



Newsletter of the Old Tiffinians' Association No. 234 December 2007

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From the Head's Study

Dear Friends,

The School was recently inspected by OfSTED and pronounced to be providing 'an outstanding quality of education'. Exceptionally, the School was graded as 'outstanding' in every area of the report: overall effectiveness; achievement and standards; personal development & well-being; teaching and learning; curriculum and other activities; care, guidance & support; and, leadership & management. As well as being pleased with the outcome, I am delighted that the inspection team really understood what we are doing at Tiffin and appreciated the huge efforts of students, staff, parents and our wider community in making this such an exceptional place. This is the report's overall summary:



"Tiffin School is an exceptional performing arts college that provides its students with an outstanding quality of education. The overwhelming majority of parents strongly support the School's drive for excellence. Parents are very pleased with the current communication opportunities afforded them through the 'Head's question time'. They consider that the students receive 'a fantastic well-rounded education'.

"A lynchpin of the School's sustained success is its vision to be 'a leading creative community' with 'an enduring love of learning'. Students of all ages show very high motivation to achieve as well as possible. As a result, standards are high and academic progress exceptional from Year 7 to Year 11. Over 90% of Year 11 regularly move into the sixth form, where they also make excellent progress, with over 80% of students regularly gaining the highest available A2 examination grades. The School's emphasis on a caring, inclusive ethos results in all groups of students achieving equally well.

"Students' personal development is outstanding as a result of the exceptional range of 'wider opportunities' on offer, not least through the School's performing arts specialism. The carefully considered recent changes to the excellent curriculum ensure scope within and beyond the school day for students to participate in numerous sports, musical activities, dance, drama, travel and overseas work experience. Students thoroughly enjoy the extended lunchtime, for example, because of the very numerous and worthwhile clubs. A current favourite is the magicians' circle. Because students 'are enthused by school', they attend very regularly, behave maturely, and take individual and collective responsibility for a range of school events. The School Council is rightly proud of its success, for example, in promoting a harmonious school community through the 'eastern

extravaganza' evening. Students give generously of their time in charity fund-raising and in participating in productions, including some in the Royal Opera House. The impressive range of healthy foods in the School's catering facilities is much appreciated by students of all ages and take-up of school meals is high.

"Tiffins supports and guides its students particularly well, ensures they are safe, and prepares them very successfully for the next stage of education or training. Vulnerable students are especially well-nurtured, as are the few who decide not to participate in higher education. Nine out of ten students achieve their first choice of university, while others get a really good start in employment. Careful checks on students' progress in learning underpin the strong pastoral care and very good relationships throughout the School. Nevertheless, the School recognises that some students would benefit from more regular and worthwhile feedback on their independent study tasks, because this is not always regular enough or sufficiently detailed.

"The excellent vision and commitment of the Headteacher, well supported by the senior leadership team and the majority of middle managers, has been at the heart of the School's further development since the last inspection. Supportive but robust governance has also contributed well to the School's progress and clear sense of direction for the future. Honest self-evaluation supports the significant rise in the proportion of the highest GCSE and Advanced Level grades, as do exceptional classroom experiences. The School has used its performing arts specialist status well to sustain standards and to enhance links with local schools and the surrounding communities. The School has very strong capacity to improve further because of its 'can do' approach, its strong emphasis on the professional development of staff, and its determination that 'each student be given the widest opportunities to succeed.'"

The full report can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Sean Heslop

All Old Tiffinians and Friends

are invited to the **School Carol Service**
in Kingston Parish Church, at 7.30 pm

on Wednesday, 19th December,

and afterwards at a

Reunion Gathering

in the Walden Hall from around 9.00 pm

LICENSED BAR - PARKING AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 6th December

- OTA Social Lunch

12th - 15th December

- School Drama (matinee on 15th)

Monday 17th December

- End of Term Concert (Parish Church 7.30pm)
Tiffin Choir & Orchestra

Wednesday 19th December

- Carol Service 7.30pm Parish Church, followed by the usual Reunion at the school (Walden Hall) from 9.00pm
Parking available all evening at the school

Friday 21st December

- End of Term

Saturday 22nd December

- TYO Christmas Concert (Parish Church 7.30pm)

Wednesday 2nd January

- OT Golf at West Byfleet

Saturday 12th January

- TYO Concert (Parish Church 7.30pm)

Thursday 24th January

- Tiffinian Lodge meeting

28th January - 11th February

- Tiffin Choir performances at Royal Opera House

Monday 11th February

- Copy deadline for March 'Tiffnews'

Thursday 14th February

- Tiffin Gig Night (Main Hall)

18th - 22nd February

- School Half Term Week

12th - 13th March

- House Drama Competition

Thursday 27th March

- Tiffinian Lodge meeting

Saturday 29th March

- Tiffin Choir & London Mozart Players (Landmark Arts Centre, Teddington 8.00pm)

1st - 3rd April

- School Concert (School Hall 7.00pm)

Friday 4th April

- OT Golf at Surbiton (AGM)
- School Term ends

Thursday 10th April

- OTA Social Lunch

Monday 21st April

- Summer Term begins

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

Chairman

Dear Old Tiffinian,

Once again our Annual Dinner was held at Malden Golf Club, and we are grateful to John Wright and his team for the considerable input into making the evening such a success.

The god of diary-clashes ordained that our AGM should be held on the evening that England were playing soccer at Wembley. Zeus had his way too for the early evening was marked by heavy rain causing localised flooding. Attendance at the AGM was low as a result, but those who stayed at home to watch Croatia prevail probably had less fun than we did in the Dean Pavilion. In the circumstances, I am specially grateful to all who attended. The usual suspects were re-elected as Officers of the Association, including, I am pleased to say, Stuart Lester who has agreed to stay in his role as Secretary at this vital time, until handing over after the reorganisation that will be voted on by members in 2008.

The working group has made considerable progress and, as I write, a formal application to the Charity Commissioners is to be made. This will allow Tiffinian Association Limited (TAL) to be registered both as a company limited by guarantee and as a charity. I hope that a complete package will be presented to members in the March edition of 'Tiffnews' (to save on mailing costs) and then laid before an Extraordinary General Meeting for a vote.

The rules of the OTA make no provision for proxy voting at meetings. In the light of the major changes that will be put to members, it is unfortunate that only members attending meetings have a vote. My policy is to be open with members about what is being proposed, and I am grateful to those of you who have been in touch already with comments and encouragement. The constitution of TAL will break with the past by making provision for proxy voting.

Another prospective change, and one that will be a good deal more visible if it happens, is the proposal, which is now in the public domain, to put an athletics track on our land at Grist. Details as far as they exist at present are given opposite. The possibility of a new access to our land from the Hampton Court Way is of a significance that is impossible to overstate. I find it hard to give any useful idea of probability or to predict a timescale. The nautical analogy would be that a large, interesting and friendly vessel has appeared over the horizon. Although it is steering in our direction, its zigzag course makes the closing speed uncertain. But our convoy – the OTA and the School – has its measure and will attempt to get within hailing distance; and then put out the grappling nets. Consultation with playing sections and members will take place, when options become clearer. As I said at the AGM, it is likely that two winter pitches would have to be given up, but one would be regained in the middle of the running track. This would be an impressive venue for 1st XI matches and be an important component for a new Tiffin Sports Centre. The important issue is how to create a sustainable new facility, but athletics will be one component of the intensification of sporting use of our land.

