Jae-Wong Jang, Thomas Smith, and Calum Peebles, and for one match all six members of the Year 7 team who stood in for the Year 8's while they were away at a rugby fixture. All boys and reserves received T shirts, certificates and medals.

WAYNE MARTIN

School Rugby

Following the successful fifteen-a-side season, Tiffin entered various sevens tournaments optimistically. With plenty of pace throughout the side, Tiffin always stood a chance of claiming victory. The team played well at Windsor, winning the group; however, the eventual winners Warwick proved too strong a challenge. This good form continued at Hampton Sevens, where the side overcame the likes of Champion School to reach the Plate Final. A gutsy performance by the side saw a comprehensive victory over St. Benedicts, with Simon Keirle and Cris Chin both showing their creative skills.

The team showed glimpses of their potential in the Middlesex and Surrey tournaments; however, injuries and lapses in concentration proved costly. At the National Sevens, with a full strength side, Tiffin played particularly well. Victories in the first three group games pitted Tiffin against Daily Mail Cup finalists Durham. In an absorbing and exciting affair, Durham triumphed 24-22, despite tries through the individual brilliance of James Secker and an outrageous dummy by forward Stephen Hollinshead. Unfortunately, this defeat ended the rugby season for the School. However, the boys have worked well together and every member of the senior squad can be proud of his achievements over the season.

JONNY ROWLING

School Basketball (Year 7)

With the highly successful under 16s failing to qualify for the play-offs on goal difference, it was down to the Year 7 team to secure a place in the finals of the Surrey Cup. Playing in various tournaments around Surrey since September, the Year 7 team achieved a place in the semi-finals against Carshalton Boy' School. Tiffin had only played Carshalton once this season in a great match that ended in a draw. With all boys putting in extra training at lunch and before school, it was going to be another exciting match. Tiffin went into an early lead through Captain Kamran Toor. Structured defensive pressure was also applied through Thomas Latimer and Gana Nwana. Carshalton's very tall side steadily made their way back into the game and were able to enjoy a two point lead at half time. Carshalton's height advantage and slick passing continued to put dents into Tiffin's defence through powerful rebounding and great offensive screening. Tiffin's Callam Atwal drove to the basket on many occasions to score and leave Carshalton in a daze; however, this was not enough for Tiffin to progress into the final against Richard Challoner School. Final score Carshalton 16 – Tiffin 10.

Tiffin was now playing for a bronze medal position against the hosts, Archbishop Lanfranc. At half time the home team had a six point advantage and seemed to have the bronze medal position in their sights. A time-out from Tiffin sparked a 110% effort and support from all players. Giles Smith's skill on the court and Kamran Toor's sheer presence helped Tiffin edge their way back, to tie the game with only two minutes remaining. Kamran continued to dominate proceedings, along with team mate James Richardson by scoring another four points and three rebounds to help Tiffin win the bronze medal position with a six point lead. Final score Tiffin 20 – Archbishop Lanfranc 14.

Great contributions to basketball have been made by so many pupils at the School through coaching, refereeing, scoring and leadership. This is a great time for basketball at Tiffin, with so many role models within basketball for the younger year groups and for future year groups to come.

WAYNE MARTIN

School Cricket

Half term has arrived, and it is as if the cricket season has barely started. At the worst end of the scale, the Under 14 team has played just one completed match, the others being cancelled or terminally affected by rain. The Under 12 side seems to have escaped the worst of the weather and has managed to complete all of their scheduled matches with encouraging success. At the top end of the School, the large number of senior cricketers has allowed us to put out a 4th. XI on two occasions and has led to considerable strength in the 2nd and 3rd XIs. The strength has not yet been reflected in the 1st XI, which, despite two impressive wins over Trinity and Emanuel, has not yet reflected the talent that is evidently present. A combination of poor wickets, wet, difficult wickets and lost tosses have put all the batsmen on the back foot, and for once runs have been incredibly hard to come by. The bowlers though have profited, Muhunthan Harinath and Pawan Patel providing the most impressive statistics to date.

The Staff, fresh from a pre-season training camp at Woodbury Salterton, are undefeated but are looking forward to their first match after half term. The Tercels also remain undefeated with their sole match v Old Tiffinians rained off in late May. The remaining Tercels fixtures include The Stage in July and four fixtures in August against Worcester Park, Sunbury and Incogniti. Do



Tits 30th Anniversary Celebrations at Woodbury Salterton.

speak to me if you would like to play in any of these games. The Tits depart for the annual Devon Tour (the 30th) on Saturday 22nd July. Tourists are advised to make early reservations for this momentous anniversary.

The M.C.C. match takes place on June 29th, the 6-a-side competition on July 16th, and the annual match for the Seaborn Trophy v St. George's College on June 17th. You will be most welcome to come and watch or play.

MARTIN WILLIAMS

School Golf

Tiffin entered three teams in this year's British Heart Foundation Golf Championship at Coombe Wood Golf Club in April. It was an enjoyable, if not successful, day, in which our top placed team finished in fifth place. A lack of experience was evident, with many of the players being new to school golf, but the prospects for the future are good, as the teams included one boy from Year 7, three from Year 8 and one from Year 9. Well done to all those involved, particularly as over £400 was raised for the charity.

STEVE CATHCART

School Badminton

The badminton season has been dawdling on since early September, but such has been the back-log of fixtures that two of the school sides that reached the play-off stages have had to withdraw due to the pressure of the cricket and exam season. Congratulations must nonetheless go to the U14 team who reached the semi-finals and to the 1st.VI who beat Charterhouse in the semi-final and who should have met astounding Wilson's team in the Final.

