



Newsletter of the Old Tiffinians' Association No. 235 March 2008

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From the Head's Study

Dear Friends,

In my last letter I spoke about how we should start to re-think links between the School and its community of former students. In school at the moment we are going through a process of finding out more about our current students and parents. In November every student and parent was sent a questionnaire and invited to participate in the survey. There was a very good take-up, and the results arrived in the school this week. The findings are fascinating, for what they tell us about our strengths as well as our weaknesses.



The first question then arises about how to let everyone know what was said. I will be putting the electronic version of the survey on our staff area and then talking to all staff on the first day of next term about them. Next month I am running the second of my Head's Question Time events for parents, and the feedback of the results will obviously be a key feature. We shall also use our School Council as a forum for disseminating the results to our students.

The second question is then what do we do about the findings. We have many strengths, but also some considerable areas for improvement. Against each area the School will draw up an action plan. Some of these actions are already happening; some are dependent upon finance; nearly all are dependent upon time. Nevertheless, if such an activity has any use, it is to show that we can listen, learn and act.

Finally, with the repetition of the exercise next year, I should like to believe that we can show improvement. The priorities will of course change and, as we address one area, another will surely emerge so, as our vision statement claims that we are a 'learning community', we must show that we have the ability to ask difficult questions about ourselves in order to improve the experience for our whole community.

These are exciting times for Tiffin School. Please do make sure that you keep aware of what is going on and, by all means, make suggestions regarding the contribution that the Old Tiffinian Association can make to the debate.

Sean Heslop

Chairman

Dear Old Tiffinian,

A Special General Meeting of members of the OTA is being called at 8.00pm on Monday 7 April at the Dean Pavilion. My explanation of the proposals that are to be put to the meeting is given on the following pages. I need hardly state how important it is that members vote on the far-reaching proposals that are being put forward. I urge members to attend the meeting, the quorum for which is 20: please help to achieve it. For those members who live too far away to attend, or who live overseas, I am inviting them to write to me with their views: see the insert giving notice of the meeting.



One of the proposed changes is the appointment of a Chairman, more detail of which is given in the explanation. I shall be available, if asked by the new board of Tiffinian Association Ltd, to act as its Chairman.

The bar at Grists will be open from 7.15pm. Other meetings will be taking place after the OTA meeting – the trustees of Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund; members of The Old Tiffinian Sports Ground Limited – but these will not involve the general body of members.

All these meetings are the culmination of considerable effort by the working group, which was set up in March last year. I am very grateful to its members who have laboured with me, and now bring their proposals to you. Our work has been difficult and at times has needed considerable attention to detail, alongside our attempts to see the big picture: to understand where the OTA is now and how it should move forward. The group, guided by legal advice from Barlow Robbins LLP, has given generously in time and conscientious thought about the future.

Don't forget the Skiff Marathon on Sunday 18 May.

Yours in fellowship,

HOWARD MALLINSON

Dates for your Diary

12th – 13th March
• House Drama Competition

Saturday 15th March
• Boys Dance @ Tiffin
at Sadler's Wells

Wednesday 19th March
• Dance Showcase
(Drama Studio)

26th – 28th March
• 'The Mysteries',
a revival of last Christmas's
innovative production

Thursday 27th March
• Tiffinian Lodge meeting

Saturday 29th March
• Tiffin Choir & London Mozart
Players (Landmark Arts Centre,
Teddington 8.00pm)

Sunday 30th March
• Boys' Choir (Trebles)
perform Britten's
'Spring Symphony' with the
LSO (Barbican Hall)

1st – 3rd April
• School Concert
(School Hall 7.00pm)

Friday 4th April
• OT Golf at Surbiton (AGM)
• School Term ends

Monday 7th April
• Association Special
General Meeting

Thursday 10th April
• OTA Social Lunch

Monday 21st April
• Summer Term begins

Thursday 8th May
• OT Golf at Tyrrells Wood

Sunday 18th May
• OTA Skiff Marathon

Monday 26th May
• School Half Term week

Monday 9th June
• OT Golf at The Drift

Sunday 15th June
• OT Cricket Club VP Lunch
and
Bill Banting Memorial Match

Thursday 3rd July
• OTA Social Lunch

Friday 4th July
• OT Golf at Clandon Regis

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

Special General Meeting: 7 April 2007

The notice of the Special General Meeting of the OTA is given in the insert to this edition of Tiffnews. What is being proposed is the fruit of the thinking and debates of the working group, which was constituted on 26 March 2007 at a meeting of the Council – a meeting that was open to OTA members. The working group was chaired by the OTA Chairman, Howard Mallinson, who sets out below a guide to the proposals.

Many OTA members can easily bring to mind what life was like in 1947 when, with hope in their hearts, a generation of Tiffinians, inspired by a great headmaster, caused 25 acres of freehold farmland to be acquired and brought into use as playing fields to be available into the distant future for the use of Tiffin School and its Old Boys. In 1947 everything was scarce: food, energy, building materials. But the endemic scarcity could not quench the spirit that drove a generation to apply its toil and limited treasure to create a better future. When I first arrived at Gristis in 1954 I knew nothing of how it had come into being, and, like any boy, I gave it no thought either. The more shocked I was, therefore, when I discovered recently that the existence of the Spartan huts we changed in – huts which personified the austerity which my generation was born into – had been built and erected by Tiffinians. At weekends, in spare time, Tiffinians (and parents) had laboured: concrete was poured; bricks laid; pipes plumbed; cables connected and then, after barrels were bought; the plunge-bath soaked in, countless elbows were raised in salute of a facility that served its purpose well enough for 15 years or so. This was the same generation that created and bent its back to the Whit-Monday Tiffin Fair, the central importance of which to funding the venture needs no amplification.

The spirit of that generation was still to be felt in the 1960s. The strength of the OTA playing sections and the willingness of many of their number to shoulder the burden allowed another project to be driven forward. Forty-five years later the Dean Pavilion still stands as a mark of their spirit and dedication. Subsequent generations have had the fortune of being a beneficiary of Gristis and its facilities, which was provided by the vital spark of members that I describe. Members did not so much respond to requests for volunteers: a job needed to be done and a man and his friends popped up to do it. Although remarkable now, in the past this was the normal state.

When I became Chairman of the OTA – members should be aware of the honour I have in the appointment – I soon became aware of the somewhat unstable position of Gristis in its corporate envelope: The Old Tiffinian Sports Ground Limited. The instability lay in falling numbers of enthusiastic volunteers – the very lifeblood in earlier times – and that old incubus: money. Last year the Ground Company lost both its chairman and vice-chairman (after long and faithful service from both), and no man stepped forward to fill the breach: no one from the playing sections; no one from the membership at large; a void opened up. Today, Tiffinians are a minority in the playing sections. Crucial though it was, years ago, for the sections to be open to ensure their viability, it is plain that the ethos has changed.

The Dean Pavilion is nearing the end of its economic life: I will look any member of our playing sections in the eye and say: where will the sections be; who will emulate the spirit of 1947 and the 60s when volunteers are called to head up a project for modernising or replacing the Dean Pavilion, or worse, dealing with a costly emergency repair? The reality, on which a social history could be written, is that the spirit that characterised the earlier history of Gristis does not exist in the OTA today – does not exist in our society today. It is not a Tiffinian thing: it is general, and beyond the power of either our politicians or Christian leaders to alter. We are of a generation that is richer in material ways than those that we have followed, but we are poorer in spirit. By becoming a charity I hope the successor to the OTA will go some way to, if not actually reversing this, then at least coping with it better.

On the money side, I heard, at the early stage of my chairmanship, the finance director's assessment that the Ground Company could possibly struggle on for two or three years more. Moreover, there were insufficient funds available to meet the costs of essential repairs and outside painting of the Dean Pavilion. These were the circumstances in which Peter Smith's valiant and very successful appeal for funds was made. By this means we avoided, for the time being at least, mortgaging the future. The funding of any major repairs to or replacements in the Dean Pavilion remains a concern.

This brief recourse to history has allowed me to focus members' minds on why these weighty proposals are being brought to you. The management of Gristis by volunteers, which was the previous norm, is not tenable anymore; this is why we have engaged the resources of the School and Tiffin Sports Centre to manage our facilities. We still have a number of volunteers that show the old spirit, and I am specially thankful for them, but their reduced number means that it is sensible to run the OTA operation with fewer corporate bodies. On the money side it is vital that we extract from the fiscal system all the cash that we can by acquiring charitable status.

The essence of the proposals that are now being put to members is this: all the activities of the OTA, The Old Tiffinian Sports Ground Ltd and the Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund (the charity set up in 1921 to honour the Tiffinian dead in the Great War and dedicated, essentially, to the relief of financial hardship in paying the fees for boys of Tiffin School) will be consolidated into a new company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity with the Charity Commissioners – a company that is proposed to be named ‘**Tiffinian Association Ltd**’. This company will probably be known as TAL but in effect it will be the OTA: that is to say that everything which members associate with the OTA – Tiffnews, Gristis – will be in TAL with the existing OTMF activity grafted on. In this way there would be one corporate body instead of three covering all our activities. There will, however, be one ground-breaking change: TAL will have a wider focus, with new charitable objectives, which are set out later.

The OTA, because of its history, achieved its purpose of ‘promoting fellowship’ largely through playing team games together. Although this will continue, TAL will be about charitable objects that subsume those of the OTMF and the OTA, but they go further: the needs of the wider local community are covered in clauses 1 and 4. Although the objects remain focused around Tiffin, it is essential that in future TAL avoids being perceived as a closed and inward-looking Tiffin-only organisation. The need for this in relation to an under-used Gristis needs no articulation. Charitable status demands public benefit. Our circumstances demand the same. Retaining the rationale of being a member of the OTA – retaining links, fellowship – by becoming a member of TAL would be no different from today: no change there, but in a sense the opening of the playing sections has shown the way. Our resources and talents need to be made available more widely. As can be seen from the objects of TAL, the focus is *Education* – Education, not just at Tiffin School but in a context of the wider local community of Kingston and its environs.

