



Newsletter of the Old Tiffinians' Association No. 232 June 2007

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From the Head's Study

Dear Friends,

Recent political pronouncements have again pushed selective schools into the spotlight. As I write, the last seven days have seen a somewhat frenzied media and political focus upon selection by academic ability and, from a head's point of view, the fact that it has been generated by a political party not even in power, makes me question if the debate is really about education or votes. One reason for agreeing for the BBC 'Newsnight' team to film and broadcast from Tiffin on Wednesday 16th May was to emphasise the quality of the education we can offer, education based upon competition, challenge, participation, commitment and fun. The richness of our school community also shone through and I was delighted to see that caught in the film's images. Do have a look at the film which can be found at: <http://www.tiffinparents.co.uk>. I am sure the debate will continue to run. Schools such as Tiffin have a duty to ensure that a balanced and informed picture of selective education in 2007 is presented.



Tiffin, as many of you will I hope remember, has always valued the educational benefits of what happens outside the classroom. Indeed we have a term for this: 'wider opportunities'. This is seen in the musical performances, on the sports field, on the river, in the dance studio & drama studio and in the fifty lunchtime clubs that cater for a whole variety of interests and abilities. One particular area of school success has been the recent and dramatic expansion of the Duke of Edinburgh programme. It is now such an integral part of the Year 10 curriculum that, this year, nearly 90% of the year group have chosen to follow the Bronze Award. This is a unique achievement for any school and reflects superbly upon the commitment of our staff and students.

Last Friday (18th May) our Upper Sixth Form left. For many of these students this marks the closing of seven years at the School. The event is a celebration of the experiences and memories of Tiffin. Beginning with a breakfast, students and staff then adjourned to the main hall for a talent show. The show ended with closing remarks from Andrew Parrish, the outgoing Head Boy, and myself before a wonderful film was shown with images of every single student in the year group. Finally everyone went outside to collect their copies of the year book and say goodbye to staff. Interestingly, the content of the day – the talent show, the film, the year book – was put together by the students themselves. The Upper Sixth have been a fantastic year group and, while saying goodbye, many also stated how much they wanted to keep in contact with the School and stay in touch with each other. Considering the recent discussions about the role of the OTA, this wish is both challenging and desirable. The response of the OTA will be interesting.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Heslop

OTA Old Boys' Dinner



Friday 9th November 2007
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: johnwright@clifton66.freereserve.co.uk

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

1 Delta Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7HP.

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

OTA Dinner Committee

Dates for your Diary

Friday 22nd June

- OT Golf at The Drift

Thursday 28th June

- Choir Concert (Parish Church)

Sunday 1st July

- Choir singing services at Parish Church (9.30am and 6.30pm)

Thursday 5th July

- OTA Social Lunch

Friday 13th July

- Tiffin in the Garden

Saturday 14th July

- Thames Youth Orchestra (Parish Church)

Monday 16th July

- House Rowing

Tuesday 17th July

- House Swimming

Wednesday 18th July

- Sports Day

Thursday 19th July

- Founders' Day

Monday 3rd September

- Autumn Term begins

Friday 7th September

- Guided tours of Elmfield (see History)

Saturday 8th September

- Thames Youth Orchestra at Cadogan Hall

Tuesday 11th September

- Oratorio rehearsals begin (7.30pm)

Thursday 20th September

- Golf Society at Gatton Manor

Thursday 11th October

- OTA Social Lunch

Friday 9th November

- OTA Annual Old Boys' Dinner

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

Chairman

Dear Old Tiffinian,

In my last letter I gave some details of two planning applications we had made in respect of Grist. I am pleased to say that Elmbridge Borough Council approved both of them. One of them was a housekeeping matter, which secures for us a small but continuing income, but the fact that our two houses are now free of any restraints as to who may occupy them is of major strategic importance. It means that the large discount to open market value has been removed, and we shall no longer have to look over our shoulder at the planning condition when seeking tenants; accordingly, the rental value will rise. Moreover, if ever it becomes relevant, the houses are now mortgageable.

On 26th March I gave a presentation to members on my vision for the future of Grist. In spite of the short notice, there were about 30 members present. I gave my opinion that there was no reasonable prospect of a partial redevelopment of our land at Grist in any time frame that would address the problems of the Dean Pavilion; and that redevelopment would not be possible except in the context of a wider scheme involving sporting or leisure use.

The essence of my message was to expose the fact that the trend of falling OTA member involvement in the playing sections has reduced the volunteer base, which in an earlier age was the bedrock of the OTA, and that there was no longer a good answer to the question: What is the OTA for? I put forward the idea of consolidating the three corporate bodies that we have – the Ground Company, the OTA and the Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund – into the Memorial Fund. This would mean that the efforts of the volunteers that we do have – and how thankful we are for them – will not be dissipated over three bodies; but also that, by using the Memorial Fund as our corporate body, we would be able to exploit its status as a registered charity. This would mean that mandatory 80% relief on business rates would be available and our membership subscriptions would qualify for Gift Aid. Although the structure that we have has served us well enough over the years, I assert that we have to change in order to reflect the new conditions that we face and to play the new fiscal system.

It is often a bad thing to change for fiscal reasons alone. By changing the focus of the OTA from whatever indefinable thing it is now to its being explicitly a focus of charitable objectives is something I commend to members. The charitable objectives will, of course, be a matter of debate, but I should like to be in a better position than I am now in answering the question: What is the OTA for? In addressing this question I should like to be able to say to those members of the Tiffin alumni who are not members of the OTA that, apart from providing team game facilities and fellowship, "The OTA is for charitable objectives in the town of your School – and you should be part of it".

The Council meeting on 26th March adopted a resolution to set up a working group to:

- consider the refocusing of the affairs of the OTA towards charitable objectives;
- take advice on how it might be implemented;
- consider ideas for a new name;
- bring forward first to the council and then the members in general meeting a definitive proposal and implementation plan;
- consider promoting the development of the Tiffinian community.

The progress and conclusions of this working group will be reported.

On 20th May the Annual Skiff Marathon took place in an encouragingly spirited way. Five crews rowed (there would have been six but for a late injury), and the spectator launch was well occupied. The atmosphere of the event was one of which I was pleased to be part; I commend the event next year to members as a truly Tiffinian affair.

Yours in fellowship,

HOWARD MALLINSON



Editor

Readers who are really involved with OTA affairs will be heartened to know that our Chairman is using his time in office to tackle the growing problem of the management and financing of the Grist Ground. He has recognised from the outset that radical solutions are urgently required, and, fortunately for the Association, has the necessary business acumen and enthusiasm to investigate all possibilities, in conjunction with the working group set up by the OTA Council. We await their deliberations with interest.

Details of our Old Boys' Annual Dinner are given on the front page. Do assist the Dinner Committee by booking your place and sending off your cheque to John Wright **NOW**. It really does make their job easier, if they can concentrate on their main task, without having to chase those who know already at this stage that they will be attending.



In the School Office **Caroline Everson** is due to retire this summer. To outsiders her main role has been to man the reception desk. In this job she has been for many years the cheerful, welcoming face of Tiffin School — and at the same time an important phone contact for many OTs who have needed information or help. She has also been involved with school activities and is always warmly welcomed at the OT Oxbridge Dinner. She leaves after twenty years' service to Tiffins, and we wish her well.

I should like belatedly to offer our good wishes to **Malcolm Medcraft**, the school caretaker for many years, who retired at Easter. We wish him and his wife much happiness in their new home in the Isle of Wight.



BRIAN HOLDEN

OTA 200 Club

As we go to press, we have of course the big £500 Draw coming up very shortly (though only for those whose subs are up-to-date). The following £10 winners have been announced since the last edition of Tiffnews:

36 S R Vidler	15 Mrs M Hardy	12 J R Pitchford
117 J W Webb	148 J Wright	16 P R Lear
165 S F Leahy	87 J L Glasscock	40 R G Kirkwood
85 A E Owen	32 B A Bunker	128 Mrs A Power

If you are not already a Member of the 200 Club and would like some more information about it, please get in touch with me on 020 8393 3293. There are still several vacancies. The subscription is so small you won't really miss it (25p per week) — and you could find yourself in our next list of winners!! Fewer than 200 members and 52 draws in the year - you can work out how good the odds are !

BRIAN HOLDEN

Internet Corner

Have you had, like me, several unwanted phone calls from organisations encouraging you to try to reclaim bank charges? If you are indeed concerned about bank overdraft or other charges, sound advice is readily available at www.telegraph.co.uk/bankcharges. They even provide letters of complaint you can download for your own use.

There are of course numerous websites helping towards finding a good price for your purchases, but for a wide-ranging selection of up-to-the-minute bargains it's perhaps worth looking at www.hotukdeals.com, before going to the more specialist sites.

If you are acquainted with the website www.earth.google.com (mentioned in our June 2006 issue), you may wish to investigate the associated site www.googleearthcoolplaces.com. Worth checking out.

BRIAN HOLDEN

OT Golf Society

With 31 players we could have done with some fine weather and a course in good condition for our Spring Cup meeting at Surbiton in April. However, the weather was unkind, but in spite of the showers (and the condition of the course) there were some decent scores — notably 37 by both Duncan Knowles (winner on countback) and Dillwyn Rosser, with Alan Bonfield in third place. The other prizes went to John Pitchford (for the front nine) and Chris Towlson (coming back). The guest prize was won by David Glasscock with 35 points. Perhaps best of all, Don Richardson joined us for the afternoon and presented a rather nice prize for being nearest the pin at the 13th hole — well won by Jim Tink.

At the AGM Geoff Coaker was duly elected Captain for 2007, and I am more than a little pleased that Dillwyn Rosser has agreed to be Vice Captain. Presentations were then made for the 2006 competitions. The Victor Ludorum Cup was just won by Dillwyn from Allan Piggott, who won the Eclectic Competition. Last, but by no means least, the Knock-Out Competition was also won by Dillwyn, who had beaten Alan Bonfield in the final after a close match. Congratulations to both our trophy winners of 2006 — there are already encouraging signs that 2007 will be a more competitive year !

