



Newsletter of Tiffinian Association No. 238 December 2008

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From the Head's Study

Dear Friends,

I mentioned briefly in my last letter to you all that we would be moving from September 2009 to a system of Vertical Tutoring. This is not an unprecedented change. Indeed, the system of vertical tutoring is becoming more common across the country. Schools that have already changed are all very positive about the benefits. In these schools, more students are participating in activities and tutors are more able to monitor and support students' learning. The benefits of vertical tutoring fall into four main areas :



1. Academic mentoring opportunities
 - At regular intervals students and parents come into school to attend academic review sessions; these complement subject consultation events and provide the student with structured, regular and informed advice.
2. Students receive more support and recognition.
 - During key times, such as making GCSE choices, each tutor will only have three students to support, so each will get much more attention than in their current tutor group, where everyone has similar needs at the same time.
 - Tutors can arrange for younger students to get advice from older students in their tutor groups who have 'been through it' more recently.
3. Students get more chance to take responsibility.
 - Older students will become mentors and 'buddies'.
4. Better Relationships
 - Under the new system, students will get to know people from other year groups in a safe environment, while still working with their year group peers in lessons. Positive relationships across the school can be fostered.
 - Occasionally certain year groups acquire labels, such as a 'good' year group or a 'bad' year group; inevitably each year group has different characteristics and this can sometimes influence performance; vertical tutoring will lessen the impact of these differences.

Mr Keary, our newly appointed Assistant Head, is in charge of the move to vertical tutoring, and I know he will make sure that it becomes quickly embedded in the school.

The OTA Annual Dinner was held on Friday 14th November at the Boathouse and was a very enjoyable occasion. The OTA said goodbye formally to Dave Morris and Tim McCann (who, unfortunately, could

not be there owing to a prior engagement). Both were marvellous educators, and we count ourselves very fortunate to retain both in a part-time capacity this year.

This term sees three of my favourite school events. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the whole school observed 2 minutes' silence in recognition of war dead as part of our Remembrance Service. An excerpt from Benjamin Britten's War Requiem, recorded in 2005 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, was played, which featured the Tiffin Boys' Choir. Indeed, the current Boys' Choir reprised the performance on Sunday 9th November at the Royal Albert Hall in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the end of The Great War. The review in 'The Times' on Monday said that the "voices of boys, in this case the excellent Tiffin Boys' Choir, raised their sacrifice of prayer high up in the gallery". Next up was the Oratorio on Saturday 22nd November in the Sports Hall. This year, the Requiem by Verdi was being performed by a choir of 250 people, a professional orchestra and first class solo artists, and the evening was, as ever, hugely enjoyable. Towards the end of term is the ever-popular Carol Service in the Parish Church. I look forward to seeing you at one or other – or both – of these events.

Sean Heslop

All Old Tiffinians and Friends

are invited to the **School Carol Service**
in Kingston Parish Church, at 7.30 pm
on Wednesday, 17th December

but afterwards this year
there will **NOT**
be a Reunion Gathering
in the Walden Hall

LICENSED BAR - PARKING AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Chairman

Dear Old Tiffinian,

The bureaucratic process of transferring the assets of the Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund and the Ground Company to TAL has been proceeding, and as I write is substantially accomplished. The thanks of all of us are due to Mark Darby, Peter Osborne, Stuart Lester and David Baron for making this happen. During the process of conveying our land to TAL we were surprised to hear that certain parties still had their legal charges registered. Of course, all the associated debt has been repaid long ago, but nevertheless this was an unexpected piece of housekeeping that had to be dealt with. It was an interesting reminder of days gone by: when the Dean Pavilion was built in the 1960s, debt was needed to help fund it, as well as for the various bar refurbishments that eventually followed. You have heard me say before that it was a great blessing that the reorganisation of our affairs, now substantially complete, was conducted without the external pressure that debt can bring. I suppose that, in the context of the most extraordinary financial crisis going on around us, our gratitude to our predecessors should be redoubled.

I wonder what the boys at School make of it all. Deflation is something not experienced in our economy since the 30s. We can only hope that the wisdom of our political and monetary leaders is up to the challenges of the yet more extraordinary events that may fall upon us next year.

In any event, TAL's finances are in good order. Our Treasurer has peered into the future and expects to be able to report a satisfactory budget to the Trustees at its next board meeting. Thanks to the income from the Montessori Nursery School we are not in bad shape. To this we can add the benefit of Gift Aid (if you have not signed your declaration yet please do it now) and mandatory rates relief. The Trustees intend to set up a substantial budget for charitable payments, in accordance with our objects, and to enable us to meet the cost of essential repairs to the Dean Pavilion.

On 11th November last I, with a few other members, had the great privilege of attending the Remembrance Day Service for the Senior School in the School Hall, where I laid a wreath in honour of those of our veterans who died in the two world wars. It is a service that is conducted by the Head with solemnity and sensitivity and participated in by the boys with palpable empathy. The Head is keen, and so am I, for an even greater number of Old Tiffinians to participate next year, so if you live within striking distance of the School put it in your diary – you know the date – and tell me to put your name on the list for an invitation. I am intending that some sort of social function should follow.

Yours in fellowship,
HOWARD MALLINSON



Dates for your Diary

10th – 13th December

- School Play (*'Don Quixote'*)

Wednesday 17th December

- Carol Service (7.30pm Parish Church)
Parking available all evening at the School

Friday 19th December

- School Term ends

Friday 2nd January

- OT Golf Society at Effingham

Monday 5th January

- Spring Term begins

Thursday 29th January

- House Singing Competition

Saturday 7th February

- Gala Concert: Temple Church, London

Thursday 12th February

- Choir Tour of New Zealand begins

Monday 16th February

- Half Term week

Saturday 21st February

- OT Rugby VP & Ex-Players' Lunch

Thursday 19th March

- Informal Concert at the School

31st March – 2nd April

- Main School Concert

Thursday 2nd April

- OTA Social Lunch

Friday 3rd April

- Spring Term ends

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

Old Tiffinian Ties

There are currently available three OT ties :

a) traditional OTA tie

with silver & mauve stripes on a dark background

b) two Rugby Club ties with silver or dark background

both with double diagonal stripes with OTA crest between.
The letters OTRFC appear across the bottom corner of each.

If you wish to obtain any of these @ £5 each
please contact Darren Pope at the Tiffin Sports Centre
on 020 8541 3972.

Blazers

Blazers in Old Boys' colours
are now in preparation.

For further details contact
Bernard Davies on 020 8337 1545
or by email: lydyard@talktalk.net

TAL: A Time of Change

I suppose, like me, many of you have been watching the changes to our dearly beloved OTA unfold and have been wondering what it is really all about. I mean, on the face of it, there has to be some advantage in being a 'Charity', but I expect, like me, you also wonder why on earth this was not done years ago. And if, as you will probably suspect, it was, then why do we need to have this tremendous upheaval now?

As someone who has been a member of the OTA for rather a long time now, like many of you, I have simply paid my pennies, sat back and allowed the 'enthusiasts' to make the running. It has been very clear over the past twenty years or so that the OTA has been finding it increasingly difficult to find people to assume positions of responsibility in the organisation and that there has been a succession of financial crises. As a fairly regular attendee at the quarterly lunches, I have heard snippets of what has been going on, and probably, after a glass or three of hooligan juice, I have added my two penn'orth – proverbially shooting from the hip, one might say!

The crunch came, when my friend Howard Mallinson, was invited to become Chairman of the OTA. At various social functions, Howard and I had discussed the affairs of the OTA, its future and that of the School as well. Talking to Howard, as he was considering the position of Chairman, the one thing that surprised me was the huge number of organisations that surround Tiffin School. It is a real 'alphabet soup' of Tiffin this and Tiffin that and Tiffin parents and Tiffin music. There's nothing wrong with this in principle, but when you realise that most of them all have an independent existence one begins to realise what an enormous waste of talent and effort these various organisations represent.

There was clearly scope for a massive rationalisation of all things Tiffinian; the savings that would arise from simply the elimination of duplication would be worth having and it would give us an opportunity to establish a modern vehicle to promote all things of interest to Tiffins, while at the same time providing an opportunity to make use of the benefits available under the UK tax regime.

So, what we have been about recently is the establishment of an overarching charity with the intention, eventually, of including under its umbrella all the peripheral activities associated with Tiffin School from Old Boys to current parents and retired staff and everything in-between. When you think about it, it makes quite a lot of sense. The structure envisaged in the longer term should make it easier rather than harder to do the things we want to do. The new body, the Tiffinian Association Ltd, is now in being; it is a Registered Charity and is able to accept donations and grants which may be gift aided.

We have taken the opportunity to broaden our appeal to the extent where we are also able to accept goods, in fact anything with a value –

houses, cars, aeroplanes – indeed even old-fashioned cash – as well as other assets such as stocks, shares, benefits from insurance policies. If it has a value that can be assigned to 'it' – whatever 'it' may be – then we can accept it. We have opened up the possibilities for the longer term and have widened the possible scope of our operations to the optimum extent.