One consequence of the change should be that parents would have a more convenient, tax efficient and formal way of maintaining contact with the School – and indeed other parents, Staff and Old Boys with whom they became acquainted when their sons were at School.

Part of the process being put to members is that the land at Gristis would be gifted to TAL. At present the legal ownership of the land is with the Ground Company and the residual beneficial ownership with members. In future, if members agree to the proposals, the benefit of the land, whether income or capital, will accrue to TAL and be capable of being used only for its objects. If we were to be found to be sitting on an oil well members are giving up any personal benefit for the benefit of the charity. The residual net assets of OTMF and OTA will also all devolve to TAL.

Charitable status will give us two good financial boosts. By giving our land to TAL it will be entitled (by virtue of its objects) to mandatory 80% relief on business rates payable at Gristis – of the order of £8,000 pa. The second benefit would depend on each member who is a UK taxpayer playing his/her part. By making a Gift Aid declaration (this only has to be done once) members will enable TAL to reclaim tax at the Standard Rate on their subscription, thus boosting income at no additional cost to members. Additionally, those paying the Higher Rate of tax will be able to reclaim tax on the difference between their top rate and the standard rate. All this will require much work by our membership secretary and treasurer to oversee the change of standing order mandates and Gift Aid declarations. My estimate of the full year benefit of this is of the order of £4,000, but more if we increase the membership.

In setting up TAL we have taken care to change the focus away from team games and towards charitable objects. This should mean there is something in being a member for everyone, especially those who now live remotely from Kingston, whether in distant counties in the UK or abroad. Presently, remote members get little from membership except our vital newsletter: ‘*Tiffnews*’. When TAL gets into its stride,

benefiting as I hope it will by new funding, members will be able to take an interest in how its charitable objects are being met, an account of which will be given in each annual report.

Recruitment of school leavers to membership of the OTA is not much better than nugatory. We have not had a good answer to a leaver’s question: what has the OTA got to offer me? Will we be in any better position, if these proposals are implemented? I think that we will. In future if a leaver were to say to me: “Why should I join TAL?” then, along with the fellowship and keeping contact points, my answer would be: “Because the privilege of a Tiffinian education demands that you give something back; something to the community; something for the generations that follow you; something for charity”. This could equally be the message to those Old Tiffinians that we know are not members of the OTA; all of us know a handful at least. If the proposals are carried, I intend to ask all those that I know to become a member of TAL, because what we must do in future is grow the membership.

The constitution of TAL as written in its Articles of Association will allow for proxy voting at members’ meetings: the rationale for this is overwhelming. It means that distant members will in future be able to have a more active involvement – an involvement that at present is denied them, because the OTA rules allow voting in person only. It is a matter of some embarrassment to me that at a time when what is being proposed is probably the greatest structural change ever in Old Tiffinian affairs, the greater part of our membership is disenfranchised by remote residence. The working group has decided to address this in the following way.

The notice of the Special General Meeting of members of the OTA is included in this edition of ‘*Tiffnews*’ as an insert. At the bottom is a tear-off slip inviting those members who are unable to be present at the meeting to indicate how they would have voted had they been able to, and to make any comments to me that they want. Such an indication will have no status in the vote on the resolution; but if there is a burden of opinion of remotely-living members then the faithful characterisation of this to the meeting by me before the vote will inform the members attending. I will ensure that proper weight is given to it.

Based on the feedback I have had already I believe that most members will support the resolution. If there were to be a substantial view expressed to me that the resolution should not be passed, I would recommend to the meeting a resolution for its adjournment while the rules are changed to allow proxy voting. Members can get in touch with me by email to me at howie.m@btinternet.com or by mail to 22 Gordon Road, Claygate, Surrey, KT10 0PQ, UK. If you have any questions or doubts, please get in touch.

Much effort has been put into the constitution of TAL by its putative secretary, David Evans. One of the changes from the present arrangements, which has been accepted by the working group concerns the appointment of the Chairman. The articles of TAL provide for its Chairman to be appointed by the board. Presently, the members appoint the Chairman. In practice this change would be barely noticed, but it reflects a change that has occurred over time in the role of the Chairman of the OTA. In earlier times the tenure was in practice an annual one reflecting the non-executive role: to be the figurehead was an honour to be shared around the large number of deserving claims of active volunteers. Today, as I have remarked on, it is different.

To say that the board of TAL will be a more professional group casts no aspersions on the present or previous Councils. TAL’s board will have a more difficult job in future: making appeals, setting criteria for grant aid, managing investments and a greater involvement with the Tiffin and the wider communities.

I commend the proposals to members.

Howard Mallinson
February 2008

THE CHARITABLE OBJECTS OF TIFFINIAN ASSOCIATION LTD

The charitable objects of TAL are enshrined in its Memorandum of Association as follows:

1. To promote the participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of the following:
 - former and present pupils of Tiffin School, Kingston-upon-Thames and their families;
 - employees of Tiffin School and their families;
 - others associated with Tiffin School; and
 - the local community of Kingston-upon-Thames and its environs, by the provision of such sporting and recreational activities as the Charity may decide.
2. To further the education of pupils at Tiffin School by the award of grants, in consultation with Tiffin School, to pupils who, by reason of financial hardship, would not otherwise be able to fully participate in educational or sporting activities, whether within or

outside the curriculum offered by the Tiffin School.

3. To further excellence in academic studies, the performing arts, sport and citizenship by promoting the award of prizes for effort and achievement to the pupils of Tiffin School, in consultation with Tiffin School.
4. To further education and citizenship by making grants which enable Tiffin School to:
 - enhance its educational and sporting facilities;
 - make its facilities, educational materials and know-how available to the local community;
 - enter into partnerships with other schools, further education colleges and other bodies, including sponsoring awards and competitions;
 - provide holiday courses and exchange programmes open to the local community.

Letters

Dear Brian,

It is a number of years since I have written from Sydney, Australia. Unfortunately, our original 'OTs Club' of the 1970s has diminished in numbers over the years through deaths and relocation. This leaves only two original members. I have now lived in Australia for 40 years and have increasingly taken interest in Australian military history and undertaken more travel. As a result, over the past three years I have taken a personal 'pilgrimage' to various theatres of war in which Australian troops served. In 2005 I attended an ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Gallipoli (Turkey). The word ANZAC derives from the words 'Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' and commemorative services are always held on 25th April each year in memory of the landing in 1915. This was the first time that Australian troops fought under their own flag and not under the Union Jack. On my return to Australia I found that Howard Mallinson (OTA Chairman) had written a book entitled 'Where is Gallipoli?' This was from the British perspective which embraced the ill-fated campaign.

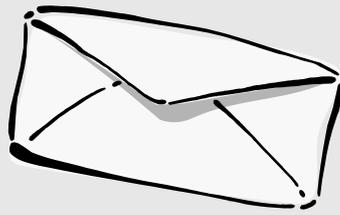
Last year I attended an emotional service on the Kokoda Track in New Guinea. This 1942 campaign initially involved only 500 Australian troops who prevented the advance of 6,000 Japanese in reaching Australia. To walk the Kokoda Track it requires an 8-day slog through dense jungle and mountainous terrain. In reputation, this track is one of the hardest in the world. The only method of transport on the 160km track is to use your two legs. As an additional challenge, I undertook walking the Track again a couple of months ago.

Earlier this year I took a short holiday with my wife back to the UK and returned via the Ice Hotel in Swedish Lapland and St. Petersburg to Beijing on the Trans-Siberian/Mongolian railway. My travelling for 2008 will take me to Villers Bretonneau in northern France to attend the 90th anniversary of the liberation by Australian troops of the Village. This event occurred on 25th April 1918 and is remembered annually by the local population. Over the years therefore a special relationship has been forged between the two nationalities. My wife will then join me in England before we travel to Cuba and across Canada by train. I am looking forward to seeing OT John Gately in Hamilton, Ontario, as I started school with him in 1952 (Class 1C) and we have not met since 1971.

I should like to extend an invitation to Old Tiffinians of my era who may be visiting Sydney to make contact, as I would love to recount old times.

Best Wishes

Mike Burrage (1952-1960)



Dear Brian,

It was good that about 25 or so stalwarts braved the 'donner und blitzen' of a rain storm on Wednesday 21st November 2007 to attend the Association AGM in the Dean Pavilion. Nobody had thought of taking out a pluvius policy for the event – shades of the Tiffin Fair days!

As an octogenarian, may I state that I was particularly impressed by the quality and skill of the reports and accounts rendered by the various officers of the OTA. Years of dedication and professional skill were shown by the officers. I wonder how many of the membership realise how high a standard is achieved – well up to commercial standards that one sees from investments one has acquired down the voyage of life. Admittedly, computers have greatly aided the improvement.

I recall the days of 1974, when I rather gullibly took over the role of Secretary of the Ground Company from Fred Wagstaff on his move to the Midlands. He wrote the Minutes of meetings in a Minute Book with superb copperplate handwriting. I took over with far less clarity of hand, and, when I handed over about five years later to Jim Dixon, he quickly introduced photo-copies of the Minutes – a first step on the road to new technology within the OTA.

I should like to add my acclamation to all the OTA officers for their superb work over many years. Naturally they were thanked and applauded at the AGM, but a further word from an old stager should not go amiss.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Jenkins (1945)

Dear Brian,

You may remember my brother-in-law, Roy Withers, was a contemporary of mine through the years, until we went on to separate universities in 1942. He left Cambridge in 1944 and had a quite exceptional career in industry – and was awarded the CBE. He died in August 2003 after several years of indifferent health, leaving my sister, Pauline, with four sons and their wives and eleven grandchildren.