After the meeting we held the draw for the Knock-out Competition — this was a bit haphazard but it produced the usual range of needle match pairings for the first round. The players involved are asked to play their matches by the due date and telephone the results to Howard Mallinson (01372 468693), who has kindly agreed to undertake the thankless task of co-ordinating the progress of the competition once again.

In spite of a dodgy weather forecast for our match against Old Kingstonians at Tyrrells Wood, it actually turned out to be a fine afternoon. With eighteen players against just nine Old Kingstonians, we won the match quite comfortably this year, and (judging by the banter afterwards) everyone seemed to enjoy the afternoon. Although the course was not set up for easy golf, there were some good scores. In particular, Alan Bonfield who came in with 41 points — comfortably the best score of the day. John Edney took second place from Allan Piggott on countback. Nigel Angus and Geoff Howes must also have played well (at least some of the time!) to take the nine-hole prizes.

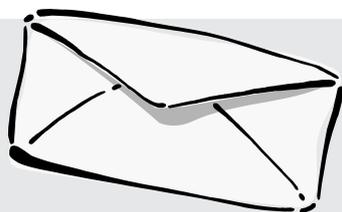
Our next match is against Old Surbitonians at The Drift on **Friday 22nd June**. This is a new venue for us — hopefully the weather will be fine and we shall continue our winning run !

Finally, following some good reports of the course and facilities at Gatton Manor, we have booked for the afternoon of **Thursday 20th September**. This was the venue for the first ever OTGS meeting, which I am reliably informed was in September 1973. I gather that the course and facilities subsequently deteriorated, and so we have not been there for many years. New management seems to have restored the situation, and I hope that this will once again prove to be a good venue.

We have had good attendance at our last three meetings, but we should still be very pleased to welcome new members to any of our gatherings. For further information I can be contacted on 01372 274441 or at alan.daunt@lineone.net

ALAN (GUS) DAUNT

Letters



Dear Brian,

This is a brief note to thank you for all the work you do for the OTA and its members. The demand upon your time for the necessary research and collation of material required to produce 'Tiffnews' on a regular basis must be considerable. This and your dedication is appreciated by us all.

As an avid reader of 'Tiffnews', I look forward to reading the letters, articles and history, which frequently bring back memories of times long past. I also hope to visit the Archive Room in Elmfield this year, where I first joined the School as a Junior!

As a youngster, I was taught that "to say thank you costs very little", and it is with this spirit I write to you.

Very sincerely,

Dick Halloway (1937)

(Ed: A number of encouraging messages are received after each edition of 'Tiffnews', and these are always much appreciated.)

Dear Brian,

I followed last year the articles on John Walker and the school choir with great interest. My time in that choir was the highlight of my schooling at Tiffins, as my academic life was none too bright. Here in Lille I am very happy to be an inaugural member of the International Singers, formed about a year ago. We sing in English (and Latin), but have members of many different nationalities. Our second public appearance was with a French Army band at the Citadelle in the presence of HRH Princess Anne and other invited guests. I had hoped to attend the Tiffin Oratorio Concert last year, as I was actually in London. However, it turned out to be a complicated family weekend, with one daughter back briefly from Argentina and the younger daughter about to go off to Malawi to teach during her gap year.

Yours,

John Lamb (1962)

And now two remaining letters on scouting at Tiffins, for which there was no space in earlier editions . . .

Dear Brian,

I think your article on the Tiffin Scouts set the ball rolling very well. It certainly brings back memories of my time with the Tiffin Scout Troop — as a scout from 1951–56 and then as Leader of the Senior Scouts 1961–66 and assistant to the Rev Alan Chesters 1966–74. Although the history of the huts is interesting (especially Keith's fantastic effort in 1961), I hope the article will stimulate some correspondence on people and scouting activities from those who have better memories and more literary talent than I have. I also suspect a list of annual summer camps might be interesting for posterity.

I am a bit surprised that little mention has been made of the old bus that Keith bought and renovated for school and scout use — it did sterling work for many years.

Yours,

Alan (Gus) Daunt (1956)

Dear Brian,

The articles and letters in 'Tiffnews' about the scouts brought back many good memories.

I was an enthusiastic member of the School Scout troop throughout my career at Tiffins from 1954 to 1959. My memories are truncated at that latter date, because when I left school I ceased all involvement with scouting. As I recall, the name of the troop was 'Kingston Schools Scout Troop': I think that this meant that it was open to boys from any Kingston school but in practice it was only from Kingston Grammar School that any other boys joined, and even they were in a substantial minority, probably because it was from Tiffins that most or all of the leaders came.

We met on a Friday after school. A rota of mums came and made jam sandwiches for our tea in a kitchen annexe to the hut. At some time during my time, scouting was so popular that a new troop was formed to meet the demand and made possible by the availability of leaders. The two troops were called 'Wednesday' and 'Friday' according to the day they met.

The hut in which we met at first had two components, plus the annexe referred to. It was located between Elmfield and the London Road entrance, next to the drive. At the Elmfield end was a small inner sanctum, to which young scouts were rarely admitted: this was the base of the Senior Scouts. Many schoolboys will recall that this sanctuary was the centre from which all intelligence emanated about the state of any Test Match which happened to be on: the latest score, taken from a radio in the Seniors' lair, was chalked onto the window of the hut. This involved learning the skill of writing back to front: it was a skill to which many junior scouts aspired.

The part of the hut where the Juniors met was the larger and it had a smell to it, especially in summer, which is peculiar to wooden structures. In winter a different smell overcame it: the hut was heated by a single coke-burning stove which stood erect to one side of the hut and whose chimney followed the inside of the roof of the building, giving off its fumes as well as heat on the way. Summer was the best period for scouting, for full use was made of the light evenings. British Bulldog (a rough game in which even the heaviest brute meets his end by virtue of all the rest ganging up on him — a sort of reverse bullying) was a weekly ritual played out on the small field to the west of Elmfield, while our so-called 'wide games' were played out in Richmond Park. The period was one marked by no shortage of leaders and an attitude towards risk which was neither reckless nor negligent, but which in today's world would require a bevy of nannies to stop.

At some time during my scouting career the hut which I have described was taken down. One day a new hut arrived in sections. It was second-hand of course (everything we did was on a shoe-string budget). Ricky Turner seemed to be responsible for the procurement of this and during one (or two) weekends was heavily involved in the erection of it.

My evidence on the timing of the arrival of the new hut provides a dilemma or a conflict. According to 'Tiffnews' No 229, the evidence of Keith Southan — surely the most sagacious and veritable witness — tells us (writing in 1986) that "the present Scout Hut dates from 1961". I remember a new hut going up

before I left school in 1959: there can't have been two new huts, so fallibility of memory must be suspected. We both agree on the role of Ricky Turner. He it was who had served in Korea, by which fact he stood apart: I remember gazing over a Welsh valley with him and other boys on a camp and being in awe of his estimate of how many mortar shells could be launched across it before the first one burst. I don't remember the number, but I am reminded of the fact that it was the scouting movement which provided me with my only century – not at cricket but in the number of nights under canvas.

Scout camps were a part of my life. Routinely there would be Easter and Summer Camps – and the occasional special for some reason or other. Easter Camps were part of the toughening up process: quite commonly one would wake up to find water in a pail with a skin of ice formed on it. The Summer Camp in Guernsey was memorable for two reasons: the 1956 Suez crisis erupted while we were on the island and several scouters who were reservists had telegrams recalling them for duty. They left immediately, but whether this was before or after the other big event I cannot recall. One night a ferocious gale sprang up. It wrought havoc with the tents which, one by one, were rendered untenable. In the end only one tent on the site survived: a robust, large quartermaster's tent stood through everything the storm could offer. This valiant tent was inadequate, however, to supply shelter to the scouts for the rest of the night, and, in any event, there was no certainty at that point that it would still be standing in the morning. What was to be done ?

I now realise that for a man who had ditched in the North Atlantic and survived, the task that lay before our leader was of a lower rank than he had achieved before: after a short absence from the site Keith Southan returned to lead us all to our shelter for the night, which was to be a barn in a nearby farm. We assembled with our bugbags and some shoes and were led, guided by well-named hurricane lamps, to our safe quarters for the night. More details of the story escape my memory, but the whole experience of the camp was defined by resourcefulness and leadership – the very attributes which Baden-Powell espoused

Yours sincerely

Howard Mallinson (1959)

OT Cricket Club

Although it's early days yet, the 2007 Old Tiffinian cricket season has begun with a lot of enthusiasm and promises to be a significant one for the Club.

With the recruitment of many new players this year, it was possible for the Old Boys to register another side, a 3rd XI in the Saturday league. The 3rd XI was set-up predominantly to offer opportunities to colts and the younger Tiffin schoolboys to play good competitive cricket on Saturdays during the summer.

I am happy to report that all the sides, the three on Saturdays and the Sunday XI have all recorded many good wins so far. The Saturday 1st XI is a strong unit and remains unbeaten. The Cup run on Saturdays is again taking shape, having beaten two good sides in the previous rounds thus far. The side is also top of the League, and hopes are high for promotion this season. The early form batsmen are Ravi Shankar, Owamir Afzal, Waseem Butt and Richard Cunningham. The bowling honours so far go to Owamir Afzal, Mohammad Ali, Faisal Khan, Matthew Bennett and Ted Wightwick.

The 2nd XI, although recording a good early victory against Old Paulines in the league, is struggling to find the consistency of performances required at this level. Hopefully this will be achieved soon.