All of us that are Old Boys of Tiffin School have inculcated in us the values and traditions of the School which, whether we like it or not, have stayed with us throughout our lives. As in most societies, some of us have benefited from this more than others, but I am sure that the majority of you, like me, are please to acknowledge the fact that you 'went to Tiffin School'. Tiffins has provided a platform from which we have achieved the fulfilment of our life goals, and along the way we have acquired collections, possessions and property. What will happen to all this stuff? It usually finds its way into the market-place and then dissipated. Our life's work simply drifts away. Many of us, I am sure, secretly wish that our 'life's work' should live on after us. If we want to benefit posterity in this way, if you like, to serve as a resource, we need to be organised to achieve this end. This is what the Tiffinian Association is in business to do.

For the past few years now the OTA has struggled to make ends meet, to keep and maintain a sports ground for the benefit of both the School and of the playing sections of the OTA. It is quite clear from recent reports to the OTA Council that the playing sections are in something of a decline, and the matter had become sufficiently serious that something had to be done to arrest this problem. What we have now is a new structure with all the tax advantages of a charity – what we need now are members and donors. Donations can come from individuals, businesses, wills and estates. They can be direct, indirect or deferred.

All of us, I'm sure, know Old Boys or parents of Old Boys or parents of current pupils who are not, currently, members of the OTA (TAL). We need them to join; we need them to give us the critical mass that we require to carry this great project forward. If you are reading this and are not currently a member of TAL, then you should join up now. When the time comes for you to make your long-term charitable and financial plans, TAL / Tiffin School should feature in them. Many of you will regard this as a radical approach. The Council of the OTA has taken the extremely brave step of effectively voting themselves out of existence in the interests of the greater good. This project deserves your support. Without it and without the new members that are a necessary part of it, we shall simply revert to being the same small sad group of people growing steadily older, clinging to a rather soggy piece of real estate in East Molesey and thinking nostalgically of the spirit of those Old Tiffinians of long ago who purchased Gristis in the first place to provide a future for the organisation and for the School.

*DAVID EVANS
Secretary, TAL*

Editor

This time I start with an apology to those who were waiting impatiently for the appearance of the 'September' edition of this newsletter. The posting out of this was delayed owing to unforeseen circumstances. Luckily many of you sent your subs in (or, better still, paid by standing order) in time to benefit from the usual £5 discount for prompt payment.

Congratulations to the School's History Department. In the Evening Standard of 13th October a would-be Tiffin parent praised the fact that 'Tiffins is almost unique in having five dedicated and specialist history teachers who are leaders in their field . . . rigorous history teaching is otherwise pretty hard to find in the state sector'. Readers will be pleased to hear that Tiffin School is as highly sought

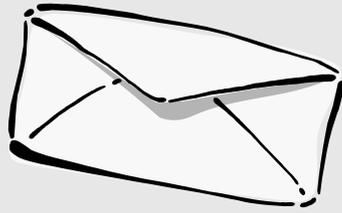
after as ever. This year there are around 1300 boys competing for 140 places.

The Dinner, at the Boathouse this year, was a great success. As usual, John Wright and his committee, together with David Tyrrell's team, did us proud. There has since been some discussion about the venue. There are certainly some who favour the idea of using the School Hall again for this event. What do YOU think?

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all readers. If you are looking for last-minute Christmas presents for others (or yourself), how about the CDs mentioned on the School pages of this issue? They are of a quality that would give lasting pleasure.

BRIAN HOLDEN

Letters



Dear Brian,

It was good to see the detailed write-up of Herbie Flowers in the September 'Tiffnews'. He certainly seems to have put to good professional use his grounding, with myself, of the basics of tuba playing, from our days in the School Band, under the inimitable George, in the early fifties. The list of his musical achievements, recordings, groups and pop personalities he has worked with is most impressive, especially the formation and running of his own Group, SKY, with their ground breaking arrangement of the Bach Toccata and Fugue taken up by many a Brass Band subsequently. Keep it up, Herbie, if for nothing else than in memory of other School Bandsmen of your era at School.

In this respect a few prestigious names which spring to my mind from those halcyon days of daily and Friday-night rehearsals in the Range are Messrs. Vincent, Hill, Wenban, Alexander, Hackman, Hilton, Gant, Prout, Burrup, Hobson, Spriggs (Paul), Chaffey, Barkers D & J, Lumsden, Mr. Pashley (Arranger), Jake, Freeland, Gripton, Pewsey, Gray, Smith JW, Wyatt, Scott – et al, whom I regret I cannot name now. Happy days – touring to Polish Refugee Camps, Downing College Cambridge and performing in the School Gym!

Like some others I've enjoyed a lifetime of Brass Banding since then – others I suspect have gone pop or classical on the strength of their 'tuition' by George, and perhaps itinerant (brass teacher Bill Relton). Some, heaven forbid, may have given up music all together.

To my knowledge the Band of that era never made a recording – a shame, it could do well in these eclectic musical times.

Sadly I understand that the Band is no longer in existence, as such having been melded into the Big and Wind Bands. I blame Dennis Bloodworth. Enough for now.

Yours,

David Larmar (1955)
BBb Bass (Ret'd)

Dear Brian,

I don't really know what drove me to study Latin and Greek at school. It was mostly instinct. Although Latin was a compulsory part of the curriculum for most of us until O-Level, there was no pressure to continue, let alone take on Greek. Brian Holden taught me Latin in the first and second years and I was never sure how good an idea he thought it was for me to put my eggs in the Classics basket. I was not a very competent student of Latin – nor of Greek, when I started it in my third year. Nevertheless I scraped through at O-Level, and Latin, Greek & Ancient History would make up my A-Levels (along with English) and furnish me with results as unimpressive as Messrs Worth and Boot and I had every right to expect. I had an interest in the ancient world certainly, though it still surprises me that it was enough to make me determined to do what I could never excel in, at the expense of subjects (like History) in which I would have done much better.

I am glad to say that Tiffin School, by no means a place where achievements and results are not promoted (as we all know), was happy to put my examination prospects second. The sense that I was at school to engage with knowledge and learning in the broadest sense and that examination results, though important, were not the essence of education was a generous gift, and one that has stayed with me. I still believe that education is about who you are and not what you do. I didn't understand that at the time. I certainly didn't understand how lucky I was to be in a place where

that belief was put into practice. I was liable too often then, like many of my generation, to see the extraordinarily open-minded intellectual environment Tiffin School really was as little more than a blunt instrument of repression. I won't name the few teachers who might have subscribed to such a regime, in their dreams, but nothing could have been further from the truth!

The opportunity to sit in a room (that scruffy little room on the left as you entered Elmfield) and read classical literature, even with a crib on my lap, was a privilege that is increasingly hard to come by now, especially in the state education system. Even then, 'mirabile dictu', there were occasions when the full comprehension of what was being given to us did rise to the surface. I particularly remember reading Aristophanes' play 'The Clouds'. Jokes that made us laugh; writing that declared its qualities of subtlety, wit and sometimes 'acrobat' variety, even to beginners in Greek; conflict between a father and son that uncannily echoed the arguments we all had on Sunday mornings when we were asked if we 'intended to spend all day in bed'; the mockery of conventional opinions; a parody of eastern mysticism that mirrored the 'Beatle-driven' fascination with meditation and the 'Maharishi Mahesh Yogi' we flirted with ourselves. This was a wonderful play; it opened up its own time and place with great power and immediacy; it was full of unexpectedly contemporary resonance; it felt new and fresh in a way that was startling; but most inspiring and most exciting, it connected me directly with the imagination of the man who wrote it, nearly two and a half thousand years earlier.

And that was what mattered. I was reading literature from the ancient world (albeit haltingly) in the language it had been written in. I was touching the minds, down two millennia, of people who thought and felt as I did and had wonderful gifts to give me. It was an experience that took me to the heart of our humanity and our civilisation; it allowed me to feel that, to understand it, to know it both intellectually and emotionally. All this was offered with a shrug of the shoulders, by Messrs Worth, Boot and others, as if it was the most ordinary thing in the world. It wasn't. I have never forgotten it. I never found time to say thank you.

Yours,

Michael Russell (1971)

(See the People section for details of Michael's interesting career.)

OTA 100 Club

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

			Previous win
August '08	£50	John Pitchford	Dorking '05
September '08	£50	Keith Fairey	West Ewell –
October '08	£50	Brian Boustead	New Malden '02

The above draws were held at an Old Tiffinian Association Council meeting in October last. It is always pleasant to see someone achieve his first win. In Keith's case he joined the Club in Dec'01 and at last sees a small return, but of course our contributions are helping to keep the Association going.

Congratulations to the winners and thanking others for their support.

The 100 Club makes a major donation towards the Association's income, so do please consider becoming a member. The cost is £60 per annum or £5 per month by standing order. The prizes are £50 each month, plus half-yearly major prizes of £1000. Further information can be obtained from me at 28 Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9LX (Tel: 01483 850705).