We of course kept in touch with Pauline, but she was noticeably less active during 2007 and was later diagnosed with secondary cancer in the liver. She died at the home of her youngest son on 23rd November 2007.

Several OTs may well remember Pauline and a number of her friends at Tiffin Girls. Once the 'wolves' at Tiffins knew I had an attractive sister, I became very popular – I can recall quite a number who came calling! This mention could bring back happy memories to some.

Sincerely,

Peter Johnston (1942)

Reunion Group

For twenty years now a group of four OTs who originally all travelled to Tiffins from Walton in the 1950s have been meeting up several times a year with their wives in each other's homes. They now live far apart, but enjoy the opportunity of a meal together and a chance to reminisce. The photo shows (clockwise from top left) Clive Willis, Eric White, Mike Rose and Dave Larmar.



OT Football Club

It has been a good season so far for team morale and is fun both on and off the football pitch. There appears to be a much more relaxed approach to our football this season, with players trying their best and enjoying the wins when they come and really looking forward to the next game no matter what the result.

Post Christmas is generally a time when we struggle for results on the field. This year was no exception. Firstly the long Christmas break with too many mince pies and beers took their toll on our players' fitness; secondly, the wet weather led to the postponement of several games; thirdly, skiing breaks and work commitments meant player shortages across the teams. Nevertheless, we have battled on and results across the Club picked up in February, with the 2nds and 4ths both notching up consecutive wins in the last two weeks, pushing both teams up several places in their respective leagues. Unfortunately the 1sts' last two matches have both resulted in heavy defeats, which have left them languishing at the foot of the table. Hopefully, with 8 games still left to play, they can turn it around in the next couple of weeks and avoid facing a relegation battle. The 3s have played well in their last two games but have only got one point to show for it. On both occasions the team surrendered 0-2 leads before really starting to play. In both games they fought back to 2-2 and created chances to take the lead. Unfortunately in one of the games they were caught out by a last minute counter attack and lost 2-3.

The Vets team are very well organised and playing fixtures every week. Tiffs Vets have won 10 games, lost 5 and drawn 2 so far. The squad is pretty large this year, though it has been plagued with injuries (or is it just age?). New players Colin Massie and John Bissett have greatly added to the team, and the commitment from Old Timers like Len Landers and Graham Page have made an enormous contribution.

LEAGUE RESULTS TO 16 February 2008

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
12	2	2	8	16	33	-17	8	11th out of 11

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
14	6	3	5	20	21	-1	21	2nd out of 10

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
13	4	2	7	28	41	-13	14	7th out of 10

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
12	4	1	7	30	40	-10	13	6th out of 10

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

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

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

STEVE JOHNSON

OTA 200 Club

First of all, my apologies to those who looked in vain for their winning numbers in our December edition. This article was inadvertently left out. Congratulations to **George Dryden** (No.142) on winning the £500 Big Prize in our Winter Draw !

The following £10 winners have been announced since those last published :

160 J.Lamb	74 J.H.Dixon	146 J.Powell
11 G.A.Latham	92 R.Hewitt-Taylor	23 C.B.Hunt
157 P.Holden	119 W.Champion	49 D.W.Richardson
189 I.M.Mason	142 G.Dryden	130 Mrs A.Glasscock
110 R.G.Hamper	156 Mrs M.Hoad	130 Mrs A.Glasscock
173 D.Laidler	61 P.R.Lear	24 C.Hainsby
102 J.E.Raynham	87 J.L.Glasscock	122 Mrs J.Smith
37 G.R.Power	157 P.Holden	142 G.Dryden
161 I.B.Boustead		

Please note that the OTA 200 Club is now being taken over by our Association Treasurer, Mark Darby. His contact details are: 81 Thorkhill Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0UQ (Tel: 020 8398 1050) Email: mark.darby@ukgateway.net. I see I have been doing this job for 24 years, so I reckon I am due for a rest !

If you normally pay your 200 Club sub by cheque and have not yet paid for the current year, please post your cheque to Mark without delay, to save reminders.

BRIAN HOLDEN

OTA 100 Club

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

			Previous win
Aug'07	£50	Andy Langford	Surbiton '07
Sep & Oct'07	£100	Mrs Allison Power	Norfolk '98
Nov & Dec'07	£100	Alec Pringle	New Malden '06
Dec'07	£1000	Bruno Plaskow	Cranleigh '98

The above draws were held at an OTA Council meeting in December last. Although the numbers were well shaken, it was amazing to see a repetition twice. The major prize was won by Bruno Plaskow, who is a regular visitor to the Rugby Club VP & Old Players Lunches. He relates that the cheque was an excellent addition to his 'first baby fund'.

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

OT Cricket Club

The 2007 cricket season had been an excellent one for the Old Tiffinians CC in many ways. The **Saturday 1st XI** need to be congratulated for their superb consistency throughout the season, culminating in a much deserved promotion, as runners-up to Fullers Division 1 in 2008. It is hoped that the progress will continue just as impressively in the higher division this year. In the Saturday Cup KO competition, the side again reached the semi-finals stage; hopefully 2008 can be a better one on that front too.

The **Saturday 2nd XI** had a great start to the season, winning 4 out of their first 6 matches, but sadly that momentum could not be kept up until the end of the season, but to their credit they again managed to hold their own in the Surrey Championship for another year. Many good lessons would have been learned, and hopefully it will prove to be a much happier story during the 2008 campaign.

The significance of the 2007 season had been that the Club was able to field a **3rd XI Saturday side** in the league again (it had been many years since that phenomenon took place). It was highly encouraging to see many new players join the Club and enjoy playing good competitive and organised cricket on Saturdays. Although the results at the end of the season could have been better, it was nevertheless an enjoyable season for all those who played. No doubt, with that experience behind them, much improvement is expected in 2008.

Although the core of good players making themselves available to play regularly on Sundays had diminished a little, it was still a good Sunday season by all accounts. The **Sunday 1st XI** ought to be congratulated nonetheless for getting to the semi-finals of the Cup and making a good fist of the league and friendly matches throughout a busy season.

My congratulations and thanks go to all the Club officers, the team captains and the support cast for all their support and help throughout the season, and for ensuring that 2007 was an enjoyable one for all concerned.

Obviously, much needs to be done still in 2008 to ensure that Old Tiffinians CC moves forward on a firm and sustainable footing. The support of the School community and the current students is paramount to our cause. Old Tiffinian sporting facilities and the sports sections are set up for the benefit of the students and the School in the first place. It is not an organisation that exists in the ether out there somewhere as some might imagine, so please get involved and avail

yourselves of the excellent opportunities and support that OTCC & the OTA offer. If you want to get involved and help in any capacity, please contact the undersigned at your earliest convenience (email: ravioshankar@aol.com, Mobile: 07966 301 851). We are also looking for volunteers to be able to organise and run a junior section in 2009.

RAVI SHANKAR KAMINENI (Ravi)

2008 – Old Tiffinian Cricket Club Officers List

Club President:

Mr S M HESLOP, MA(Cantab), MA(Lond) – Headmaster

Chairman: Ravi Shankar KAMINENI

Vice Chairman: Matthew BENNETT

Club Secretary & Treasurer: Simon CLEWS

Team Secretary: Peter SMITH

Fixture Secretary: Richard BATES

Welfare Officer: Matthew BENNETT

Captain 1st XI Saturday: Ravi Shankar KAMINENI

Vice Captain 1st XI Saturday: Faisal KHAN

Club Umpire: Michael GIDDY

Club Scorer: Peter SMITH

Club Honours & Awards: 2008

Batsman of the Year: **Faisal KHAN**

Bowler of the Year: **Mohammad ALI**

Fielder of the Year: **Daniel BOUSTEAD**

Young player of the Year: **Kamran TOOR**

Clubman of the Year: **Peter SMITH**

Subscriptions:

Full Annual Club Membership Fee: **£70.00**

Students & Others : **£40.00**

Students still at School : **No Membership Charge**

Opposition Teas : **£35.00**

Match Levies

Saturday £10.00 (1st XI) Students: £5.00 incl.

Saturday £8.00 (2nd XI) & (3rd XI) Students: £5.00 incl.

Sunday £8.00 Students: £5.00 incl.

Sunday £5.00 (If playing both days) Students: £5.00 incl.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES - 2008

Sunday, 15th June 2008 – Vice Presidents Annual Lunch

& ‘Bill Banting’ Memorial Match, Dean Pavilion, Gristis - 12.30pm.

Sunday, 13th July 2008 - Summer BBQ Night at Gristis – 8.00pm

OT Golf Society

We could hardly have wished for better weather for our start to 2008. Our New Year meeting at West Byfleet on 2nd January was a smaller gathering than usual with just 20 players – but still produced the usual banter!

At this meeting the rules for the Winter Cup are based on play with two clubs and a putter, and the pin positions were far from easy, so Andrew Pitts' winning score of 31 points on his first outing with us was no mean effort. Second prize went to Geoff Latham, with Ian Langrish third on countback (both with 30 points). Unfortunately I cannot find the results sheet, but I am fairly sure that the score for the best front nine holes was by Peter Smith and that John Edney was best over the second nine.

For the record the dates of this year's meetings at which any OT golfer would be warmly welcomed are:

Friday 4th April at Surbiton, followed by the AGM

Thursday 8th May at Tyrrells Wood against Old Kingstonians

Monday 9th June at The Drift against Old Surbitonians

Friday 4th July at Clandon Regis, when we defend the Surrey Schools Old Boys Trophy, and I hope that last year's team will all be available for the defence.