The 3rd XI, though, under the captaincy of an Old Tiffinian, Rajat Lal, has got off to an excellent start. After a resounding victory in their first League match, the side is looking forward to a very enjoyable season this year. It was encouraging to see a good team spirit developing in the side. Notable contributions so far coming from: Rajat Lal, Rajesh Ravuri, Jeewan Daniel, Sudhakar, and Chris Fish (schoolboy) amongst others.

Although it all seems very encouraging at this stage, it is very important that the level of required progress is maintained and sustained in the future at the Cricket Club. I should like to extend an invitation to all current schoolboys, recently left Tiffinians, parents and even friends of the School to get involved in playing cricket for the Old Boys this summer. Please avail yourself of the excellent opportunities right on your doorstep ! Anyone interested in scoring for the 2nd & 3rd XIs would be very welcome too.

A cricket club can only be as vibrant and successful as its membership allows it. A Colts development program is being talked about for next year; it seems to be an essential component of every successful cricket club nowadays. We are looking for good manpower and volunteers to take this forward. Anyone interested, please contact us at the earliest. Your support at any of our matches will be greatly appreciated.

RAVI SHANKAR KAMINENI

Oxford & Cambridge Dinner 2007

This year's gathering took place at Exeter College, Oxford. We were extremely grateful to Xiao Cai (left Tiffin 2006) for organising the arrangements so successfully. The food was exceptionally good – succulent duck breasts being the highlight of the gustatory experience. It was a treat to see so many students enjoying their first year at Oxford and a delight to be able to pass on our best wishes to Avis

Marshall and Caroline Everson who are retiring this year.

We were few in number on this occasion (22 overall), despite record numbers of students studying at Oxford and Cambridge. This is probably due to the timing of the event so close to the exams – an issue to address next year when we plan to hold the dinner in Emmanuel College, Cambridge in the Hilary/Lent term. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible.



IAN COOKSEY

OT Rugby Club

Unfortunately, since my report in the March edition of 'Tiffnews', the 1st team has continued to struggle to remain competitive in Surrey League One. We did at least finish with a morale-boosting victory in our final League match v Old Emanuel (17-3), which, after the difficulties suffered on the pitch, mainly during the second half of the season, was a great way to finish the season, although we must not lose sight of the problems we have faced and what we must try to do to put things right for next season, in terms of player recruitment. This was in fact our first victory since 2nd December 2006 when we also beat Old Emanuel. It's a shame we couldn't play them every week! We finished the League in 8th position (out of 11 teams), just missing out on automatic relegation to Surrey League Two. However, due to the problems currently being suffered by the Club in this League we have requested officials of the League to relegate us to Surrey League Two, to give us the opportunity to compete next season at hopefully a more competitive and enjoyable level and for the Club to make a huge effort to re-build the Club at the same time. I understand our request has been successful. Below you will see our League results during this period. I have a huge amount of respect for those guys (and they know who they are!) who turn out week in week out, even though it has been clear from the outset that they were going to struggle to compete with the opposition in most of these games.

- v Battersea Ironsides (Home) Lost 13-31
- v Law Society (Away) Lost 10-21
- v Croydon (Away) Lost 0-44
- v London Exiles (Home) Lost 3-67
- v London South Africa (Away) Lost 5-67
- v Old Alleynians (Home) Lost W/O

We had to scratch as we did not have a front row capable of playing in such a match

- v Old Emanuel (Home) Won 17-3

We only played one 2nd team 'friendly' match during this period - v Economicals 1st team (Surrey League Four) and came away with a great win 18-17, thanks to a last gasp drop goal. Yet again, this match only took place as it was a non-League Saturday for the 1st team and some 1st team regulars were able to help out and play.

For next season, it only highlights the importance of major recruitment over the summer months (both in quantity and quality), obviously retaining the services of those players we currently have too, and also trying to give more current and recent Tiffin School leavers the opportunity to play some enjoyable rugby for the Club.



We have some important decisions to take over the next few months, to try to turn this difficult situation around. I hope we will be able to make some major progress over the summer months to lead us into next season with greater optimism and confidence, and we can all start to enjoy playing our rugby again!

ANDY GREEN



OT Rugby Football Club Lunch

Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives :

- a) From Chris Day (1958) in Canada a number of useful photos
- b) From Brian Bunker (1955) a number of plans of the School site, discovered by persistent research - notably plans relating to the Celestion factory building on the school field (and associated air-raid shelters), which after the war became the Gym. It has of course since been demolished to make way for the widely used Tiffin Sports Centre.

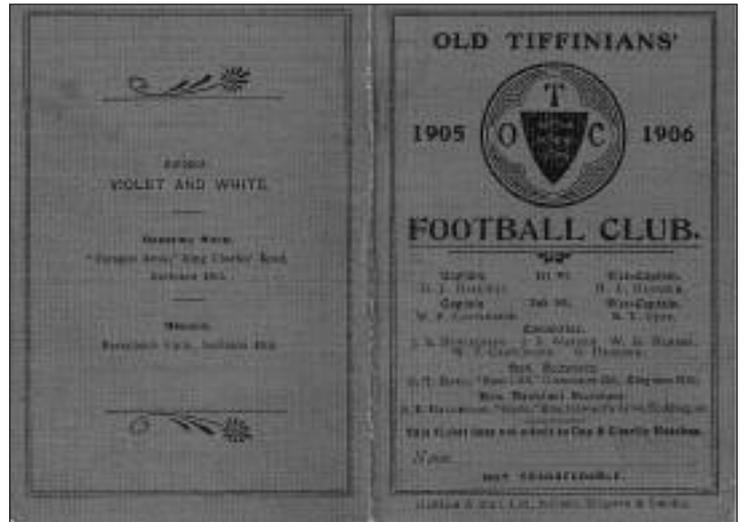
OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

Perhaps you can help with the following items :

- a) We think a letter went out from the School as early as 1938 concerning respirators (gas masks). Can anyone verify this or provide more detail ?
- b) Late in the war the school magazine said that the Communications Centre in Elmfield was still operating. Can anyone say where Communications Centre this was ? Did this operate in the former Junior classroom on the first floor - possibly accounting for the closure of the Juniors in July 1941?

THE OT FOOTBALL CLUB IN 1905/06

This 1905/06 fixture card shows that at that time the OTFC dressing room was in the Paragon Arms, King Charles Road, Surbiton Hill, and that the ground was at Berrylands Farm, Surbiton Hill. John Wooden (1954), whose knowledge of Old Kingston is remarkable, tells us that the Paragon Arms stood as late as the 1950s at the corner of King Charles Road and Berrylands Road. Berrylands Farm was the area now covered by the Berrylands Estate, built in the 1930s. The 418 bus went through that area for the first time in February 1934.



LIST OF MATCHES.											
FIRST ELEVEN.						SECOND ELEVEN.					
DATE.	TEAM.	SCORE.	RESULT.	VENUE.	TIME.	DATE.	TEAM.	SCORE.	RESULT.	VENUE.	TIME.
1905.	18/10/05	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	19/10/05	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1906.	1/11/06	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/06	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1907.	1/11/07	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/07	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1908.	1/11/08	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/08	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1909.	1/11/09	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/09	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1910.	1/11/10	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/10	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1911.	1/11/11	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/11	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1912.	1/11/12	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/12	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1913.	1/11/13	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/13	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1914.	1/11/14	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/14	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1915.	1/11/15	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/15	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1916.	1/11/16	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/16	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1917.	1/11/17	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/17	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1918.	1/11/18	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/18	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1919.	1/11/19	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/19	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1920.	1/11/20	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/20	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1921.	1/11/21	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/21	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1922.	1/11/22	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/22	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1923.	1/11/23	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/23	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1924.	1/11/24	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/24	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1925.	1/11/25	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/25	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1926.	1/11/26	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/26	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1927.	1/11/27	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/27	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1928.	1/11/28	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/28	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1929.	1/11/29	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/29	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	
1930.	1/11/30	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	1/11/30	Old Emanuel	17-3	Home	3.00	

Old Tiffinians Football Club Fixture List 1905/06

Tiffin History (continued)

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

This September, as last year, the Kingston upon Thames Society will be holding its weekend of open days at various interesting venues in the Royal Borough. The full programme will be available from the Kingston Tourist Office in August (and on the RBK website). Old Tiffinians may be especially interested in visiting Elmfield and other parts of the Tiffin site. John King (Senior Assistant Head) will be offering two tours on **Friday 7th September**, starting at 11.00am and 2.00pm. If interested, please gather at the London Road gate just before these times. Do make yourself known to John (or myself, if present).

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

Old Tiffinian Social Lunch

Our fiftieth Lunch was held on Thursday, 29th March at our usual venue, viz., the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surrey – meeting at 12.30, for lunch at 1.00, departure usually at 3pm.



The 24 present were :-

Jim Aston, Dennis Barnard, David Baron, Jim Dixon, David Evans, Graham Fitchett, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Ken Jenkins, Roger Keep, Ted Key, Greer Kirkwood, David Larmar, Stuart Lester, Howard Mallinson, Terry Noble, John Philips, Roy Rathbone, Stan Slinger, Brian P Smith, Jim Swift, Peter Warn, Howard Watson & John Wright.



The record number in attendance at the previous lunch was maintained this time. We welcomed three new members, viz Roger Keep, Brian Smith & Peter Warn over from Switzerland. Also Willy Harper was hoping to attend but picked up duff petrol from a Shell garage the night before and without transport was stuck. Although it was the 50th Lunch, no special arrangements were made and everyone had the usual excellent lunch.

The Summer date will be **Thursday 5th July** (clashing with Henley). Also the Autumn date is **Thursday, 11th October**.

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



(Photos - and those of the Rugby Lunch elsewhere - by courtesy of Dan Godfrey, our Official Lunch Photographer.)

