



## Newsletter of Tiffinian Association No. 239 March 2009

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6th May, please.

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### Chairman of Governors' Letter

Dear Fellow Tiffinians,

Although this slot in 'Tiffnews' would normally be taken up by a letter from the Head, circumstances have overtaken us and, as Chair of Governors, I have been asked to write to you.



After just over four years with the School the Head, Sean Heslop, resigned in November, too late to catch the December issue of 'Tiffnews'. Sean is making a career move to a much larger job at Folkestone Academy, and we are making good progress towards recruiting a new Head for September 2009. Meanwhile, an arrangement was made with Tiffin Girls' School for their Head, Pauline Cox, to act as Executive Head over both Tiffin schools to cover the gap between Sean leaving and a new Head starting.

In early January it became apparent that the School was seriously over-spending its budget for the year ending March 2009, and a deficit of £350,000 is expected, which will clear remaining reserves from all the School accounts. This is the result of excessive run-rate costs, principally in staffing, and the deficit would continue to at least the same level in 2009/10, if unchecked, with no reserves remaining to cover. Upon discovery of this situation, the Governors immediately contacted the Royal Borough of Kingston for help. I am pleased to report that we have received very strong support from them, including their agreement to back the School with loans through the next two years in order to facilitate a controlled turnaround, and to help preserve the values, ethos, and style of Tiffin.

A significant amount of coverage in national, regional and local press regarding the School's financial problems led to Sean asking if he could bring his leaving date forward from Easter to the end of January, as he felt that the education of the pupils could be damaged by the media attention, and that it would be better for the new management to be more fully involved in cost-reduction planning at the earliest possible stage. In the end I felt this to be the correct decision and accepted his immediate resignation. Tiffin Girls' School and Pauline stepped into the breach at very short notice, and Pauline was in charge within two days.

The Senior Leadership Team of six assistant heads has been working with Pauline and the Governors to identify opportunities

for cost reductions, and these will be worked through in the coming months as part of a sustainable and cohesive plan. It is intended to try to retain as much of the full breadth of Tiffin curriculum and extra-curricular activities as we can, but to move the infrastructure from 'luxury' to a much leaner model. This will have to involve reducing headcount, as well as many other belt-tightening exercises, but hopefully through non-replacement of normal staff turnover as far as possible.

In spite of the serious concern at this news, we have received overwhelming support and encouragement from parents, who continue to recognise the fantastic value which their sons derive from an education at Tiffin School. This, combined with strong support from Tiffinian Association, the local education authority, Tiffin Girls' School, and many others in the wider Tiffin community, means that the governors remain confident we will overcome this significant financial challenge and still retain the fundamental character of Tiffin.

*Stuart Lester*

STUART LESTER  
Chair of Governors

### OT Skiff Marathon

The 96th Skiff Marathon will take place on

**Sunday 17th May**

Contact Tony Ellis on 07774 123348 (Mob)

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.

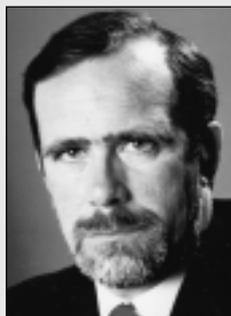
**Anyone is welcome.**

*The Dittons Club bar will be open afterwards for refreshments.*

TONY ELLIS

# Tiffinian Association

As many of you may know, Howard Mallinson was taken ill at the end of last year; he was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Kingston Hospital, diagnosed with pneumonia and in septic shock. This was made the more awkward to treat because of his pre-existing amyloidosis condition, for which chemotherapy had, prior to Christmas, been re-introduced. There is some residual damage (temporary hopefully) to his respiratory and renal function. At the time of writing, Howard has just returned home and will have further tests and care at the Hammersmith Hospital under his regular consultant. As his deputy, I am writing the Chairman's Column for this edition. However, I have to inform you that, as a result of his prolonged ill-health, Howard has felt it necessary to resign his position as Chairman of the Tiffinian Association, though remaining as a Trustee. I am sure we all wish Howard the very best for a complete and rapid recovery and send our best wishes to his wife, Irene, at what has been a difficult time for her too.



It is all the more disappointing for Howard, as under his leadership the Tiffinian Association has been formed, and is beginning to make much progress in achieving the aims which Howard has done so much to promulgate – aims which the rest of the trustee board are committed to achieving. As you may imagine, Howard's illness, together with the difficulties at the School, which Stuart Lester sets out elsewhere in this edition, has created a number of problems but, as so often is the case, also opportunities. The Association is actively assisting by funding an administrator, based at the School, who not only undertakes work for the Association but also the School – her name is Alex Swift, and she is based in the School Development Office working on a part time basis. Her contact details are: Tel: 020 8546 4638 (extn. 282) or email at TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk. Whilst still undergoing development, the Association has an evolving website, which can be accessed via <http://www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk/ota/default.htm>.

As a significant part of the Association's charitable remit is to assist the School, we are presently in discussions with the Governors to establish how we might make a positive contribution to assist the School overcome its current difficulties. Whilst, the Association's resources are relatively limited, and on their own modest, compared to the potential need; particular effort is going into being creative and to make sure that some of the extra-curricular activities that contribute to making Tiffin the School that it is, do not suffer. If any members feel they might be able to apply some of their time and/or expertise into helping to arrange sponsorship or funding for some of the School's activities, then please let Alex Swift know. It may be as simple as arranging introductions for the School Development Office into local business contacts, whom you know, or even helping them to persuade firms that it is worth investing in the School because you know the local business community or a sector of it. It is all part of using the resource the Association has to help ensure the School continues to deliver the best it can.

Alternatively (or as well!) there may be some of you out there who feel they may like to help by providing a donation. Whilst the Association has no current plans for a formal appeal, as they say 'every little helps', and any such contributions would be gratefully received and put into some activity with the School. The Trustees believe that the only responsible approach for the Association is to invest in tangible projects, where the benefits can be seen and measured, rather than just providing a lump sum of cash. Should you wish to make a donation via the Association please do not hesitate to contact Alex Swift who will send you the appropriate form, and remember that with Gift Aid, the tax man will also boost the value of your contribution.

On the subject of Gift Aid, enclosed with this edition of 'Tiffnews' is a Gift Aid Form combined with Standing Order authorisation for future subscription payments, if you have not already completed this and sent it in. It does represent a significant additional income to the Association and costs you nothing, so, if you have not yet done so, please complete and return as per the instructions.

The next few months require the Trustees to move the Association forward and to ensure that it meets not only its charitable aims but also the needs of its members. We shall update you further in the next edition of 'Tiffnews'.

It would be remiss of me not to recognise the sterling work that David Baron has carried out as Secretary/Treasurer of the Memorial Fund for 14 years, effectively managing the Fund and its finances single-handed. Now the Memorial Fund has been amalgamated into the Association, David has elected to stand down. A word also, to thank John Glasscock for his support as a trustee of the Memorial Fund, as he too has now stood down.

After the trials and tribulations of a severe winter, remember Spring is just around the corner and with it, we anticipate a vibrant and active Tiffinian Association.

*With kind regards, etc.*

IAN REDINGTON, Deputy Chairman

## Dates for your Diary

### Thursday 19th March

- Informal Concert at the School

### Thursday 26th March

- Tiffinian Lodge meets

### Friday 27th March

- TPA Auction of Promises

### 31st March – 2nd April

- Main School Concert

### Thursday 2nd April

- OTA Social Lunch

### Friday 3rd April

- Spring Term ends

### Monday 20th April

- Summer Term begins
- Golf at Betchworth Park

### Thursday 23rd April

- Tiffinian Lodge Open Evening

### Thursday 7th May

- Golf at Tyrrels Wood

### Sunday 17th May

- OT Skiff Marathon

### Monday 25th May

- Half Term week

### Monday 8th June

- Golf at Farnham

### Thursday 25th June

- School v. MCC Cricket

### Thursday 2nd July

- OTA Social Lunch

### Friday 10th July

- Tiffin in the Garden

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

# Letters

Dear Brian,

The December issue of 'Tiffnews' raised points of interest, as always, in particular the photo labelled the 'Old House'. My years at Tiffins were 1933 to 1940, and I recognised this building as the one in Home Park which served us all through the Autumn and Spring Terms as changing accommodation, basic but adequate, for regular rugby fixtures and practice on level ground pitches just beyond. It was always known as the 'Stud House', and was on the top of the first rising ground accessed from the Kingston Gate by a curving gravel drive, which continued on towards the Palace.

I hope this information is useful. So much for history of happy days which seem only yesterday!

Yours sincerely,

Edgar Jeffery (1940)

Dear Brian,

When I write, it is usually, as now, because of the need to record events of long ago. Upon receipt of the December 'Tiffnews' I must do so again, concerning the use of Home Park.

I entered Form IA in September 1934 and ran in every House Cross-country Competition until 1942. It was always in Home Park. The length of the course depended on the age-group, and we always changed in the 'Old House'. I am sure I am not alone in remembering Tuddy Tuddenham's tourer chugging up the earthy track from the Park entrance by Kingston Bridge. There were washing facilities, but I cannot remember much 'warm' about them!

I think most, if not all, rugby was played in Home Park, including sets, House games and school matches. I can remember playing there for the school in 1941 and 1942, against the Old Tiffs, and in both cases changing at school, getting there somehow – possible by bicycle. And the same in 1943 and possibly 1944 for the OTs.

As far as cricket was concerned, we never played that in Home Park. In 1940 we played on the school field. In the next year, 1941, I was captain and all our home matches were played on the Norbiton Sports Ground, Kingston Road. The next year, 1942, our home matches were played on Hampton Wick's ground, just inside Bushey Park.

I note the deaths of several contemporaries – Jeffrey Fisher, Tony Gee, Ken Picknett & Jack Travis. Tony Gee was in my 1942 cricket XI. Ken Picknett had been in the 1941 side, but left after the 1941 rugby season, possibly to volunteer for the forces. His brother, Alan, had been a very successful RAF pilot, I recall, and perhaps had brought pressure to bear. Ken was cited in the 1941 'characters' as having been converted from a wing forward to scrum half, successfully. He was a successful, modest sportsman, all round. Jack Travis had been outstanding as a cricketer, but I think he left after GSC, possibly to enrol in the forces. J Fisher was a talented scholar and, I recall, a chess player. I believe he went into academia.