As Secretary I can be contacted on 01372 274441 or at alan.daunt@lineone.net

ALAN (Gus) DAUNT

Editor

Since our last edition the main news, sadly, has been the loss of **Ted Key**, who died on 9th February. From his arrival on the Tiffin scene in 1949, to take up his first teaching post in the Geography Department, until his retirement as Deputy Head 34 years later Ted was a great servant of Tiffin School, both in his role as a teacher and on the games field. In recent years he continued to keep in touch with the School and with his OT friends. The numbers attending his funeral bore witness to the esteem in which he was held by so many. Amongst the many former colleagues present it was good to see Ben Lyon, who worked closely with Ted over many years to enhance the School's reputation in Cricket and Rugby – and to develop the Grist Ground and School Pavilion. We expect to publish an obituary in our June issue.

Looking to the future, the main event – and one of major importance to every OTA member – is the **Special General Meeting** called for Monday 7th April (see coloured insert). If you live within reach of Gristis, please make the effort to attend! Your vote and your views are crucial to the success of the evening. Our Chairman has put a great deal of thought and hard work into the proposals. He deserves our support. If you simply cannot attend in person, do send him promptly a message conveying your views.

BRIAN HOLDEN

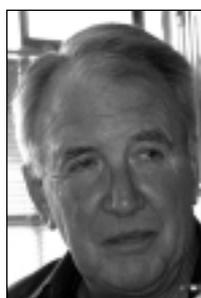
People

RALPH ALLWOOD (1968) was seen in January in the remarkable Channel 4 documentary 'A Boy Called Alex'. This told the story of a greatly handicapped pupil with cystic fibrosis and his determined battle to overcome his life-threatening illness and conduct a performance of the Bach 'Magnificat'. Ralph was described in the programme as 'a world-famous choral director and Eton's colourful Head of Music'.



DAVID BARKER (1953) has now spent 20 years in Australia. Last summer (2007) he became a Foundation Fellow of the newly established Australian Academy of Law, also being selected as Secretary to the Academy. The Academy brings together 36 of Australia's most prominent lawyers, and it aims to promote legal education, law reform and 'the highest standards of ethical conduct and professional responsibility among all members of the legal community, including

the use of legal skills not merely for personal reward but also in the service of society'. The University has also appointed David an Emeritus Professor, and the Faculty of Law unveiled a photo portrait of him, to be hung with other former Deans in the Faculty.



DAVID BARON (1955), working to alleviate the low-flying problems in his area of Kent, can perhaps allow himself a 'glimmer of hope', according to his local paper. A high-powered meeting in February brought together several of the key players, including the local MP, Sir John Stanley. The managing director of Gatwick Airport pledged to review the problem, after describing the meeting as constructive and acknowledging that some aircraft were indeed

descending too low too early. David has for some time had a decibel meter in his garden and has regularly recorded levels in excess of those permitted.

DAVID BATEMAN (1950) and MAURICE POWELL (1950). For the first time since leaving school, these former classmates, together with their wives, met in Auckland, whilst Maurice and his wife were visiting New Zealand during September and October 2007. Amongst other things, they discovered that they had both worked in various parts of Africa and had both been in East Africa at much the same time.



MARK BENSBERG (1980) in July 2007 became Britain's sixth High Commissioner to Namibia since its independence from South Africa in 1990.

Mark joined the Diplomatic Service on leaving School. Posted to Paris in 1982, the French he learned at Tiffins from Brian Holden, John Rice and Alan Chatfield helped secure his place on the Summer course for foreign diplomats at France's École Nationale d'Administration.

1985 started two years working in British missions in Africa and the Middle East. A posting to Vienna followed in 1988, then Ghana in 1994, where his French helped him cover neighbouring Togo. After three years at the British Embassy in Brussels Mark returned to London in 2000 and, in the aftermath of 9/11, worked on making the first biometric passports available to Britons living overseas, alongside negotiations with the US Department of Homeland Security to retain Britain's US visa waiver.

As Deputy Head of Mission in Kinshasa from 2004 to 2006, Mark coordinated UK support to the Democratic Republic of Congo's first elections for four decades, whilst ensuring the safety of the Embassy, its staff and MPs from the UK out to observe elections in remote areas in a country the size of Western Europe.

Mark has spent over half his overseas diplomatic career in Africa. For him languages have been his passport to his most challenging and rewarding jobs. But he values his entire education at Tiffins. "I've dealt with amazingly diverse topics, from biometrics and rainforest conservation to the nuclear industry. The sheer breadth of what I learned at Tiffins always helps me pick up new subjects that much faster."

Mark fits his hobbies round wherever he's working, but enjoys cooking, motorbikes (advanced road riding), photography, alpine skiing, off-road driving and DIY.

JOHN BINGHAM (2000) has been building websites and management systems for 12 years. His skillset includes PHP, ASP.NET, Flash, Flex, XML, Java, AJAX, Comet and AIR. His focus is always on creating sites that perform well in a business capacity and include a through the line service including digital advertising and CRM. He has a degree in Computer Science from the University of Manchester and is a Google certified Adwords professional. Previously he has sat on advisory panels for both the W3C and ICANN. Current corporate clients include Sony, Norwich Union, London Stock Exchange, Teletext, Shelly Sandzer and Six Senses. He is currently developing charitable sites for the National Literacy Trust and the Make Poverty History campaign. In total, over 100 people view his work every second (Dec 07). His research interests include the Bayeux Protocol, Object Oriented Database applications and specifically providing robust mechanisms for Geonomic Research data to be analysed collaboratively.



JOE BRAIDWOOD (2003) was in touch recently, having just got back to Providence from New Hampshire, where he covered the primaries for Sky News. Over his Christmas break from Brown (which is going very well – he received a 4.0 in his first semester, which translates to full marks or AAAA, and came top in one of his classes) he went back to Sky News where he continued to help move their website forward. During the Bhutto assassination they put together

groundbreaking online coverage, including a rolling blog which reviewed the wire headline minute-by-minute, as the climate in Pakistan worsened. They were later noted for this coverage by Matt Drudge, a famous internet news blogger, who called it the best coverage of the Bhutto assassination 'on the internet'. Towards the end of his time in the studio with Sky News over the break, he pitched the idea of providing grassroots web coverage of the primaries from New Hampshire to supplement the TV crew output they had planned. They accepted, and he proceeded to drive (for the first time on the wrong side of the road!) up to New Hampshire, where he created a 'miniblog' discussing the individuals he had met and the developments he had witnessed, which was instantly posted online from his iPhone. He doesn't believe this has been done before in this way. On the Monday he attended an Obama rally, which had an incredible atmosphere. Everyone thought he would win, and the polls certainly supported this. On Tuesday, the TV crew interviewed Bill Richardson, one of the Democratic candidates, and Joe blogged the interview live. On Tuesday night, the people with whom he stayed invited him to the Hillary Clinton HQ in Manchester, the state capital, as they were friends of hers, and had helped with her campaign in New Hampshire. They went along, concerned that there would be a rather depressing defeat, but as they got there it became clear that she was leading in the first results to be declared, and this lead was growing. The atmosphere was truly electric, and as the victory was declared by CNN on the big video wall, everyone there went crazy. Hillary, Bill and Chelsea came out to a sea of their core supporters, all waving signs and cheering in support. It felt like a historic moment!

He planned to go to Nevada the following week, where he hoped to perform some similar coverage, as they hosted their first ever caucus. All eyes were on the candidates, as the battle between Hillary and Obama continued!

CYRIL CHAPMAN (1924) is to be congratulated on reaching his 100th birthday in March. He worked for Shell for some 40 years, starting as an office boy and ending up a director. Cyril retired at 60 and is still living in Cobham in the house he has been in for around 50 years.



CHRIS FRANKLIN (1965) is Professor and Hon. Consultant Pathologist at the School of Clinical Dentistry, University of Sheffield. He is actually a clinical academic and consultant pathologist by training, although he did start his original hospital training in oral and maxillofacial surgery, following his original dental training in Newcastle. His pathology interest is therefore in head and neck. His PhD was on oral and maxillofacial cancer. He has spent three periods abroad on various fellowships in Copenhagen, Zurich and Riyadh. He is now part-time in pathology, as he is also Regional Postgraduate Dental Dean in South Yorkshire and East Midlands, still based in Sheffield. He is responsible for the postgraduate education and training of doctors and dentists after graduation, amongst other things. He is currently chair of the UK Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and serves on several committees; for example, at the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Pathologists. In 2006 he was elected President of the British Society for Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

MAX FREEDMAN (1997) was selected as the new Labour Party parliamentary candidate for Kingston & Surbiton by an overwhelming majority during a packed meeting of the local party. He has a history of campaigning in the area on issues such as improved services for council tenants and opposing cuts in funding for care of the elderly.

MIKE HERMITAGE (1970) has now been in Australia for more than a year and has just spent his second Christmas out there! He has passed both law exams that he had to take, and he expected to be fully qualified there in February. He is now working full-time for a large Law Centre, which he is enjoying very much. However, after February he was looking around for a better paid job, with better long term prospects. He has one or two irons in the fire there, and has made some good contacts already. The only cloud on his horizon is a pending arthroscopy on his left knee this year, which he is told is the result of twenty years of football, squash and tennis.

They have been worshipping at a large Charismatic Free Church, Bayside Church. This is a member of the 'Christian City Church' worldwide movement, with a member Church in London. There are 2000 on the roll there in Melbourne and there are services on Saturday evening, Sunday morning and evening. Mike and his wife are both members of a house group 'connect group', which is very challenging as there are several members with serious issues.

None of the family would now wish to turn back the clock and return to England. All of them in their own way have surpassed their expectations and have achieved things that have surprised them all. Perhaps the biggest news recently is that they have just bought a house, which is about 300m from where they are living now. It is an original 1920s brick-built Californian Bungalow, which they are having renovated and extended.