GREER KIRKWOOD

Oxbridge Dinner

The next dinner (for Tiffinians in residence and School Staff) is to be held on
Saturday 7th March 2009
in St John's College, Cambridge.

OT Social Lunch



Our fifty-sixth lunch was held on Thursday 9th October at our usual venue, viz. the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Road, Tolworth — meeting at 12.30, for lunch at 1.00, departure usually at 3pm.

The 20 present were :-

Jim Aston, Dennis Barnard, David Baron, David Chaffey, Bernard Davies, Jack Foster, Mike Giddy, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Derek Higham, David Ingall, Ken Jenkins, Roger Keep, Greer Kirkwood, David Larmar, Gordon Mylchreest, Peter Osborne, Peter Robinson, Peter Shepherd & Ron Truin.

Our Autumn lunch was very well supported with about our usual number. As two of our attendees at the previous lunch had subsequently died (nothing to do with the lunch I may add), the

gathering stood in memory of Jim Dixon (cancer) & Graham Fitchett (heart attack). In fact Graham was sitting to the left of Willy Harper in the lower two photographs of the September edition of 'Tiffnews'. It appears to me that if one can get through the early sixties one has a chance of making eighty. Anyway, an excellent lunch was provided on a very sunny day to keep our spirits high.

Apologies were given from several stalwarts wishing us well on the day. The Christmas date will be **Thursday 4th December**. Also the Spring date is **Thursday 2nd April**.

All are welcome and, if you wish to attend and bring guests, please let me know on 01483 850705 or by email:

r.greer.kirkwood@ntlworld.co.uk

GREER KIRKWOOD

Old Boys' Annual Dinner

The usual high quality meal, prepared by David Tyrrell and his team, was much enjoyed by those attending. Our thanks to John Wright for his usual efficient organisation. The photos below have been supplied by Dan Godfrey.



OT Rugby Club

The Rugby Club are having a better season this year and have won three of the last four games, beginning with the 49–10 drubbing of Reigate on the day of the VP and Ex-Players' Lunch on 11th October. We are fortunate to have three of last year's School XV playing — Mike Osborne and the Thompson twins, Josh & Tom — and this has greatly helped the upturn in the Club's fortunes.

Other recent wins include Worth Old Boys 36–24 and Merton 13–6, whilst we had a reverse of 8–11 against Old Oundleians. In both of the matches against Reigate and Worth Old Boys James Fentiman scored five tries and has a total of 12 for the season. He has now topped 1000 points for the 1st XV, having scored 209 tries in 241 games.

The next VP and Ex-Players' Lunch is on 21st February, when we play Streatham-Croydon. Anyone who does not receive a letter automatically should contact me on 020 8398 4748, if they would like to attend this function. Neil and Chris Bennett are hoping they will be there, as will Pip Phillips, whom we have not seen for some time.

Future League games are as follows :

20th December v. Raynes Park 1st (H)
10th January v. Old Oundleians 1st (A)
24th January v. Merton 1st (H)
31st January v. Worth Old Boys 1st (H)
14th February v. Reigate 1st (A)
21st February v. Streatham-Croydon 1st (H)
7th March v. Mitcham 1st (A)
14th March v. Haslemere 1st (H)
28th March v. Raynes Park 1st (A)
4th April v. Old Blues 1st (H)

PETER SMITH

OT Golf Society

The Golf Society meets about five times each year and provides sporting enjoyment as well as comradeship with other Old Tiffinians. We cater for golfers of all abilities.

Having recently taken over as Fixtures Secretary, my strategy has been to play at some of Surrey's best courses, of which there are many — and, with golf clubs almost universally short of members at the moment, we can get some good deals for our Society.

In October we held our autumn meeting at Betchworth Park G.C. near Dorking, and we had an excellent turnout of 20 Old Tiffinians and four guests. As part of this meeting we held an inaugural match against the Old Boys of KCS Wimbledon, and I am pleased to report that the OTs were victorious !!

Our top scorer and winner of the autumn trophy was Tim Whittaker with 35 points, second was Ian Redington with 34 points and third Dillwyn Rosser with 34 points. Front and back nine prizes went to Steve Cathcart and Duncan Knowles. David Lester won the guest prize.

Our next meeting will be at Effingham Golf Club on **Friday 2nd January 2009**, when we shall be competing for our winter trophy, kindly donated by David Baron.

If any Old Tiffinian would like to join our group, please contact me on 01483 282411 or email allan.piggott@btinternet.com

We were saddened to lose Jim Dixon, Graham Fitchett and Tony Gee in recent months. They were good supporters of our society.

ALLAN PIGGOTT

OT Football Club

A number of administration changes have taken place this season. Unable to find a new fixture secretary, Errol Walker has taken on this additional function, as well as acting as Club Secretary. Our thanks go to Greg Nutt for his services in the role last season. Jon Atkinson and Paul Cotterell continue as first and fourth team Captains respectively. Justin Smith has taken over the 2s' captaincy from Julius Miller, and Ralph

Stadie has taken over as third team captain from Steve Johnson, who has finally given up league football and decided to turn out for the Vets.

During the summer the Club welcomed back club stalwart Ted Wightwick from his year long sojourn in Egypt.

On the field the season has been mixed so far, with volatility in results being the best way to describe things. All the sides are very much middling in their divisions except for the 3s, who are currently the bottom of Division 4 South.

The First XI has a young side, which shows in their results — one week thumping their opposition, the next finding themselves on the wrong side of the scoreline. It is to be hoped that this season will provide a learning opportunity for the players that can be built on late in the season and into next year. Jon Atkinson is doing a great job in developing this side.

The Second XI had a poor start to the season owing to a lack of availability of players. A better run of results has been achieved in the last few weeks, coinciding with the return of a number of players to provide a greater solidity to the team. A good 5–2 result in the last game reflected this, with a hope that some stability has been reached and can be maintained.

The Third XI is currently propping up their division, but has struggled most to find a consistency in players available each week. They have also been hampered by the lack of a regular goalkeeper most weeks. However Ralph is ensuring that the team have good spirit and are enjoying their football, and hopefully a draw in the last match against old rivals Glyn will signal a turning point.

The Fourth XI is currently in 7th position in their Division with three wins and four defeats. Again a poor start to the season has hampered progress, but 'Cottee' has built a good team spirit in his squad of players and hopefully the team can start climbing the as the season progresses.

There is the promise of the return of 3 or 4 senior players around Christmas, which we hope will provide a consolidation of results across all the sides as they become more settled.

LEAGUE RESULTS TO 15 NOV 2008

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
5	2	1	2	16	13	3	7	8th

2nds – AFC Division – Three South. Captain – Justin Smith

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
6	3	0	3	16	15	1	9	5th

3rds – AFC Division – Four South. Captain – Ralph Stadie

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
4	0	1	3	3	19	-16	1	10th

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
7	3	0	4	18	21	-3	9	7th

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

This season the Club's two longest serving players, Steve Johnson and Ted Wightwick, decided independently it was time to play for the Vets and were slightly shocked to find that they were the oldest players in the Vets but also pleasantly surprised by the standard of football being played. Ted's football quality is shining through now that he no longer has speedy 18 year olds up against him and Steve Johnson has found his scoring touch with nine so far in nine games. The Vets side has a regular programme of fixtures through the season and they are enjoying a mostly winning season to date.

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

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

STEVE JOHNSON

People

PHILIP KELLY (2003) is to be congratulated on achieving a First Class Honours degree in Engineering at Birmingham, where he has now started his graduate job based in the city centre. After leaving Tiffins he completed a Year in Industry Scheme throughout his gap year, which was heavily linked to the Engineering Education Scheme which he had completed with Tiffin School in association with Balfour Beatty. He then went on to complete a straight four-year Masters Degree at Birmingham and upon graduation promptly travelled around Europe, before starting his job as a Building Services Engineer in mid-September.

ANTONY PITTS (1986) continues to attract commissions. The latest is his *'Missa Unitatis'*, the first mass setting to be commissioned by the Illustre Lieve Vrouwe Broederschap 's Hertogenbosch in almost 500 years, and as such resonates strongly with the sound, aesthetic and intention of its noble forbears. The two choirs premiering the new work — the professional male-voice ensemble Capella Pratensis and the Schola Cantorum of Sint Janskathedraal 's Hertogenbosch under Jeroen Felix — are different in size (8 voices and around 50 voices), in range (one a fourth higher than the other), and in function. Inspired by the Brotherhood's uniquely balanced membership — precisely as many Protestants as Roman Catholics (thus acknowledging the Church's need for unity, while simultaneously exposing the lack of it) — this *'Mass of Unity'* is designed to be performed by two choirs separately and/or together.



MICHAEL RUSSELL (1971) has had his name in the credits recently for having written the first of *'A Touch of Frost'* new series of three shown on television this autumn. He has also been working on an opera for children with a composer (James Whitbourn), who also produces films for the Royal Opera House. He has been filming the production of Britten's *'War Requiem'* that the Tiffin Choir participated in (referred to in the Head's Letter on Page 1).