GREER KIRKWOOD

People



TOM BLOXHAM (1983) still makes the headlines with his company Urban Splash, in which he has a 72% stake. It has again appeared in the *'Sunday Times'* listing of the UK's best small companies to work for. Tom makes a point of having lunch with every team once a year – with no managers present. The 164 staff say he is an inspiration to them, with a positive score of 85%. In April a *'Times'* article on the conversion

of cotton factories in northern towns mentioned in particular Stalybridge, where Urban Splash is creating 44 apartments in the existing 19th-century Longlands Mill and planning a new build of 57 more. 500 people registered their interest well before marketing was due to start. The 12-minute train journey to central Manchester is a major draw. Their loft conversion project at Royal William Yard, Plymouth, was featured on the front page of the *'Telegraph'* Property Supplement on 5th May. Tom has worked hard for his success, and it is good to see a Tiffinian in the 2007 *'Sunday Times'* Rich List.

HUGH FLETCHER (1946) is to be congratulated on his recent election as the next Master of Tiffinian Lodge.



RICHARD HARVEY (1970) graduated from the Royal College of Music in 1972. He played recorder and early woodwinds with Musica Reservata and his own folk group, Gryphon, and he has recorded an award-winning CD of Italian Recorder Concertos, as well as playing woodwind solos on the soundtracks of *'The Lion King'* and the Harry Potter films. A collaboration with Maurice Jarre led him into writing TV and

film scores, which has been his main activity since the late 1970s. His scores include *'Animal Farm'*, *'Colditz'*, the *'Da Vinci Code'* (with Hans Zimmer) and most recently *'Death of a President'*. He has also written an 'eco-musical', *'Plague and the Moonflower'* and a miniature opera *'Love Underground'*, both to libretti by Ralph Steadman. Richard has collaborated with Sir Paul McCartney, Kate Bush, Elvis Costello and many others. He has also collaborated several times with John Williams, one of the foremost guitar players. Together they have travelled throughout the UK, Europe and the Far East with their 'World Tour' programme.



ALEC HOLDEN (father of Brian Holden) in April recently received congratulations from several OTs and Staff on the occasion of his 100th birthday. For a brief period he had his big moment of fame, being pursued by the media for days on end – mainly because he had won £25,000 on a bet he had made ten years ago that he would reach that age, at quite exceptional odds of 250 to 1. He finished up appearing on national

TV news bulletins and giving numerous phone interviews to radio programmes as diverse as Seattle and Madrid (for onward transmission to several countries in South America). His final interview was with a German TV crew who flew in from Hamburg. He is now rather glad the fuss has died down and he can resume quietly his normal activities of playing chess, going to the gym and doing crosswords !

MAURICE POWELL (1950) lives in semi-retirement in the small South Somerset village of Curry Rivel. He is Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council and Treasurer of the *'Curry Rivel News'*, which is the prize-winning monthly local newspaper and which records the activities of the village. Maurice is married to Naomi, whom he met several years ago, when he was a Lt Col in the Sultan of Oman's armed forces, whilst she was Head of the Music Department at the British School in Muscat. She is a musician, and they together take an active part in musical events in the village. They are both members of the Curry Rivel Music Club, which organises classical concerts in the village. In addition they are members of their Twinning Association,

which has hosted a visit from the French village of Cheville (a similar size and situated about 100 miles south of Paris). **JIM LANGDOWN (1963)** also lives in the village and is married to former Tiffin Girl, Jenny Hawes, currently Rector of the local church. Jim is editor of the two Church pages each month in the newspaper. When not engaged in voluntary activities, he works for the diocese, maintaining vacant vicarages and their gardens. Both Jenny Langdown and Naomi Powell are keen gardeners and are regular competitors in the village flower show. For the past two years Jenny has won the silver plate for best blooms, while last year Naomi won two cups for the best entries in various classes. These two OTs exert a not inconsiderable influence upon this small village, and Naomi & Maurice recently organised a demonstration against the possible closure of the village Post Office.

CLEMENT POWER (1996) left Tiffins after taking GCSE to pursue his A-Level studies elsewhere. He later had great success reading Music at Gonville & Caius College and was tipped to be a significant conductor in the future (*see the 2001/02 magazine*). It is interesting to note that he conducted in the Queen Elizabeth Hall Auditorium in a pre-concert on 1st June. He was conducting members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and members of their Future Firsts Student Apprenticeship Programme.

JOHN RYAN (1980) has recently been in touch with the School again. When he left Tiffins, he joined the Police Force for a while and then moved into the IT industry, before undertaking further education. He is now poised for a second career as a paediatric nurse. He is hoping to attend Southampton University to train for this.

PAUL SMART (1981) has recently joined the Association. On leaving he read Chemistry at Newcastle upon Tyne and took a masters in Analytical Chemistry at the University of East Anglia. He entered the Metropolitan Police forensic laboratory as an analytical chemist, before moving over to an industrial environment with American National Can. In 1980 he joined the research division of British Rail and progressively moved away from working as a chemist and increasingly into general management in the rail freight sector. In 2000 Paul became the Operations Director of Freightliner Intermodal, and he is now the Managing Director of Freightliner Heavy Haul Ltd.



ALEC STEWART (1980) in a tribute to Brian Johnston (*'Summers Will Never be the Same'*, published in 1994) confessed that in class he had sometimes used a secret earpiece with a wire running inside his sleeve to a mini-radio in his pocket, in order to follow the latest Test match score from Lord's. Perhaps other OTs might also like to 'confess their sins', now that retribution is unlikely ?

JOSEPH STREETER (1996) last year published his first book with Oxford University Press. He is co-editor of *'Christian Persecution, Martyrdom, and Orthodoxy'*, which is a collection of essays by GEM de Ste Croix, a late Fellow of New College. This is a learned book with many footnotes. Joseph also wrote the introduction and a couple of appendices. Currently he is at University College, preparing a DPhil thesis.



STEVE THOMPSON (former Head of Tiffin Maths Department) continues to earn plaudits for his comedy *'Whipping It Up'* (*see our December edition*). This was a great success, when it opened at the Bush Theatre in November 2006, and has now been partly rewritten and reshaped for its transfer to the New Ambassadors, where it is running until mid-June.



RODERICK WILLIAMS was mentioned in the last issue as singing Papageno in an Opera North production of *'The Magic Flute'* at Leeds Grand Theatre. It has been announced that he will be singing this again at the ENO in October.

De Mortuis

JOHN HIGHAM 1925 - 2006



My brother, John Higham, died at his home in Dover on 22nd November 2006, aged 81. He went to Tiffins in 1936, having previously attended an elementary school in Tolworth. He was a patrol leader in the Scout Troop under the scoutmaster Sam Brown, and he was also a member of the Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps. In the Sixth Form he took the Higher School Certificate and in 1942 was awarded a Surrey County Major Scholarship to Reading University.

In 1944 he was conscripted into the Army, serving in the Burma campaign with an Indian division. After VJ day he transferred to the Army Education Corps as an instructor in Rangoon. John later joined the Customs and Excise service and at retirement was in charge of Customs services at the Western Docks, Dover. He was a keen flute and piccolo player, performing with amateur orchestras in Gravesend and Canterbury, and had a lifelong interest in radio and electronics, which he had studied at Reading University, and also in photography.

John was very involved in community relations at Gravesend and Dover, and he had many friends from Pakistan and India, which he and his wife often visited. During his army service in India and Burma he had learned Urdu and later added to this a good knowledge of Hindi and Arabic. He could read Persian and other texts, and he sometimes recited Urdu poetry to appropriate gatherings. He leaves a wife after 58 years of marriage, together with three children and three grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

D H

CDR JOHN MORRIS-JONES RN, MBE 1924 - 2006



After a life of service both in the Navy and in the Community, John Morris Jones died peacefully on 14th December 2006 at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital after a short illness. He was born on the 29th January 1924 into a family with a strong Naval tradition and entered Tiffins in 1935. After leaving School in 1940, he prepared well for pilot training by studying aeronautical engineering with Vickers Armstrong. On joining the

Fleet Air Arm, John began his flight training in Florida in a Stearman N2S3 trainer, at the age of 19, on the last day of August 1943. By August 1945, after active service in several theatres of war, he was a Corsair pilot aboard HMS Vengeance in the Pacific. With the Japanese surrender, the ship's company were immediately deployed to Hong Kong to help restore civilian services. After being flooded out of their shore tents, a number of officers took up temporary residence in an abandoned villa. There the sound of John's precious gramophone was much appreciated, adding a touch of home amid the aftermath of the surrender.

John later flew the Seafire (the naval Spitfire), making a record 104 deck landings in that type. In 1948 he was seconded to the Royal Australian Navy to train the first Royal Australian Fleet Air Arm pilots in making deck landings. This involved them in initial training at a Coastal Command airfield in Northern

Ireland. There John encountered a peculiarly Irish problem, for the main railway line between Belfast and Londonderry ran across the runway. This meant a cessation of landings, when trains were passing ! He later embarked on Australia's first Aircraft Carrier, HMAS Sydney, for its maiden voyage from Devonport. By the time they arrived in Australia a band had been formed with John as a novice trombonist ! His subsequent specialisation in service trials flying involved him in the earliest deck landings, while commissioning HMS Ark Royal (R 09) in 1955. He later flew jets including the Scimitar, Vampire, Meteor and Hunter. His main experience of jets was, however, in the Navy's first jet, the Sea Hawk. He commanded 895 Squadron flying Sea Hawks from HMS Bulwark during in the 1956 Suez Operations and was awarded an MBE.