RUSSELL ISON (1984) continues to be busy running his business, Batphone Aviation Communications. As a specialist in aviation communications, amongst his international list of clients are Swissport, the Zurich based global leader in aviation ground handling, and the BAA group, where he works for Gatwick and Heathrow Airports and on group issues, including the preparations for the London Olympics in 2012.

He has also now expanded the business beyond aviation and is involved in some work for the Home Office and police services (having previously worked for both the Metropolitan Police and HM Customs and Excise).

Outside work, he has been appointed Head of Programming for Southampton Hospital Radio and has also recently been appointed by Cancer Research UK as Chairman of Relay for Life Portsmouth. He is an active member of the Airline Public Relations Organisation and the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.



DAVID JAGGER (1958) continues to enjoy retirement down in Sussex. His small town, Steyning, is a delightful place and he has joined the local Lodge, which is held within walking distance, in the local community centre. The quality of the work doesn't match that of Tiffin Masonry, but he is working on it. He has also been lucky enough to become a member of the Devil's Dyke Golf Club at Brighton, who have one other Tiffinian member, Ian Mason. The Club has a very stimulating and windy course and is keeping him fit. He also does some charity work, acting as a taxi driver for local old people going to hospital appointments. In addition, he is attempting to improve his bridge, so that he can partner his wife, Mary, who is a good player (as are the local opposition). She is also an active local Rotarian, and David throws his weight behind their charitable activities.

Meantime, life in their recycled Georgian Pub at the quiet end of Steyning High Street, is stretching his DIY skills. He has always done his own house maintenance plus painting and decorating, but he is finding a nearly 250 year old listed building something of a challenge. When they have time to take advantage, they are near the sea at Lancing, a delightful drive over the South Downs, which begin just a few hundred yards away. But the joy of retirement, at least in theory, is that they can leave the chores and take off to France, or wherever, for a month just when they feel like it – except that things like jury service seem to get in the way!

ANDREW LAVENDER (1981) featured in an article in the *'Times Higher Educational Supplement'* (23 November 2007). He had recently been appointed Dean of Research at Central School of Speech & Drama (having been Head of PG Studies). Prior to his move to Central, he was a Lecturer in Drama at Goldsmiths. Andrew was in Frank Whately's form at Tiffins, and his wife, Trish, took over from Frank as Head of Drama at Kingston University in 2005, when Frank set up the School of Performance there.

ANTONY PITTS (1986) has just had released by Hyperion a second complete disc of his choral music. The album has been described as 'dazzling, ecstatic, arresting, thought-provoking works, sung with limpid beauty by Tonus Peregrinus'. This octet exists to perform ancient and modern works interspersed with music written by its Director, Antony, and frequently gains high praise in the musical press.



BRUCE PULLAN (1961) is grateful for the regular delivery of *'Tiffnews'*. When it arrives he spends quite a while trying to match familiar names with half-remembered faces. Life in Vancouver is very busy. He has been Music Director of the Vancouver Bach Choir for 25 years and also of the Vancouver Bach Children's Chorus, founded in 1984, which consists of 9 choirs (ages 5–25). His principal job is Director of Choirs and Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia – very much a full time position! In December of 2007 the Governor General of Canada appointed Bruce a Member of the Order of Canada, so now he is supposed to write Bruce Pullan CM!

ALASTAIR PUTT (2001) was the 2007 winner of the Michael Oliver Award for original writing on a musical subject. Alastair wrote about the avant-garde American composer Conlan Nancarrow, whose work, mainly for piano, is seldom performed in the UK, owing to its extreme difficulty. A photograph of Alastair receiving the award appeared in a recent issue of *'BBC Music Magazine'*.



CHRIS SAUL (1972) has recently been elected Senior Partner of Slaughter & May. On leaving Tiffins he studied at St Catherine's College, Oxford, before becoming a trainee with Slaughter & May in 1977. From 1979 to 1986 he was corporate assistant and was elected partner in 1986. He was Head of the New York office 1991-94, and in 2003 was elected head of corporate business. Chris was the subject of a major article in *'The Lawyer'* (28 January 2008).

DANIEL VERNON (1997) has now started a full-time salaried GP job in St Helens (Merseyside) from June 2007, having been working as a locum since completing his GP training in July 2006. He has also passed the Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners in August 2007. Dan married Lisa on 3rd December 2005, and they are still living in Huyton, just outside Liverpool. He notes a lack of mentions about his contemporaries in the People section of *'Tiffnews'*, but would be happy to receive email from any of them at: danielvernon@doctors.org.uk



FRANK WEBB (1966) is still leading a very active life over in North Carolina. His consulting activities have continued to bring a variety of assignments there, in Europe and in China, and he teaches more and more at Duke. His course for the master's degree programmes was very well received, and he has doubled its length for the spring semester. He expects to develop a second course for the autumn and is continuing the executive education courses that got him connected with Duke in the first place. He has been teaching officials from the Chinese and Indian governments and a group of CEOs of state-owned enterprises in Inner Mongolia.

ROGER WEBB (1959) has recently joined the Association. After Tiffins he gained a place at Exeter University but moved into the printing trade, working his way up from the bottom to some success in administration. After living in Cornwall for some years he returned to Surrey, to attend the Elim Bible College (then at Capel near Dorking), where he achieved some distinction in his studies. From there he became full-time minister of Luton Christian Fellowship, since when he has been involved in part-time ministry and leadership positions in various churches, whilst returning to the printing trade until retirement. Now living in Milton Keynes, Roger has been married to his wife, Vicky, for 45 years, and they have two children and three grandchildren.

Old Tiffinian Social Lunch



Our fifty-third lunch was held on Thursday 6th December at our usual venue, viz., the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Rd., Tolworth, Surrey – meeting at 12.30 for lunch at 1.00, departure usually at 3pm.

The 22 present were :-

Alan Bain, Dennis Barnard, Graham Fitchett, Jack Foster, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Willy Harper, Brian Holden, Chris Hunt, Ken Jenkins, Greer Kirkwood, Howard Mallinson, Gordon Mylchreest, Terry Noble, Laurie Notley, Peter Osborne, Peter Robinson, Chris Shires, Chris Towlson, David Tyrell, Howard Watson & John Wright.

Our Christmas Lunch was as usual splendidly supported with three new members. Laurie Notley travelled all the way from Salisbury to join us and hopes to continue. Willy Harper at last had the family transport organised, and a young Peter Robinson is currently on a year's sabbatical. Of the rest, only nine had attended the previous October lunch. Apologies were given from several stalwarts wishing us well on the day.

An excellent lunch, with only a few having turkey, was enjoyed by all at a slightly enhanced cost of £22. Separately a bottle of port was provided by a donor. This left time to return home and watch Cambridge win the Varsity match.

The Spring date will be **Thursday 10th April**. Also the Summer date is **Thursday 3rd July**.

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

GREER KIRKWOOD

Membership Matters

All Old Boys (except for Student Members paying their much-reduced rate) whose subscriptions are FULLY PAID-UP should have received a copy of the *'Tiffinian'* covering the year 2005/6. Supplies are now very short, so, if yours has not arrived and you would like a copy, please let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Thanks. Also, my thanks to those who responded to the general reminder in December's *'Tiffnews'* by sending their payment.

The issue of the School Magazine covering the School Year 2006/7 is now in the course of production. We expect to be able to start posting these to members who are entitled soon after Easter.

We particularly like to have any news of your academic or career achievements that we can include as items in this publication. Please keep us informed by contacting Brian Holden or myself.

Should you find a subscription arrears letter enclosed with this newsletter, I would be very grateful if you would respond as quickly as possible.

Please, whoever else you tell, let **ME** know when you move house. It is always helpful, if the previous address is quoted. We have many Old Tiffinians on our list with similar names and initials.

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

DENNIS BARNARD

De Mortuis

RAYMOND GEORGE GOSDEN 1928 – 2007

It is with regret that I record the death of Raymond Gosden. Ray joined the School in 1938 from that prolific provider of scholarships, Hershams village school, and he was one of that elite group of 25 Hershams boys who attended Tiffins together in those golden years of the School just before the Second World War.

Ray was involved in chess and athletics, and was made a Junior Prefect in his final year. He had an outstanding academic career at the School and won an Open Scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, from where he went to work for GEC.

His friend, Bob Padey, recalls an incident during a cycling tour together in France in 1947, when they were looking for a public toilet in Paris and were then promptly chased out by an irate woman, as they had made the wrong choice!

After the war we all went our separate ways, and I lost touch with Ray, but, however briefly, I should like to record his passing.

R P T

PHILIP HOWARD MASON 1965 – 2002

After leaving School in January 1985, Philip studied Medicine at Birmingham University and travelled as a locum doctor to many parts of the world. He worked among children in the Sudan and with Aborigines and was deeply disturbed by what he had seen. He was admitted to Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and sadly it was while he was working in Australia that he developed cancer and died in 2002.



PETER ANTHONY RAYMENT 1938 – 2007

Peter Rayment died on 18th December 2007 after a long struggle with cancer. He will be remembered especially by those of his contemporaries (1949-56) who were involved in scouting, athletics and chess, and those he met recently playing golf.

He was a School Prefect in his final year and went on from Tiffins to read physics at

Imperial College at a time when the Head of Department was a Nobel Laureate, who attracted the best students and researchers. At IC Peter was a popular and respected member of the athletics club. This was at a time when there were two others who gained international honours in the middle distance events. He was elected captain in his third year and organised a successful tour of West Germany.

In 1960 he went to Mullards at Crawley. He joined a group of practical jokers but dealt with their teasing with a good grace that won him more friends. It was at this time that he met Una Mcleod and enjoyed a loving and devoted marriage that was to last for nearly 50 years.

In 1968 Peter left Mullards to join Plessey, where he remained until retirement. At Plessey he worked on a variety of subjects including a project for the Home Office on the detection of buried bodies, water pollution and microwave applications.