Sincerely,

Peter Johnston (1942)

Dear Brian,

I read with interest the article by Brian Bunker concerning the 'Old House' in Home Park. By coincidence, I went for a stroll in Home Park, while my wife was Christmas shopping. It was my first visit since leaving school in 1947 to that part of the Park where the war-time cross-country races started and finished. I was sorry to see that the 'Old House' had been demolished, although I must agree with Brian that the facilities were indeed very primitive. However, in those times nobody complained about such things. My reason for writing is to confirm that Home Park was used for the cross-country races in the period 1942 to 1947. The junior courses went around the Long Water, and the Senior course went into the grounds of Hampton Court and back around the large pond which is now used for sailing model yachts.

Yours,

Alan Bonfield (1947)

Dear Brian,

As always, I enjoyed reading the latest 'Tiffnews' – in particular the article by Brian Bunker on the school and Home Park. It brought back memories of the period just after the war, when we had to change in the damp cold room of the 'Old House'. Even at that time it seemed in derelict condition. The House cross-country competition must have been held in Home Park in 1945 and 1946, as I do not remember it being anywhere else. I do remember that, as First & Second Year boys, we had only to run from the House round the top of the Long Water and back.

In connection with the football pitches, I think that they were on the same site as the rugby pitches, as I have a vague recollection of playing an inter-form soccer match on one of the pitches. However, one did not normally talk about football, as Tiffins was a rugger school, and football was only for inferior schools!

There was another sport played by the school in Home Park, and that was golf. I remember for the games afternoon in about 1951 a small group of us would go to the Golf Club at the far end of Home Park. We would have a short lesson from a professional, and then we would knock a ball about for the rest of the afternoon – but we were never allowed onto the main course. I do not remember how we were selected, but I presume our parents had to pay a fee, and we all had to buy a 5 iron. This was started by Brig. Harper, and I think it was his idea that golf was a skill that would be required by young gentlemen. I must say I was a dismal failure as a young (or even old) gentleman.

Best Wishes,

Frank Dobson (1952)

Dear Brian,

I am writing to tender my apologies for not being able to attend the AGM on 19th November. May I thank all the officers and committee members for their efforts on behalf of the inactive. May I also ask that future notices carry a mailing address for apologies for those of us who choose not to join the email fraternity.

I was sad to read of the death of Tony Nicolle, a contemporary and school friend. I met him last at the Kempton Park Dinner and remember he took great pleasure in the afternoon visit to the School.

I was entertained in the same edition by Brian Bunker's recollection of events in the late 1940s and early 1950s – my time. I still remember the visit to see Alan Wheatley perform in Hamlet at Richmond – possible my first exposure to live theatre.

I hope to pass the School sometime soon, to see the new entrance mentioned by the Head and John King – a fitting gate for a school that continues to do so well.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Blackman (1953)

Dear Brian,

Yes, I was in Form 5b from 1945 to 46. I was in that class, and that year I sat School Certificate (successfully), along with some 29 other guys.

Although I did go into the Sixth Form, various events, including a quite serious accident playing rugby at the school, conspired to disrupt a normal sixth form experience. I left school in April 1948 to do my National Service.

I spent little time in Kingston after leaving school, making the North of England my home for most of that time. Naturally there did not seem to be a lot of reasons to join the Old Boys' Association. In 1971, when I was briefly working in Brentford, I did contact Brigadier J J Harper, catching him in his last year as Headmaster. He was kind enough to devote an afternoon showing me around the School.

I am now 79 and of course retired from working life, which included 50 years' involvement with computers. Not infrequently in conversations with my friends it has been noted that there can't be too many of Form 5b still around, but of course there must be some of them, and the said friends have suggested that modern computing facilities should make it easy for me to find out.

Now, if I list the few names that I still remember, maybe someone of that era, aided by your good services might send me an e-mail: Johnny Wyatt; Mike Eastwood; John Saunders; Viv Sharp; Derek Overton; the Clutterbuck twins (David and Peter); Coulon; Poulter; Bob Skelton et al.

Yours sincerely, Peter Winnall (1948)

winnall@talktalk.net

# OT Football Club

The weather has not been kind to the Football Club since the last report, and either side of Christmas we suffered on several weekends, with no matches being played at all. This, added to the Christmas break, has resulted in the first team only playing four competitive matches in the last ten weeks. The 2s and 4s have only managed three matches, while the 3s have fared better with six matches.

I was pleased that Paul Cotterell and Ralph Stadie organised an inter-club friendly after the Christmas and New Year break, helping players get the better of their bulging waistlines and allowing them to show off their favourite Christmas jumpers, hats, gloves and soap on a rope.

In general, team results have been improving lately, and, if this can be continued, it should result in a satisfactory season for all.

The First XI has only played a further two league games since the last report, losing one away to Old Dorkinians (1-2) and beating Old Hamptonians (2-1) at home. The team are currently 10th, but with several games in hand they are well placed to catch 3 or 4 teams above them. The 1s have also been progressing in the LOB Senior Cup, beating Latymer OB 5-3 in the second round and beating Old Paulines 3-2 in the third round. We hope to see them progress a lot further.

The Second XI has been unfortunate, with their fixture programme and the weather allowing them to play only three times in ten weeks. The 2s are now unbeaten in their last four outings, maintaining their unbeaten run with two 1-1 draws against NatWest Bank and Economicals, and a 1-0 victory over Old Wokingians. Currently fifth in the league, there is the possibility of a promotion place if results continue to be achieved.

The Third XI has been luckier in having fewer fixtures cancelled and has shown much improvement. A first win of the season came against Old Wokingians (2-1) at home, but unfortunately in the corresponding fixture away the following week Old Wokingians imposed a heavy 0-4 defeat on the team. A heavier defeat against Royal Sun Alliance (0-7) followed, but then a draw against Clapham O X (1-1) sparked an unbeaten run with victories over Glyn OB (2-1) and Old Dorkinians (4-3). The 3s are still hampered by the lack of a regular goalkeeper and do best when Danny Wheeler (playing again after recovering from his broken leg) can help out between the sticks. The 3s have moved off bottom position and 3 or 4 teams above them all look catchable if the 3s can maintain their winning streak.

The Fourth XI surprised everyone by recording a 16-0 win over Fulham Compton OB IVs in the LOB Olympian Cup 2nd round. On the result itself it was generally agreed that the opposition had been really really poor rather than Tiffs being exceptionally good. Nevertheless, congratulations must go to veteran striker Warren Arlow who notched an amazing eight goals in the game. Does anyone know of any other player who has scored more in a game, or is this a Tiffs record? In the league the 4s beat Old Compton OB IIIs (4-3), lost to Shene O G (1-3) and beat Reigations 6-2.

The Vets continue to play a full fixture list of friendlies, but form dipped pre-Christmas, and we suffered a few defeats. In the two games played following Christmas we have returned to winning ways, with victories over Wandsworth (4-3) and Poly Strollers (2-0).

Looking out now, as I write, on the heaviest snowfall seen in recent years, more disruption to our fixtures can be expected this week and perhaps we will have to face a few weeks' wait before we get to play matches at home again.

## LEAGUE RESULTS UP TO AND INCLUDING 31 JAN 2009

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
7	3	1	3	20	17	3	10	10th

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
9	4	2	3	19	17	2	14	5th

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
10	3	2	5	12	36	-24	11	9th

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
10	5	0	5	29	29	0	15	7th

If you are interested you can obtain details of all our fixtures and results on a weekly basis from the league website [www.amateurfootballcombination.com](http://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 473074.**

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

STEVE JOHNSON

# OT Rugby Football Club

Old Tiffs have got halfway through the season, and for the first time in a few years find themselves in a good place. Healthy as far as results go, healthier when it comes to player numbers and in rude health when it comes to optimism. The youngsters straight out of school, Michael Osbourne with Josh & Tom Thompson, have been playing regularly and been a breath of fresh air for us. James Caddy and Nomso have also stepped in when they could and have made a real difference to the team.

It is this mix of youth, the more experienced campaigners, the University returners such as Alex Turner and Henry Nava, and the return of players such as Chris Deville and Jason Wells that has really rejuvenated the side.

Just before Christmas we comfortably beat the leading team, Raynes Park, who were unbeaten before their visit. Once the weather clears up, and matches stop being cancelled, the team is looking forward to the remaining games and finishing in the top half of the table.

### Results to date :

W 31-7 v Haslemere
L 15-33 v Mitcham
L 39-6 v Streatham-Croydon
W 49-10 Reigate
W 32-24 v Worth Old Boys
W 13-6 v Merton
L 8-11 v Old Oundelians
L 44-0 v Old Blues
W 36-20 v Raynes Park
L 26-19 v Old Oundelians
L 12-37 v Worth Old Boys

If you're interested in playing, then please contact me on 07947 546390 or at [fentiman11@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fentiman11@yahoo.co.uk)

JAMES FENTIMAN

## Quiz Evening with Fish & Chip Supper

On Friday 20th March Old Kingstonians are challenging the Old Tiffinians and the Old Hamptonians to prove they are as well-rounded and knowledgeable as Old Kingstonians.

This will take place at the Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club Pavilion, Park Road, Hampton Wick

Tickets are £10 a head, and the event supports the *African Prisons Project* (see: [www.africanprisons.org](http://www.africanprisons.org)) .

Ticket requests to Keith Balkham, Kingston Grammar School, London Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 6PY ([kbalkham@kgs.org.uk](mailto:kbalkham@kgs.org.uk))

# OT Golf Society

We opened 2009 on a cold day at Effingham Golf Club with 25 players including 5 guests. There were many temporary greens (and I was able to get a reduction in the green fee to reflect that) and the greens that were in use were frozen hard and were like landing on concrete. This did not seem to impair the scoring, however, with Tim Whittaker winning the Winter Trophy with 38 points; second was Nick Wright with 36 points and Allan Piggott was third with 35 points. Geoff Latham and Dillwyn Rosser took front and back nine prizes. The handicap committee met after the event and cut Tim's handicap from 18 to 16 to reflect his two back to back trophies. Incidentally, we were quite fortunate with the weather, as two days after our meeting the snow fell and Effingham was closed for ten days !

Both breakfast and lunch were well received and, on a brief show of hands, the members indicated their preference for Effingham compared with West Byfleet, our previous home of the Winter Trophy.