By the end of his flying career John had clocked up a total of over 2000 flying hours and over 500 deck landings. He had also made himself indispensable to the Navy and to NATO. Following Naval Staff courses at Greenwich, he was appointed as Naval Liaison Officer to the RAF Central Fighter Establishment. In 1964 he attended the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and the Nuclear Weapons Training Centre in Norfolk, Virginia. His expertise in Command and Control was acknowledged by his appointment, in the USA, to the Staff of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT). As a trusted member of the staff of Admiral Moorer and General Lemnitzer, he was directly involved in briefing NATO Ministers on the Polaris programme. In 1966, as a Target Analyst within SACLANT, he was commended for outstanding achievement "*in the capacity of adviser to the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in nuclear warfare matters...*" He later returned to Britain, serving as Senior Lecturer in Command, Control and Crisis Management at the Joint Services Staff College. His final naval appointment was in Planning & Project Management at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

John always took great pride and pleasure in his family, including his four grandchildren, and in all their achievements. In 1951 he had married Muriel Turner, an artist. Their son, Melvin, was born in 1952 and a daughter, Rebecca, in 1955. Mel followed his father, as a pilot, becoming an expert on autogyros. He also followed his mother, as an artist, becoming a renowned architectural carver. John bore with fortitude Mel's premature death from cancer in 2002. His daughter Beccy, who studied medicine, works as an inner-city General Practitioner. John was also very proud to learn recently that his younger daughter, Anna, had been accepted as a Firefighter in the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Upon leaving the Navy in 1976, after 34 years' service, an equally rich and fulfilling new life began. John was for some years the successful Personnel Manager of a foundry in Shropshire. The break-up of John's first marriage had coincided with the winding down of his naval career. With time on his hands, John offered his spare time as a volunteer in London. Through Father Trevor Huddleston he began work at a night shelter for the homeless. There he first met Megan Galloway a fellow worker, who, some years later, was to become his second wife. Together they undertook pioneering work, alongside Father Bill Kirkpatrick, at 'Centrepoint'. Following his second marriage in 1982, he and Megan moved to a small island community on the West Coast of Scotland. Their daughter, Anna, was born there in 1983. John pursued a rural idyll, taking up, among other things, mussel farming and doing voluntary work for a Housing Association.

When the family returned to Shropshire in 1989, settling in Much Wenlock, John played a key administrative and support role to Megan, who established the Cuan House Wildlife Rescue Centre. He also worked tirelessly for the Shropshire Rural Housing Association. As its highly respected Chairman, he ensured effective management and, where possible, sought to increase its stock of affordable housing. His wider contribution to the local community included being the Chairman of

Governors of a school, a founder member of the management committee of the community hall and a founding father of the Much Wenlock Windmill Trust. His friends will miss his unique greeting of "Welcome Aboard", as they entered his home in landlocked Shropshire.

John was always keen to ensure that new developments were in keeping with the local environment. This was the key to understanding John's commitment as the very effective Chairman of the Much Wenlock Civic Society. Believing that a large scale housing development would alter the character of the town, John worked hard to develop a partnership with the Town Council to object to the plan. Within the last year he gained great satisfaction from the decision of the Planning Inspector to accept the objections and reject this proposal.

Using the skills he learned in the Navy, he also persuaded the citizens of Much Wenlock to give their support to the production of a Town and Parish Plan, which was published in the spring of 2006. He saw the Plan as a way for local people to influence decision making. He felt that priorities for action should be determined locally, not by seemingly remote Local Authorities. John chaired the steering group through each stage in the production of the Plan. He also recruited most of its members, finding the best volunteer talents available locally. The very high response rate gave the survey high credibility. Both the production process and the published Plan, are now regarded as models of good practice. Typically, John was also keen to make the findings widely available through the internet at www.muchwenlockguide.info/town_and_parish_plan/

John was renowned for thinking strategically and for looking to the future. He most recently took great satisfaction in the creation of a 'Broadplace' in Much Wenlock. He had mastered computer technology and wanted everyone, young and old, to have ready local access to broadband internet. He was also gratified that funding had recently been secured to restore the Much Wenlock Windmill. This local landmark formed the backdrop to the earliest photograph of any sporting contest anywhere in the world, the Wenlock Olympian Games of 1867. These games were promoted by Dr William Penny Brookes a local GP and were fore-runners of the Modern Olympic Games. During his last year John Morris-Jones had highlighted the need for improvements to the local infrastructure in preparation for the expected focus on Dr Brookes and Much Wenlock during the 2012 Olympics. Like this illustrious predecessor, John will be remembered in Much Wenlock with respect, affection and gratitude for his tireless voluntary work to benefit the local community. The packed pews of the Holy Trinity Church at his Memorial Service on the 5th January 2007 spoke volumes for the high esteem in which he was universally held.

RICHARD FREDERICK OFFER 1909 – 2007



The Kingston rowing community has lost an inspirational figure, following the death of Dick Offer aged 97 on 6th February, 2007. The former President of the Kingston Rowing Club was born in Kingston in 1909. His maternal grandfather, Alfred Burgoine, was one of the most brilliant boat designers of his age, based in Kingston and then Hampton Wick, and he built one of Queen Victoria's Royal Barges. He also built vessels for Edward VII, and he later became a marine motoring pioneer,

producing engines that were far ahead of their time, reaching river speeds never attained before. Dick's mother was a founder and later the President of Kingston Ladies Swimming Club.

Dick grew up in Hampton Wick by the Thames, but spent most of his time on it. He rowed whilst a pupil at Tiffin School and joined Kingston Rowing Club in 1929, nominated by his two older brothers, Tom and Jack.

In the 1930s, as an all-round sportsman, Dick was a keen sailor, with his own boat on the south coast, and later at the Thames Sailing Club on the Surbiton reach of the river, where he owned one of the Thames Rater Class boats (designed and built by his grandfather) and earned a reputation as a skilful and competitive helmsman, which he kept up into his 80s. Dick was a member of the Royal Canoe Club and The Skiff Club, and he also played rugby for the Old Tiffinians and at County level in the winter months.

However, it was in the sport of rowing that he excelled, winning the Silver Goblets Pair Oared event at Henley Royal Regatta with his brother Jack in 1936. That success led to eventual selection in 1938 for the British Empire Games in Sydney. Dick had to take unpaid leave from his job at an insurance company in the City for many months to be able to compete and often talked about the difficulties in maintaining training during the six-week sea voyage over to Australia ! Nevertheless, at the Games they achieved victory in the Double Sculls event.

On the day before war was declared in 1939 Dick married Mac, who gave him every support for his devotion to rowing and his time-consuming coaching role, committee and Presidency commitments, until she died only four years ago. Soon after the outbreak of war, Dick found himself as a volunteer fire-watcher on the river in London before joining the Royal Navy. Within a short time he gained his Commission and played a significant role on D-Day as Commander of a tank landing-craft. It was Dick's responsibility, with accurate navigation, to be first in to his allotted Arromanches Beach to land the Beachmaster and this he did with unerring competence. Dick was an unassuming man, modest by nature and somewhat reluctant to reminisce about his war service, but he was clearly proud of the fact that after that episode he returned the ship and crew to British shores safely, despite having hit a mine, which necessitated transferring a badly injured soldier to a hospital ship under bombardment thus saving his life, and with a hole and live shell in the hull – perhaps a measure of the man, his intelligence, practicality and caring nature. Unfortunately, during the war, the family's Burgoine's Boatyard in Hampton Wick received a direct hit from an incendiary bomb and the Offers lost their sculling and rowing boats.

Dick continued to row after the war, returning to Kingston Rowing Club, which was struggling after losing many of its members in the war, and rowed in Kingston's post-war 'Grand' crews at Henley Royal Regatta and other regattas up and down the Thames.

When Dick eventually gave up his oars in the 1950s, he was aged over 40 and he began coaching instead, but he frequently still found himself stepping into Kingston Rowing Club crews at the last minute. He then started coaching at Tiffin School, inspiring the young crews to many regatta successes, and a high profile in the schools' event at Henley Royal Regatta. Many of his young charges went on to become international oarsmen in their own right.

Dick served the Kingston Amateur Regatta and the Kingston Rowing Club for many years, playing a significant role in the 1960s in the development of the present Club Headquarters site in Canbury Gardens. In 1993 Dick was deservedly elected to the Club Presidency – a position he held for over a decade. He continued to be a constant presence and support for the Club and its members at regattas and at Club functions up to the end of his life.

Dick and Mac had three daughters Wendy, Jill, and Peta and many grandchildren, most of whom were inspired to take up rowing with significant success.

He will be sadly missed by family and friends – amongst them many Old Tiffinians.

(The following personal memoir has been contributed by Ted Key, a long-standing friend of the family.)

Dick Offer died at the age of nearly 98, peacefully. That sums up a remarkable Old Tiffinian. A gentle man, a very strong and resilient man. At the funeral I had the chance of meeting up again with the family, particularly his daughters, Wendy, Jill and Peta. I first met them all in 1950 when, as a very inexperienced teacher at Tiffin School, I lived in my first year in a flat in Hampton Wick. The Offer family lived in the same block of flats and there was that gap, very frequently, between an afternoon at Grist's and evening classes (blood money), when I would scrounge a cup of tea and enjoy the company of the wonderful Mac, Dick's wife, and three little girls. Where was my young wife, Mary? Keeping me in a better style than that first year's salary of £415 per annum would permit...and getting to know John Glasscock and Chris Deighton who also worked at the Shire Hall... before I really knew them.

At the funeral I had expected to see some school and rowing club people I knew. Dick had outlived almost all who knew him as a younger man and, as far as Tiffin staff was concerned, I seemed to be the only one left, though perhaps Eric Griffiths would have remembered the family. There were two amongst the red and white ties and red blazers who did recognise me and vice versa, and one or two others eventually picked out the old fellow with the white hair. "Well I never! I thought you were dead". "Oh, yes, you were the one who was in the Fleet Air Arm. Did you write a book about flying? No, it was Keith Southan I think." And among the nicer old boys, "I hope I wear as well as you." Paul Vye, Wendy's husband, greeted me. We had been on the Canbury Boathouse Committee so many years ago. I had met these 'Wet-Bobs' at two other funerals.... George Worth and Keith Southan, and of course they are in an area of Old Boys I had less to do with in my near 40 years at the School.