Having spent his years at Tiffins reading and talking about more books than he can now believe, under the inspired teaching of Alf Monk, Rod Dean and others, the only thing he knew when he left Oxford was that he would somehow earn his living as a writer. The route to this included a less than helpful year as a press officer and three much more valuable years working as a shepherd and cowman on Exmoor. He found his way into television drama as a script editor and producer for ITV at Yorkshire Television, and then worked his way through soap operas like *'Emmerdale'* and *'Eastenders'* to make writing his living. Over the years he has contributed to a range of popular drama in Britain and Ireland, such as: *'All Creatures Great and Small'*, *'The Bill'*, *'Between the Lines'*, *'Heartbeat'*, *'The Chief'*, *'Moving Story'*, *'A Touch of Frost'*, *'The Tales of Para Handy'*, a P D James adaptation, *'Without Motive'*, *'The Royal'*, *'Silent Witness'*, *'Foyle's War'*, *'Midsomer Murders'*. He has just written what will be the last ever two episodes of *'A Touch of Frost'*, as David Jason is retiring from the role. These will be shown on television next year. He hopes that a recently finished film, *'The box of Delights'*, set in Vienna between the First and Second World Wars, will go into production next year. Meanwhile he lives in a converted farmhouse in West Wicklow, Ireland, with his wife Anita, five children and step-children and a large Rhodesian Ridgeback dog, who reflects a long passion for Africa. He recently planted several thousand trees, enough to neutralise his carbon footprint on the planet!



CHRIS TOWNSEND (1960) recently attended the Annual Dinner and was persuaded to join the Association. Chris has been an Independent Councillor for the Ashted Park Ward of Mole Valley District Council since 1992. He is currently a Governor, previously Chairman, of Sutton Grammar School and was also a Parent Governor of Barnett Wood First School and West Ashted First and Middle School. He is currently the Independent Member on the Education & Lifelong Learning Executive Finance Group (LGA), substitute on the Education & Lifelong Learning Executive and Chairman of the LGA's Scrutiny Panel.

Book Column - 'Kingston in the Fifties'

by June Sampson & Mark Davison

Mark is not a Tiffinian (though his brother, Nigel, was), but in this edition we have decided to feature this book, because Mark is well-known locally for his splendid local history publications and we are sure that this latest book particularly will interest a large number of Members. His co-author needs no introduction; June Sampson has been writing articles and books on Kingston for over thirty years now, and her involvement is a guarantee of authenticity. The many photos are of superb quality.

Many Old Tiffinians will vividly recall Kingston in the 1950s. Those were the days when traffic still inched its way along Clarence Street and when trolleybus wires criss-crossed the skyline. There will be memories, too, of shops like Mackneys in Fife Road, Bob Simester's near the Fairfield and Lilley & Skinner shoe shop in Clarence Street. Who can forget the Elite Cinema, the Empire Theatre and Kingston Kinema?

Some 20 years ago, the Surrey Comet was forced to have a clear-out, when its offices in Church Street moved, as new owners took over. The result was that hundreds of glass negatives showing scenes from around the town did not have a home. Fortunately, they were rescued by June Sampson, the newspaper's feature writer. Now, she has teamed up with local history author Mark Davison to bring out this fascinating new book, *'Kingston in the Fifties'*, which contains more than 60 eye-catching pictures of the town half a century ago and well-researched captions. Mark (whose brother, Nigel, was a Tiffinian in

the 1970s) is author of several local books including: *'Surbiton Bombed'*, *'Tolworth Remembered'*, *'Chessington Remembered'*, *'Hook Remembered'*, *'Long Ditton Remembered'* and *'Surbiton Memories'*.

Copies of the new book (and others in the series) can be obtained by sending a cheque for £11.50 (includes p&p) to Mark Davison, North Bank, Smoke Lane, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7HJ. Further details on 01737 221215.



De Mortuis



NEIL DESAI 1986 – 2008

The news of Neil Desai's death dealt us a hammer blow at the School. Not a day has passed since the sad announcement when he has not been spoken of in private gatherings, been the subject of year group assemblies, remembered in house meetings, recalled in photographs and written about in countless pieces of prose. Such was Neil, a young man who touched so many and who made a lasting impression upon all those with whom he had contact. Many of us have visited Urmi and Ravi Desai since his death, not simply to express our heart-felt sorrow, but to allow them to share our memories of a boy who meant so much to us all at Tiffin. For Neil was Tiffin. He encapsulated better than any other boy that I can remember what the school stands for, what it has to offer and what it hopes to cherish from those like Neil who give so much in return. Neil's contemporaries will remember him with enormous affection for the warmth of the friendship he offered. The staff will remember a boy whom they saw blossom into the confident, joyous young man whose brilliant future stretched before him. How can we ever forget him? The voice that announced: "I am here and want to get involved". The young man who enthralled you in the length and breadth of his personality...and the eyes that smiled. Neil the irrepressible. Neil the ultimate friend. Neil the hilarious. Neil the shining star that will never dim.

M W



JAMES HENRY DIXON 1944 – 2008

It is with great sadness that I have to report the sudden death of Jim Dixon at his home in Ashted after a short illness.

I first met Jim at Tiffins in the Fifth Form, when he joined from Wesley College Dublin, following a family move. An accomplished athlete, he was soon representing the School on the track and on the rugby pitch, where he became famous for always 'taking on the little fellow'!

He was also successful academically and, on leaving School, qualified as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. He joined E C Harriss and Partners, where he met his wife Jenny, and then became a Lecturer in Building Surveying at South Bank Polytechnic. During this time he and Jenny started their own building and development companies, J H Dixon & Sons and Eldonway, which were to become very successful.

Jim and Jenny raised three sons, Stephen, Jeffrey and Graham, and were well known for throwing legendary parties (fancy dress only) !!

Never one to sit still in his spare time, Jim became involved with the Old Tiffs, initially as a welcome addition to the 1st XV, but, following a complicated knee injury, he became a major force in the setting-up and running of the Squash Club, both as a player and as a committee member.

Jim was a devoted Tiffinian and spent many long hours on the main committees of the Association and the Ground Company, and this was recognised by his election to Association Chairman in 1983.

It was during this period that our friendship grew, and my family retain many happy memories of their time with Jim, Jenny and the three boys, who even then showed that they had been endowed with that certain Dixon brand of humour and mischief.

Jim also found the time to serve in and become Chairman of the Surrey Branch of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Following a successful business career, his interest in sailing, after many happy family holidays, culminated in his crossing of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, taking part in several legs of the Trade Winds Rally with the RAF Sailing Club, and I enjoyed several relaxing trips in the Mediterranean with him, acting as his crew !

It was a great indication of the sort of person he was that over 100 of his friends and family gathered at Randalls Park Crematorium to say

Farewell and to hear several friends pay their own personal tributes.

Jim will be remembered for his enthusiasm in all things, his strength of character, his generosity and his humour. He had recently become a grandfather and will be sorely missed by his wife, Jenny, the rest of his family and his many friends.

S R V



GRAHAM BARRY FITCHETT 1946 – 2008

Graham attended Latchmere Road School, before entering Tiffins in September 1958. He had a natural talent for sport and played cricket and rugby for his House (Livingstone) and for the School. He was in the School 3rd XI cricket team, when he left in 1963.

He always had employment in accountancy, and for the past twelve years he worked at Malden Golf Club. He had planned to retire at the end of the year.

Before he took up golf, he was a keen fresh-water angler and represented Leatherhead & District in national competitions one year, winning a runner-up medal in a team event. However, once sitting in the cold and rain on a riverbank became less enjoyable, he turned to golf.

He had lessons at Horton Park Golf Club, where he soon started to master the game. He joined Pyrford Golf Club in 1993 and was Captain in 1997. When he later started to work at Malden Golf Club, he got the opportunity to play there, so he left Pyrford in 1999. He was also a member of Two Poplars Golf Society and the OT Golf Society, which he really enjoyed.

Graham and his wife, Marilyn, celebrated their Ruby Wedding last December, when they went to Spain for Christmas to mark the occasion. They had a really happy and loving marriage, with wonderful holidays together in Europe over the years. Graham was the more adventurous of the two and didn't mind long-haul flights, so he had two or three golf holidays in the USA. He went on a trip to Las Vegas and in 2006, for his 60th birthday treat, he went to Graceland, which he really enjoyed, seeing the home of the legendary Elvis Presley and his grave.

Graham was a popular member of the Association and regularly attended the Social Lunches and the Annual Dinner. We offer our condolences to Marilyn on her loss.



FREDERICK THOMAS (TED) HARDY 1929 – 2008

Ted was born in Tolworth and had one younger brother, Roger.

He attended a local primary school in Tolworth and entered Tiffin Boys School in September 1940. He passed his General Schools exams and left in March 1946.

He served in the RAF from July 1947 to October 1949 for his National Service (which he hated). He was first of all at Padgate, then West Kirby and Cranwell, where he didn't actually see an aircraft for all the two years he was there. In the RAF he did his radio training, which stood him in good stead for his future career at Redifon Radio Communications, where he spent all his working life. First of all he was based at Wandsworth in Southeast London and then transferred to Crawley, when the company moved the Communications Laboratory there in 1957.