At our subsequent AGM, Alan Daunt was elected Chairman to replace Jack Webb, and at this point I think we should express our gratitude to Alan for running the society virtually single-handedly for so many years. I am sure he will now make an excellent Chairman. Duncan Knowles was duly elected captain for 2009.

## Here are all our venues for 2009:

<b>Monday April 20 at Betchworth Park</b>	<b>v Old Hamptonians</b>
<b>Thursday May 7 at Tyrrels Wood</b>	<b>v Old Kingstonians</b>
<b>Monday June 8 at Farnham</b>	<b>v Old Surbitonians</b>
<b>Friday July 3 at Clandon Regis (Surrey Schools OB team of 6)</b>	<b>v KCS Wimbledon (team of 10)</b>
<b>Thursday August 20 at Royal Wimbledon</b>	<b>Autumn Meeting</b>

If any Old Tiff wants to join any of these meetings, please contact Allan Piggott on 01483 282411 or, even better, by email: allan.piggott@btinternet.com.

ALLAN PIGGOTT

## Membership Matters

Firstly, I should like to apologise to those who inadvertently received one of my arrears letters, when they had in fact already paid. Unfortunately we did not receive our November bank statements until mid-December, long after our December 'Tiffnews' had to be posted. We always have to label up and have any inserts in the envelopes by the middle of the previous month, in order that your copies reach you without delay, as soon as they are received from the printers.

### OT 100 Club

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

				Previous win
Nov '08	£50	David Booth	Putney	'06
Dec '08	£50	Chris Shires	Teddington	
Dec '08	£1000	Mrs Lisa Hother	Haywards Heath	'08

As there was some doubt as to whether the OTA Council would meet again in its old form, the above draws were held at the Old Tiffinian Social Lunch in December. Chris joined the Club in '07 and is swiftly seeing a return, while Kevin's wife has seen both a small & large prize in one year. The change of draw venue encouraged four new members to join.

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

## Editor

You have seen on our front page that the Tiffin Headmaster, **Sean Heslop**, has resigned, and has been asked to take up a prestige appointment at Folkestone Academy after Easter. He brought to the School many fresh ideas and worked hard to build on the success of his predecessors. We wish him well in his new post.

We must pay tribute to the exceptionally hard work being put in by **Stuart Lester** (Chairman of Governors), James Heath and several other Governors in their endeavours to see that the School's budgeting procedures are well on track for the new financial year.

Last but certainly not least, it is with great regret that we heard of **Howard Mallinson's** decision to resign the chairmanship of TAL. As you have seen from Ian Redington's TAL Letter, Howard was taken seriously ill after Christmas and, though he has returned home, is still recovering after a very worrying time. The miracle, though, is that during his period of office he managed to bring such energy and commitment to the OTA, to bring about the successful transition to TAL — all the time battling with health problems which at times caused him great distress and would have laid low a lesser man.

If you have not yet completed a **Gift Aid form** for us, please deal with it NOW. Our first Gift Aid claim is bringing an extra £1320 to the Association funds, BUT we are still waiting for about half of our members to return the completed form !

A call to all you **Pub Quiz** fiends out there to rally round and safeguard the Old Tiffs' reputation in the contest on 20th March (see notice elsewhere).

We have many members in Australia — and of course a fair number of you have relatives and friends out there. To my knowledge there are about a dozen OTs in Victoria alone. Our thoughts are with them, if they or their friends have suffered in any way from the horrendous bush fires.

BRIAN HOLDEN

We particularly like to have 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.

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' for the year 2006/7. 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.

The issue of the School Magazine covering the School Year 2007/8 is now in the course of production. We expect to be able to mail a copy to those whose are entitled around, or soon after, Easter.

Should you find a subscription arrears letter enclosed, I should be very grateful if you would respond as quickly as possible. Please send your payment direct to me, so that I can record the payment as soon as possible, before it is banked.

Perhaps, for the future you could set up a bankers order NOW, using the form enclosed, to commence payment automatically on the first October 2009 ? This would save me a lot of work worrying you for payment.

Please, whoever else you tell, let **ME** know when you move house. **THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IF YOU PAY BY BANKERS ORDER.** It is always helpful, if the previous address is also 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)**

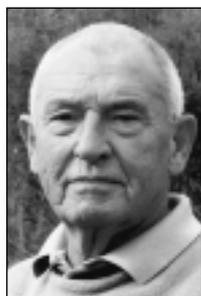
DENNIS BARNARD

# People

**DAVID BARKER (1953)** and his family have been 20 years in Australia and are now firmly established in their apartment on the top floor of a four storey building in Lindfield NSW. His daughter recently graduated with an MPhil after studying at Homerton College, Cambridge. David and his wife, Catharine, used this as an excuse to make a longer than usual trip to the UK in July/August, which coincided with an event at the Honorary Artillery Company, so they enjoyed lunch in the grounds of Armoury House in the centre of London, whilst being regaled by a military band. David officially retired in the middle of the year at the age of 74, but is still at the University doing the same job as before without being paid! In November he attended a seminar at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London University - where one of the main speakers happened to be **Derek Wood QC (1955)**, their first meeting since he heard Derek speak at the Tiffins Junior Debating Society!

**PETER COX (1974)** is still following his career as a solicitor. He was in Birmingham for a number of years being a partner with Lee Crowder. In 2004 Lee Crowder merged with Cobbetts to form the Birmingham office of Cobbetts (Cobbetts being a firm that has its roots in the North West). Even though he was still a partner, he didn't like the new management style, so, having given it 18 months post-merger, he looked around and found a job with Howes Percival in Milton Keynes. (He got divorced around the same time, so it was a good chance to move away from Birmingham.) His job title with Howes Percival was Director of Corporate Services (sounds very grand, although it was effectively the same status as a partner but not actually a partner). On 1st November 2008, the whole of the Milton Keynes company commercial team of Howes Percival (about 45 people) joined the MK office of Denton Wilde Sapte, an international law firm based in London. Peter is a managing associate in the Corporate team, with particular expertise in corporate finance transactions. Peter regularly acts for banks, both on the acquisition finance side and on property-related transactions. He also has extensive experience in the venture capital and private equity sector as well as mergers and acquisitions work.

**ROGER DAW (1978)** now occupies the important post of Director of Policy at the Crown Prosecution Service, where he has been for two years. His name was mentioned in the press last year, when the Speaker of the House of Commons aroused a great deal of controversy by his failure to object to the police entering Parliament without a search warrant after the arrest of Tory MP Damian Green. In listing the various controversies that have dogged the Speaker's time in office, mention was made of the fact that Roger, his Private Secretary at the time, resigned in 2004, following a disagreement. At that time Roger was already working with the CPS on secondment. He is very happy in his new post and is currently living in Purley.



**JOHN GATELY (1960)** is still an Associate Professor of Surgery at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He retired from active surgery in 2005 but continues to teach his medical students. He was in England last year with a beautiful younger lady and stayed with Keith & Rita Goodwin. He visited Dick Andrews in Bath and Ben Lyon in Devon. Ben and he have enjoyed a close relationship ever since John left school in 1960. He also spent an evening with

Ted Key & Marion just a few months before Ted died early in 2008. As in the case of Ben, he maintained the same contact with Ted after leaving Tiffins. He says he felt privileged to write Ted's obituary for the St.Catharine's Society Annual magazine in Cambridge.

**JEREMY GLOVER (1989)** is now a partner with Stephenson Harwood, an international law firm based in London.

**GARETH JOHN (2003)** is now Chapel & Choir Projects Assistant at St John's College, Cambridge.



**JOHN KELLETT (1978)** has changed his job recently and is now training to be an Operating Room Technician. He assists the surgeon during surgery and is really enjoying this new experience. His family are doing well and making the most of their life in Los Osos, California.

**DAVID LANGER (2004)**, an internet entrepreneur, appeared in episode two of the Krypton Factor in January. Relaunched after a successful run in the 1980s, this is a tough ITV 1 programme, testing mental agility, observation, physical ability, intelligence and general knowledge capabilities.

**IAN LANGRISH (Head of Geography at Tiffins)** lives in Richmond and his house is one of many that suffer from the aircraft noise from planes taking off or landing at Heathrow. His wife, Jenine, recently contributed to a review in 'The Guardian' of the debate concerning the construction of a third runway, which would destroy 700 homes and affect the lives of thousands of other people.



**JOHN LULHAM**, a supportive Tiffin parent and now Vice-Chairman of the School Governors, is to be congratulated on the award of the MBE in the New Year's Honours. John is Head of Contracts & Procurement (Surface Transport) for Transport for London. The award is for his services to equality and diversity.

John has worked for TfL and its predecessor organisations for 39 years and in recent years has led the implementation of TfL's Equality and Diversity policies into the two largest contracts so far placed by Streets, the Highways Term Maintenance Contracts, and Traffic Control Maintenance Contracts (jointly worth £1.5 billion), as well as a number of smaller contracts. His advice is now sought by other public authorities and private sector organisations endeavouring to progress in the field of equality & diversity.



**NIGEL MEE (1969)** after leaving Tiffins studied Business Studies at what was then Kingston College of Further Education and Kingston Polytechnic at OND and HNC levels. He then travelled a lot (for seven years or so) before getting married, and since then has lived a typical quiet mortgage-paying family life, working in accounts offices. He currently has his own book-keeping business based in Hindhead (since 2002), where he can walk the mile and a half from home to office through pleasant National Trust woodland. Nigel feels that Tiffin School taught him a lot and will always be a part of his life. One thing he certainly learned was the value of education and, whilst he himself missed out on University, both his sons (now 28 and 30) have university degrees - something highly encouraged by Nigel. He recalls he was a member of the School Choir from 1964 to 1966 and remembers that at one point they recorded for TV, and the programme went on air in about 1965. He has been wondering if anyone has a recording of that broadcast. Similarly he is sure the Choir recorded some pieces on vinyl in the mid 1960s. Can anyone help?

**CHRIS MORRIS (2004)** after leaving School did a year in industry as Health Safety and Environment Coordinator at Centrica Plc and also completed a management certificate. Since then he has been at Jesus College, Cambridge, studying at first Natural Sciences and then Chemical Engineering. He is now in his fourth year (which is actually optional with Engineering and Physical Science courses), so will hopefully graduate this summer with a BA MEng. The course includes a research project, and Chris is working on bacteria delivery

in pill form. During his time at Cambridge he has been heavily involved in rowing and cross-country running – he was secretary for the CUBC during the 2007 campaign, when both the Blue boat and Goldie won their boat races. He has also captained the dominating Jesus College Cross-Country team for three years. In the varsity match he captained the Cambridge 4th Team, though his own race was affected by injury.