The successes achieved by the School continue, and the Head and all the staff are to be congratulated on the recent stellar Ofsted report. Consider this extract from the report of the lead inspector's letter to Tiffin pupils:

"You tell us that the School is 'fantastic' and we agree with you. Tiffins is an outstanding school. We are very pleased that you enjoy it so much, attend very regularly, and make the most of the wide opportunities available to you. You are very appreciative, not only of the exciting teaching, but are also really keen on sport, music, drama and dance and the wide range of clubs. 'Something for everybody', you told us. That, we think, sums up Tiffins well!"

Read the report yourself on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. The reference number is 102605.

It makes you want to be back at school.

Yours in fellowship,

HOWARD MALLINSON



ATHLETICS AT GRISTS: An Update

The possibility of an athletics track being developed at Grists arises because of the ambition of Walton & Hersham Football Club to develop their site at Stompond Lane. On that site is located a running track used by Walton Athletic Club. If the redevelopment plans of W&HFC are to be achieved, the athletics track will have to be relocated. Representatives of WAC have visited Grists and, in principle and subject to security of tenure, they are content to explore the possibility of W&HFC procuring their relocation to our site. From the beginning the School has been brought into the discussions, which at first needed to be very confidential, and I as OTA Chairman have also been included. The School, naturally enough, is encouraged by the prospect of there being an all-weather athletics track to add to the existing facilities at Grists.

The freehold of the Stompond Lane site is owned by Elmbridge Borough Council, and for this reason alone it is acutely involved in the W&HFC project, but it has a more than passing interest in the relocation of WAC somewhere in the Borough. In July I signed on behalf of the OTA a Memorandum of Understanding, which although not a legal document, bound the principals to a set of mutual aims in working up further the project. The other principals are the School, W&HFC and WAC. The so-called associate partners in the memorandum include Elmbridge, UK Athletics, Surrey County Cricket Club and the Football Association. The participation of Elmbridge is key for many reasons. Planning is an obvious one, but our own desire to make Grists available for more intensive sporting use by the wider community sits well with the Local Authority's goals. Members should note that women and girls are part of the wider community.

Reflecting Elmbridge's key role, the Borough issued a press notice in September announcing the outline of the scheme. Commenting on the proposals, the Council's Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Cllr Barry Cheyne said: 'If these negotiations prove successful the residents of the Borough can look forward to an excellent new athletics venue in time for the London Olympics and a new stadium for Walton & Hersham Football Club'.

Members should beware of imagining that it is the Olympic Games that are driving this project: they are not. If it were to help Elmbridge to host a nation at the Games then that will be a bonus. Nonetheless, Elmbridge's manifest support in principle is both welcome and in the final analysis may prove vital.

When I gave my presentation to members on 26 March about the future of Grists, I lamented the difficulties which presented themselves in any redevelopment of our land. Not the least of these was the notoriously difficult access to our site. At that time the view of the Highway Authority, Surrey County Council, was that a new access from the Hampton Court Way would not be welcomed. In the context of the athletics initiative this threw the spotlight on the School's access because its use would avoid sending incremental traffic further up Summer Road and into Summer Avenue. However, the School's Summer Road access, while adequate for present purposes, would require significant reconfiguration in order to be at all satisfactory for more intensive use. Moreover, if it were to be used for the athletics and OTA traffic, then, although this would relieve Summer Avenue, it would add to the load carried by the difficult junction of Summer Road and the Hampton Court Way: not an ideal solution by a long way.

Something seems to have changed. Following a recent meeting with senior officers of Elmbridge and the project principals in which the highways dilemmas and cleft sticks were discussed they volunteered to put the case for us to Surrey, with which authority they are in frequent and routine collaboration, for a new access road. Happily, Surrey is reported as being willing to consider a scheme for an athletics-based redevelopment of Grists based on a new HCW access. Now this is not success, but it is at least the beginning of what may become success: it is the opening up of a new horizon for a better and more sustainable redevelopment of Grists – one which will be appealing to our residential

neighbours because of the obvious reduction of traffic in Summer Road and Summer Avenue. The opportunity now presented for a design that meets all the principals' needs is being grasped. For our part, the OTA will be concerned to see how its playing facilities are affected and how the Dean Pavilion is to be replaced or fits into the scheme. We have to consider the Montessori Nursery needs and Hampton Court Flower Show parking income.

I must warn members that there is a long way to go. The design has to be created for both hard and soft areas and the OTA at large satisfied with it, as well as the playing sections. Planning permission is required not just for our site based on a final design but also for Stompond Lane. Then there is the perennial issue of money and where it is coming from and how much is coming our way. Members should be aware that there is no question of the freehold of any part of Grists being sold, but security of tenure must be offered to WAC, probably through a ground lease.

HOWARD MALLINSON
Chairman
November 2007

Editor

All readers will wish to congratulate the Head and the current teaching staff on the truly excellent OfSTED report, detailed on the front page. Many OTs visiting the School are amazed at the enormous changes in the fabric of the buildings. They will be reassured to know also that their School is in safe hands and well able to measure up to the demanding educational requirements of the age we live in.

As usual, John Wright and his team did not let us down with their efficient Annual Dinner organisation, and David Tyrrell's team provided a memorable meal for a modest outlay. Personally, I felt some disappointment at the obvious absence of so many prominent members, who could, I think, be expected to support this major event of the OTA year. I was able to jot down without difficulty around 20 names of former Chairmen and other OT stalwarts, whose presence would have enhanced the occasion. Perhaps next year . . .

A while ago Ted Key reported that on a visit to Chatham Dockyard he discovered the Tiffin motto carved on the restored RN ship HMS Valiant. **Faire Sans Dire** is also to be found, I discovered, in the Mottoes Room at Newby Hall in North Yorkshire. (Ted, by the way, is very unwell at present and can be assured of our best wishes.)

I should like to thank Dan Godfrey who goes to a lot of trouble to keep us supplied with photos. In this issue we have to thank him for photos taken at the Social Lunch, the Annual Dinner and the Rugby Lunch on 10th November.

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all readers.

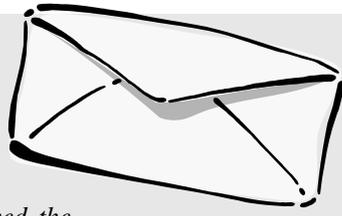
BRIAN HOLDEN

Internet Corner

The School Website www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk has recently been upgraded. However, it has been brought to my attention that those who try to access the OTA link from this using a system other than Microsoft Internet Explorer (eg. Mozilla Firefox browser) will probably experience difficulties. In the long term we are hoping an OT with website construction expertise may volunteer to revamp this link, using whatever codes are necessary to facilitate access for all. Please let me know if you can help.

BRIAN HOLDEN

Letters



Dear Brian,
I am pleased to note from the September edition of 'Tiffnews' that you have preserved the loudspeaker frets that were such a feature of the School Hall. Unfortunately I cannot help with the origin of these, but I am sure they were within the abilities of Mr Lambert, the woodwork master at that time.