In retirement he continued to play chess and was secretary and treasurer of the Chichester Regnum Chess Club for nearly 40 years, eventually becoming President. He played for Sussex and captained the second team. Together with Una he travelled the world visiting the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Africa. This enabled him to indulge in his life-long hobby of photography, and he returned with some particularly fine landscape photographs. He continued to enjoy cycling and walking over the Downs in Sussex and playing golf.

He leaves his family of Una, Sonia and Douglas, and his triplet grandchildren, whom, sadly, he never saw.

RUSSELL STEWARD 1937 – 2007

Russell will probably be best remembered by his Tiffin contemporaries for his prowess at rugby, though he was also very involved in cricket and athletics. In his final year he was appointed a School Prefect. After leaving Tiffins in December 1956, he studied Agriculture at Reading and went on to work in various spheres of farming. He maintained his involvement in rugby for many years, both playing and later coaching.

At one time his sister was married to Bill Neate (1956). His second wife died tragically of cancer not long after they acquired a cottage in a remote village in the NW Highlands. He had two sons by his first marriage, who have very successful lives in South Africa.



ERNEST EDGAR WILLIAMS 1913 – 2007

Ernest, known to everyone as 'Ernie', was born in Tottenham. He had older siblings, Sydney and Phyllis. His family were originally from Kingston and returned there in Ernie's young days to live in Villiers Road. When the time came, therefore, Tiffin School was literally 'just down the road'.

Fairfield South and thereabouts was Ernie's 'patch', even after marrying Nancy and moving to a new development in Worcester Park. In due course, daughter Janice arrived and, later on, grandsons Stephen & Christopher and great-granddaughter Megan.

His Tiffin career was completed mainly in the Old School by the Fairfield. He was active in the key sports of cricket and rugby, becoming a member of the 1st XV and gaining his colours in his final year. He also did well in boxing. Socially Ernie was a man of many parts – tennis, which was an introduction to Nancy, keen on football, could draw, was handy with a pencil, seriously studied poetry and in public speaking could hold his audience.

Ernie was faithfully attached to the local Methodist Church, where he often delivered Bible readings and taught in Sunday School – he even filled in to play the organ. His interest in Kingston Methodist Church endured to see its amalgamation and joint redevelopment on Fairfield South.

In the 1930s he went to work for the Carreras Tobacco Company. During the Second World War he served in the Buffs Regiment, engaged principally in alert readiness along the South Coast during the critically vulnerable years – and also in a surprising posting to Northern Ireland. After the War Ernie resumed his career with Carreras and later joined the Firestone Tyre Company.

Ernie followed his elder brother Syd, when he was welcomed and initiated into Tiffinian Lodge in 1956. By dint of 'daily advancement' he well deserved the position of Worshipful Master in 1969 and eventually undertook the office of Almoner for several years.

On 16th November 2007 a group of seven Lodge Brethren, headed by Worshipful Brother Hugh Fletcher, attended the farewell Service for Ernie in the Methodist Church – exceptionally well conducted by his friend, the Minister Rev. Tony Walton, and addressed by his daughter, Janice Peters. Her recollections have contributed a great deal to this résumé of her father. The Service opened with the lusty singing of a meaningful hymn composed by Ernie himself, no less, to a well-known hymn tune. The occasion was altogether a well-attended and rousing salute to departed merit.

G A W B



PERCY JOHN WOODEN 1934 – 2007

John Wooden was born in Twickenham in November 1934. His parents moved to Kingston upon Thames in 1935, and John attended Latchmere Road Infants and Junior School during the difficult war years, and from there he progressed to Tiffin Boys School. His academic achievements were such that he gained entrance to Southampton University to study Chemistry. However, he was not able to

complete the course and was subsequently called into the RAF for National Service where he was assigned to maintenance of ground radio equipment. During this time he became interested in Amateur Radio and proudly held his call-sign G3OWA until his death in October 2007. After leaving the RAF he attended evening classes at Ewell and attained a Diploma in Biochemistry. He spent the majority of his working life in the field of food essences and dyes of which his knowledge was unrivalled.

He was an accomplished pianist and had a passion for classical music, particularly Puccini operas. Whilst at Tiffins he taught himself to play double-bass and was a member of the School orchestra, led by Denis Bloodworth, playing in combined school orchestras at Farnham and Cheltenham. His lifelong hobbies included the history of public transport, particularly buses, and in later years he became involved in researching family histories and also studying local history.

John leaves two children, John and Helen and four grandchildren.

E W

Below is a memoir from John's friend and contemporary, Brian Bunker:

John Wooden attended Tiffins from 1945 to 1954, and he came, like me, from Latchmere Road School, whose headmaster was 'Polly' Pearson, an OT who had left Tiffins in 1910. He lived in Kingston for his school years, returning there in later life. We knew each other from about the age of 4, owing originally to our mothers talking at the school gate while waiting for us. He had an enduring love for classical music and, more particularly, opera, whereas I disliked both. His love of music led him to try to get into the school band, but he was turned down by GWS on the grounds that he was too large, so when Denis Bloodworth formed the orchestra he joined and played the double bass, an instrument also played by his much younger brother Edward, who went to Surbiton GS.

What did we have in common? Well both of us were very interested in buses, particularly London Transport ones, and both of us were interested in old buildings. His knowledge of old Kingston was quite amazing.

After school we both went to Southampton University, from where I went into teaching, he into the chemical industry, working for years for British Oxygen, before going into food essences. He retired early and was forced to act as carer to his mother for a good few years.

OTA Skiff Marathon

The 95th Skiff Marathon will take place on Sunday 18th May.
Contact Tony Ellis – 07774 123348 (Mobile)

Entries are accepted from any Old Tiffinian of any age or standard, to race for the main trophy or the handicap event.

The spectator launch which follows the race will leave Dittons Skiff and Punting Club, Queens Road, Thames Ditton, at 11am. Anyone is welcome.

The Dittons Club bar will be open afterwards for refreshments.

John had an unfortunate marriage which ended in divorce, but not until he had a son John and a daughter Helen, of whom he was immensely proud, as he was of his four grandchildren.

He was always proud of his Tiffin beginnings, and after he had retired to the Isle of Wight I kept him up to date about events at the School. It was obvious for about a year that he was not well, but it was a great shock when he was diagnosed with cancer, and he died after only a few days in hospital on the Isle of Wight.

Personally I can only repeat what I said on his funeral wreath: "Thank you, John, for a lifetime's friendship".

*We much regret to announce the death of former Deputy Head **TED KEY** on 9th February. An obituary will appear in our next edition. A number of older members will also be sorry to hear of the recent death of **BERYL JOHNSON** (widow of Peter Johnson), both tireless workers for the Tiffin Fair and on the OTA Social Committee. In addition, it has been brought to our attention that **BARBARA STRANKS** died recently. She was the daughter of the late Don Stranks and was known to many OTs, particularly of the 1940s and 1950s, when she scored for the OT Cricket Club.*

Lt TOBY YEULETT DFC 1899 – 1918

Walter Albert Yeulett, known to his family as 'Toby', was born in Walton-on-Thames and attended Tiffin School, leaving in 1915. As a boy he had always taken an interest in aircraft, and he went from school to work with Gordon Watney aero-engines in Weybridge. He was working in their drawing office, when at the age of 18 he joined up with the Royal Naval Air Service. As a Flight Sub-Lieutenant he was soon in the air, having his initial training. In April 1918, when the RNAS and the Royal Flying Corps were merged to form the RAF, Toby was promoted to Lieutenant RAF. He was attached to HMS Furious as a pilot aboard the Royal Navy's first genuine aircraft carrier (a converted cruiser), capable of launching and recovering aircraft on board. This was to be the ship that launched the first ever raid on an enemy installation from an aircraft carrier. That was the raid on the Zeppelin Sheds at Tondern in July 1918. This was Toby Yeulett's final mission, and the one for which he was awarded a posthumous Distinguished Flying Cross. His name is recorded on the Memorial Tablet in the School Hall.

Street Pastors Kingston

Those who are not in the habit of spending Friday or Saturday nights in Kingston's night clubs – or who do not live in the area – may not have heard of the splendid work that is being done from 10pm till 4am every weekend by these volunteers. The organisation is church-based, but preaching is not part of their remit. They have come to be widely respected by those they meet and help – not only young people, but also homeless people in difficulties.

During their patrols they are on the watch for dangerous situations, sometimes managing to calm down aggression and occasionally offering first aid in emergency situations. A recent report states they have removed over 7,600 bottles and glasses from the streets, all potential weapons, spoken to over 5,000 people, usually meet and encourage 3–5 homeless people each night, often buying them hot food and drinks, and removed two knives.

Other teams are in training in several other towns and London boroughs. For further information see their website www.oxygen-online.org/spk

BRIAN HOLDEN

Tiffin History

ELMFIELD: The Missing Years

Most printed records of the history of Elmfield cease in about 1910. I myself for years thought it just stood there falling apart, until the new school of Tiffin Boys' came onto the site in 1929. This is not so.

In 1918 the last private owner of Elmfield died, and in 1920 Kingston Corporation purchased it from the estate; I believe that Kingston purchased the whole Elmfield estate which was an ill-shaped triangle, formed by the three roads of Queen Elizabeth Road (built in 1879), Birkenhead Avenue (built in 1882) and London Road, though that boundary sat behind the various shops / works along that road. Apart from Elmfield, there were two other substantial houses in this area: i.e. Norbiton Hall, pulled down in the 1930s to build flats along Birkenhead Avenue, and the Grange, which lay over against London Road roughly opposite St Peter's Church. (Incidentally, it has long been a regret felt by the Tiffin Community that the Norbiton Hall site was not purchased by Surrey when it became available, as this would have provided much-needed playing surfaces for games.)