He has no plans for the future set in stone but is hoping to gain one of the Amateur Rowing Association's Henley Stewards' Charitable Trust Rowing Scholarships, which involves doing a sports-related Masters degree whilst coaching 20 hours per week in assigned clubs and schools.



**ANDY MULLIGAN (1981)** is now living and teaching in Manila in the Philippines on a two-year contract. By coincidence he is teaching a brother of a present Tiffin pupil. Since leaving Tiffins Andy worked in the theatre, but says he could hardly scratch a living. He lasted ten years, and it was a trip to India that changed everything. The old cliché that India changes everything was true for him. He worked in an Indian orphanage, followed by an Indian school, then spent several very happy years at Truro School in Cornwall. But a teaching qualification is international, and a great passport – so he moved to Brazil, then back to UK, then to the Philippines. He has sort of shuttled around really, thoroughly enjoying the teaching but also writing fiction more seriously. His first novel is published in April by Simon & Schuster: – *'Ribblestrop'* – a children's book for ages 10+ about a seriously manic school. He has no idea how it will do – some people love it, others hate it. A follow-up has been commissioned, so he is hard at work on that right now.

Andy feels that middle age does make you think about school – or it does him, anyway. It's funny how certain teachers stay with you for ever – hopefully in the best way. To him Frank Whately was an inspiration, but so was the whole English Department – Jim de Rennes, Martin Allen and also Colin Prince will always be in his prayers too. He says that you realise that those kind of teachers helped you access something that has sustained you ever since, and their care and belief in excellence and quality has been at the heart of what you do. His main horror is looking back and thinking what a completely odious pupil he was. He wants to line up all his old teachers and apologise – not that they would care very much, he hopes. But if his name ever does flit across Frank or Colin's mind, he can only imagine them wincing. He has never entered the gates of Tiffins since he left, but he has had a sneaky look on the internet, and he finds there are some very revealing things on YouTube – he would love to visit. He has a feeling the boys would scare him rigid though – the Philippines is very, very soft.



**ANTONY PITTS (1986)** was heard on BBC Radio 3 in December with the broadcasting of his *'In Memoria'*, a joint composition & production by Antony and his colleague Edward Wickham. Industrial decay is the backdrop to this gentle ritual dialogue between late-mediaeval memorial motets by Ockeghem, Dufay, Obrecht & Josquin des Prez, and recent fragments of anecdote, reflection and reminiscence: Josquin's lament for Ockeghem, *'Nymphes des Bois'*, is heard through an electronic prism as increasingly distressed audio, and the sequence culminates in a new motet by Antony, *'Thou wast present as on this day'*, celebrating the simultaneous present of eternity.

**NICK SCROXTON (2005)**, studying Earth Sciences at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, had a good term with his cross-country running by all accounts, despite spending four days in hospital at the beginning of the

Autumn Term with suspected malaria. This was worrying, as he had spent time in Africa during the summer. However, it turned out not to be malaria, and he has since been having a very successful term running in what is this year an exceptionally strong Oxford squad.

**ALEX THOMAS (2005)**, studying Engineering at Oxford, may be chosen to be the cox of the OWBC Blues crew this year.



**STEVE THOMPSON**, a former Head of the Tiffin Maths Department, has recently had yet another success (in a short run at the Soho Theatre, London) with his latest play *'Roaring Trade'*. After plays about a tabloid rag and the Tory whips' office, he now takes us onto the bond floor of a London investment bank. In the reviews it has been described as *'The first must-see play of the year'*, *'The liveliest satire on the City in 20 years'* and *'as razor-sharp as Thomson's previous works'*.

**THOMAS WARD (2004)** is now in his fifth year at Cambridge, studying Veterinary Medicine.

## Book Column

### **'Trabant Trek: Crossing the World in a Plastic Car'**

by Dan Murdoch (2001)

Dan is an award-winning writer and journalist who has worked for *'The Times'*, the BBC, Associated Press Television News and *'The Other Side'* magazine.

A group of twenty-somethings, bored with the predictable wanderings of the backpacker generation, thought they would spice things up a little. They would go by car – the worst car in the world, the infamous Soviet-era Trabant. This would be no whimsical meander across the globe, but a mission with a cause—to raise money for the Cambodian children they had met on previous visits to the country.

From their base in Central Europe, east through Turkey and the gateway to Asia, then into the Caucasus, the five men and three women ferried across the Caspian Sea and into the forgotten world of Central Asia, the police state of Turkmenistan, the beautiful Silk Road cities of Uzbekistan, the stunning mountain passes of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and the endless flat of the Kazakh steppe. They took on Russia's freezing Siberian winter and Mongolia's icy plains, crossed booming China before hitting the sun-speckled hills of Laos and the jungles of Cambodia.

This recently published book tells the inside story of the Trabant Trek, and how a group of near strangers coped with the challenge of their lives. Ten percent of the royalties on his book will be donated to the Trabant Trek charities.

Published in paperback at £9.99 (ISBN 1-904955-50-9) 320 pages

## Blazers

**Blazers in Old Boys' colours are being produced now.**  
Have you ordered yours yet,  
or made your interest known?

For further details contact  
Bernard Davies on 020 8337 1545  
or by email: [lydyard@talktalk.net](mailto:lydyard@talktalk.net)

# De Mortuis

## COLIN STANLEY ENNIS 1929 – 2008

As the years went by I grew closer to my brother, Colin, and my respect for him and his many talents continued to increase. He was certainly one of the most literate and cultured scientists I ever knew.

His schooldays not only led to his abiding interest in chemistry, but also to music through his membership of the very successful Tiffin School band in which he played the trombone. They also allowed him an opportunity as Head Boy of a large grammar school to help see in a new headmaster who had ended the war as a Brigadier in charge of education throughout the Far Eastern area. While at Tiffins, he was very involved with both house and school activities, taking part and showing his worth in rugby, soccer, cricket and chess.

He was destined for an Oxford education but was constantly thwarted by his inability to pass School Certificate Latin, essential for entry in those days, but his dogged perseverance eventually paid off. After graduation he spent five years in a Tate & Lyle sugar refinery before moving to the Distillers Company, where he worked as an industrial chemist in the Carbon Dioxide division. Research and development gave him the challenge his talent merited, and he travelled widely to a variety of firms, both industrial and horticultural to apply his analytical mind to bear on their problems, or to advise on new uses for CO<sub>2</sub> to improve production.

Outside the workplace he was a good speaker and presenter, who had a fascinating and humorous talk called "What you can do with CO<sub>2</sub>", which fully engaged the audience and showed Colin's love and respect for CO<sub>2</sub>.

Through his career Colin enjoyed a very happy and successful marriage to Vera, who taught Zoology at Godolphin & Latimer and was also a literate scientist. This was truly a marriage of like minds. Together they enjoyed the theatre, especially Shakespeare, and also the concert hall, as well as world-wide travel.

When Colin retired in 1989 Vera was developing Parkinson's disease and he spent the next 10 or so years devotedly caring for Vera in a full-time role, and so sadly they were deprived of all the activities to which they had looked forward.

After Vera's death in 1999 Colin carved out a new life, based around five or six residential university short courses each summer, ranging from literary and historical to musical, theatrical and even mathematical. He also stayed with us on the Sussex coast so that he could enjoy many of the splendid new productions at the Chichester Festival Theatre. In the winter he attended regular classes on English History, especially the history of London, which involved many guided walking tours, English Literature, Music, etc.

He also became closely involved with the Workers' Educational Association and the local Residents' Association. And then there was also his garden, which he loved working in, and the gigantic bonfires which he so enjoyed. He had a deep respect for all things natural, whether flora or fauna and man's responsibilities, as we are reminded in Psalm 8.

His intellectual curiosity, which knew no bounds, helped him become a good and witty conversationalist, whether with his fellow students on residential courses, or holding court with the ladies in the local convalescent house in Rustington after his major surgery in 2006.

Three years ago Colin's battle with cancer began, which he fought with determination and uncomplaining fortitude.

Colin remained fiercely independent to the end — he just did not want to bother others or ask for help, and it was not until his final week that he actually allowed his faithful cleaning lady to do his shopping. He just hated to be a nuisance to others.

Truly a person of many talents, who used them well. He leaves a real gap in our lives.

And finally a few lines from B A Stanley: "Success"  
*He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often,  
And loved much;  
Who has gained the respect of intelligent men;  
Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;  
Who has left the world better than he found it;  
Who has looked for the best in others and given the best he had.*

I.V.E.



## ANTHONY GEE 1925 – 2008

My main recollection of Tony was his astonishment at being awarded his colours at cricket. He was cajoled into keeping wicket, as he had some experience at racket games! Sadly he missed out on colours at soccer (played in the Spring Term in those days), at which he was much more accomplished. While at Tiffins he also joined the scouts and, later, the ATC Cadets.

We were in the same form, together with a mutual friend, Ray French, another fine sportsman, sadly lost in the War.

Tony had a certain style about him. He was, by repute, a good ballroom dancer, doubtless inherited from his father, who was, I believe, a professional dance teacher. Always well-dressed, his casual manner belied a certain tenacity, which manifested itself at all sports. We lost touch for many years, during which he pursued a successful career as a chartered surveyor, being at one time Senior Partner of Hawes & Co., an eminent firm of estate agents. It was only through the Golf Society that we met up again. Naturally an accomplished golfer, he was a member at Royal Wimbledon for many years.

A charming companion, Tony was a good friend to many, as was evidenced at his well-attended funeral. Our sympathies are extended to his wife, Pamela, and to his family.

J.W.W.

## MICHAEL LEONARD JACKSON 1944 — 2008

Mike, as he was always known, was born in Barnes, London, and attended Tiffins (1955 - 61), then Acton College and Brunel University, where he obtained an Honours degree in Chemistry (B. Tech). He worked for Gillette Industries in the Research Department for 24 years in Isleworth and Reading. In 1965 he was assigned for two weeks to the Gillette factory in Reading to supervise a new launch, and there he met Diane, his future wife, and was her boss for a fortnight. Later he was to say that she had been his boss ever since! In 1968 the Research Department was moved to Reading, and he and Di were married in October of that year and went to live in Woodley.