I was always very interested in wireless (electronics, as it became), and in fact it became my subsequent career. Every morning George Spriggs would play a record, hence my love of classical music. The equipment was housed in a wooden box, probably oak, about 4'6" long and 18" wide and 12" high. This was placed on a trestle table on the right hand side of the stage. It contained two turntables with Rothermel crystal pickups. These used fibre needles and there was a needle sharpener in the box. These needles would just about play one side of a 12" 78RPM record. The amplifier was a three or four valve unit housed at the left-hand end of the box with a separate lid, possibly for cooling. It used a PX25 triode valve in class 'A' and was very hi-fi for the time. This fed the 10" or 12" loudspeakers at the sides of the stage — not exactly stereo, but very good quality.

I hope this information will be of interest to your more technically minded readers — and I wonder what happened to the equipment.

Best wishes

Laurie Mayhead (1943)



Dear Brian,
I thought you would like to know that the old firm which created 'The Ragged Child' in 1986 for Tiffin School (and then the NYMT on the International Festival in Edinburgh, Sadler's Wells, BBC2, Glyndebourne, New York etc. etc.) are coming back to create a new production of it in Kingston for the opening season at the Rose Theatre. This Kingston University production will play the new theatre from Wednesday 9th April till Sunday 13th April 2008.

Yours,

Frank Whately

(Frank was Head of Drama at Tiffins for 28 years before leaving in 2001 to be head of the new Drama Department at Kingston University and to create there a new BA Honours Degree course in Drama. His official title these days is Head of the School of Performance & Screen Studies. 'The Ragged Child' was written by Frank & Jeremy James Taylor, and the music by David Nield. This production is directed by Frank, together with Jo Billington and Jeremy James Taylor. The musical direction is by David Nield — Associate Director: John Pearson.)

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Old Tiffinians' Association was held on Wednesday 21st November. The meeting was brisk, since most of the wider issues under consideration had been well publicised and discussed, and there was an important football match to watch! Sadly the England team did not conduct the business of the day as effectively and efficiently as the OTA.

Dennis Barnard reported that membership had again increased owing to the efforts of OTA members and the School. Mark Darby reviewed the accounts for the year, highlighting the rise in subscriptions, as predicted last year, and the importance of the contributions from the 100 and 200 Clubs. Both of these were popular and successful, for which thanks were expressed to Greer Kirkwood and Brian Holden, and members were encouraged to join. A modest overall cash surplus had been generated.

The following were elected as officers of the Association :

President	Mr. Sean Heslop
Chairman	Howard Mallinson
Vice Chairman	Ravi Kamineni
Hon. Secretary	Stuart Lester
Hon. Treasurer	Mark Darby
Hon. Membership Sec.	Dennis Barnard
Non-Playing Members	Brian Holden & John Wright
Hon. Auditor	Brian Holden

Stuart Lester had announced his planned retirement as Secretary last year, but had since agreed to stay on in order to see through the organisational changes. Jack (Dicky) Webb retired as Auditor after some 20 years service, and the huge appreciation for his efforts was recorded. Brian Holden agreed to continue as sole Auditor.

The report of the Ground Company is published elsewhere in this newsletter, so I will not duplicate the content. Peter Osborne presented the accounts and commented that challenges on income had been presented by the Squash Club finally closing completely, and the Cricket Section being unable to meet its commitments. It was noted that cricket fortunes had increased significantly this year, and the teams had been very successful. The house rental income had been good, the nursery had made a significant contribution, and the flower show parking continued to be a significant factor. Thanks were recorded to Peter Smith and all those who contributed to the appeal, which had enabled pavilion improvements to be made, and to Dennis Mardon for his nursery and Flower Show work.

David Baron advised that the Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund remained healthy and investments had produced a good income, although the current economic climate would probably reduce that for the coming year. The Fund supports cases of financial hardship and the giving of prizes at the School.

There were updates and discussion relating to the planned reorganisation of the OTA and Ground Company, including progress with the charitable status application. The prospect of an athletics development was also reviewed. Finally, the excellent work of Brian Holden in editing Tiffnews was commended, as were the efforts of Huck Wright and the rest of the team in organising the Dinner.

STUART LESTER
Hon. Secretary

Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2006 were presented to the recent Association AGM. Income for the year was £3,107. Investments by the fund are approved by the Charity Commissioners, and at the end of 2006 the total value of the fund was £93,138.

Established in 1921, the Fund is a Registered Charity and is authorised to support any legitimate Tiffinian cause approved by the Trustees. The Fund is an important contributor each year to the School's 'Speech Day' prizes.

DAVID BARON

Rugby Club VP & Former Players' Lunch

10th November 2007



OT Golf Society

Our June meeting with Old Surbitonians was played at the Drift Golf Club – a new venue for OTGS. The weather was kind and everyone seemed to enjoy the course and all that went with it. The result of the match is no big deal – that is to say, in spite of having the advantage of greater numbers, we somehow managed to come second! Nevertheless, we still had our stars. Our best was Geoff Howes with 36 points, closely followed by Paul Baker (second on countback) and Chris Towlson, who both scored 35. Other prizes were taken by Mike Goodbun on the front nine holes and Nigel Angus on the back nine.

The highlight of our year came in July when, after many years of valiant attempts, we at last won the Surrey Schools Old Boys Competition! Not only did we win the trophy, but we did so by a good margin. Our team of Mike Goodbun, Allan Piggott, Paul Baker, Dillwyn Rosser, Geoff



Howes and Ian Redington are to be congratulated for doing what no Old Tiffs have ever done before. Most of them have represented us previously without success, but this year, our (and their) persistence has been rewarded – absolutely great!

We were then lucky to dodge the showers at our September meeting held at Gatton Manor. Gatton Manor is the course where Old Tiffinian golf started in 1973 and, although the venue has had a chequered history over the years, the course was fine and we enjoyed a good afternoon. John Glasscock and Bryon Smith both played at the first meeting and again this year, and everyone was really pleased for John who fulfilled his recent promise to win the Ford Plate with the highest score of the day. Quite remarkable! Peter Smith was second and Paul Baker third, with John Edney and Ian Redington winning the nine hole prizes.

The photos show (a) John Glasscock & Peter Smith before their round at Gatton Park and (b) this year's OTGS Captain, Geoff Coaker.

The meetings so far arranged for 2008 are:

- Wed 2nd Jan** – Breakfast, golf and lunch at West Byfleet
- Fri 4th April** – Afternoon golf, dinner and AGM at Surbiton
- Thur 8th May** – Afternoon match against Old Kingstonsians at Tyrrells Wood
- Mon 9th June** – Afternoon match against Old Surbitonians at The Drift
- Fri 4th July** – Surrey Schools O.B. Competition when we defend the trophy at Clandon

We would be pleased to welcome new members to any of the first four of these meetings. As Secretary, I can be contacted on 01372 274441.

ALAN (GUS) DAUNT

Old Tiffinian Social Lunch

Our fifty-second lunch was held on Thursday 11th October at our usual venue, viz., the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Rd., Tolworth — meeting at 12.30, for lunch at 1.00, departure usually at 3pm.

The 17 present were :-

Jim Aston, Dennis Barnard, Jim Dixon, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Brian Holden, Ken Jenkins, Greer Kirkwood, David Larmar, Howard Mallinson, Peter Shepherd, Stan Slinger, Jim Swift, Ron Truin, Colin Waterfield, Howard Watson & John Wright.

A group of stalwarts enjoyed the usual excellent lunch, with no need to look at the menu. Discussion centred on the success of the Rugby World Cup and the illnesses of several of our members. Good wishes were conveyed from those present to several absentees.