Once purchased, Elmfield was rapidly converted into the school clinic – and a little more than that – for the welfare of Kingston children. The information about this period comes almost exclusively from the reports (1920-1938) of the Medical Officer of Health to the Education Committee.

The first move into Elmfield was in January 1922, when the medical inspection clinic moved from Devoncroft, Fairfield (where was this exactly?) into Elmfield. *“Alterations had been made to a wash-house and lean-to, which had been converted into a medical inspection room and waiting room respectively.”* We do not know exactly where these rooms were, though it seems quite likely from the conversions that a child had to go round to the north side of Elmfield near the kitchen, which was used over many years for cooking meals.

In April the school for 'physically defective children' moved from Devoncroft after alterations had been made. *“The school was installed in two classrooms on the ground floor. A third large room on the same floor is used as the dining room to which there is a serving-hatch from the kitchen.”* The initial entry was 24 children with enough room for 40. The two classrooms referred to were presumably the first two rooms on the left, as one enters the present-day Elmfield (i.e. the room with a bay window overlooking the London Road entrance and the large room currently used as the Shop sales area and office). The third 'large room' must in fact be the upper part of the Shop area, now used for storage. Before construction of the purpose-built kitchen and dining hall in 1948 this was used, as well as the other two rooms, for school lunches (serving apparently 100 meals a day at the beginning of the war and around 300 by 1946). This area had a hatch into the kitchen and also a door into the serving area (doubling as Tuckshop with its external window onto the former Tuckshop Square). Pupils of the late 1940s up to the present time will remember these three areas being in use as a Lending Library plus Reference Library (later entirely Reference).

At that time primary schools (as they were termed later) placed great faith in gardening, and to the west of Elmfield no fewer than six such schools had gardens – all boys' schools.

From September 1924 a dentist started examining infants in schools, but not until 1926 does it state that treatment was being carried out at Elmfield, though almost certainly treatment there did start earlier. *“The dental clinic is situated on the first floor of the main building and consists of a waiting room and operating room communicating by an internal door.”* It is not clear where on the first floor the children suffered, gas being used, but it seems likely that the rooms

used later became either the Juniors' room or, more likely, those two rooms handed over to the Old Boys in 1930 for use as Bar and a communicating Committee/Storage Room. The same rooms appear to have been used from 1923 by the optician.

The clinic moved out, owing to the arrival of the new Tiffin School on January 7th 1929, to temporary accommodation at Bonner Hill Road until the building of the Grange Road Clinic in 1931.

BRIAN BUNKER

QUESTIONS

a) It would be helpful, if some of our senior members could help us pin down the arrival or departure years of pre-war caretakers and school secretaries. If you can give us names and help to narrow down their time at Tiffins, this would be useful for our records.

b) It is said that in the days of the Old School, prior to the advent of school lunches, a small number of boys were fed at a café by Kingston Bridge, being led there by two members of Staff, a very unpopular duty. We do not know when this started or ceased. When did school lunches start in the Old School – and indeed on the present site (we understand 1932) ?

c) The early history of the Tiffin Junior Form is obscure. The first mention we find in the prize list is 1922, but was this their first year ? Did the Juniors go into Elmfield at the move in 1929 ?

BRIAN HOLDEN

Tiffinian Lodge

We are enjoying our 96th year as a School Lodge, and we continue to look forward to our centenary year, which we shall celebrate with all due ceremony and in great style. Of course, we are in the meantime relishing our masonry enormously. At our last meeting, in January, the only one we have had since the last edition of this publication, Ravi Kamineni, who had been initiated last April, was passed to the second degree. It was a splendid ceremony, conducted by our Worshipful Master, Hugh Fletcher, and it was followed by a very convivial dinner, greatly enjoyed by all.

On Thursday evening March 27th we shall be holding an Open Evening, when friends and relatives of members of the Lodge, and, indeed, anyone who may be interested in freemasonry, will be invited as a guest into the temple to hear a talk and explanation of many aspects of masonry. This will be followed by another splendid dinner for all who wish to attend. Following this, our meeting in April will be the last of the Masonic Year, and this could be used to initiate a new member, should any Old Tiffinian wish to avail himself of that opportunity.

We are now looking forward to a further 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 masonry 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

Queen Elizabeth Road News

Performing Arts

Following their appearance on BBC2 on Boxing Day, when the Royal Opera's production of 'Carmen' was televised, fourteen members of the Boys' Choir went on to perform Britten's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Royal Opera House to widespread critical acclaim, described as "the magnificent Tiffin Boys' Choir" in the 'Independent on Sunday' and as "outstanding" in 'The Times'.

See photograph below

In addition, BBC Radio 3 broadcast their performance of Mahler's Third Symphony with the LSO and Valery Gergiev at the end of January. The Carol Service was professionally recorded, and some additional recording sessions at the end of February will see a full-length CD **Christmas with the Tiffin Boys' Choir** released later in the year – all of your Christmas present issues for next December are therefore solved! An exciting weekend at the end of March will see the Full Choir perform Bach's Cantatas 48 and 118 and the Duruflé Requiem with the London Mozart Players at the Landmark Arts Centre, Teddington, on **Saturday 29th March**, and the trebles singing Britten's Spring Symphony with the LSO and Daniel Harding on **Sunday 30th March**. A tour to Dresden and Leipzig is planned for July 2008, and to New Zealand in February 2009.

The major event for March and April is our **Spring Arts Festival**. Involving all the Performing Arts, it is hoped that we will attract large audiences to a variety of events. There will be discounts for series booking, and more information is available on the school website.

The programme is as follows :

March

Wednesday 5th – Saturday 8th, 7 pm

Büchner's *Woyzeck* (Main Hall)

The Sixth Form play, directed by Chris Victory

Wednesday 12th – Thursday 13th, 7 pm

House Drama Competition (Main Hall), adjudicated by Nina Brazier

Saturday 15th, 7 pm

Boys Dance @ Tiffin performs at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London

Wednesday 19th, 7 pm

Dance Showcase (Drama Studio)

Wednesday 26th – Friday 28th, 7 pm

The Mysteries (Main Hall)

A revival of last Christmas's innovative production

Saturday 29th, 8 pm

Boys' Choir (Full) concert with the London Mozart Players (Landmark Arts Centre)

Sunday 30th, 7.30 pm

Boys' Choir (Trebles) perform Britten's Spring Symphony with the LSO and Daniel Harding (Barbican Hall)

April

Tuesday 1st – Thursday 3rd, 7 pm

The School Concert (Main Hall)

Featuring all of Year 7, the Boys' Choir trebles, and four concerto movements played by the winners of the Instrumental Competitions with the School Orchestra.

SIMON TOYNE



Friends of Tiffin Music

The winter season saw Tiffin music demonstrating its excellence here, there and everywhere. The trebles are currently at the Royal Opera House with Britten's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' which is getting great reviews. The full choir is in preparation for the Durufle Requiem at the Landmark Arts Centre at the end of March with the London Mozart Players.

The all-Russian programme performed by Thames Youth Orchestra in January was really challenging, but they carried it off with aplomb. Their next concert is on 26 April at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square featuring Nielsen *Helios Overture*, Sallinen *Symphony No 1* and Sibelius *Symphony No 1*. TYO details on the website - www.thamesyouthorchestra.co.uk

So, the dates for your diary are:

Sat 29 March	8:00pm	Landmark Arts Centre	Boys' Choir concert with the London Mozart Players Bach <i>Cantatas</i> 48 & 118, Durufle <i>Requiem</i>
Sun 30 March	7:30pm	Barbican Hall	Boys' Choir (<i>Trebles</i>) perform Britten's Spring Symphony with the LSO and Daniel Harding
Tues 1 - Thurs 3 April	7:00pm	Main Hall	The School Concert Featuring all of Year 7, the Boys' Choir trebles, and four concerto movements played by the winners of the Instrumental Competitions with the School Orchestra
Sat 26 April	7.30pm	Holy Trinity, Sloane Square	Thames Youth Orchestra Nielsen <i>Helios Overture</i> , Sallinen <i>Symphony No 1</i> , Sibelius <i>Symphony No 1</i>

FoTM continues with its fundraising to support the department. By the time this edition appears the third Music Quiz should have taken place, and there are two car boot sales with which we are involved. We are currently looking into the possibility of funding tutors for some new music ensembles targeted at pupils in the earlier stages of instrumental tuition.

As usual, if you need more information about FoTM or its activities, do contact me by phone on 020 8942 6177 or by email rachaelnichols@blueyonder.co.uk

RACHAEL NICHOLS

Dance at Tiffin

It has been already a very successful year for Dance at Tiffin.

A recent dance event involved ks3 and 4 performances as part of 'Footloose vs. Fat beats' dance meets gig night evening. The choreographies across KS3 were developed by the students during lesson times with the best one being selected to perform on the evening. The dance styles varied from yr 7 performing Disco, yr 8 Capoeira and yr 9 Break dance; Yr 10 performed a dance piece based

on 'The Car Man' by Matthew Bourne and yr 11 performed a specially choreographed piece to a song written originally by the Foo fighters which was performed live by the school band *Après Mois*. The whole evening was extremely successful and has been arranged as an annual event.

As part of International Week, yr 8 students have participated in a Bhangra dance and drum Workshop provided by *Nachda-Sansaar*. The day was concluded with a drum and dance performance by the workshop instructors themselves. A fun day was had by all!

Future dance events will include:

- KS4 GCSE choreographies and performance of coursework 19th March 2008.
- Yr 11 dancers will be performing at The Arts Conference at The Rose Theatre in Kingston on 11th March.
- Performance at The Sadlers Wells Theatre where Boys Dance @ Tiffin Dance Company has been selected to perform as part of Roar Dance festival- 15th March 2008.
- The POP ART projects with Tolworth Girls which will be performed at the Kingston Grammar School Theatre and will include Set design and projection arranged by the yr 10 Arts GCSE Tiffin Students- 6th May 2008.
- You cannot miss this year's Tiffin in the Garden which will include a huge variety of performances across the years: 11th July 2008.