The funeral was a truly family occasion. The chapel at Randall's Park was very, very full and of course the red of Kingston Rowing Club prevailed. Dick's coffin was borne in by the younger blades of the family and I do not mean that to be a cheap pun. Dick was not essentially a religious man, but he was a wonderfully straight man whose family was everything. In that respect I feel strongly that he was a man of profound faith in the goodness of life. There were religious items but the basic element of the service was music and the sound of beautiful voices, the younger members of Dick's family. There were others who read some very lovely verses and Peta paid a particularly moving family tribute to Dick. Paul Vye paid tribute to Dick's remarkable career as an oarsman, winning a silver medal in the Empire Games in the Silver Goblets with his brother Jack. Jack was Chairman of the Ground Company when JJ began to develop a strong school element at Grist's by having the games master present at those meetings... a games master has followed me there ever since. Dick played rugger, reaching county level, as well as his ever-present role in rowing. In those days of liaison between us he encouraged boys to play rugger as well as row, and in that way we both had the pleasure of playing some very good Tiffin all rounders. He once told me that he preferred marking out a rugger pitch to being in his lessons. He then adding sailing and the Royal Navy during the Second World War. He was to crown the busiest of careers with his wonderfully successful coaching style at both Kingston Rowing Club and Tiffin School. The Offer home was never devoid of young oarsmen, and just as I found their home a comforting place so did many young Tiffinian rowers. The progeny of the Offers and the men the girls married have provided many distinguished young oarsmen.

To return to the Funeral Service, mention should be made again of the musical talent within the family. I thought the 1992 recording of Donan Vye singing 'Pie Jesu' an excerpt from Faure's *Requiem* as an accompaniment to the Committal was particularly moving. Donan's treble voice, added a special poignancy to the final farewell of Dick Offer. Dick always spoke to me of his pride in his grandson who had been a chorister at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Funeral services are not really one's favourite events, but I do remember Mac's instructions to the family several years ago, when the girls turned up in their Henley finery at her funeral. I will remember Dick's funeral for the response of so many 'redded' members of Kingston Rowing Club. I think the verse at the end of the service read with a Kiwi dialect by Peta's boy, says all that needs to be said...but was it written by Anon?

*Not how did he die, but how did he live?
Not what did he gain, but what did he give?
These are the units to measure the worth
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.
Not what was his church, nor what was his creed?
But had he befriended those really in need?
Was he ever ready, with words of good cheer,
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?
Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say,
But how many were sorry when he passed away?*

THOMAS HENRY MILES OFFER 1905 -2006



Tom was born on the 30th January 1905, and he died three months short of his 102nd birthday. He had a wonderful life and, more than anything, he loved people.

His early years were spent at Riverside in Hampton Wick. He spent most of his school holidays visiting his grandfather's boatyard. He even had a pair of sculls made for him at the age of 4 or 5. Spending so much time on or in the river, he was able to swim at the age of 4, as did his brothers, sister and children. All of them were expected

to have their nautical talents publicly demonstrated at Galas and Regattas. In the summer he swam in the river and rowed with his brothers.

When he was nine, the First World War broke out, and they were soon making aeroplane parts in the buildings around. Tom could remember as a small child, with no clothes on, standing on a dressing table, emptying a bottle of talcum powder over his head and attracting a small audience of workmen outside. Tom had a sense of humour even then. In 1914 he was already a boy scout. He was only 9, but large for his age, and passed for 11. He was immediately sent to Surbiton Railway Station and instructed to wait, in case needed as a 'runner' to Kingston Barracks with a message. The hours passed and no message came, and in the early hours of the next morning his parents arrived to take him home and found him asleep at his post!

Tom entered Tiffin School in February 1915. He found that boys were selected from the training squad for rowing. Because he was in the junior school, he was not selected. However, he had his own sculling boat and made sure he was noticed when the squad were practising. Ultimately a missing member left a gap which he filled and from which he never stepped down. He was then made the stroke of the school boat for the first four post-war years. Here he also became Surrey School's swimming champion.

Along with his love of sport Tom discovered at Tiffins his love for maths and science, and he always retained a logical and exacting mind. On leaving Tiffins he became captain of The Old Tiffinians' football team, not that he played football particularly well, but they needed to get to the fixtures and he was the only one with a car!

In his early years anything must have seemed possible, with the expanding use of the motor car and aeroplanes being made by his friend Tommy Sopwith in Ham.

Tom always had a love of motoring and was asking what car Dick Offer was driving a month before he died. In the early years he had a motorbike too, even if it was dangerous. He was coming around

what is now the Kingston one-way system, outside the Empire Cinema, when he ran under the legs of an unlit elephant out for its evening exercise from a circus at Canbury Gardens! As we know, he survived the experience.

He met a stunning red-head, Grace Appleton, in his teens and thinking it would be nice to spend some time alone, he took her sailing. Whether he was showing off or it was a freak gust, they capsized. Could Grace have realised that they would be together for 75 happy years? They were married in 1930, and a daughter, Pam, followed in 1931 and Tony in 1932.

Tom started his training as a Quantity Surveyor to go into his father's business, but with a fall-off in the construction business and the start of the BBC in 1925/26, Tom wanted to get into radio, just as youngsters were getting into computers ten or twenty years ago. Through a chance meeting with the Sales Manager of Marconiphone, he obtained the sales agency. He set up Offer Radio in Victoria Road in Surbiton. In 1935 Tom moved to Lovelace Gardens, and with the outbreak of the Second World War Tom was in a 'Reserved Occupation'. He was used by the local authorities to disseminate information by public address systems and to maintain radio installations.

His son, Tony, would collect shrapnel and incendiary bombs and kept them in the garage. One wet autumn Tom was having trouble lighting a bonfire at the end of the garden, and he knew where his son had kept his secret stash in the garage, so one of the small incendiaries was put under the bonfire. The results were initially disappointing, until sufficient heat finally detonated the small explosive, and Tom came back into the kitchen with no eyebrows and looking for the stirrup pump to put out the fire on the neighbour's fence.

Their next move was to Banstead to a house backing onto Cuddington Golf Course. Tom and Grace loved their garden, with wonderful displays of dahlias and roses for Grace and vegetables and fruit for Tom. Tom and Grace enjoyed golf, and Tom kept his many friends from Kingston Rowing Club.

They would spend their many holidays motoring in France with a long succession of Citroën motorcars, the last of which was given to Margaret, his granddaughter.

Meaning to buy a flat they bought a motor sailing boat "La Fiesta" to explore the south of France. They were based in St. Jean Cap Ferrat. The 1960s were an exciting time: St. Jean was just a small Mediterranean fishing port, but there was an interesting mix of artists and actors and an easy lifestyle. Tom always enjoyed good company and French food and wine. Tom recounted how at the now very pricy La Voile d'Or Hotel in St. Jean, one helped oneself to a drink and left the money in a box.

At home Tom became a J.P. and President of The Rotary. With the arrival of his six grandchildren, Tom and Grace were always welcoming. Tom would invariably be making or repairing something in his workshop, be it a sledge or a fishing-net for his grandchildren. Tom could repair almost anything, from a television or washing machine to a tea cup, usually with a little araldite. Grace would often comment "Can't we get a proper man in to repair it?".

With the advent of colour television in 1969, which would have meant retooling and retraining his staff, Tom decided to retire at the age of 64. Tom and Grace spent a happy retirement enjoying their many hobbies. Tom was always interested in the progress of his children and grandchildren, keeping a close watch on their work and activities. Tom and Grace found the death of their son Tony in 1983 at the age of 51 difficult to understand. When Grace developed Alzheimer's Tom was patient and caring until her death in 1994. After Grace's death Tom was able to stay at home with the help of various housekeepers, but he was often to be found up a ladder, trimming the hedges and mowing the lawn with a mechanical mower. In 2000 Pam found a place for Tom in a Residential Home, and in 2005 he moved to the Home of Compassion in Thames Ditton in its wonderful setting, where he could look out over his beloved River Thames and watch the scullers glide by.

Tom had a wonderful life and knew what was important. He cared for his family and his friends. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, and is greatly missed.

We regret to announce also the death of Nigel Hughes (1972) and of Russell Steward (1956).

Tiffinian Lodge

We are now coming to the end of our 95th year as a masonic lodge, and we have had a very enjoyable and productive year. On 22nd 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 Officers of the Lodge by Derek Tullett. Following this, a splendid dinner was enjoyed by all.

In our April meeting Ravi Kamineni was initiated into the Lodge in a splendid ceremony, which was enjoyed by all. We are so pleased to have Ravi as a new member of the Lodge. We extend our congratulations to him on his initiation, and look forward to enjoying his company at future meetings.

The Lodge also elected Hugh Fletcher as Master of the Lodge for the coming year, and we look forward with great anticipation to his installation ceremony in October, and to a great year to follow.

Hugh will be the second master in our 95-year history to serve as Master of this Lodge for the second time. We had hoped to reach our centenary without any masters serving for a second year, but at the present time we are still 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 Tiffinian Lodge very special.

We would, therefore, love to hear from anyone thinking of becoming a new member of the Lodge, and 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. Alternatively, I can be emailed at MJB2@talktalk.net

MICHAEL BECKERMAN

Leaving College This Summer?

Please remember to update us with any change of email address
(as well as any alteration in your mailing address)!

94th OTA Skiff Marathon

One of the oldest OTA events, this has continued to grow in popularity, with three new recruits taking part in the event held Sunday 20th May. Whether you rowed at school 40 or 4 years ago, the affinity to water still remains strong, and all who competed continue to remember the importance of teamwork and commitment to the crew. Long may Tiffin rowing continue to feed this event well up to and beyond the 100-year anniversary that fast approaches.

Six crews were due to compete, but owing to illness five crews competed on the day. The demands of the race are known too well to all.