MARTIN WILLIAMS

School Music

A quick run-down of Music Department events in the Spring Term alone (Instrumental and School Concerts, the Boys' Choir performing the Berlioz *'Te Deum'* in Westminster and Guildford Cathedrals, and then launching London Fashion Week with 4-part close harmony, the opening concert of Kingston Festival of the Voice, *'Nabucco'* at Richmond Theatre, Brass, Woodwind and Strings Competitions, Swing Band gigs, the second concert of the Tiffin Youth Orchestra, to name just a few...) shows a department running at full strength. We are indeed fortunate to have 4 full-time and 24 peripatetic staff, but none of this would be possible without the whole-hearted commitment of the boys and their parents, and a remarkable partnership is being formed between boys, parents and staff, all sharing a fervent belief that involvement in music-making of the highest quality has the capacity to transform lives.

Gig nights, with 15 high-quality acts fitting into 3 hours (just), seem to have lodged themselves straightaway as part of the Tiffin tradition, and the way in which they have acted as a catalyst for group music-making cannot be overestimated – and recent purchases of more school amps and guitars have meant that there is no excuse for any boy not playing an instrument in a class music lesson! Indeed, the primary focus for the department's work, and one in

which I want us to lead through a Specialist Schools Trust case study next year, is that students should work as musicians in every music lesson. This may sound obvious, but with the majority of music-making in the 'real world' taking place in groups (and demanding high levels of musical and emotional literacy) and with musicians learning from each other, the world of music education needs to reflect this and prepare students for it. Similarly, the artificial barriers constructed around different genres cause real damage to the whole principle of making music: while we all have our preferences (and music is highly personal to everyone, even defining our character), pushing 'classical' music onto a pedestal as High Art, or equating rock music exclusively with youth and trend does nothing to further the cause of either. Some recent Year 9 composition commissions entitled *'Mozart 250'* saw the way forward – with every student motivated, genuinely making connections between Mozart's music and the present day (a hip-hop number using the 1st subject of Mozart 40 as a riff sticks in the mind), and disappointed that after 50 minutes they have to pack up and go elsewhere! We have a third of Year 10 next year taking Music at GCSE – and we've set the bold target of 40% for the following year: we already have one of the highest take-ups of the subject in the country.

Equally important is our role in the community. We commissioned a new work from Old Tiffinian Antony Pitts (1986), *'A Still, Small Voice'*, for the Boys' Choir, Children's Chorus, Parish Church Choir and five primary schools back in February, and invited OT Ralph Allwood (1968) to conduct. The sight of a queue stretching from the south door of the church to the Market Place, to hear the first performance of a new work, will always remain in the memory – and the many letters and emails we received afterwards revealed the profound impact that the occasion had. In a similar vein, 50 students from Tiffin, Latchmere and Fern Hill dancing to a live performance of Haydn 26 with the London Mozart Players at the end of April, again to a packed church (and featuring a piece of Schnittke craftily hidden in a programme of Haydn and Mozart), showed that there is no need for artistic compromise with outreach work – in fact, outreach work of quality ought to bring Art to a far higher level; and the performances of *'Rejoice in the Lamb'*, with the live singing of the Boys' Choir supporting dancers from Tiffin and the Royal Ballet School, will remain etched on the consciousness of everyone who encountered them. I would be surprised if any of us are ever able to equal that achievement again (although there has been interest in repeating the work at the Royal Opera House and at Aldeburgh).

The recent House Singing Competition was adjudicated by Stephen Cleobury (Director of Music, King's College Cambridge) and, as ever, produced some superb performances in all categories. Tenor Alex Spinney, winner of the ATB solos, is a name to watch. Similarly, a consummate all-round showing from Thom Andrewes as soloist, director, actor and conductor produced a resounding and well-deserved victory for C/G House.

Later this term, the choir will be giving two *a capella* concerts at the Spoleto Festival (with the only other school ever to have been invited to perform there being Eton, under Ralph Allwood), and will be appearing with the Bolshoi Opera in *'Boris Godunov'* at the Royal Opera House at the end of July. Looking further ahead, the Children's Chorus will be in *'La Bohème'* in October and the Boys' Choir in *'Carmen'* in December and January – again, both at Covent Garden. And, for those CD collectors among you, do get hold of the new CD of Britten's *'War Requiem'* on LPO Live, with the Boys' Choir conducted by Kurt Masur.

The end of term festivities include **Tiffin-in-the-Garden on Saturday 16 July**, in the Head's Garden from 4.30 pm. From 7.30 onwards, the Swing Band will be playing into the night, with dancing expected! The following afternoon, Sunday 17 July at 4.00 pm in Kingston Parish Church, the **Tiffin Youth Orchestra** will perform Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony – do come along.

The success of the Tiffin Youth Orchestra has engendered a renaming, to appeal to those in other schools, and so, from September it will be known as the **Thames Youth Orchestra**. Anyone Grade 7 or above who is interested in playing the symphonic repertoire should come to Tiffin on a Monday afternoon for 4.15 – 6.30 pm, and can try out a rehearsal. Do please spread the word! The formal launch concert will be on Tuesday 19 September at 7.30 pm in Cadogan Hall, London. This is a prestigious venue, and it would be great to see many Old Tiffinians supporting a worthy cause.

Finally, rehearsals for the Oratorio start on Tuesday 12 September at 8 pm in the School Hall. The works being performed are Bernstein *'Chichester Psalms'* and Britten *'St Nicolas'*, accompanied by the London Mozart Players. The concert date is Saturday 18 November.

SIMON TOYNE