Ted married Janet in June 1962 in Crawley, and their daughter Varena was born on Ted's 35th birthday in 1964. Their son Julian followed in 1966.

He took early retirement at the age of 63, which meant he was able to carry on with his passion for amateur radio and, later, amateur television. In February 2003 he was involved, with several colleagues in the Amateur Television group, in setting up a Transatlantic Television transmission, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the original transmission by John Logie Baird. This, of course, did not involve transmission through satellite but was done purely by short waves. Around this time and with the same group of enthusiasts he was involved

with a *'Tomorrows World'* TV programme about the original type of television equipment invented by John Logie Baird.

For some years he was a firearm enthusiast, using rifles and pistols for target shooting and also the older Black Powder guns, often making his own ammunition for these, and in some instances making guns as well, which he also shot with.

Over the last few years Ted was involved with the Uckfield & District Preservation Society and the Local History Group, acting as Membership Secretary for a while, and also serving on some of the Committees within the group. However, the main love of his life has always been his cats, which doted on him as much as he on them.

We offer our condolences to Janet and other members of the family.



MARTIN SUMMERS 1912 – 2008

At the age of 96 Martin was without doubt our most senior Association Member. In fact he was probably one of the very few now with us who spent the whole of their Tiffin career in the old school building on the Fairfield. His memory for detail was fantastic, and, in addition to his contributions to *'Tiffinews'*, he provided us with a lot of information about the buildings, staff and routine of the old building. He recalled that his father paid about £13 per term for him and his elder brother, Roger (whose obituary appeared in the September 1983 newsletter).

After leaving the School in 1929, he spent ten years working in a bank, which he hated, until the mobilisation of his TA unit prior to the outbreak of war. He quickly obtained a commission and, after serving in light ack ack units in the South West of the country, was eventually drafted to the Middle East, where he served in various capacities, meeting his brother in the Officers' Mess in Cairo. He was demobbed some five months after the end of the war.

He and his brother eventually returned from the war; however, both their parents had been killed by a flying bomb (doodlebug) which fell next door to the family home in Ashcombe Avenue, Surbiton. It was the last bomb fatality of the war in the area (15th November 1944).

After the war the two brothers went their separate ways. Roger studied Archaeology at the London Institute for Archaeology, and went on to become Deputy Executive Director of the National Museum of Rhodesia. Martin, however, was keen to try farming.

In 1947 he bought a derelict farm with 22 acres of land, transforming the house, which when he bought it had no mains water and not much of a roof, into a comfortable home, and the numerous ruined outbuildings into a modern dairy unit, building up a very successful herd.

However, in the early sixties farming changed, and smallholdings were no longer viable, so Martin sold up and worked first as an accountant with a local firm and then, until his retirement in 1977, as a legal executive with a couple of firms of local solicitors.

They moved house several times, and eventually settled in a delightful village called Thorverton. It had a large garden, part of which they sold for building two cottages, which he intended for young people from the village.

Martin took an active part in village life and was Chairman of the Parish Council twice. In 1972 he wrote and directed a modern version of the play *'Everyman'*, a medieval morality play, which was performed in the local church to great critical acclaim. This is a remarkable literary 'tour de force', and in his notes he expounds his (well-supported) theory that the final act of the three was undoubtedly written by a different author. He was also a regular contributor to the magazine *'Hampshire Life'*, writing articles on social history. He was an ardent supporter of the Royal British Legion, wherever he happened to be living. In Crediton he was Treasurer of the local branch until well into his eighties, and at the age of 94 he turned out to sell poppies for the annual Poppy Day.

Tragedy struck the family in 1976 when they lost their younger son, Nigel, at the age of 28 in a road accident in New Zealand. As a result of

this, Martin later published an impressive book of poetry in which he felt able to express his feelings on that enormous loss. I was privileged to be given a copy by him.

When I first met Martin (in the late 1990s), he was living in a small cottage on the edge of Crediton, near Exeter, surrounded by books and furniture which he had made, as he was an accomplished carpenter, before he lost his sight. I called on him because I happened to be in the area, and I knew of his interesting contributions to *'Tiffinews'*. It was sad to see at once that he had great difficulty in walking and was almost blind. I heard that he had lost his wife, Mary, in 1995, and it was apparent that he was very fond of their twin children, Malcolm and Jenny. We had a long chat and lunch in his favourite pub, and that was the beginning of a closer friendship. I grew to have great affection for him – and great respect for his intelligence and his detailed memory of the past. Considering his lack of academic qualifications, I was also astounded at the quality of his writing, revealed in his published articles, letters and in his book of poetry, referred to above.

A few years ago, I was pleased to hear that Martin had sold up his cottage and was spending his remaining time in a comfortable well-run home, where he was looked after. We continued to have regular phone conversations.

In short, Martin was a remarkable man of great intelligence, and he will be sadly missed by me and his other friends, as well as by his daughter Jenny and son Malcolm, his four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

His funeral was held in the delightful Parish Church in Thorverton, which had been his home for some 20 years. His coffin was preceded to and from the church by the Standard of the Royal British Legion, for which he did so much and in which he had such an interest.

B H



DAVID GEOFFREY WOOD 1929 – 2008

David was born in Clapham, but the family moved to Tolworth soon after, as new houses were being built. He went to the local primary school, then to Hazelwood School for a short time before Tiffins. He entered Tiffin School in September 1939, at the outbreak of war. He was evacuated from October 1940 to May 1942, and spent this time at Blackpool Grammar School, before returning to Tiffins. He joined the Cadet Corps and did fire-watching at the School and was also a delivery boy for a chemist. He had vivid memories of the boys sharing the air-raid shelters with the girls from the local factory, who, we think, taught him to play poker!

St Mathew's and St George's Youth Club played a large part in his life, and there he made friends that remained all his life. It was there too that he met his wife, Anne, whom he married in 1957. They went to live in Fetcham.

On leaving School, David worked for an oil inspection firm called Redwoods, again making many lasting friendships. His National Service was spent in the then Ceylon, after he had completed his basic training. Following this, he returned to Redwoods, until in 1967 the company was taken over by a Swiss firm SGS. Their lives then changed, with their eldest daughter Samantha just a year old. They went to Sardinia in 1968 for six months, then to Genoa for the next nine years. During this time their second daughter Barbara was born.

David made an oil division in Italy from having no staff and no work into a thriving unit, which meant non-stop travelling around Italy. Many of the staff he trained are now managers themselves. He and Anne spent the last year there in Milan.

They then returned to England and he worked again for SGS as a sort of trouble-shooter, always travelling around the world, as he had done all his working life. He loved travel.

When he retired, Anne persuaded him to become a Local Councillor, which he did for ten years, despite two major heart attacks towards the end. He loved the Wine Club, the Probus Club, he served on the

Residents' Association and was a room steward at Polesden Lacey. However, in his last year he had to give up most things.

His funeral was conducted by Old Tiffinian Vic Read, a contemporary of David's at Tiffins and later a fellow-member at St Matthew's Youth Club in Tolworth.

We offer our condolences to Anne and to their extended family.



KEITH HENRY WOOD-ALLUM
(School Staff 1960 – 1963)

Keith joined the School Staff in 1960 with a degree in German from Durham University. He made use of his German contacts to arrange annual school exchange visits to Eutin in Schleswig-Holstein, where the purest German was said to be spoken. In 1962 he married Irene who came to

teach at Coombe Girls' School. He is also remembered as the rowing coach who ended up in the river when the Canbury Gardens bank gave way.

In 1963 they moved to Middlesbrough where he had responsibility for German teaching at Acklam Hall Grammar School. Moving later into educational administration, with posts successively in Derbyshire, Lancashire and Northamptonshire, he retired as Chief Education Officer for Leicestershire.

J M B

We regret we also have to report the deaths of **SIMON ALPE (1979)**, **JEFFREY FISHER (1942)**, **TONY GEE (1942)**, **ROY MITCHELL (1934)**, **KEITH NARRACOTT (1963)**, **KENNETH PICKNETT (1942)**, **L A 'Jack' TRAVIS (1939)** and **ERIC WHITE (1932)**.

Old Tiffinian Website

The OT link is available on the School's website at www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

The list of OTs and Staff who have died since about 1980 has recently been updated — though, alas, not recently enough to include many of the deaths notified in this edition of 'Tiffnews'.

Membership Matters

I should like to thank all those who have already sent their subscription payments for the current year (or who have paid by standing order). Those from whom I have received no remittance should find a reminder enclosed. I should be very grateful, if those in arrears could send their payment as soon as possible, so that I do not have to repeat the exercise. (If sending from abroad and unable to send a cheque drawn on a UK bank, please mail the equivalent in local or sterling currency notes, as bank charges here can otherwise be extortionate.)