The Christmas date will be **Thursday 6th December** (always well supported). Also the Spring date is **Thursday 10th April**.

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

GREER KIRKWOOD



People

BRIAN 'NOBBY' CLARKE (1963) after emerging from college in 1969 played rugby for the Old Boys until the mid-1970s. He initially worked as a civil engineer in the Kingston area, designing and supervising the construction of sections of retaining walls to the River Thames and sewerage schemes as part of a Thames Water agency group. These included a tunnelled system in Chessington and recapping the old brick-built sewers that criss-cross Kingston Town Centre. In his very first major project he turned up some fragments of lead at the point where the old water supply from Coombe Hill to Hampton Court crossed the River Thames at Queens Promenade. Brian gained Chartered Engineer status soon after leaving college and in the late 1970s began to deliver an annual postgraduate programme of evening lectures for the Institution of Civil Engineers at Kingston Polytechnic.

He had become sensitive to world issues and was greatly influenced by the reports of Michael Buerk dealing with the drought-driven Ethiopian famine. He took a lecturing appointment in 1984 and completed an MSc at Imperial College to get into developing world water treatment. He later helped to set up the Centre for Environmental Health Engineering within Civil Engineering. He is currently Deputy Director of the Centre. This has enabled him to develop links with Oxfam and UNICEF. He has travelled several times to Rwanda and was in Aceh following the tsunami. More recently he was in the camps in Northern Uganda.



CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS (1986) has now moved to Northamptonshire, as he has been selected to fight the safe conservative Westminster Parliamentary seat of Daventry at the next election. As an MEP he has been fearless in his fight for common sense and probity in European affairs, and he will be missed when he stands down in 2009.

Chris is a qualified football referee and heads the European football group. He has made it

clear that the Fifa President's idea of forcing clubs to field a quota of players from their home nation would undoubtedly be ruled out by EU law.

STEPHEN LEAHY (1969), an executive television producer, was one of those featured in a *Telegraph* magazine article on commuting from abroad. He is now living in the small fishing port of Puerto d'Andratx on Majorca. He can easily catch an evening flight from Palma to Manchester to consult with Craig Stevens, the host of *Glitterball*, an interactive game show, before it goes on air. During the week, Stephen, who created *The Krypton Factor* and *Stars in their Eyes*, is in the London offices of Ludus, the television production company that he co-founded. On Fridays, after lunch with his team, he catches his flight back to Palma. It was eight years ago that he realised that he could easily commute from Majorca, so he sold up his converted barn in Cheshire and relocated to his secluded villa, with its seven bedrooms, landscaped garden and pool.



GEOFFREY 'PERRY' PARSONS (1964) received the MBE in the 2007 New Year's Honours List for services to education. He had worked with young people for 38 years after fulfilling a childhood dream and qualifying as a teacher in 1968. The band that he founded, the Vyners Swing Band, has raised over £100,000 for charity over the years.

Sadly, Perry's father, 'Beck', died in October 2006. He was a founder member of the famous Dambusters squadron. As an electrical engineer, Beck was responsible for between eight and ten Lancasters, including Wing Commander Guy

Gibson's plane. Of the 19 planes that took off only 11 returned, and 56 men were lost. After retirement, Beck and his wife, Terry, became volunteer helpers at the Brooklands Museum, giving regular talks on the Dambusters and the famous 'bouncing bomb'.

Quite a few Tiffinians will remember Perry (and his parents) for their involvement with School and Tercels cricket.

ANTONY PITTS (1986) has been commissioned by the award-winning vocal ensemble The Clerks and director Edward Wickham to develop a live electro-acoustic concert programme with them, based around the repertoire featured in their new album *'In Memoria'*. The performance will bring together music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance with passages of anecdote, reflection and reminiscence, drawn from a diverse range of sources, culminating in a new work for six voices. This concert programme will be touring the UK in 2008, playing in non-traditional spaces, including the Victoria Baths in Manchester, Crossness Pumping Station in Bexley, and – most unusually of all – in the tunnels of the National Mining Museum near Wakefield.

MAURICE POWELL (1950), a former member of HM Colonial Service, earlier this year had his article entitled *'The Role of the Colonial Audit Service'* filed in the Colonial archives of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

MARTIN ROGERS (1973) is now living in the USA, but on a rare visit to the UK in October managed to fit in a nostalgic visit to the School. He enjoyed revisiting old haunts and seeing the new buildings on the Tiffin site.



MICHAEL RUSSELL (1962) is Professor of Microbiology & Immunology and Oral Biology at the University of Buffalo. In March 2007 he was the recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award for Research in Oral Biology, presented by the International Association for Dental Research at its annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. More recently he published his 200th scientific paper, mostly in the field of mucosal immunology and immunity to

infections not normally considered to be the subject of polite conversation.

BEN SAWYER (1997) has recently been appointed as an Alto Lay Clerk in the choir of Gloucester Cathedral. In addition, he is Head of Music at Brockworth Enterprise School, just outside Gloucester. He was in Birmingham for nearly nine years and for most of that time has been a Choral Scholar, then Lay Clerk in Birmingham Cathedral Choir. Also, having completed his degree with a 2:1 nearly five years ago (at Birmingham Conservatoire on the oboe), he has spent the last four years (with a year for PGCE beforehand) at Hagley Catholic High School near Stourbridge (North Worcestershire), where he held the post of Head of Music. This is, like Tiffin, a Specialist School in the Visual and Performing Arts. During his time there he cultivated a school choir which has built a good reputation around Worcestershire, and he put on a production of *'Noye's Fludde'*, inspired by memories of performing at Kingston Parish Church with Tiffin School. Gloucester Cathedral Choir is quickly developing a reputation for being one of the best cathedral choirs in the country. The current director, Andrew Nethsingha, is leaving this term to take over at St. John's College, Cambridge, and he is to be succeeded by Adrian Partington, currently director of the BBC National Chorus of Wales amongst other things. This is a most exciting move for Ben, especially as he'll be living on the Cathedral Close! Teaching at Brockworth represents a considerable change. There has been no musical tradition there for some while, so he is effectively going in with a blank canvas, to build a department from scratch. The school currently achieves below the national average at GCSE and has a high proportion of pupils with Special Educational Needs, so it will be a challenge – but one which he is relishing. Ben still plays his oboe regularly in orchestras and

wind bands around Birmingham – the main focus has shifted slightly though !

Ben also adds that he would very much like to hear more of contemporaries and goings-on at Tiffin. His address is now 1a College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LR.



MICHAEL SYMES (1981) was one of the jurors on the fertilizer bomb plot trial, which lasted 15 months, finishing at the end of April 2007. Afterwards he was inundated by interview requests from the media.

SIMON TEALE (1985) has been working with Atos Consulting for the past eleven years but has now moved to China to set up a new consulting practice in Beijing.



HOWARD WATSON retired from being Deputy Head in 1996 – *'eleven years that have passed all too quickly'*, he says. In that time he has done much to occupy the time, starting off by compiling a brand new database of Tiffin Old Boys and then becoming a governor of an independent girls' school, latterly as Chair. It was during this period that he started to learn to play the clarinet, a life-long ambition

which he never had time for when he was working! He was persuaded to join the orchestra at the same school and happily continues to do this, although his statutory period as a governor has expired. His main activity continues to be with the Institute of Physics, being elected for the third time as Chair of his branch of over 3000 members, covering four counties in the south of England. *'To be still involved with the subject he taught for many years is a great privilege'*. He, of course, continues his association with Tiffinian Ltd., which he has chaired since his retirement.