The first crew to set off were new-comers Stephen Robin and Basil El-Shirbiny. They had never stepped in a skiff before; however, they coped well, calling on their sculling memories from school six years ago. A generous handicap was given, but they could not hold off the more experienced crews.

Last year's handicap winners, Tim Pitt and Andy Ward, had their handicap cut this year. However, they took this in their stride and sculled well over the course to take the handicap trophy for a second year. They know their handicap in 2008 will be non-existent !

Andy Powell and John Roberts started in the middle of the pack and did well to maintain a good pace and finished strongly.

At the back of the field a small handicap was given to Tony Ellis and last minute substitute Ashley Tilling who was a winner back in the 1980s. They held off long-time competitor Dave Gattey and his

new partner Mike Abbott for the first third of the course. It was Dave and Mike's skiffing experience that took them through most of the field to take the fastest crew trophy.

About 30 friends and family followed the race in the spectator launch and had the opportunity to see all the crews at close hand. The Chairman of the OTA, Howard Mallinson, presented prizes after the race.

Dittons Skiff and Punting Club continue to support the event with their boats and encourage any Tiffinians to try the sport. Next year's event will be on a similar date in May.

If you are interested in competing then give me a call on 07774 123348 or email tony.ellis@ge.com

Results:

	Race time	
Mike Abbott David Gattey	21.47	Fastest Crew
Tony Ellis Ashley Tilling	22.50	
Tim Pitt Andrew Ward	22.16	Handicap winners
Andy Powell John Roberts	23.59	
Stephen Robin Basil El-Shirbiny	26.13	

TONY ELLIS



Tim Pitt, Dave Gattey, Mike Abbott, Andy Ward & winning cox, Sheila Ferguson, receive their trophies from Howard Mallinson

Queen Elizabeth Road News

School Boat Club

It's been a busy few months for the Tiffin Boat Club, which have resulted in some exciting races and a big presence in local events by Tiffin rowers — starting with the National Junior Sculling Head on the 14th of March, which had to be moved from Henley to Dorney Lake owing to river conditions in Henley. We took a J16 quad, which finished 9th out of 20 in their category. Our J15A quad finished 6th and the J15B quad finished 23rd in their category. On the J14 side of things, many boys competed in their first race, and we took one octuple and two quads. The octuple placed 24th, the A quad placed 29th and the B quad placed 23rd in their categories.

The following day the Junior 8 finished 16th overall and 16th in their division in the Schools' Head, that was raced on the Tideway. They finished with a time of 17:43. The Junior coxed 4 also raced, and placed 8th in their division and 115th overall, with a time of 19:50.

Following on from the Schools' Head, we took a large complement to the Kingston Head on the 24th of March. Conditions were awful on the day, but we still managed to get some good results. The Junior 8 won the pennant for their division with a time of 17:29.4, which was 25th overall. We entered a J14 A and B octuple, and they fought their way down the course, with a few steering mishaps owing to the conditions. The B octo posted a time of 24:42.5, which placed them 78th overall and 5th in their category, with the A just behind with a time of 25:08.4, which was 80th overall and 6th in their category.

In the fours we entered four boats. The Junior quad placed 16th overall, with a time of 20:29.5, which placed them first in their category, followed by the Junior coxed four finishing in a time of 21:52.8, which put them 24th overall and 4th in their category. The J14 coxed quad finished with a time of 22:52.6, which was 31st overall and 5th in their category.

With the Head racing part of the season behind us, we looked forward to National Schools and began to enter small, local regattas to get ready for National Schools. We first went to Chiswick Amateur Regatta on the 5th of May. We started the day with our J16 quad racing Tideway Sculler's School, but were unfortunately knocked out by them. This was followed by the J14A & B quads being knocked out by St George's A & B quads, but they were close races. The highlight of the day was a Tiffin v Tiffin final in the J15 quads, with the A boat taking the pennant.

The following day the Junior 8 raced at Wallingford. They placed third in their heat, finishing ahead of Winchester, KCS Wimbledon and Shiplake, and went on to place 6th in the final.

The weekend before National Schools we went to Thames Ditton and were out in full force. We entered the Junior 8, which was knocked out by King's Canterbury. The Junior coxed 4 was knocked out by KGS and the coxless four was beaten by Kingston Rowing Club, competing at Senior 1. The J15 coxed quad beat St. George's College by 4.5 lengths, while the J15 double was knocked out by Tideway Sculler's School. Jonathan Williams, racing in his single, beat Tickner from Burway in the J15 single event. We also took two J14 coxed quads, a J14 octuple, a J15 eight and a J16 quad, all of which were knocked out in preliminary rounds.

Then it was on to the premier weekend of the season. We had an exciting weekend at the National Schools' Regatta, battling other schools as well as the weather. Friday's weather started off nice, but we did have some rain during the day. The J14A coxed quad (Aaron

Moran, Kieran Hameed, Josh Grant, Max Camara and Charlie 'Chizzle' Harrison as the cox) was up against Molesey, Henley, Pangbourne, Stourport and Monmouth in the Heats, and were knocked out during those rounds, but put up a good fight. The J14 B quad (Ben Phillips, James Booth, Akash Saini, Tim Otway, Alex Wilkinson, cox) raced KGS, Dulwich and Sir William Borlase's School in the heats, and made it through to the semi-finals. In the semis they placed 5th behind Windsor Boy's, King's School Chester, Dulwich, Sir William Borlase's School and were knocked out. Also racing on Friday was the J15 double of Alex Thomas and George Nottidge. They got through the heats, beating Sir William Borlase's School and Hereford Cathedral School. In the semi-final they defeated Henley Rowing Club, Norwich School and Durham School to make it to the final. By the time the final was raced, the weather had deteriorated, but they rowed a very good race against much bigger crews. They finished 6th in the final with a time of 3:36.88, over 1500m.

Saturday dawned with more promising weather, and we started the day with processions for the 1st 8, the J15 coxed 4, the J16 coxless quad and the Junior 4, competing in the Schools' coxed four event. All made it through to the semi-finals except for the Junior coxed 4 (Mark Nixon, Matt Stevens, Sam Hawkins, Kelvin Wong, Charlie Harrison, cox), which missed it by two places. The J15 coxed four (Ben Ralph, Arran Mornin, Toby Rickards, Ivo Marlais and Ollie Baker, cox) placed 5th in the semi-final, ahead of King's School Worcester with a time of 7:38.51. This did not qualify them for the final. The J16 coxless quad, consisting of Henry Edwards, Rowan Bailey, Ieuan Thomas and James Bott placed 5th in the semi-final with a time of 7:06.61, but did not advance to the final. The first 8, consisting of Day Moran, Freddie Siemers, Komsan Duke, Nick Edwards, Kristian Brauten-Smith, Andrew Parrish, Rupert Price and Stuart West with Ollie Baker coxing, raced a fantastic race in the semi-finals, missing out on making the final by a matter of feet. They were up against some much bigger crews, and raced an amazing race, but just missed the final by about two seconds. They placed 5th in the semi-finals.



*J16 Four at National Schools' Regatta
(I Thomas, J Bott, R Bailey & H Edwards)*

Sunday started with bad weather that only got worse. White horses on the finish line side of the lake, and waves crashing over the boating pontoons made it an intimidating lake to boat into. The J15 coxed quad were up first in the processions. Henry Heath, Eddie Rolls, George Nottidge, Alex Thomas and David Rochman (cox), pushed off the pontoon and battled their way to the start line. They made it through the procession to reach the semi-final. The next race for Tiffin was in the Championship coxed fours. With Stuart West, Kristian Brauten-Smith, Andrew Parrish and Nick Edwards in the boat, they pushed their way to the start line, also qualifying for the semi-final. The weather worsened, and for the semi-final the J15 quad took to the water. They fought the conditions and managed to just squeak by into the final, posting the slowest qualifying time. The next two races for Tiffin were one after the other. First it was the Championship 4 event for the semi-final. They placed 5th with a time of 6:43.4, which was not enough to get through to the final. The

J15s were up next for the final. The weather had deteriorated to the point that we could not see the starting line from where we were near the finish. The board posted the times at the 500m mark, and our quad was in third. We waited anxiously for the 1000m times, and when they posted Tiffin had moved into second. By this time we could just make out the commentary coming over the megaphones, saying that the race was between Tiffin and King's Ely. As the crews came into view, we could see just how close it was. All the Tiffin spectators ran with the boat to the finish line, to see us come in second with a time of 7:04.62. King's Ely finished at 7:03.42. We had won the silver medal ! We met the boys on the pontoon, when Eddie Rolls said to me, "Miss, we were more excited about winning than the crew who got gold !" We proceeded to the medal ceremony, packed up and went home a very wet, but very happy crew and coaches.

We look forward to the summer racing season and will be rounding off the season at Kingston Head, along with other regattas along the way. Keep an eye on the Club's website for regattas we shall be entering. We hope too to welcome some OTs at the House Rowing on 16th July. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to my fellow coaches Harriet Pagnamenta and Will Dixon, who have been a great help this past term. Kath Diamond, who is a new member of the Tiffin team, has also been a big help with land training, training camp, and J14 outings. Tom Gale has been brought on board as a coach for the J15s, J16s and seniors, and has been an inspiration to the boys already. I would also like to thank Dave White, our boatman, for his unending contribution to the Boat Club. Here's to a great summer season and building a good foundation for next year !

JOLIE TAYLOR

School Golf

Tiffin entered two teams into this year's British Heart Foundation Golf Championship with the first qualifying round at Coombe Wood Golf Course.

Through sponsorship, over £250 was raised for the charity by the boys taking part, and it turned out to be a successful day all round. Although one team was hampered by the late withdrawal of senior player Richard Hunt, Oliver Patel stepped in at the last minute to join Jamie Tabbert and Michael Cullen, and all three played commendably, finishing in 10th place out of the eighteen teams taking part. Better was to come, however, as our other team (all from Form 9TM) of Vince Manning, James Sesemann and Henry Edwards outscored all the opposition to win the competition.