In 1975 they started their photographic business, Rivermead Studios in Reading, which Di left Gillette to run. In 1976 they moved to Goring, and in 1986 Mike left Gillette to join Di full-time in running the business.

Once in Goring, Mike became fully involved in the community. He joined the Goring and Streatley Photographic Society and was Chairman for four years and on the Committee for a further six years. He was a member of Mapledurham and then The Springs Golf Clubs, and Goring Bowls Club. He was a Parish Councillor for four years where he fought for improved street lighting and flower baskets on the bridge. He cared how the village looked and persuaded friends from the camera club to help in painting the old railway bridge, when it became really scruffy. He also planted several thousand daffodils around the village and the burial ground.

As well as all this, Mike joined the Twinning Association and was on the Committee for fifteen years, nine of them as Chairman. In this role he was very active and enthusiastic, even taking lessons to help him brush up on the language, determined to make his speeches in French when visiting our Twin Town. He was a well liked, very hard working Chairman who, with his cheerful friendly personality and sense of fun, made many friends, both in Goring and in Belleme, where he will

always be remembered for wearing on special occasions his famous red white and blue jacket. It was very noticeable!

He always liked to travel, and in order to fund this life-time ambition, Mike decided to retire, and he and Di left Goring and moved to Cornwall in 2005. Of course, once there Mike joined the golf and bowls clubs and the local Twinning Association. From this Cornish base Mike had already travelled to Hong Kong, Canada and New Zealand as well as Spain and Portugal before his untimely death on 11 October 2008. Mike has left an impression on all who knew him, for his sense of humour, his kindness, enthusiasm for life and above all for his involvement with people. He will be missed.

### **ROY ADAM FIRTH MITCHELL 1917 — 2008.**

It is with pride and great sadness that I sit down to write this obituary for my brother Roy, who passed away after a short illness on 2nd October last year. Our eldest brother, W.J.F. (Jack) died on 2nd October 1982.

Roy Mitchell was the middle one of the three Mitchell brothers who joined Tiffin Boys' School, as it was called then, on 7th May 1930. Straight from Purley County School, he entered Scott House and Form IIIB. He Matriculated and left school in June 1934. Born at Oxted on 18th August 1917, Roy passed away peacefully in his own home in Brighton, at the age of 91.

During his time at Tiffins Roy excelled not only at his studies, but on the sporting field and in other non-academic pursuits. Besides being a School Prefect, he was an outstanding athlete and swimmer, representing the School in the short sprints in both sports. He held the School long-jump record for many years with a leap of over 20 feet. At Rugby he played full-back in the School 1st XV from the age of 15. He was an accomplished musician and played the trumpet in the School orchestra, and in the Military Band.

On leaving School he joined a firm of Chartered Surveyors in the City of London, travelling there daily from our home in Walton-on-Thames. His winter sporting activity was playing rugby for the Old Tiffinians' Association 1st XV, at full-back, until he received such a bad injury in one game that it resulted in the removal of one of his kidneys. This, of course, ended his competitive sporting career, but he was able to take up squash and tennis later on. He was convalescing from his operation for over three months, and during that time he taught himself to play the piano and to continue the artwork that he had been able to practice at Tiffins.

He returned to his work in the surveying field but, when War broke out in 1939 he was refused entry into the Military Forces owing to his sporting injuries. When the Blitz started, he joined the Auxiliary Fire Service for watch-room duty at the Salvage Corps HQ just off Cheapside, in the City of London, where he spent four nights a week, after office hours, during the height of the bombing. After the Battle of Britain he joined the local Home Guard with our father and spent many nights on the roof of our house at Walton-on-Thames reporting fires and incendiary bombs for the Wardens.

Roy married his wife Jean on 6th June 1942, and I was able to obtain leave to act as his Best Man at the wedding in Weybridge. They lived in Weybridge for many years and raised two children, Carolyn and Howard. They then moved to Southwick, Sussex, where Roy, with limited labouring assistance, built a new house from demolition materials! Howard still lives there with his family.

After his marriage Roy spent a couple of years supervising the building of aerodromes in Essex, and then joined the Hampshire County Council as a Civil Engineer in charge of roading and other infrastructure, where he remained for twenty-five years.

Roy's wife, Jean, had been ill for many years with a debilitating cancer, but they were able to spend time travelling the world after his retirement. Carolyn also decided to leave England and emigrated to the USA where she married, and finally settled in Florida, which was another excuse for Roy and Jean to continue their travels! Unfortunately Carolyn

contracted a terminal cancer and died at the early age of 46. Her mother had died only eighteen months previously from a similar problem, which had dogged her for most of her life. Roy and Jean had moved to Brighton in 1963 and she died there in 1990.

As you will realise, Roy had many 'ups and downs' in his life but, despite those, he lived his life to the full and made friends wherever he happened to be. He not only loved his family — he loved people, and he loved life. Since Sue and I with our boys emigrated to New Zealand in 1957, our contact with our family in England had been irregular, but in recent years we had been able to communicate weekly by means of our computers. I now realise just how much I will miss his presence in my own twilight years, but I am still able to keep in touch with Roy's side of the family though his son Howard.

**R.J.F.M**

### **ERIC WHITE 1914 – 2005**

Eric lived in Chestnut Grove, New Malden, for the early part of his life. At school he did not shine at sports, but played chess for his House (Livingstone). After leaving Tiffins in 1932, he worked for the Legal & General Insurance Company in London, but he was taken ill with tuberculosis, when he was about 20 years of age. He was sent to Milford Isolation Hospital – in fact he spent his 21st birthday there. After his release he went to work in London at the offices of Miller, Smith & Co., Chartered Accountants, where he stayed for the rest of his working life. He managed their Fleet office until his retirement. Eric was extremely popular with the firm's clients – as he was with everybody who knew him.

When war broke out, he went, together with his friend OT Alan Lord, to enlist for the RAF, but unfortunately Eric did not pass the medical, owing to the after-effects of the TB. However, he remained in touch with his friend Alan (known as 'Fritz'), and when Alan survived a ditching in the North Sea in 1943, he wrote at some length to his old school-friend from his hospital bed to give him an account of the dramatic episode, which we are proud to reproduce in this edition. They lost touch with each other after the war, but discovery of this letter in Eric's loft prompted him to trace Alan's son, John, to tell him about the letter.

Eric was always quoting from poems etc. he had learnt at Tiffins, and was interested in nature – especially birds. His brother, Frederic White (1929), was two years older than Eric, and they always talked of their days at Tiffins with great affection. Eric was in his 90th year, when he died in 2005.

*For this information we thank his wife, Denise, whom he married in 1957. She has donated to the Archives Eric's old school blazer and other items, already acknowledged in earlier editions of 'Tiffnews'.*

We regret to announce also the deaths of **BRIAN S BROWN (1945)** & **ERIC GRIFFITHS** (Head of Tiffin Music 1947–65).

## **Wartime Exploit**

*From time to time we come across a story of courage and endurance shown in the War, which proves a salutary reminder to those of us to whom the War is simply an episode in a history book – or even to those of us who merely had to put up with the privations and the bombing 'on the home front'. When such an example of fortitude concerns a member of Staff (e.g. Keith Southan – see our March 2007 issue) or an Old Boy of our own School, we are inclined to pay more attention – and we have no hesitation in finding space in this publication to relate such a story. Below we publish a short obituary of Alan Lord (1931), known to his school friends as 'Fritz', and also an account of his five days spent in a dinghy in the North Sea, awaiting rescue. What is all the more remarkable is that this account is in Alan's own words. He is describing the incident in detail, when writing to his old school friend, Eric White, (see obituary earlier) from his hospital bed at RAF Hospital Halton in Wendover. Readers may well be struck by the matter-of-fact terminology he uses, as well as by the narrative itself.*



## **RODERICK ALAN LORD 1914 – 1990**

My father was born in 1914, the youngest of three children. He had an older sister and brother. His father was a partner in a printing business in Kingston upon Thames (Lord and Blandy). Regrettably his father died prematurely as a result of surgical error, when he was having his tonsils removed, and after his death the business declined rapidly. He had been the driving force behind it. I don't know how old my father was at the time, but

I believe he was quite young and his father's death and the subsequent death of his mother in the early thirties from cancer must have left him somewhat adrift in life. I have to confess that I know very little of his early years. It was not till after the war that he joined the Ordnance Survey.

He met my mother in 1941, and they were married in 1942. By that time he had enlisted and was training to be a navigator in the RAF. Most of his training was done in South Africa, and he entered active service in the RAF at the beginning of 1943, having been assigned to 166 Squadron, flying out of Kirmington in Lincolnshire. He flew about 10 missions before the ditching in April 1943, and was ultimately invalided out as a result of a neck injury sustained in the crash. Interestingly, the story of the rescue, complete with photographs was featured on the front page of the Sunday Pictorial of May 2nd 1943.

My elder brother, Jim, was born just three weeks after Dad's rescue from the Channel, so he had much to think about whilst he was in the dinghy, wondering whether he would ever see his child.

Sadly my father's marriage did not last, and they split up in 1960 after a somewhat stormy relationship and got divorced some years later. He eventually married again and settled in Scotland. Most of Dad's career was spent working as a surveyor for the Ordnance Survey, a job that he enjoyed and which took him to many parts of the country. During the 60s we lived as a family in Chester until the marriage break-up. Most of the rest of his life was spent in Scotland.

In terms of hobbies and interests, he was a very keen gardener and loved classical music. He also loved the countryside and was a great walker. I well remember, when we lived at Chester, how we would be taken on day's outings that would involve long treks up Welsh mountains and hillsides. It also goes without saying that as an ex Tiffin pupil he was well read and had a good in depth knowledge of many subjects. From time to time he would regale us with long speeches from Shakespeare plays ! He also loved photography and dabbled in oil painting.

It was a year after my father's death that my brother received a phone call from the RAF Records Office asking him if he was related to the R A Lord who was a navigator in the RAF during the War. It transpired that three people had independently been trying to trace him over the previous three years. One was his old school friend, Eric White, who had come across the letter (below) in his loft. Another was the rear-gunner, Eric Hadingham, a Rhodesian living in Zimbabwe, who had written his own account of the wartime rescue. (Space prevents publication of this detailed account here, but we have it available, if anyone has a specific interest in it.) The third person making enquiries was the uncle, living in New York, of the bombardier who had died from his appalling injuries during the first night in the dinghy. It was sad that my father had not known of their efforts to trace him, as he would have been delighted to have been contacted.