RODDY WILLIAMS as Papageno in October won high praise from the *'Guardian'* review of his performance in the English National Opera production of *'The Magic Flute'*. It states: *"Roderick Williams's Papageno is new to the production, but his vocalism is classically stylish and his northern likely-lad characterisation wins the hearts of the audience. A few more performances and they will be eating out of his hand."*

The Old Tiffinian Sports Ground Ltd

Annual Report for the financial year April 2006 to March 2007

The Ground produced a surplus of income over expenditure of over £11,000 in 2006/7. This figure was supported by the annual donation from the OTA again being £1,000 above the recommended level, to support cash-flow. It was also greatly helped by the efforts of Peter Smith in gathering donations to support work on the pavilion, which totalled £11,738. Without that income the Ground Company would have been faced with a loss in the year and the pavilion work could not have been undertaken, although it should be noted that the pavilion will still require far greater investment, if it is to continue in long term use. Nevertheless, the Ground Company directors are extremely grateful to Peter and to all those who generously donated funds.

The bar made a loss in 2006/7, but weekly monitoring of receipts and spending have allowed closer control, and the loss is expected to be turned into a reasonable £1,000 profit in 2007/8. Greater continuity in occupancy of the two houses allowed for higher than expected rental income, and we cannot expect to do so well in 2007/8. It is expected that a full year of income from the Nursery will help to offset this risk and provide a substantial increase in income.

We do continue to be highly dependent on income from the Nursery and the Flower Show parking. £7,000 is being invested in the Nursery facilities in 2007/8, with a full grant from Surrey County Council, and this hopefully is a good indication of the long-term nature of this arrangement. We are very grateful to Dennis Mardon for the huge personal effort he made to get the Nursery arrangements in place and running successfully, and for his activities associated with the Flower Show parking.

During the year, as advised at the last AGM, Tony Millard retired as Chairman and John Bradford retired as Vice Chairman. Both have served for a great many years, and their overall contribution to the running of the Ground over the past few decades warrants our sincere thanks. Neither of these vacancies has been filled, although Dennis has joined, and the Board now runs with only five active Directors. We have become increasingly dependent on the School and Sports Centre to provide contracted management services through Darren Pope and Martin Williams, and this will be reflected in substantial increases in management charges from £6,500 in 2006/7 to £20,000 in 2007/8. This change is part of the migration to a professional managed services environment, which is long overdue, and a prerequisite to the larger organisational changes in hand in the form of the Tiffinian Association initiative. In spite of these higher costs we are projecting a surplus of over £7,000 in 2007/8, principally due to receiving a full year of income from the Nursery.

STUART LESTER
Secretary

Membership Matters

I should like to thank all those who have already sent their subscription payments for the current year (or who have paid by standing order). Usually each December I find that I am having to complete some 450 individual letters to those who appear not to have paid (or have short-paid by banker's order). This is an irksome task, and this year I am not doing so.

Instead, I am appealing to your better nature ! I am sure you will respond (referring to the subscription rates below) by sending me the appropriate payment as soon as possible. Please indicate your full name / address / telephone / email, as well as your current membership category. If you are abroad, the equivalent in foreign currency is acceptable – or of course a sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank.

My address is : 40 Bramshaw Rise, New Malden, Surrey KT3 5JU.

'The Tiffinian' magazine will be published in the New Year. I should like to mention that it is only sent to those Old Boys of the School whose subscriptions have been recorded by me as fully paid-up. If you want your copy on publication, please ensure that you are not in arrears.

May I end by wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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

DENNIS BARNARD

De Mortuis

CYRIL ARTHUR ALLEN CLARKE 1910 – 2007

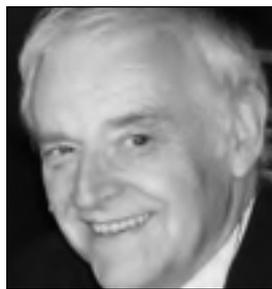
Allen Clarke at the age of 62 joined the English Department at Tiffins for a short while (1972–75) under Rodney Dean. Few of his colleagues at the School knew that he had been a distinguished headmaster, the founding head of Holland Park Comprehensive School in 1957. In himself, he seemed the unlikely leader of such a radical experiment. He was mild-mannered and conservative in dress – which in school included an academic gown. He ran the school on traditional lines on its beautiful hilltop site. Its pupils wore a uniform, whose jacket sported the school crest and the school was run on a house system. Teaching under his headship was rigidly streamed, though this was reversed in the 1970s under his successor.

Allen Clarke was born in Norfolk in 1910 and educated at Langley School, Norwich, and the University of London, where he read history. After teacher training he joined the London Teaching Service in 1933. At the outbreak of war he was called up into the Royal Artillery, rising to the rank of major. When the war came to an end, he was retained for another year on the staff of the education branch of the Allied Military Government of Germany. One of his tasks was the reorganisation of schools in the Munich region. He was demobilised in 1946 and returned to teaching in London. In that year he took the post of assistant master at Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Boys' School, New Cross, before in 1951 going as headmaster to Isledon Secondary School, Islington (1951–1955). He had a further two years as head of Battersea Secondary School, before being offered the headship of Holland Park in 1957. Everything was done in the glare of publicity, and there were many who wanted the experiment to fail. However, he could point to impressive A-Level results and university entrance. Moreover he felt that those who had been side-lined under the 11-plus system were given an educational opportunity and a sense of self-worth, undreamt of in the secondary modern to which they would otherwise have been consigned.

He had married in 1934, but his wife died in 1971. After his brief spell teaching at Tiffins he retired to Norfolk. From 1994 he was a governor of his old Norwich school, Langley.

Allen Clarke died in July 2007, aged 96. He is survived by two of his sons. (A third son died in 1969.)

(We acknowledge 'The Times' as the source of much of this information.)



TREVOR GLOVER 1940 – 2007

Trevor entered Tiffins in September 1951, and by the time he left in 1959 he was a School Prefect and taking a full part in music and drama productions. In 1958 he was a member of the victorious Livingstone House Choir, and in that same year he took part in the production of 'Beggars' Opera'.

In his chosen career he made an outstanding contribution to two famous publishing companies, to Penguin Books and subsequently to the leading music publishers Boosey & Hawkes. He began his career in Penguin in 1970, joining as sales manager from McGraw Hill and becoming sales and marketing director in 1975. After a brief secondment to Penguin USA, he was appointed in 1976 as managing director of Penguin Australia, where he was to flourish. As well as being a likeable and friendly man with a talent for drawing his staff together into a mutually supportive and enterprising team, he was a consummate manager with exceptional organisational abilities and understanding of systems that make a business work. By the late 1980s Trevor and his team had built a substantial, broadly based business, which was playing a significant part in Penguin's worldwide operations. He himself had become a figure in the cultural world, president of the Publishers Association, and an effective protagonist for the interests of the book world, leading the successful campaign against tax on books.

In 1987 Glover was appointed to the new position of managing director of Penguin UK. It was a very different company to the one he had left in 1975, and he was never entirely comfortable in the new structure. However, Penguin's operations were overshadowed in September 1988 by the Salman Rushdie affair, and crisis management became an important part of his job for some two years.