KAROLINA CZERNIAK
Dance Curriculum Leader



School Cross-Country

We won Bronze in South East Haskell Cup, Guildford, with a four man team consisting of Ralph Street, Jonathan Darby, Tim Sagar and Jamie Tabbert. They were joined by Kieran Costello and Oliver Waring to gain Bronze in the St Albans six man relay for the South of England. The same team gained Bronze in our Judge Cup at the start of December and won The Hampton and St Paul's 24 minute Parlauf run for the Greater London area. In the Surrey Championships the U20 team gained another Bronze, and the under 17s just missed out on a bronze set of medals on count back.

The Seniors won the Borough Championships, as did the Year 8s; all the other teams managed second. The Year 10s, who ran against older athletes, as Year 11 were on a trip to the trenches on the day, are to be especially commended. There were individual silvers for Jonathan Darby, Oliver Patel, Daniel Ashenafi, Nikolaj Schubert and Tim Livingstone. In all 19 athletes from the School represented the Borough in January, with the pick of the results as follows: Tim Livingstone, Year 7, 18th position and selected for inter counties; Jonathan Darby, L6th, 17th and selected for inter counties; Ralph Street, L6th, 7th and selected for inter counties and Surrey Squad for the National Schools competition at Liverpool.

King Henry VIII 2008

For 13 years the School has travelled up to the National 6 Man Relay event in Memorial Park Coventry to measure ourselves against the best. The spring tide of our performance was the first year where we placed 12th. We had drifted down and up the field of international luminaries, (a certain S Coe is a top 50 all time performer) until this year never looking as though we would break the top ten. The team manager Jack Davies set Jamie Tabbert off and Jamie did what he does well, completing his leg within sight of the leaders. Jonathan Darby pushed us up 8 places, to break into the top 20 on the second leg. Henry Heath ran another 5 down in getting us up to 12th. Ralph Street posted the 7th fastest individual time on the day to push us into the top 10 for the first time ever. Tim Sagar ran well on one leg power to pass on to Kieran Costello on the last leg. It looked as we were in danger of being in the invidious position of 11th and hence out of the awards. We seemed to be 11th on the course, but such was our speed that lapped runners were confusing the issue.

The results were presented by the former leader of UK athletics and a former World Record Holder over 5000m, David Moorcroft.

10th: Former winners in 2006 Marling
9th: Tiffin

Tim Sagar had just sat down after collecting the team awards, when the most improved team was announced, underlining that the School was indeed surging onwards. With only the two Captains present from the Upper Sixth and three Year 11s and two L6 running, we shall have to ensure that the same personnel and the hoards of class runners who made selection difficult are fit and able at the correct times next year.

Awards went to: Jamie Tabbert, Jonathan Darby, Henry Heath, Ralph Street, Tim Sagar (co captain) and Kieran Costello. The Most Improved Team Cup went to the team manager and co-captain Jack Davies.

ROBIN SHAW

School Boat Club

The Boat Club continues to grow – both in boys and, I'm very pleased to say, in girls. We have taken delivery of two brand new Janouseks, one new 4x / 4- and one 2x / 2-. Fabulous boats, courtesy of a very kind donation from Mr Heath.

This term has started with what is becoming typical in terms of weather – red board on the non-tidal Thames, forcing us to decamp to the Tideway. We were fortunate enough to have use of Vesta Boat Club, allowing us both to keep rowing and gain some valuable tidal

experience. The feedback from the boys was very positive, despite the fact that we were slightly restricted in the number and mix of boats we were able to trailer up to Putney.

The weather also forced cancellation of some of the key races, although we were pleased that Hampton Head took place on the 2nd Feb. We boated a school first 8, a new L6th Octo (who had a great time & looked the part), J17 & J16 coxless quads, three J15 coxed quads and two J14 Octos. Results were both solid and promising, given water conditions to date, with the J16 quad winning their pennant by convincingly beating Marlow (5 secs) and Molesey (10 secs). Congratulations to all.

At the time of writing, up and coming races are Burway (14's & 15's only), National Jnr Sculling Head (3rd March), Schools' Head (4th March) and Kingston Head (8th March). Your support at any or all of the above is very welcome!!!

We are holding the Boat Club AGM & quiz night on the 29th Feb at the Boathouse Canbury Gardens. We are also planning to hold a boat-naming combined with a presentation of the monies raised on the OK row to Cancer research.

Finally we had both Jacqueline Birwhistle (GB Rowing Squad nutritionist) and, separately, Kieran West MBE, the latter talking to them about the different stages of his career (did you know he started life as a cox at KRC, – in fact mine), balancing academic life with rowing and highlighting key points with some wonderful snippets of racing. The boys were particularly bowled over by his Olympic medal, in fact most if not all took pictures of it (& Kieran) on their mobile phones!

Lastly, a plea for coaches. We are really short of experienced hands in the coaching area – if you enjoyed rowing and it contributed to your life, please consider sparing time to help the boys. Coaching willingly provided! Call me at the school or email me on ccornell@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk Thanks, and I look forward to meeting / hearing from you at any of our up-and-coming events.

CAROL CORNELL

School Rugby

The boys returned from their Christmas break, eager to continue their run of good form which had helped them to a prosperous autumn term. After a hard fought 12–5 victory over a physically superior Old Boy's team in early January, the 1st XV had a string of excellent performances. With strength in the pack, and composure in the backs, four tries were rolled in against Wimbledon College, as they were easily defeated 20–3. This was followed by a superb performance against a very strong RGS High Wycombe side, where only a lack of self-belief in the first half caused the game to end in defeat. After going 17–3 down, an excellent second period allowed the boys to pull the scores back to 17–11 and set up a thrilling finale, where unfortunately Tiffin just couldn't edge it. However, this performance gave the 1st XV the added confidence they needed to produce the game of the season, defeating John Fisher 23–14 at Fisher's own ground. Tiffin played an absolutely barnstorming first period and dominated John Fisher in all areas of the park, enabling the boys to be 15–0 up at half time. Even with a slight resurgence from Fisher in the second half, Tiffin's stern defence and excellent counter attacks allowed them to close out the game and record a memorable victory. However, this excellent win did not seem to put the boys in the right frame of mind for the culmination of the season against local rivals Hampton. Although focused, the boys seemed too tense and it was only after succumbing to a 17–5 deficit that the boys began to show what they could do. Two late scores meant that Tiffin were within touching distance of victory at 17–15, but the final whistle came too soon, to put an unfortunate end to what has been a successful and enjoyable season for all involved.

Each player of the squad, from number 1 to number 22, has played a valuable role in a successful half term and season as a whole. The Generals, Michael Harris and James Caddy have led with passion and

commitment both on and off the field, whilst Michael Osborne, Nomso Nwamadi and the Thompson duo have also played vital leadership roles, which have often been the difference between defeat and success. In the pack, Joseph Rattenbury has come into his own as a premier line-out jumper on the circuit, but this couldn't have been possible but for the muscle and strength of Koosha Kowsari and Callum Dougal and the pinpoint throwing of Jake Laversuch, whilst Michael Cullen has enjoyed an excellent first season in the back row, and much more is expected of him in next year's campaign. In the backs, David Portelly's box kicking and tackling (remember that match-saving one against Fisher?) epitomises him as a player; occasionally erratic but always there when the team have their backs against the wall and need him most. The speed, strength and agility of Tom Ross, Daniel Newman and the immense Hitchcock have not only scored uncountable numbers of tries, but saved so many as well. Each player should look back on this campaign and be proud to have been part of a successful and memorable team.

BILL GEIRINGER

School Chess

Chess continues at Tiffin, despite losing our strongest players to Universities last September. Our new captain, Reza Khoranese, ably assisted by Jonathon Hancock, has tried hard to encourage new boys to play for the A and B teams. Thanks to the invaluable work of Miss Emma Soper, our new Mathematics teacher, and the help of staff driving the mini-bus to matches on Friday nights, Tiffin has managed to honour most of its fixtures in the Surrey League.

We have also entered the National Schools Chess Challenge, and the lunch-time chess club attracts much interest on Tuesdays and Fridays as a result. Again thanks are due to Miss Soper.

If anyone has expertise which might support the boys develop their interest further, please do not hesitate either Miss Soper, myself or Mr Keary.

PETER WILLIAMS

Year 11 Ypres Visit

The last edition of 'Tiffnews' mentioned the Remembrance Day Service at the School. Shortly after this event the Year 11 Historians went on the annual visit to Ypres, which includes visits to the Cloth Hall and Menin Gate in Ypres, as well as to various cemeteries and sites such as Sanctuary Wood, Hill 62 and the farm where Old Tiffinian Douglas Belcher (left Tiffins 1903) won his VC.

One of the visits to Cement House cemetery between Ypres and Langemarck brings home to the students the cost of WW1. In this cemetery is buried Charles Eglington (1898-1917), who was at Tiffins between 1906-1910. He joined the Royal Artillery underage in 1914 and was killed in action at Langemarck on the 15 October 1917, being on the point of taking up a commission when he met his death. As on every visit, the oldest student in the group is called upon to lay a wreath on the grave. This year it was laid by David Rochman. At the same time the Last Post was played by Jonathan Miller.

The inscription on the gravestone reads:

681615 GUNNER
G J EGLINGTON
Royal Field Artillery
15th October 1917
Age 19

JOHN KING



Data Protection

Details of all OTA Members are held on a computer database (available only for Association and School purposes). If you object to your details being held in this way, please write to an Officer of the OTA.

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