John Lord

### **Channel Ditching**

Flying Officer R Lord  
Ward 4, RAF Hospital Halton  
Wendover  
Bucks

Dear (Ekky),

I trust that you are still at large and not suffering from the ravages of the RAF medical board, the income tax collector or the squander bug. I am, as you will probably have gathered by now, in hospital, but as it

is something in the nature of a mistake that I am alive at all, I cannot grumble. We had a spot of trouble on the Mannheim 'do' last Friday week. Something went haywire with the engines at a height of 13,000 ft over the Channel and within a few minutes we carried out an interesting though unorthodox experiment to discover how a Wimpey IV behaves as a submarine. It doesn't – at least not with 4,000 lbs. of incendiaries aboard.

We had no time to prepare for this emergency; the first thing I was aware of after hitting the sea was that I was being flung about in a cabin filled with water in total darkness, being cut and bashed about by nearly every hard object available for the purpose. I did not think there was a cat in hell's chance of escape, and I remember cursing inwardly, because I hadn't been killed outright. All the same, I started struggling in a futile sort of way and was suddenly amazed to find myself moving upwards without any obstruction. When I broke surface, I was too stunned to be in a panic, so hearing a splashing sound close by I guessed that the rear gunner had also escaped. I shouted out and heard Eric Hadingham, the rear gunner, in reply telling me where the dinghy was. I had forgotten the automatic release, which operates the dinghy as soon as the plane touches water! My Mae West was punctured, so I had to struggle hard to reach the dinghy, and when I got there, I was too weak to get in by myself and Eric got me in somehow.

The fuselage must have split in two, for we soon heard the bombardier shouting for help in the darkness, so I presume he came up through the same hole as myself. We grabbed two pieces of wreckage and, guiding ourselves by his shouts, made our way slowly and erratically towards him. We found him holding on to the pilot, who was I think already dead. I took the pilot, and Hadingham struggled for five minutes to try and get Sgt Merton, the bombardier, aboard. Merton was in the last stages of exhaustion, being severely injured about the forehead and unable to move from the waist downwards. I think probably that his back was broken. In addition, he sank in the water until the sea had entered his mouth every time he shouted, but it never occurred to him to let go of the pilot. He was an American, and if I ever hear anyone running down the Yankees in future, I shall have a word ready.

Eventually we had to let Lupton, the Pilot, go and after a great struggle we got the bombardier aboard. He was in great pain and soon became delirious, asking for water, which we couldn't give him, as the emergency pack had broken away from the dingy. He died in the early morning. We sat shivering until dawn when we took stock of our position. We had no food or water save for about 30 Horlicks tablets, a bar of chocolate and a tooth paste carton full of condensed milk, which was in my escape gear. Eric's must have slipped out of his clothing in the water. I was not wearing any flying clothing, having only put on short deries pants and my ordinary shoes, as it was to have been a low level attack. One of the shoes had been torn off my feet. Hadingham was wearing his flying suit with long woollen pants, but he had lost both his flying boots in the sea. As far as I was able to judge, our position was about 15 miles NNW of a place called Cailleux on the French coast, that is about 5 miles from the French coast at its nearest point and about 40 miles from Dungeness.

We manoeuvred the dinghy, until we could pick up two flat pieces of wood to use as paddles and carried out a tour of inspection of the remaining floating wreckage without finding anything useful. We then started paddling roughly NNW, steering by the sun, making good a speed of about ½ a knot. In proportion to the amount of energy used, the result was completely abortive, for it took us at least two days to learn the best way of co-ordinating ourselves to steer a straight course and obtain the maximum speed. On one point we could never agree; if I thought we were steering for a small cloud on the horizon, Hadingham would be sure to say we were 20 deg to port or starboard of it, according to which side of the dingy he happened to be sitting. After about half an hour of this we were still within sight of the wreckage and had progressed a few hundred yards. While we had a short rest, the mist cleared a little and we saw France on our starboard. As the day progressed, I noticed the current was taking us northward several times faster than we ourselves could paddle and in fact we sighted the cliffs of Dover in the distance late that evening.

I am not very clear as to the order in which things happened during the

next few days. I had received a bad cut over my right eye when we crashed, and, although I did not know it at the time, there was a large hole in my left arm just above the elbow from which I had lost a lot of blood. Consequently I was very weak and had to be assisted into a sitting position by Hadingham every time we used the paddles. At night it grew very cold, and as we were unable to keep the dinghy dry our feet gradually grew numb, so that we were unable to stand. Hunger troubled us more than thirst during the first two days, but on the third day it rained and we collected a few pints of blackish water in the tarpaulin, as we only had one small rubber bottle in which to store it, we drank it nearly all at once, as a result of which we began to crave for water all the more. By this time we had lost any feelings about food.

We saw quite a number of dolphins & one huge tunny, but these were too big game for us and we left them severely alone. I did succeed in making a small fishing net out of the lifeline, but we never caught anything in it. In fact the only catchable things we saw were jelly fish, which are I believe poisonous. On the fifth day, I picked up a piece of shiny-looking, light green seaweed, which I ate secretly, lest Hadingham should argue me out of it. It was pretty tough chewing and tasted more like peanuts than anything else. At the end of the first day a strong south-westerly wind combined with the current and our own efforts had carried us into the straits of Dover. During the evening we got within about seven miles of the coast, but then the tide turned, and within an hour, in spite of our frenzied efforts, we were carried out of sight of land. During the next few days this became a regular thing; several times we thought we were going to make landfall, only for the wind to change or the tide to bear us out to sea again. On the fourth day, a strong westerly wind blew us through the Straits into the North Sea, and by now we really did begin to give up hope.

Our biggest hope had been to moor ourselves to a buoy. In that way we would hardly fail to be seen by fighters. But, although we passed very near to several buoys, we were never able to reach them and not one fighter, several of which flew low within 100 yards of our dingy, saw us. On the fifth day our luck seemed to have changed at last. A strong easterly wind was blowing and I guessed our position to be east of Dover. From the state of the moon I suspected the tide would be moving westward from 10 am to about 4.30 p.m. So we sat on either side of the dinghy holding up the tarpaulin till our arms almost dropped off and bowled along merrily westward. Sure enough we soon saw white cliffs, and about 3 pm we were only three miles or so from Dover, the nearest we had ever been to land.

But here again as if to be the crowning blow, the wind suddenly dropped and our progress stopped. We tried paddling for half an hour but made hardly any headway and reduced ourselves to complete exhaustion. So we gave it up and watched two Typhoons on patrol, which had been flying over us for the best part of two hours. When one of these planes flew right over us at a height of about 50 feet without seeing our frantic evolutions with the tarpaulin, our language was scarcely civilised, but shortly afterwards we changed our tune. The second Typhoon suddenly broke formation and came swooping down towards us continuing to circle our dinghy. For a long time I couldn't believe we had been spotted – at least until the second machine also came swooping over us and waggled his wings.

I shall never forget the way that pilot waggled his wings, for I knew then that at last we were saved. Within half an hour we saw two vessels emerging from Dover harbour, and within an hour I was being lifted by four good men onto a launch and given a cigarette and a spoonful of water. They also changed my clothes & dressed my wounded arm before we reached shore, when we were removed to the Dover County Hospital. There followed two days at Dover and then a journey in an ambulance to this place. My only trouble now is frost-bitten feet, and I think it may be a month before I can walk. The right foot seems to be the worse of the two. Everyone, of course is overjoyed, especially the wife, who is expecting an offspring within the next week or so. It must have been a terrible shock for her.

Well I hope you will excuse me for filling this letter with one incident, but the fact is that I want to make some record of it before some of the details slip my memory, and this seems one good way of doing it. I would be obliged if you would keep this letter for future reference, in case I ever write my autobiography.

Cheerio & kind regards to all the family.

Yours Faithfully (if not fitfully),

Fritz.

## Tiffinian Lodge

We are enjoying our 98th 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 was raised to the third degree, and he is now a Master Mason. We had intended to raise him last November, but were unable to do so owing to adverse circumstances. However, we were very pleased to perform the ceremony in January, in the presence of our new Official Visitor. It was a splendid occasion, conducted by our Worshipful Master, George Dryden, and it was followed by a very convivial dinner, greatly enjoyed by all.

On Thursday evening March 26th we shall be holding a meeting where we shall be receiving orations, followed by discussion. It looks like being a lively evening. Following this, on April 23rd, 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. This will be the last meeting of the Masonic Year, and we hope many non-masons who may be interested in Freemasonry will attend for the talk and dinner.

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, or who may just wish to attend the Open Evening, to contact me, the Lodge Secretary, on 020 8979 0107, or at [MJB2@talktalk.net](mailto:MJB2@talktalk.net), when I shall be happy to answer any questions and give any further information.

MICHAEL BECKERMAN

## OT 200 Club

200 Club members have their numbers entered into a £10 prize draw each week. We have spare numbers, if you would like to join the 200 Club.

In addition there are two £500 winners each year – £13 gets you annual membership. The next £500 draw will be in July. If you would like to join, then please contact me – my details are on the front of Tiffnews.

Since the last newsletter, **Dennis Barnard (No.132)** won the December £500 draw, which was drawn at the December Social Lunch. The latest £10 winners are:

64 P D Smith	110 R G Hamper	19 G H Armstrong
74 Mrs J Dixon	51 D J Henson	18 D J Tyrrell
117 J W Webb	189 I M Mason	35 D K Baron
34 N C W Wright	43 Mrs A Hunt	98 D R Ebenezer
127 B P Smith		

Many thanks to all Club members – this provides important additional funds for the Association.

Best wishes.

MARK DARBY

# Tiffin History

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives :

From Barry Rossiter (1963) a programme of the Annual Concert held in 1960, in which Eric Griffiths was very much involved (who died recently). We hope to publish an obituary of Eric Griffiths in our next edition.

## REQUESTS

Can you perhaps help with the following queries from Brian Bunker ?

a) I have been trying to look into the history of the OT's rugby, football and cricket sections in the period 1918 - 1948 and am finding it most difficult. I cannot believe that there were no minute books written but not a single one seems to still be in existence. Can anybody confirm that log books were not used – or does anyone know where they are ? Rugby did not of course start till late in the Fairfield era; was rugby ever played there ? Later on there were pitches in Home Park parallel to the Hampton Court Way , with changing in Burgoyne's boatyard or pubs such as the White Hart.