Glover was passionately interested in music and had a fine bass voice, singing in the Melbourne Chorale and the London Symphony Chorus. In 1996 he made a career switch which combined this interest with a new role as managing director of the music publishing division of Boosey & Hawkes, a business concerned with the licensing and promotion of composers' works rather than just publishing scores. His warmth and talent for team building made him an immediate success, and in the five years until his retirement in 2001 he brought his skills and experience to bear to exceptional effect. His signing of new composers outside the traditional classical field, the relaunch of a service supplying music to the media industry, and the restructuring of warehousing and distribution all brought important improvements to the business. In 1997, marshalling the public support of the estates of Prokofiev, Stravinsky, Britten and others, he masterminded and led the successful all-out campaign to prevent Boosey & Hawkes being sold to a hostile bidder and all the damage such a change might cause to composers' interests.

His most significant achievement was the acquisition of 40 of Rachmaninov's late works, which allowed the company to promote almost his entire output. This led to a close association with the composer's family and, on his retirement, Glover ran the Serge Rachmaninoff Foundation.

He was president of the Publishers' Association in 1997, when he wrestled with issues associated with market rights and photocopying in universities, and he became chairman of Book-trust in 2002, presiding over the initiation of the Bookstart scheme.

Trevor's wife, Carol, founder of a school in Melbourne and headmistress in London, died in 2005. He leaves a son and a daughter.

(We acknowledge 'The Times' as the source of much of this information.)

BRIAN GULSON 1932 – 2006

Brian arrived at Tiffins in September 1942 and took a keen interest in sport. As well as enjoying rugby and cricket, he distinguished himself in swimming and in boxing. In the latter he won a good many medals and the Kneller School Boxing Cup. At school he became a keen collector of stamps, a hobby which he enjoyed all his life.

On leaving School in 1948 he joined the New Zealand Shipping Co as a cadet. He gained his First and Second Mate certificates and eventually left the sea in about 1955. He married Rosemary in 1957, and they had four children: Catherine-Ann, Mary, Elizabeth & Jeremy.

Brian studied Accountancy at night school and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1966 and joined the Institute of Management. He was Treasurer of many clubs, including Kiwanas (Community Service Club), St Helier's Bowling Club, Mt Roskill Swimming Club & Hillsborough Athletic Club. He was a keen fund-raiser for Kiwanas and various schools, sitting on several primary and secondary school committees. He was a member of Kiwanas Club for nearly 40 years and twice received the Legion of Honour for long service. He also belonged to the Auckland Club and Durham Association (of the NZ Shipping Co) – an elite group that all went to sea at the same time. He was a collector of Jaguar model cars. He spent his life in New Zealand, but enjoyed a drink at Grist's, when in the UK in 1996.

His eight grandchildren range from 16 down to 4 years old. Brian will be sadly missed by his extended family and by his many friends.

MICHAEL JOHN WILLIAMS 1946 – 2006

Michael died of heart failure in May 2006. He arrived at Tiffins in September 1957, and when he left in 1965 he was a highly respected Head Boy. He went up to St John's College, Cambridge, to study Geography. As well as rowing Bow in the Geography Boat, he was Chairman of the Debating Society and Secretary of the May Ball Committee.

After gaining a Certificate in Education he went on to become a teacher and Senior Housemaster at Solihull School. He had a long-term love of the Norfolk Broads, having holidayed there every year of his life since the age of one, and he enjoyed sailing there, most recently on his boat Ann Catherine, a Bure Classic.

Michael is survived by his wife Ann and children, Andrew & Jennifer.



ANTHONY JOHN WOOLGAR 1936 – 2007

John Woolgar, who was at Tiffins from 1946 to 1954, died at his home in Purleigh near Chelmsford Essex at the end of July 2007, aged 71. His funeral took place at Purleigh on August 22nd.

John was born in Cheam in March 1936, but before he was two years old his family moved to Venezuela. They returned to Britain at the outset of war, and his father was subsequently killed while serving as a pilot in the RAF. John then lived with his mother and sister Alison in Kingston. At Tiffins he soon displayed a great aptitude for science, especially physics, and in the Science Sixth he won an Open Scholarship (Postmastership) to Merton College, Oxford. It was not all work though, and his contemporaries can recall his enthusiastic participation in outdoor activities, including cycling and walking around the Surrey countryside on often hilarious trips with groups of school friends. During his final year he was a School Prefect.

He was also secretary of the Scientific Society and displayed his dry sense of humour in *The Tiffinian* of the time. After leaving school in 1954 John did National Service for two years in the RAF, serving as a Radio Fitter in Singapore before going on to Oxford in 1956. At Oxford he kept in touch with other Tiffinians who were there, including Alan Gudge, with whom he took part in adventurous trips to the Lake District, Scotland and the Alps. He also went on an expedition to Northern Norway with the OU Ornithological Society.

After University John had a distinguished career of about 40 years with the GEC group at Chelmsford, working among other things on the research and development of the night vision technology used by our armed forces. His work colleagues speak very highly of both his integrity as a scientist and his never failing support and help to them in their work. Supported by his employer, John returned to Merton College, Oxford, in the 1960s to do his doctorate in physics.

In 1959 John married Deirdre Collins, who had been at Tiffin Girls with Alison, and they had two children, Kate and Jonathan. John is survived by Deirdre, Kate, Jonathan and three grandchildren. Although he had undergone an operation some months earlier, John's death was unexpected. After his retirement he had spent a lot of his spare time building a new house for Deirdre and himself, but sadly he did not fully complete it. He had planted a number of unusual trees in the garden. Both before and after his retirement he and Deirdre enjoyed many holidays exploring France.

John will be remembered by all those who knew him well as a caring and reliable friend with a quiet sense of humour and a fine practical intellect. His family will miss him dearly and we offer our sincere condolences to them.

A J G

We regret to announce also the deaths of Ernie Williams (1931) and John Wooden (1954).

Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives :

a) From Roger White (1956) a copy of the John Bratby autobiographical novel *'Breakfast & Elevenses'* (published 1961). This is known to many OTs, but it is the first time I have had sight of it or the chance of reading it. I wonder whether any OT has actually made a list of the staff mentioned and attempted to allocate the real Tiffin names ?

b) From Mike Cockrean (1940) several English Literature school text books from around 1939. At that time, in the early days of the 1939 Autumn Term, pupils worked at home for a while, handing in work once a week at Kingston Library, while waiting for the air-raided shelters to be built at the School.

A REQUEST

There has been no response as yet to our plea in the last issue for earlier House ties of Kingsley, Gordon and Drake. Surely some OTs have preserved these ?

A QUESTION

There has been some discussion over the exact location of the old building in Home Park used as changing facilities, when rugby was played there, before the advent of the Grist ground in the late 1940s. Mysteriously, we cannot trace it on ordnance survey maps of the period. Memories are fading also over the exact accommodation available in that building. Perhaps you can help ?

BRIAN HOLDEN

Tiffinian Lodge

We have now embarked on our 97th year as a Masonic lodge, and at our first meeting of the year, in October, Hugh Fletcher was installed as Master in an impressive ceremony. He is only the second Master in our long history who has held that office in this Lodge for a second time. He was our 74th Master in 1984, and is now our 97th. We are all looking forward to a great year with Hugh in the chair, and we have certainly started off in superb style.