We always appreciate it, if you can put us in touch with any OTs whom you may meet and who may not yet be Members. Both we and the School are anxious to contact as many Old Boys as possible, whether or not they are members of the Association.

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

Very many thanks to all members who have returned Gift Aid forms and / or Standing Orders – this will make a big difference to TAL both this year and in the future. If your form has been "tidied away" or otherwise disappeared and you would like another then please do not hesitate to contact Mark Darby either by email on Mark.Darby@ukgateway.net or by post or phone – his details are at the front of this edition with the other officers – and he will arrange to get one to you. Mark has noted that in some instances members' banks have not acted on the new instructions, despite being advised in time to make your membership payment. If you notice that your payment has not been made on your statement, I should be grateful if you would either contact your bank or let me have a cheque. Also, if you are reading this on-line or have access to a friend's, brother's or son's copy and would like to join Tiffinian Association, please let Mark or me know and we will send you the necessary details.

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

DENNIS BARNARD

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Old Tiffinians' Association was held at Grists on Wednesday 19th November. The meeting was conducted by the Chairman, Howard Mallinson. The Minutes of the previous AGM and the Report of Council were accepted *nem con.* Mark Darby explained certain features of the accounts (previously circulated to all members). He pointed out that the profits of the 100 and 200 Clubs made their usual contribution, as well as a useful sum in bank interest. In the expenditure there were no outstanding features, save the financing of solicitors' advice on the setting up of the new company TAL. The accounts were passed by the meeting.

The Ground Company was represented by Peter Osborne, who read out the annual report (published elsewhere in this issue). He also explained certain features of the accounts, which were for an 18 month period (April 2007 – 30th September 2008). Particular thanks were expressed to Dennis Mardon who had made a major contribution to the Ground Company finances in recent years by his work in connection with the nursery let and the Hampton Court Flower Show parking arrangements.

There was this year no report from the OT Memorial Fund, as the assets had been / were being transferred to TAL. The final accounts prior to winding up would be scrutinised on behalf of members by Peter Osborne and Mark Darby.

The final part of the meeting was thrown open for general discussion by the Chairman. The main item was the concern expressed about the future of the Bar. It was accepted by all that it was crucial for the future usage of the ground that the bar be maintained. However, for various reasons the problem of who would be taking over the responsibility remained unresolved at present.

The Chairman had represented the Association at the recent Remembrance Service at the School, laying a wreath on our behalf, and he emphasised the importance that the School placed on this event each year. He would like to see more members attending next November, and he thought we should perhaps consider holding a social event to follow (a lunch possibly?).

Finally, while expressing thanks to John Wright and his committee for the Annual Dinner arrangements, the Chairman invited comments on using the Boat House as the venue in the future. Although the School Hall had obvious drawbacks as a venue, he would like the idea to be explored afresh.

BRIAN HOLDEN

Tiffinian Lodge

We have now embarked on our 98th year as a Masonic lodge, and at our first meeting of the year, in October, George Dryden was installed as Master in an impressive ceremony. He is only the third Master in our long history who has held that office in this Lodge for a second time. He was our 79th Master in 1989, and is now our 98th. We are all looking forward to a great year, with George in the chair, and we have certainly started off in superb style.

In our second meeting of the year, in November, we had a great ceremony with the raising of Ravi Kamineni to the third degree. Ravi had only been initiated in April last year, and he now has the full rank of Master Mason. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was

had by all, both in the ceremony and at the dinner following.

At our next meeting, in January, we are looking forward to the first visit from our new Official Visitor, and we are hoping to initiate a new entrant into the Lodge on that evening.

We are indeed looking forward to a successful year of interest and pleasure, and would urge any Old Tiffinian, any member or ex-member of staff or any governor or past governor of the School who may have an interest in freemasonry to contact me, the Lodge Secretary, on 020 8979 0107, or at MJB2@talktalk.net, when I shall be happy to answer any questions and give any further information.

MICHAEL BECKERMAN
Lodge Secretary

Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives :

From the widow of the late Eric White (1932) a Programme of the Official Opening of the New School Building in 1929. She has also donated a blazer in excellent condition from around 1930 (the two-stripe pattern) and several exercise books from that time. (*An obituary for Eric White will appear in our next edition.*)

REQUESTS

Can you perhaps help with the following queries ?

a) In the 1929 programme mentioned above it is stated that 'tea will be provided in the Dining and Music Rooms at Elmfield'. Where then is the Music Room referred to ?

b) Shortly after the opening of the new building there was a fire in Elmfield. This appears to have started in the room used by the Scouts, and after repair the room was not returned to the Scouts. Which room was this ?

THE USE OF HOME PARK FOR SPORT

It was in the 1950s that I and others like-minded were running slowly round Home Park, when going round a bend we found one Percy Silley leaning on his bike sucking a piece of grass and saying: "Hurry up you lot, I want to go home". That was in the last days of the association between the School and Home Park. How about the beginnings ? The information below is gathered from two sources: the school magazine and the recollections of Old Boys.

Part 1: Pre-war

The first connection between the Tiffinian community and Home Park came on the 1st of April 1925, April Fool's Day, when the first school x/country was held. The entire school ran (358 boys). The course was from the Fairfield, via the town and Kingston Bridge and into Home Park. From there along the towpath to Ravens Ait, back into Home Park, then back onto the Bridge and then back to Fairfield via the 'out' route. Next year, 1926, the race started in Home Park going into and coming out of separate gates of the Palace ground, as a 'turn round'. That was roughly the route for the next 30 years.

The start is described as being from the main changing rooms in Home Park; one is forced to presume that this is the first appearance of the 'old house', at the top of the slope up from the Kingston Gate. A photo taken in its last years (*pictured right*) has led to the belief that it was built late C18 or in the early part of the C19, its original purpose being to serve as the Gamekeeper's cottage and service buildings.

Prior to 1925 the ball games of Tiffin School and of the Old Boys were held on the Fairfield, and it was difficulties with that venue that forced the use of Home Park. From 1922-1924 there were closures of the Fairfield. Internal school games were cancelled and the First Elevens went to places as far afield as Malden Wanderers' ground and Fuller's

Farm, Surbiton. The autumn of 1925 saw the temporary use for the Old Boys of pitches in Home Park, and most of the home games were played at Home Park at a cost of £25 per year. Whether this was for both Old Boys' and school pitches is not known. This was the situation up to the war, except that the cricket OTs had alternate Saturdays at the School. There were regular complaints from the Old Boy cricketers about the surface of the Home Park pitches generally, so only 2nd and 3rd XI games were played there. The changing facilities at the 'old house' were far from good, though a few Old Boys said that before the war there was hot water (most say it was ice cold water) into basins downstairs, and pre-war there was apparently a bath upstairs, with at least fairly warm water (in which boys were not allowed to linger).

Up to now practically nothing has been said concerning curriculum games of the schoolboys. Well, it appears that up to the war the boys playing in Home Park on kick-about, or even House games, changed at school and walked up or came up by trolleybus, and went back to school to wash and dress.

Part 2: Wartime

It is difficult to discover from the school magazine where these war-time matches were played, as practically never are venues given for the school games. It seems likely that cricket games were still played on the school field, despite the encroachments on its size by the necessities of war. The final blow was at Christmas 1942, when the Celestion factory was built. After that time it may be that cricket was played elsewhere. Was this Home Park ?

The school football and rugby fixtures continued, though much fewer in number, and things weren't improved by the frozen pitches of early 1940 when no games were played. It seems likely that the home games were played in Home Park, with changing presumably taking place in the 'old house'. There were, we believe, two rugby pitches beyond the

OTA 200 Club

Coming soon – the December £500 draw! If you would like to join the 200 Club and have a chance at winning our six monthly grand prizes or one of the weekly prizes, then please contact me, either by email on Mark.Darby@ukgateway.net or by post or phone — my details are at the front of this edition with the other Officers — and I will send you the forms to set this up. The 100 and 200 Clubs generate important funds for the development of Tiffinian Association's activities, as well as providing some fun! Since the last edition, the following club members have won a weekly £10 prize:

172 H R Seymour	45 K R Steeper	110 R G Hamper
5 N W Angus	40 R G Kirkwood	129 E E Godfrey
116 G J W Corbett	5 N W Angus	182 B E Crisp
113 A Piggott	137 I M Mason	17 E Holbrook

Best wishes, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !

MARK DARBY

'old house' and parallel to these a soccer pitch (or possibly two). What is totally unknown is if and where any food was provided for visitors.

As for school games afternoons, we have no information, whether the boys continued to change at school and walked to Home Park we do not know. Presumably the same applied to the house games.

The Old Boys were very heavily affected, owing to its being impossible to raise teams in both football and rugby following call-ups from about 1942 onwards. Presumably, up to then matches were played, as pre-war, in Home Park, though in smaller numbers. With the exception of the games against the School, for which the Old Boys raised scratch teams, there were no games played until after the war. For these football games the venues were not in Home Park, being in Bushey Park (1942) and then for the next three years at Imber Court. Wasn't Bushey Park closed during the war? However, the rugby games were played at Home Park 1943-1945. It is not stated where the Dec 1941 game was played. The OT pitches were situated on the right of the Park, whereas the school pitches were further on past the 'old house'. Can any OTs tell us where the Soccer pitches were located ?