Football has provided me with a detailed list of officials up to about 1936, but where did they play ? Both the records provided and the school mag state that from the season of 1922 onwards, all home games were played in Home Park, but I don't know where the pitches were exactly.

Cricket again was on the Fairfield early on, but after that where were home games played ? Home Park officials say "never in Home Park"; if so, where was cricket played, some on the school field but until the end of Saturday morning school it was not possible to play both school and OT teams on one day. Apparently Sunday cricket just wasn't on, on the school field.

b) The history of the Woodwork Room is a mystery. 'Bargee' Lambert taught woodwork in the Old School and he went on doing so on the new site, as far as we know, without a gap. So when was the Woodwork Room built ? Was it new in 1929 ? It doesn't appear on the plans, but no outside buildings were shown. Was it perhaps already in existence on the Elmfield Estate, and then modified to create a Woodwork Room?

Anyone who can help with these queries, please let us know.

(Some reactions to our History Section in the December edition are included on the Letters page.)

## THE OLD SCHOOL

*The following remarkably detailed account was written a few months before his death by the late Martin Summers (1929), whose obituary appeared in our December edition.*

The long narrow site on which the schools were built corresponded with the width of the Fairfield. During the whole of the time I was at the School I lived with the family in the Victorian villa which my paternal grandfather had bought and modernised. Thus I walked to School via the London Road and Minerva Road, entering the School through the Senior playground (left of the photo). The narrow white line that extends across the photo in front of the building is the footpath (I think two paving slabs wide) connecting Minerva Road with Hawkes Road which bounded the Fairfield. I have no idea what (if anything) occupied the site before the schools were built.

In my time at the School the Senior (Boys') playground (on the extreme left of the photo) had undergone extensive development. Against the boundary away from the paving stone path four good-sized classrooms had been placed. They had walls and roofs of heavy gauge corrugated iron. All were uniform, lined with timber. Each had a large window overlooking the playground, a door which opened onto it and, in the opposite wall, a door, its upper panels glazed, opening onto a common passage. This led to a woodwork shop with a number of benches arranged in two files. In my time half a class worked here, while the

other half worked in the Art Room.

A later addition was the erection of a wooden 'army' hut, also in the playground opposite the 'tin rooms'. This housed two large classrooms. A bicycle shed was built against it on the inner long side. Returning to the photograph, something may be learned from the varying heights of the roofs. The low roof at the extreme left of the building housed administrative premises — the Head's study behind a bay window, the main entrance just to the right. A passage led from the main entrance through the building to a central open passage between classrooms to the Boys' playground on the left of the photo and ultimately leading to what I believe was the Girls' playground on the right. On the right of the passage from the main entry was the Masters' Common Room, on the left was a wooden staircase, the only one to the upper floor, beyond that was the Secretary's Office, also with an outside door, and above it a rabbit warren of small rooms. The constantly clacking duplicators occupied one of these. In the whole of my time at the School I remember being in this area only twice — once for a medical exam, a test of hearing conducted by a nurse, and once for a French oral.

The highest roof covered teaching areas. The stairs came up on the left, leading back to a gangway under the front windows. Opening off on the left was a room extending the whole width of the building, probably less than half its length wide. The rule 'Girls upstairs, boys down' quoted to me by men and women who had been at the Schools appears to have been rigidly observed. In such circumstances this is the only possible location for the Head Master's study, although very large. In my time half the form did Art there, while the other half was busy doing Woodwork.

The gangway from the stairs ended at a door in a cross wall. This led into the Upper Assembly Hall, which had a classroom at the end. I believe I sat the entrance exam to the School in this hall, the division which, when in place, made a large classroom of it, having been pushed to one side. I think the Lower Assembly Hall was similarly cleared once for a House Social (Raleigh House) and once for a performance of 'The Silver Box' by John Galsworthy.

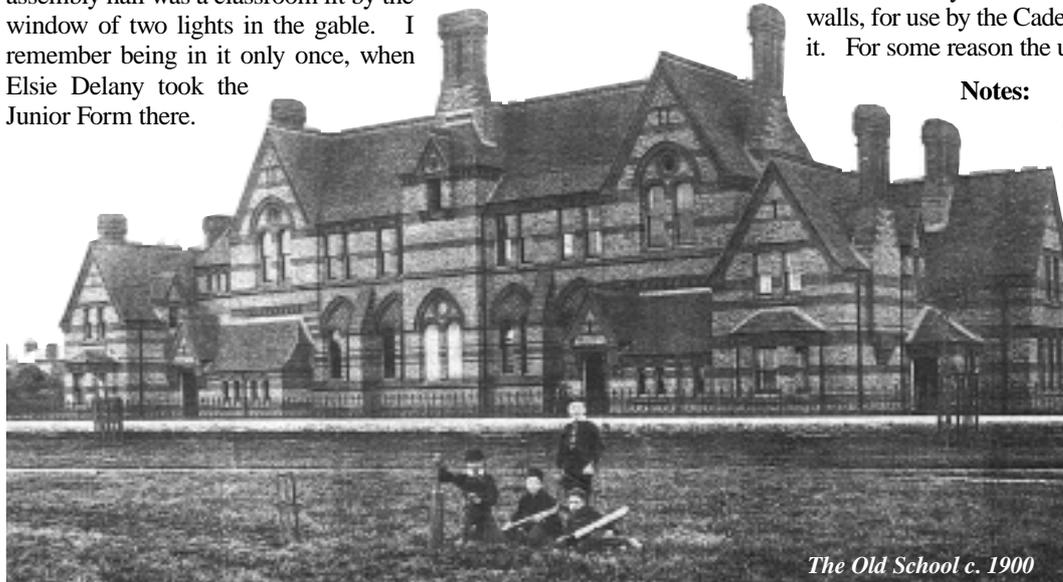
My first year at the School was spent in the Junior Form under Elsie Delany – a very excellent teacher – although all I can remember her teaching us is Phonetics — no Arithmetic, no English Grammar, none of the fables that masquerade as English History. The dear girl had, however, amassed a large collection of children's books and encouraged us to borrow one a week. Our form room was a brick structure standing alone in the junior playground – out of sight on the right hand side of the photo. It was, I think, the only classroom with an open fire and it housed the only piano in the School – an elderly upright, which may have been tuned in the holidays, never in school time.

Apart from our isolated classroom there was only one other port of call at that end of the building, that was a small dark loo, which was, I believe, built into the back of the Headmaster's house. This, I imagine, had been for the girls, converted to male use, when the girls moved out. With this exclusively female influence in this area of the building, the isolated form room seemed likely to have been built for their use – surely as a Music Room. I remembered that a long time ago you sent me a most interesting prospectus of 'Tiffins' School for Boys' dated 1/8/1905. I have just looked this out to support the belief that, although the girls probably sang, the boys definitely did NOT. Unfortunately the boys' syllabus includes Vocal Music & Drill. I cannot imagine what it means, but feel confident that it did not take place in the Girls' Music Room. I notice that there is in this syllabus no mention of woodwork instruction, so I conclude that the 'tin rooms' and Woodwork Shop were not then in existence.

What is now Villiers Road was still 'Old Mill Lane'. Before the present stone-built bridge had replaced the plank and handrail provided for pedestrians (the four-legged and the wheeled had to go through the Hogsmill River), I met a flock of sheep moving in a direction opposite to mine. I was going to Surbiton, their destination was Kingston Market. I am confident I had not walked the whole of the School

frontage to get to Oil Mill Lane. The quickest route would have been Victoria Road, Albert Road, Hawkes Road. That is the only time I recall walking to Surbiton. Later journeys were made by tram. I have gone into this detail to support the statement (which I find remarkable) that I have never walked along the frontage of the old building. I knew the Head had a house at the far end of the School. Although I have never seen it, I knew the building housed a girls' as well as a boys' school and conclude that the architect, like the designer of a workhouse, drew his plans in the confident belief that master and mistress would be a married couple. Until I saw this photograph, I had no idea that there were TWO Heads' residences. I cannot believe it was left empty after the departure of the girls in 1899.

I should mention that in the highest section at the end of the divisible assembly hall was a classroom lit by the window of two lights in the gable. I remember being in it only once, when Elsie Delany took the Junior Form there.



*The Old School c. 1900*

The ground floor passage from the main entrance was covered by the higher steps, which ascended in a reverse direction from the first direction after a cross landing. The first floor room that became the Art Room was about the size of the Masters' Common Room (directly beneath it?), but a small area inappropriately housing a zinc-covered bench holding four hemi-spherical basins fed with cold water, more like part of a very wide passage, and then a room had to be crossed to enter the Lower Assembly Hall.

Examining the photo, there appears to be a second entrance through its own gable porch of which I remember no indication whatsoever inside. There is only one more small room under the high roof to be described. This was between the end wall of the Lower Assembly Hall and the two private houses at the right-hand end. This was called 'The Orderly Room'. Thirty or so cavalry carbines occupied racks on two of its walls, for use by the Cadet Corps. In my time we changed for PE in it. For some reason the upper panel of this door was of glass.

**Notes:**

The Old School, which cost £5,300 on land already owned by the Charity, opened on 20th January 1880. Later in 1880 a cover was built over the yard (or part of the yard) and it was fitted with a dining table, on which was served hot soup. The girls certainly had the benefit of this, but we have no record of whether the boys had the same.

In 1890 two additional classrooms were built, possibly for the girls.

The boys in 1880 had three classrooms only. Four extra classrooms were built in 1891, and a Manual Training Room built in 1906.

## Summer Holidays 1946 Memories

**Ronald Butler and Maurice Powell.** After an interval of nearly 59 years, Dr. Ronald Butler and Lt.Col. Maurice Powell, who left the Medical and Science VI forms in 1950, when they departed for the universities of Durham and London respectively, met again for the first time in Somerset in February 2009. Apart from reminiscing about their past lives they were able to identify themselves in a picture of some of their contemporaries taken on the Clifton suspension bridge, Bristol during the summer holidays in 1946; when their form master, John Bradshaw, organised a cycling holiday touring the Wye Valley. If any of their contemporaries recognise themselves in the attached photograph, please contact the Editor. Ron Butler and Maurice Powell, both of whom lived in Chessington, were firm friends and can be seen fourth and fifth from the left. Another Old Tiffinian from Chessington is **Colin Bastock** who left school in 1947, but is still in contact with Ron Butler, and, like Maurice & Ron, is also now living in Somerset.