In our second meeting of the year, in November, we were honoured to receive W Bro John Milner as our Official Visitor. John is a Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and as befits his high rank, he was welcomed into the Lodge with all due ceremony, and he witnessed the raising of Maurice Powell to the third degree. Maurice had only been initiated at this meeting last year, and he now has the full rank of Master Mason. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all, both in the ceremony and at the dinner following.

We are indeed looking forward to a successful year of interest and pleasure, and would urge any Old Tiffinian, any member or ex-member of staff or any governor or past governor of the School who may have an interest in freemasonry to contact me, the Lodge Secretary, on 020 8979 0107, or at mikebeckerman@talktalk.net, when I shall be happy to answer any questions and give any further information.

MICHAEL BECKERMAN

OT Football Club

As the preparations for the new season got underway, concerns were expressed as to our ability to continue to run five sides again for the 2007/08 season. A number of new players were recruited and we were pleased to welcome back some familiar Tiffinian faces returning from university. However, the number of players retiring or moving away outnumbered those recruited and, despite leaving the decision until the last possible minute, we had no option but to withdraw our 5th team from the League. As the new season progresses, the decision has proved to be the right one, as playing strengths and numbers have already started to diminish owing to injuries, work commitments and absences.

On the administration side, the Club was pleased to welcome Greg Nutt to the Committee as Fixture Secretary, and he has already proved himself a seasoned professional. Our thanks go to Phil Parsons for his service in the role over the last couple of seasons. On the playing front Jon Atkinson continues as First team Captain. Julius Miller has taken over the 2s Captaincy from Steve Johnson, who drops down to again become 3rd team Captain, and Paul Cotterell continues in his role as 4th team Captain.

On the playing front results have been mixed, depending greatly on player availability on a week by week basis. The days when you could count on having the same team each week appear to have long gone. Instead, three or four team changes a week have become the norm, although on occasions this has risen to six, and this can give rise to some topsy-turvy (usually poor) results. Nevertheless, players are enjoying the wins when they come and are sticking to the task. The 2s, 3s and 4s have already made the usual early round exits from their Cup competitions, but the Firsts are still competing in the AFA Senior and AFA Surrey Cups. League playing records are shown below. The Firsts are currently sitting 9th out of 11, but their Cup victories and experience should stand them in good stead when they again come up

against their league opposition. The 2s and 3s are 4th out of 10 and 7th out of 11 respectively at the moment and should hold their own in the leagues. The 4s unfortunately are currently bottom and need a bit more luck to turn their way.

The Vets team are very well organised and are playing fixtures every week.

LEAGUE RESULTS TO 10 NOV 2007

1sts – AFC Division – Senior One. Captain – Jon Atkinson

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
4	1	1	2	9	11	-2	4

2nds – AFC Division – Three South. Captain – Julius Miller

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
6	2	2	2	13	11	2	8

3rds – AFC Division – Four South. Captain – Steve Johnson

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
5	2	1	2	15	15	0	7

4ths – AFC Division – Six South.West, Captain – Paul Cotterell

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
6	1	1	4	17	23	-6	4

If you are interested you can obtain details of all our fixtures and results on a weekly basis from the league website www.amateurfootballcombination.com

FINALLY PLEASE NOTE: New players of all standards are always welcome. If you would like to play Saturday afternoon football, then please contact Club Secretary Errol Walker in the first instance on 07984 473 074.

Good luck to all players and teams for a successful and enjoyable season.

STEVE JOHNSON

Association Annual Dinner 2007



Queen Elizabeth Road News

Friends of Tiffin Music

The music department is as busy as ever. Back in July, Tiffin in the Garden was a highly successful event in an amended format to include multiple stages covering drama and dance, as well as music performances. We also saw, or rather took part in, the first outing of the Big Tiffin Orchestra comprising, not just boys of all standards, but myriad friends and family members variously competent on instruments of varying ages. I suspect dusters had been well used in (on?) many cases. Pomp and Circumstance really lived up to its name, and we await notification of next year's item with interest. The weather was kind, and the evening ended with massed dancing in the Head's Garden to the lively strains of the Swing Band.

The Boys' Choir trebles have had a very public profile this term, taking part in Mahler's *'Symphony No. 3'* at the Barbican and they will be performing it again at the Festival Hall on 12 December. At time of writing, they are about to sing *'Carmina Burana'* twice at the Barbican, and on 4th December they perform Britten's *'Owen Wingrave'* at the Cadogan Hall. Early next year, they are to return to Covent Garden in Britten's *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'*, for which they were acclaimed in 2005. The full choir recently travelled to Trinity College, Cambridge for a joint evensong with the choir there. They have a nice new website, which gives all the details: www.tiffinboyschoir.org.uk.

Thames Youth Orchestra goes from strength to strength. Their Elgar, Brahms and Schumann concert in July was excellent, and after the summer break they resurrected their American programme from earlier in the year, this time at the Cadogan Hall. This term sees them preparing an all-Russian menu of Scheherazade, Firebird, and

Lieutenant Kije for performance in January. The Prokofiev will also be aired at their Christmas Concert with Carols, details below. This event has become a real highlight of the build-up to Christmas, lovely music with rousing audience carols to remind us what it's all about. All TYO details on the website: www.thamesyouthorchestra.co.uk.

A few more dates for your diary:

Monday 17 December - Tiffin Boys' Choir. 1.15pm Carol Concert, Kingston Parish Church.

Monday 17 December - Tiffin Boys' Choir and School Orchestra. 7.30pm End of Term Concert, Kingston Parish Church.

Wednesday 19 December - Tiffin Boys' Choir. 7.30pm Tiffin Carol Service, Kingston Parish Church, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Tiffin Boys' Choir.

Saturday 22 December - Thames Youth Orchestra and Kingston Parish Church Choir. 7.30pm Christmas Concert with Carols, Kingston Parish Church.

Saturday 12 January - Thames Youth Orchestra. 7.30pm Concert, Kingston Parish Church.

Programme Rimsky-Korsakov *'Scheherazade'*, Stravinsky *'Firebird Suite'*, and Prokofiev *'Lieutenant Kije Suite'*.

FoTM continues with its fundraising to support the department, and we are currently looking more closely at a number of ideas to encourage even greater musical participation by more pupils.

I have just taken over from Miranda Fagandini as Chair, and hope I can keep up her good works. Please, if you fancy joining us at any of the upcoming events and need more information, do contact me by phone on 020 8942 6177 or by email: rachaelnichols@blueyonder.co.uk.

RACHAEL NICHOLS

Performing Arts Calendar

We should like to draw to your attention the following future performance dates:

19 Dec, 7.30pm – This year's Carol Service celebrates the 50th anniversary of Tiffin Boys' Choir.

12 Jan, 7.30 pm – Thames Youth Orchestra Concert (Kingston Parish Church) Prokofiev *Lieutenant Kije* Rimsky-Korsakov *Sheherazade* Stravinsky *Firebird Suite*

Mon 28th, Wed 30th, Thurs 31st January,
Sun 3rd, Thurs 7th, Sat 9th, Mon 11th February,
7pm (28th, 30th, 31st, 7th, 11th), 2.30pm (9th), 3pm (3rd) –
Tiffin Boys' Choir perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Britten) at the Royal Opera House

14 Feb, 7 pm – Gig Night (Main Hall)

3–8 Mar, 7 pm – Sixth Form Play (Drama Studio)

12–13 Mar, 7 pm – House Drama

19 Mar, 5 pm – Year 11 Dance Performance (Drama Studio)

26 Mar, 7 pm – Year 10 Dance Performance (Drama Studio)

29 Mar, 8 pm – Tiffin Boys' Choir and London Mozart Players

perform Bach Cantatas 48 & 118 and Durufle *Requiem* (Landmark Arts Centre, Teddington)

1–3 Apr, 7 pm – School Concert (School Hall), including four concerto movements from the winners of the instrumental competitions, accompanied by the school orchestra, and the premiere of Simon Ferris's Jazz cantata *Plymouth Sound*.