Old Boy's cricket didn't suffer so much, probably because the players were older. But were the games played in Home Park ? I would have presumed so, though the 1944 and 1945 games against the School were played on Leyland's ground, but in the school magazine a prophecy for the 1946 season says that all games would be played on opponents' grounds as in the past, so presumably the Old Boys largely abandoned the cricket pitches in Home Park from about 1942 and possibly also the use of the 'old house'. I am also told that the Old Boy cricket teams changed in Burgoyne's Boatyard or in public houses in the Hampton Wick area. I doubt that this would have been sanctioned for school games.

Part 3 Post-war

In July 1948 the long promised school/Old Boys' playing field was officially opened and named 'Grist's' after the first Tiffin headmaster, but it was a couple more years before all sporting activity in football, rugby and athletics was transferred there. Conditions were rudimentary even after temporary Nissen huts were put up, and I can remember one over in games afternoon cricket when the ball hit the wicket keeper four times, the last one sending him to hospital. The actual surface still had indications of its farming past.

Obviously the new ground reduced the need for Home Park, but before that the Old Boy teams seemed largely to not use it much. Exactly how much Home Park was used is impossible to say because the facts were not recorded – or at least not in those sources I have access to. Certainly, Home Park was used for some of the games, proved by Old Boys' moans about changing at school and walking or catching the trolleybus up there. It was easier for the OTs and school to share the playing field at school, for now that there was no Saturday morning school, so school games could be played in the morning and Old Boys' games in the afternoon.

Old Boys' cricket was at East Molesey cricket ground and later at the Old Paulines' ground, as well as on the school field. As an example, in 1946 no ground was available for the annual game against the school until the last few days of July. The rugby game against the school in 1946 was played in Home Park, but in the next year was on the school field, making catering so much easier. Football was the same mostly played on the school field, but probably some games were at Home Park. During the school holidays a number of OT cricket games were played on the Grammar School ground in 1949 and 1950. Home Park was still in use for school games afternoons and for house games, boys changing at school and walking up.

All through the war the House cross country competition was held at Home Park almost certainly, though the venue is not given for 1944 to 1946. The 1947 competition was definitely held there, with changing being in the old house. However in 1948, 1949 and 1950, the cross-country competition went to Richmond Park, the excuse being that a more arduous course could be provided. This is undoubtedly true, but no reason is given why the event returned to Home Park in 1951 through to 1958. Cross-country in Home Park was introduced as part of the Upper School games choice. I chose it, because it was a skive. So I came to know the 'old house' in its last days. It was in a state, only cold water available for washing and we were warned not to go upstairs as the stairs were not safe.

The 1958 House cross-country was arranged for Home Park, but the day before the event was due to take place the school was informed that the 'old house' would not be available for changing, as on that day the house was to be demolished. The event was postponed until early March when it went ahead, with changing in a marquee erected for that purpose. Thus Tiffins, the Old Boys and Home Park parted company.

(Any corrections / additions to the above, please, either to me or to Brian Holden.)

BRIAN BUNKER

For those searching for the exact location of 'The Old House', the following information from Terry Gough, Head of Gardens & Estates at Hampton Court Palace, may prove helpful :

The building had its own fenced enclosure (since removed), and that is why it is so difficult to find its location today. To find it, enter the park at Kingston Gate and, after crossing over the cattle grid, walk left to the park boundary wall and fence line. You will walk behind the old 'Ice House' and past another building on your left (a carpenter's workshop) as you walk southwards. You then see the stable block on your left behind a fence line. Stop at these gates, turn westwards facing the Palace and walk 25 yards in that direction. The foundations are to the side of a small copse of trees on the raised part of ground in this area.

(This information was obtained by Ron Truin, and he has checked the detail by walking it.)



'The Old House' before demolition in February 1958

The Old Tiffinian Sports Ground Ltd

OTSGL operated for another year without a Chairman, and thanks are due to the Directors, and notably to Dennis Mardon and Darren Pope, for their contributions to the smooth running of the Ground.

The accounts have been presented for 18 months, but we have shown interim estimated data for the 12 months ending 31st March 2008 OTSGL for comparative purposes to previous years.

We managed to clear a small profit of around £7,000 in the 12 months, in spite of taking no contribution from the OTA, in view of their burden of transition legal costs. The nursery and flower show parking were again key, generating almost £30,000 of income. Weekly monitoring of bar takings and purchasing by Darren Pope has ensured that the losses of recent years have been turned into a small surplus. We continued to pay £20,000 in annual fees for management of the Ground by School-based staff. There are no major variances in the run-rates of income and expenditure in the full 18 month period,

save the impact of seasonal fluctuations, such as having two flower show contributions in the longer period.

Three legacy legal charges on the Ground (with Scottish & Newcastle Breweries; The RFU and Barclays) to secure loans which have all now been cleared, are in the process of being closed, to completely free the Ground of any encumbrances for the transfer to TAL.

In the coming year the activities of OTSGL will be transferred into TAL, and taken on by the TAL Ground Management Committee under the Chairmanship of Stuart Lester. Initial make-up of this committee also includes Martin Williams, Dennis Mardon, Peter Osborne, Nigel Angus and Darren Pope. It is hoped that the accounts for the bar activity will be able to be processed through another trading organisation, such as Elmfield Enterprises, to enable OTSGL to be fully wound up during the year.

STUART LESTER, PETER OSBORNE

Queen Elizabeth Road News

School Tennis

Yes, the senior squad reached the finals of the Surrey Schools Leagues at St George's College. The team won their quarter and semi-finals before losing to Reeds School in the final, playing against some of the best boys in the country. A very good achievement, considering facilities available to the boys and a great testament to their talents. Congratulations to Tim Sagar as captain and to Mr Taylor for their hard work on behalf of the squad.

Many thanks also to the other staff for trying to galvanise boys in their respective years: Messrs Hameed, Foden, Worth !

Finally, the PE Department organised 'The Road to Wimbledon Competition', and both Cameron McGeehan and Brian Wang reached our finals played at Coombe Wood Tennis Club, going on to the regional finals for Surrey, where Brian Wang won the final and went to the National Finals at Wimbledon.

If we had tennis as a games option in the Lower School during the summer term and our own courts, who knows where Tiffin boys might appear ! We have applied for extra funding from the BSTA, but no luck as yet, other than tickets for Wimbledon in the ballot. Fingers crossed for this year 2008-9.

If there are any Old Tiffinians with helpful connections we should be delighted to hear from you.

PETER WILLIAMS

School Rugby

The 1st XV have enjoyed a reasonable start to their season. Early defeats to St Pauls and Abingdon were eclipsed in a terrific tour of Italy, where the North and Central Italy regional side were soundly beaten in what was described as the best Tiffin performance overseas ever.

Further victories have led to the progression into the 4th Round of the Daily Mail Cup, with key performances from Michael Cullen, Gurvir Grewal and captain Anthony Hitchcock vital, along with high quality kicking and play-making from fly-half Ali Watkins. The pick of the ten wins on home soil to date have come against Windsor, Glyn and Christ's Hospital, when the lightweight but mobile pack have dominated at the breakdown and unleashed the dangerous backline. It

has been an encouraging start to the season and we look forward to further success as the year progresses.

After a slow start, the 2nd XV have put in some good performances, including two good wins on tour in Tuscany and standout victories over St Benedicts and Trinity. It has also been pleasing to see a good number of players who started the season in the 2nd XV moving up to the 1st XV with great success.

MIKE HARRIS

School Cross Country

The School has had a decent season so far, coming 7th in the Kings Trophy, with Ralph Street placing first, winning the south-east long course championships easily in the process. This surpasses the controversial second by Tim Week who was placed so, even though the chap who beat him did not go into and through the famous brook and over the bridge combination. We then progressed to Charterhouse, where a handy team of Ciaran Costello, Jamie Tabbert, Luke Curwell and Ashley Henderson procured a fine team bronze in the Home Counties 4 man relay. On to Guildford to the Haskell cup, where Ralph Street took the third leg on the south four man relay. The team were magnificent in placing as the fourth school home. Ralph was only being edged into second by the UK cross-country champion for the fastest leg on the day (incidentally a man whom he had vanquished over the longer Kings Trophy course). All this has happened with the two key men, the co-captains Oliver Waring and Jonathan Darby, providing excellent guidance and back up, waiting on the sideline for long-standing injuries to mend.

ROBIN SHAW

School Cricket

The 2009 season looks beset by difficulties. Firstly, we are very short of cricket coaches and Saturday umpires. Secondly, I should dearly love to have someone to come and help coach the boys in the nets at lunch times and in the afternoons from April through to the end of June. If you think you can lend a hand in either the first (more casual) or second (semi-permanent) role, do give me a ring.