## 1973-75 Reunion Gathering

On January 29th 2009 a gathering of 10 ex-Tiffinians and 7 friends from the local girls' schools at the time took place at The Albert on Kingston Hill. Another 30 or so from the same era were unable to make it owing to commitments or location, but the success of the evening has led to the expectation of a follow-up meeting with more advance notice later in the year – even the possibility of a reunion dance evening at Grist, suggested by the girls, to bring back even more memories (don't ask) ! Tim McCann also joined the group for a few beers. Contemporary literary works from the Prefects' Room were available for review, as were many photographs of sporting and social events.

*STUART LESTER*

*Those shown in the group photo (left to right) are :*  
*Kim Weller (now Whitehead) (Putney High), Amanda Bernstein (now Benzecry) (Putney High), Phil Phillips, Nick Wright, Pete Illsley, Gill Wellman (sister of Ian), Rob Johnson, Nigel Willis, Paul Rissen, Stu Lester, Paul Nurthen, Lyn Moss (Tiffin Girls), Phil Bennett, Dave Cooper, Ruth Holt (Tiffin Girls), Jenny Harborne (sister of John), Sue Smith (Tiffin Girls).*



## OT Social Lunch

Our fifty-seventh lunch was held on Thursday 4th December at our usual venue, viz. the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Rd., Tolworth – meeting at 12.30, for lunch at 1.00, departure usually at 3pm.

The 23 present were :-

Dennis Barnard, David Chaffey, Bernard Davies, David Evans, Jack Foster, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Brian Holden, David Ingall, Ken Jenkins, Greer Kirkwood, Howard Mallinson, Peter Osborne, John Phillips, Roy Rathbone, Peter Shepherd, Chris Shires, Stan Slinger, Bryon Smith, Jim Swift, Ron Truin, Howard Watson & John Wright.

Our Christmas lunch was splendidly supported, with our maximum number to date being repeated. Three cried off at the last moment, but two others just arrived to keep the balance. An excellent varied lunch was provided on a cold & sunny day. As several of those present are members of both the 100 & 200 Clubs it was decided to draw the Christmas major prizes. Accordingly Dennis Barnard won £500 (200 Club), Chris Shires £50, David Booth £50 and Mrs Lisa Hother £1000. With Dennis being present, it did not take long for the port to flow. New members for the 100 Club soon materialised as an added bonus.

Apologies were given from several stalwarts wishing us well on the day.

The Spring date will be **Thursday 2nd April**. Also the Summer date is **Thursday 2nd July**.

All are welcome and, if you wish to attend and bring guests, please let me know on 01483 850705 or by email: [r.greer.kirkwood@ntlworld.co.uk](mailto:r.greer.kirkwood@ntlworld.co.uk)

*GREER KIRKWOOD*



## Rugby Club VP and Ex-Players' Lunch

On Saturday 21st February, on the occasion of a home game against Streatham-Croydon (which Tiffs won 22–12), a most enjoyable Lunch for around 50 members was provided by David Tyrrell and his team. The photos below are, as usual, taken for us by Dan Godfrey.



# Queen Elizabeth Road News

## School Boat Club

Another productive half term's worth of rowing has set the Boat Club up for an exciting year in 2009. This month has seen new crew combinations develop and new members joining in the action. Tiffin had a host of excellent performances at the Thames Valley Head, with the First Eight coming second overall on the day. The crew of **Chizzle Harrison, Alex Thomas, Rupert Price, Myles Neary, Eddie Rolls, Henry Heath, Alex Dodd, Ivo Marlais & Arran Mornin** move forward to School's Head next month with a few new additions. These include **Matthew Tatlock**, who set the GB Junior Record for 5000m on the ergo in preparation for the trials at the end of February. **Myles, Henry** and **Eddie** join him in their bid for a Team GB seat.



*The First Eight at Thames Valley Trial Head 2009*

Our AGM and Quiz Night was held on the 6th February, raising over £1000 for the Boat Club. A splendid turnout from boys and parents made it a great evening, which included loud music, rowing trivia, more Tiffin – KGS rivalry and a delicious curry, which all went down very well. A speech from the new **President, Mr John King** lifted spirits for the coming year. Thanks go to the continuing good work and commitment of rowers and coaches alike, especially **Carol Cornell**, who has kept boats afloat and promoted the quality of rowing across all age groups. We move forward to the big National events next term, and support from Old Boys or parents on the bank would be much appreciated. Check [www.tiffinrowing.co.uk](http://www.tiffinrowing.co.uk) regularly for details of upcoming races and results.

*RUPERT PRICE*

### *Corrigendum*

*In our September edition it was stated that the son-in-law of John King attended the boat-naming ceremony. It was in fact his nephew. We apologise for the error.*

## Performing Arts

### TIFFIN DANCE

Tiffin Junior Dance Company was established in September 2008 in response to the success of the Tiffin Dance Company. Since then the company have been invited to perform in a variety of prestigious events and venues including The Rose Theatre and Kingston College Theatre and Peacock Theatre. The company consists of 17 talented male dancers from yr 9 who share the passion and dedication for contemporary dance.



*Junior Dance Company performed at Rumble!  
Dance Festival at the Peacock Theatre*

Fourteen young dance companies from London performed work created for this special performance weekend focusing on the theme *At the Movies*. The evening was made up of schools and youth companies

from London that have battled it out to win their place in Rumble!

The evening consisted of a variety of dance performances and bands, as well as film projections made by the students during dance workshop in the British Film Institute during the National Youth



*Year 7 perform in Footloose vs Fat Beats*

Festival in summer 2008. It was very impressive to see so many dancers from across all year groups from Year 7 up to Lower Sixth – 150 students took part in the event. The standard of all performances was extremely high, demonstrating the boys' enjoyment and level of commitment. Thank you to all who attended, making the event such a success. I look forward to see you again in the summer term.

*KAROLINA CZERNIAK, Head of Dance*

## FRIENDS OF TIFFIN MUSIC

The music department were their usual busy selves in the run-up to Christmas, and the excellent new choir CD of Christmas music sold very well. If you do not yet have a copy, they are available from the School Shop and come strongly recommended.

Thames Youth Orchestra started off January with their best concert yet – a wonderful combination of Wagner's *'Siegfried Idyll'* and Mahler's *'Symphony No 1'*. Their next concert is on 28th March in Kingston Parish Church, when the programme will be Britten's *'Sinfonia da Requiem'* and Shostakovich's *'Symphony No 10'*. Full details on the TYO website: [www.thamesyouthorchestra.co.uk](http://www.thamesyouthorchestra.co.uk)

The exciting event facing the department at the time of writing is the imminent departure of a choir of 42 boys to New Zealand on an 20-day tour of both islands, with concerts in the very highest profile venues. A parents' committee has done an amazing job in raising funds to enable this tour to go ahead, and FoTM are delighted to be joining them in supporting the tour with financial bursaries. We wish them a marvellous trip, and look forward to hearing all about their adventures on their return. If you fancy following their progress, log on to [www.tiffinboyschoirnztour.blogspot.com](http://www.tiffinboyschoirnztour.blogspot.com), to catch their tour blog.

The dates for your diary in the immediate future are:

### Sat 21 March

7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
Boys' Choir (*Trebles*) perform Britten *War Requiem* with the ROH Chorus and Orchestra and Antonio Pappano

### Tues 31 March –Thurs 2 April

7:00pm Main Hall. The School Concert featuring all of Year 7, the Boys' Choir trebles, Swing Band and three concerto movements played by the winners of the Instrumental Competitions with the School Orchestra

The Friends have been putting their funds into providing new equipment for one of the main music teaching rooms over the past term and continue to assist with supporting extra assistance for instrumental groups. 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](mailto:rachaelnichols@blueyonder.co.uk)

RACHAEL NICHOLS

## PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR

### Thursday 19th March

7.00 pm, School Hall  
Informal Concert

### Saturday 21st March

7.30 pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
Britten's *'War Requiem'*

### Tuesday 31st March, Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd April

7.00 pm, School Hall  
School Concert

### Friday 10th July

Tiffin in the Garden

SIMON TOYNE

## School Rugby

The second half of the season for the 1st XV was mixed. The squad faced several crucial injuries from players such as Gurvir Grewal, Ciaran Thapar and the captain Anthony Hitchcock, but still managed to pull off several excellent performances. Beating both City of London Freemans and a solid Christ's Hospital team produced some momentum for the start of the half term. Going on to lose to Trinity 20–33, which was a very close game and gave way to Ali Watkin's skill in scoring two tries, one of which included a grubber kick the entire length of the pitch, and a further very hard-fought but unsuccessful cup game against St Benedicts proved disappointing.

A competent performance against Reigate earned the 25–18 victory, which was followed by a loss to KCS Wimbledon in treacherous conditions and a closely fought game throughout. The two games that followed this were against the biggest teams seen all season, but determination in both losses of 6–39 and 7–29 saw good performances against a rough John Fisher team and drilled RGS High Wycombe. To cap the season off was the highly anticipated game against local rivals Hampton. Hard training and determination going into the match proved extremely helpful, as the team spirit and concentration throughout produced an outstanding 26–19 victory.

The team have made it into the London Quarter Finals in their first season playing Rugby League. They also look forward to replicating their performances of last year in the upcoming Sevens season.

ANTHONY HITCHCOCK

# Tiffin Parents' Association International Buffet and Auction of Promises 27 March 2009

On Friday 27th March 2009 the TPA are holding an International Buffet and Auction of Promises at the School. Old Boys, as well as current parents, are warmly invited to attend the event.

We are sure that it will be a great opportunity to sample international culinary delights and will be a celebration of the rich diversity within the school community.

### DONATIONS

The TPA have already received generous offers of auction items, but are looking for more.

They are looking for two kinds of donations:

- a) substantial gifts, which will raise hundreds of pounds
- b) smaller items or experiences, for which people would be prepared to pay £30-£100.

If you wish to offer a donation, please contact Colin Barnes (07771 661032).

For further information and tickets (£10) see the TPA website: [www.tiffinparents.co.uk](http://www.tiffinparents.co.uk)