SIMON TOYNE

Remembrance Day 2007

The School continues to hold the annual Remembrance Day Service, this year on Monday 12 November, the nearest to Remembrance Sunday. The Sixth Form attend the wreath-laying in the School Hall, while the rest of the students are also attending Remembrance Services around the School. All observe the two minute silence together. This year, members of the OTA Council attended, with wreaths being laid on behalf of the Governors, Staff & Boys, OTA and Tiffinian Lodge. Later in the month, Year 11 students paid a visit to Ypres, Belgium, during the course of which a wreath was laid on the grave of Charles Eglinton (1898-1917). He is buried at Cement House Cemetery near Ypres, and his name is recorded on the First World War memorial in the School Hall.

JOHN KING

School Boat Club

Hello all ! This year we have set some clear objectives for the Boat Club: Firstly we aim to develop and challenge the skills and capabilities of those who participate in rowing, secondly we plan to add additional depth and breadth to the squad, through the introduction of new members at each and every level.

So, how are we doing? Our original 80 athletes (at the start of the year), have already grown to 92, ranging from J14 – J18s. Importantly, we have already seen some excellent results, providing a solid platform on which to build as we move forward. We performed very well at the Pairs Head, Reading Small Boats Head, Weybridge Silver Sculls, the Fours Head and, most recently, Teddington Small Boats Head, with category winning crews at each event. Up and coming, prior to Christmas, we have Kingston Small Boats Head (24th Nov) and Hampton Head (1st Dec). Your support at all events is very welcome – the calendar can be viewed on the rowing club website.

In addition to our two regular parent coaches Miso Marlais and James Heath, both of whom do an awesome job, we are always looking for extra help to assist us in enabling the boys to achieve their potential. If you can help in anyway please mail or call me at the School.

Over the first two days of half term we held a rowing training camp at Henley, where we boated from Upper Thames R.C., half way down the world famous Royal Henley Regatta course. The camp enabled us to mix and match crews, challenge some of the skill sets by putting boys out in smaller boats and generally get some serious mileage under our belts. We also had the pleasure of dining and holding a Q&A session with GB squad member Alan Cambell, winner of the Diamonds at Henley in 2003 and more recently the men's single scull at the Munich World Cup in 2006, where he beat the Olympic champion in the process. We also performed video analysis of the boys rowing – each of the rowing year reps will have access to this over the coming week.

Training for rowing is demanding, encompassing both land and water-based activities; I am pleased our athletes demonstrate a high degree of commitment to both ! On a more serious note, we are taking steps to ensure that as the weather gets colder, boys are properly equipped for outings on the water.

Nutrition to support rowing, has been a key theme within the squad throughout this year; therefore on Wednesday December 12th we have Jacqueline Birtwistle, nutritionist to the GB Rowing Squad, coming in to talk to the boys. We are also very pleased that Kieran West MBE has agreed to come in and speak about rowing as a lifestyle. The exact date for this is still to be confirmed. Once known, we will advertise this event on the Rowing Web site – watch this space . . .

A critical part of the success of Tiffin Boat Club are the parents or 'Associates', whose contribution is broad, varied and very much appreciated! Associate activities this term have ranged from organising the sponsored 'OK Row 2007' which took place in October, to sitting on the boathouse liaison committee, coaching, cooking, and much much more. Superhuman as these parents are, we very much need more of you to become involved at any level and help lighten the load. Incidentally, for those boys who took part in the 'OK Row' a big thank-you for sponsorship to date. Additionally, a highly professional DVD of the event (set to music) is available for a mere £5. What a great Christmas present!

Can I wish you all a Happy Festive season and thank you all for your support. The rowing team looks forward to seeing more of you more often in 2008!

CAROL CORNELL

School Rugby

After returning from a highly enjoyable tour, where both good times were had and good rugby played, Tiffin were unable to continue their winning ways. A well-fought victory against RGS Guildford was sandwiched between two disappointing defeats, at the hands of a rampant St Benedicts side and a Whitgift team, who should have been overcome, and who consequently knocked us out of the Daily Mail Cup. However, Tiffin's rich vein of form was found again, after a hard-fought victory against Haberdashers Askes, with Michael Osborne scoring two tries, and subsequent wins over Christ's Hospital 12–5, Windsor 41–15 and City Of London Freemans 18–11.

With the long list of injured players getting shorter as the boys return to fitness, competition for places has been fierce, and several members of the team have produced top performances in the season so far. In the pack, James Caddy has played his heart out in every match and his leadership skills have been unsurpassable. Nomso Nwamadi, Callum Dougal and Koosha Kowsari have all developed as the season progressed and are starting to come into their own as the 'muscle' of the team. The pillar of the backs has been the Michael Osborne–Anthony Hitchcock centre partnership. Not only have they scored 24 tries between them, but they assisted in many as well. The back three, which has been a combination of Thompson (X2), Solomon and Newman, have been clinical in attack and stalwarts in defence, to help Tiffin to their successful tally so far of 14 games, 11 wins and 3 losses.

BILL GEIRINGER

School Cross-Country

The Haskell Cup saw the Senior team win medals for the first time in two generations of Tiffinians. Jamie Tabbert led off the school team to place us eighth after the first leg. Jonathan Darby worked his way up to fifth. Ralph Street picked off two of the opposition to get us up to third. Tim Sagar did a captain's job and extended our lead over fourth place and pushed hard to get closer to the first (St Albans) and second (Judd) positions.

ROBIN SHAW

Book Corner

'CROMWELL'S DEPUTY' (Life & Times of General Charles Fleetwood) by John Varley Jeffery

It started with genealogical research being carried out by John and his cousin, Joan Fleetwood Varley. It was discovered that, while biographies of all the other Cromwell generals had been written at some time or other, the biography of Charles Fleetwood (a distant ancestor) had not. This general played an important role in the final destruction of the Royalist armies at the Battle of Worcester in 1651, being commander of the Parliamentary left wing. Furthermore, as eventual Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth's army, there is much more to this man than this, yet little has been published about him. John resolved to remedy this, and his book has been called 'an important contribution to Civil War studies'.

John Jeffery left Tiffins in 1942 and read engineering at the University of London. At the end of his career he was employed by the government to manage the licensing and safety aspects of nuclear power reactors. Given his distinguished ancestral pedigree of artists and engineers, it is not surprising that John is both an active member of the William Shipley Group and Fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He has also contributed to the Royal Society of Arts Journal. Since retirement in the 1980s he has pursued his interest in the arts – namely the opera and collecting water-colours.

This book is due for publication in December by Ulric Publishing and is priced at £19.95.