Although Vince finished well, inconsistency meant that he managed just 32 points. Henry bettered that with a fine 41 points, and James was the top scorer on the day with a magnificent 44 points. The team has now qualified for the regional final to be played in June.

STEVE CATHCART

School Cricket

The 1st XI has lurched from brilliance to disappointment during the first part of the season with four solid wins but three unexpected defeats. To lose to Hampton, having reduced them to 95 for 7 with the most outstanding bowling and fielding performance of the first half of the season, was the biggest disappointment. However, a bowling attack of great strength has enabled the 1st XI to bowl out sides consistently this season. With a little more determination from the middle-order batting, the second half of the season should bring some good results. Harry Beeston leads the run scorers with two fine half centuries to cement wins over St.Benedict's and Wimbledon College. Not far behind are Bill Geiringer and Naman Pathak, who featured heavily in the other two victories over Kingston Grammar School and Emanuel.

The bowling has been led in some style by Muhunthan Harinath's leggies, googlies and flippers, he being responsible for 29 wickets already this season. Aidan Young, left arm orthodox, has made a remarkable impression in his first season in the side, whilst Alistair Watkins, Bill Geiringer and Harry Weale have provided the pace attack.

Results throughout the school have been a little disappointing thus far, with only the under-14 side retaining its record intact. With the Tercels recording a win over the Old Tiffinians in their opening match of the season and the U12 and U13 teams fresh from their visit to the first day of the Lord's Test, we hope for a better run in after half term.

MARTIN WILLIAMS

School Cross-Country

Most valuable athlete: Tim Sagar

Most improved athlete: Tom Veness

Most promising debut seasons: Nikolaj Schubert, Jake Telford, Oliver Garner, Christian Raimondo

Seniors Honours:

Surrey Schools relay series Gold medal.

Winners at Tiffin, John Fisher, Wallington and Oxted.

Runners: Tim Sagar (4), Jonathan Darby (3), James Ayres (3), Oliver Waring (2), Ralph Street (1), Jack Davies (1) Joe Frost (1), Paul Kenny (1)

Borough Championships: 1st

Judge Cup: 2nd School home

South London Harriers: 3rd

South-East Championships: 9th

National relay 17th King Henry VIII Coventry

National long course 26th in country, Knowl run

Inters:

1st Borough Championships

1st Kingston & Polytechnic match

3rd South London Harriers

3rd Charterhouse relays

6th South-East Championships

Juniors:

1st Borough Championships

3rd Kingston and Polytechnic Harriers race

3rd Oxted League Match

8th South-East Championships

Committee 2007-8

Captains: Tim Sagar, Jack Davies

Vice Captain: Jake Telford

Secretary: Jacob Ward

Vacancies: Ents secretary and Wednesday points manager.

ROBIN SHAW

School Chess

The season ended on a high note with a strong A Team beating Hampton 3½ to 2½. Prior to that the team had a good result against St Paul's School, Barnes.

A special thanks to Similan for taking over the Captain's responsibility late in the season from Anton Chernikov, who gave up owing to commitments elsewhere.

The B Team had a good season under the Captaincy of Jonathan Hancock, who deserves tremendous thanks for all his work for the Chess Club, particularly with lunchtime clubs and the National Chess Challenge.

I have enjoyed the involvement but hope another enthusiast is around next year to help on Friday nights. If you know of anyone, please do contact the Headmaster, Mr Keary or myself.

PETER WILLIAMS

Performing Arts

The current exam period leaves us a little time to catch breath and reflect on a busy, challenging and rewarding past few months, and also to look forward to end of term celebrations and beyond.

Following last year's Dance project with the Royal Ballet School, we used the same model to work with students from Coombe Boys' School on a choreographic project, culminating in a final performances in Kingston Parish Church, accompanied by the Widor Toccata played on the Frobenius Organ. Earlier in the term, our Dance company Boys' Dance @ Tiffin swept the board at the National Schools Dance Showcase at the Laban Centre, and the same boys are about to go on a mini-tour of primary and special needs schools in Kingston.

A vital part of the mission of being an Arts College is in deepening Tiffin's relationships with local schools and community groups. It is now the norm for all performing groups to give matinée performances for local schools, to go into assemblies and to engage in meaningful collaborative projects – and one such event was the Thames Youth Orchestra playing to a packed Kingston Parish Church back in March, in which Gershwin's *'An American in Paris'* was dissected, the instruments of the orchestra explained, and opportunities for young (i.e. 7–11 year old!) conductors to try their hand in front of a full symphony orchestra. Very few of the children had ever heard a live orchestra before, let alone at such close quarters – and this kind of work not only uses young people as role models for the community (offering a far more educative tool than adults can ever hope to be), but gives our students at Tiffin a greater sense of understanding of their own learning, skills and experience.

The House competitions in Drama and Singing were successful and brought about, as ever, feverish and highly skilled work from the boys – at these times, the arguments about boys involving themselves fully in wider opportunities disappears, as every available room and space seems to be used at every possible moment in the day. There were creditable performances from all of the Houses in both competitions,



with Scott claiming the Drama trophy, Nick Goodman the award for best writing, and Sam Caseley and Louis Mackie the prizes for best actor. The House Singing was adjudicated by Stephen Layton of Trinity College, Cambridge, and brought about a high-spirited and feverishly contested evening of great performances. Kieran Brunt and Alex Spinney, both of KM, won the trebles and ATB sections respectively, while KM triumphed in the Part-Song with an excellent arrangement by Alex Spinney of *'Good old fashioned lover boy'* and James Andrewes marshalling a huge CG contingent through a showbiz-choreographed *'Sit down, you're rocking the boat'*. As Stephen Layton was later to remark, there were two consistent elements in this competition – vibrato and outrageous choreography. I'll settle for that.

Elsewhere, the choir gave a well-received and well-attended concert with the London Mozart Players, featuring, in addition to the Fauré Requiem, Schubert's *'Gesang der Geister über den Wassern'*, Tarik O'Regan's *'And there was a great calm'*, and the Debussy three chansons – there is now an annual commitment to a concert with the LMP, with next year's taking place on Saturday 29th March 2008; the School Concert at the end of April saw the premiere of a superb new Jazz Cantata *'King Alfred and his Hot Cakes'* by Simon Ferris, as well as a storming set from the Swing Band, Close Harmony Group and String Orchestra; and the Woodwind and Brass Competition, adjudicated by Carl Jackson of Kingston Grammar School, was won by Jasper Affonso (flute) and Max Fagandini (trumpet).

And so to the end of term: the choir is touring Romania at the end of July, and will be giving a concert on **Thursday 28th June (7.30 pm)** at St Luke's Church, Gibbon Road, Kingston. This is a programme built around the Byrd Mass for five voices, and featuring a capella music by Tavener, Macmillan and Britten; on **Sunday 1st July (9.30 am & 6.30 pm)**, the choir will be singing the services at Kingston Parish Church.

The big end-of-term event is Tiffin-in-the-Garden, which this year will take place on **Friday 13th July**, from mid-afternoon until 9.30 pm. This will feature performances in many different spaces from various drama, dance and music groups; a bar and BBQ will be outside; the Leavers' Concert will be in the Main Hall at 7 pm; and the Swing Band will be leading the dancing outside from 8.15 pm. Earlier in the afternoon, all boys (and staff) who play musical instruments, together with those from our link primary schools, will join in a massed performance of the Elgar *'Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1'*, and we shall reprise this later in the evening. Tickets are available from the Box Office.

Finally, looking ahead to the new academic year – the Oratorio will be on **Saturday 1st December**, and is *'The Dream of Gerontius'* (Elgar). Rehearsals begin in the Main Hall on Tuesday 11th September – and we are moving rehearsal times to begin at 7.30 pm, with a finish time of 9.30 pm. The School Play will be in the week of **Monday 10th – Saturday 15th December**; the Boys' Choir will be performing Mahler's Third Symphony with the LPO and Gennadi Rozhdestvensky at the Royal Festival Hall on **Wednesday 12th December**; and, looking further ahead, they will be appearing in *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'* at the Royal Opera House in January and February 2008.

SIMON TOYNE

Friends of Tiffin Music

It's a wonder that the boys ever get any academic work done at school, as it often seems as though there is a concert every week! Last term was as busy as ever – a very successful Gig Night (our 5th), the Boys' Choir singing in London and Birmingham, a very successful end of term concert, to name but four of the activities. The Friends' Studio is now up and running, and we are looking at future projects – it's all very hush-hush at the moment, but I hope to be able to tell you more next time.

This term we have already had a very successful series of three School Concerts, which featured six of the U6 A-Level performances – all different and all outstanding. We have also had the Brass and Woodwind Competition final, and more recently the House Singing. Here are a few forthcoming dates for your diary:

Friday 13th July – Tiffin in the Garden. (see Simon Toyne's article for details)

Saturday 14th July – Thames Youth Orchestra at Kingston Parish Church, performing a programme of Elgar, Brahms and Schumann. All details on the website – www.thamesyouthorchestra.co.uk – and in the local press too.

Saturday 8th September – Thames Youth Orchestra at the Cadogan Hall, London, where they will be reprising the American programme from last term's successful concert – Gershwin, Copland, Bernstein and Harris. Again, details on the website and in the press, or from me!

Finally, Oratorio rehearsals begin on **Tuesday 11th September** (starting at 7.30pm, an earlier time than in previous years). The Oratorio Concert (we are singing *'The Dream of Gerontius'*) will be held on **Saturday 1st December** in the Sports Hall.

I do hope you can join us at some of these events. As always, if you would like to know more about us, then please contact me by phone on 020 8395 7146 or by email – miranda.fagandini@which.net

MIRANDA FAGANDINI