MARTIN WILLIAMS

07918 028528, 0208 546 4638 (School)

School Chess

As always, Chess continues to be a particularly popular pastime for boys at Tiffin. Some like to play socially and attend the twice weekly open sessions that are held right through lunchtimes, during which boys can drop in and out as they please. These sessions often take the form of a little known version of chess called 'team chess', where up to 6 or 8 boys can all apparently be playing one game, such is their enthusiasm to get involved. However, many take their chess a little more seriously and the Tiffin chess calendar is indeed very busy!

The more junior members of the school often arrive having had a fair bit of chess experience at primary school. A number of them now attend the weekly chess coaching sessions run by Old Tiffinian professional coach Chris Briscoe. In a few weeks time the annual House Chess Competition will be held, and there has been fierce competition within Houses for the chance to take part. In the New Year many boys will take part in the British Land Chess Challenge. Last year the competition involved over 50 boys at the school, and this year we expect even more participants.

Competitively, Tiffin still runs two teams in the Brian Poulter Chess League (consisting of schools from the Surrey area). Our A team is not currently as strong as it has been in recent years, but there are some very promising youngsters coming through the ranks, and this year the B team is looking very strong indeed. If any Old Boys would be willing to help support Chess at Tiffin by helping with transport arrangements to matches, offers would be gratefully accepted. Matches take place on Friday evenings between 3.30 and 7.30pm. Contact esoper@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

EMMA SOPER

School Badminton

The Under 19 VI is unbeaten at the time of writing and looks well set to challenge for this year's League Trophy.

MARTIN WILLIAMS

Friends of Tiffin Music

Music at Tiffin is as strong as ever, and the Friends are involved in supporting all the developments taking place. The major projects are the redevelopment of Room 95, one of the main teaching rooms in the department and the expansion of the ensembles provided for the boys as they move through the early stages of learning an instrument. The perennial problem of keeping learners' interest as their initial enthusiasm hits the wall of slower apparent progress is greatly reduced, if they can be involved in group music making. The busy department staff haven't enough hours in the day to run sufficient ensembles to fulfil the demand, and FoTM are assisting with funding hours for some of the peripatetic staff to add to the groups already in existence.

Two new CDs are out in time for Christmas, both recorded with FoTM support earlier this year. Do get the Choir CD of Christmas music and the latest Swing Band offering – they are really excellent. The performance is of such quality that it is hard to realise that the personnel involved change annually, yet the standard is consistently professional. They are available through the School, and I promise you will relish them both.

By the time you read this, the annual Oratorio performance, which on this occasion is the marvellous *Verdi Requiem*, will have taken place. Ever popular with performers and audiences, it should have been a marvellous evening.

Upcoming events to note :

Monday 15 December

Tiffin Boys' Choir. 1.15pm Lunchtime Carol Concert, Rose Theatre, Kingston.

Monday 15 December

7.30pm End of Term Concert, Main Hall.

Wednesday 17 December

Tiffin Boys' Choir. 7.30pm Tiffin Carol Service, Kingston Parish Church.

Saturday 20 December

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

Saturday 17 January

Thames Youth Orchestra. 7.30pm Concert, Kingston Parish Church. Programme Mahler 'Symphony No. 1' Wagner 'Siegfried Idyll'.

Saturday 7th February

Gala Concert in London 7.30 pm Temple Church. A special evening celebrating the Tiffin Boys' Choir prior to leaving for New Zealand.

The Boys' Choir has been involved in its usual number of high profile events this term (for how many schools would this just be considered normal?), with the Royal Opera House forces at the Royal Albert Hall performance of the 'War Requiem' on Remembrance Sunday, and on stage with them in 'Hansel and Gretel'. They are also winding up to their tour of a lifetime to New Zealand in February. Imagine arriving at Tiffin as an eleven year-old in September, and dashing off to the other side of the planet with a world class choir within a few months! Please, if you fancy joining us at any of the upcoming events and need more information, do contact me by phone on 020 8942 6177 or by email rachaelnichols@blueyonder.co.uk

RACHAEL NICHOLS

Performing Arts

A moving performance at the Royal Albert Hall in November of Britten's 'War Requiem' with the Orchestra and Chorus of the Royal Opera House, conducted by Antonio Pappano, saw the choir's year kick-started in style, together with amassing some superb crits from the national newspapers (with both 'The Times' and the 'Sunday Telegraph' referring to "the excellent Tiffin Boys' Choir"). Coming up is a run of 'Hänsel und Gretel' at the Royal Opera House, conducted by Sir Colin Davis, in a terrific new production by Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier and starring great artists such as Sir Thomas Allen, Andrea Kirschlager, Anja Silja and Alice Coote. If you can't get to see it at the Opera House, do visit a cinema on Tuesday 16th December (the night before the Carol Service), when the opera is being relayed live.

Three commercial CDs ('Mahler 3' with LSO/Gergiev, 'Carmina Burana' with LSO/Hickox and 'Owen Wingrave' with CLS/Hickox) and an X-Box computer game (Fable II) have been released this term, all featuring outstanding performances from the choir; but the most important one, of course, is our home-grown CD 'Christmas with the Tiffin Boys' Choir', recorded live at the 2007 Carol Service. This CD is available for £10 from the School Shop or the Music Office, and will make a perfect Christmas present. As will the new Swing Band CD, 'Tiffin Swing Band Live', available at the same price from the same sources, and featuring a vintage band under Simon Ferris, together with vocalist Abtin Sadeghi. Do get your cheque book out now!

The choir is gearing up for a 2½ week tour of New Zealand in February 2009, and it would be wonderful to see any NZ Old Tiffinians at the concerts. We will be performing in the Cathedrals of Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin and Christchurch, as well as in Taupo and Timaru. We are also looking for financial support for the tour, and have a wonderful group of parents acting as a fundraising committee – the boys themselves need to find £1500 for the airfares and basic costs, but we need to raise a further £15,000 if we are to make the most of our

time out there. The tour will be receiving national publicity in the UK (as well as in NZ), as we focus on representing state sector education in a high profile tour; and a significant aspect of our time in New Zealand will be spent promoting singing among the less privileged – our connection with the Kotuku Choir of Wellington is a springboard to an exciting series of open rehearsals, workshops and concerts. For further details of the tour, including how you can help us, please visit www.tiffinboyschoir.org.uk

One key date for the diaries is a Gala Concert in the Temple Church on Saturday 7th February, before we head off. Many well-known faces from the world of music will be there, and we hope to raise a significant amount of money as well. Do come along and support.

By the time this edition of 'Tiffnews' is published, the end of term will be fast approaching, and there is plenty to enjoy – the Christmas production of 'Don Quixote', featuring the Tiffin Swing Band, will be great fun, as will the end of term concert, which includes festive cheer from the School Orchestra, Concert Band and Second Orchestra; and

the Nine Lessons and Carols in Kingston Parish Church should be as moving as ever. I hope to see you there !

SIMON TOYNE

Performing Arts Calendar

Thursday 29th January	7.00 pm, School Hall House Singing Competition
Monday 9th February	School Hall Gig Night
Saturday 7th February	Temple Church, London Gala Concert 7.30pm
Tuesday 10th February	School Hall Dance and Gig Night
Thursday 19th March	7.00 pm, School Hall Informal Concert
Tuesday 31st March, Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd April,	7.00 pm, School Hall School Concert

School Boat Club

The year has started with the Boat Club, like many others, experiencing something of a halo effect from the Olympic Games, resulting in us now having our largest squad ever. The intake in Year 9 this year was unprecedented, with 34 boys selected to row from a possible 55 who trialled, with the result that we now have about 105 boys who experience rowing on a regular weekly basis. A great platform to take us forward.

The year has started off strongly. We had three doubles entered in the Pairs Head, all putting in a good performance for so early on in the season. The next event was Weybridge Silver Sculls, where we had a record Tiffin entry and some outstanding performances, with Matt Tatlock taking the prized junior trophy by an amazing 10 seconds. The trophy has previously been won by many Olympians including Sir Stephen Redgrave, so Matt is in good company! Last weekend saw Tiffin take the position of fastest overall boat at Kingston Small Boats Head from some 389 entries. Again, we put in a strong entry, with crews representing every year and all small boat formats. The same weekend was Junior GB trials, where Tiffin had seven students who made the qualifying time, with six making it up to the trials. Given the extremely competitive nature of the event, all boys did very well. Highest placed was Matt Tatlock, who is already part of the GB World Class start programme, and he came third overall. The next best



placed was Eddie Rolls. Finally you are very welcome to visit the boathouse on Saturday 13th December, when we shall be having our annual mince pie and fancy dress row. Further details will be available closer to the time on the Tiffin Boat Club web site. Stay in touch.

CAROL CORNELL

Our photo shows a selection of winners from Weybridge silver sculls, with the trophy being held by joint Captains of Boats Rupert Price and James Bott.

School Entrance

The changes being made to the Queen Elizabeth Road / Birkenhead Avenue corner were explained in our September issue. The work is now complete, and these photographs, taken for us by Dave Macleod, give an idea of the improved aspect and pedestrian entrance.

