



Newsletter of Tiffinian Association No. 245 September 2010

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Copy for
next edition
by
15th November

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From the Head's Study

Dear Old Tiffinians,

The School has enjoyed an excellent summer of results that are a great credit to the staff and students of Tiffin. Our A-Level results showed 90.2% of all grades at A*/B – a level that we have never achieved before. This is truly an outstanding achievement and was matched by the 85.5% of grades at A*/A at GCSE. In the league tables we were the fourth highest performing boys' state school in the country at A-Level and GCSE.



I should like to congratulate all the students and staff on their hard work and commitment that has led to such an outstanding summer of success. Whilst we have celebrated with our departing Year 13 students at the Leavers' Celebration at All Saints Church on Thursday 16th September, the Year 11 have returned to school as our new Year 12 in a Sixth Form that now has 356 students.

The School is looking forward to a school year that promises a great deal. Over the summer we have carried out some major refurbishment projects. Converting a technology room to facilitate Food Technology with a government grant that has also paid for a refurbishment of two areas in Elmfield and providing additional storage around the school. Work has also been done to modernise a chemistry laboratory and a history room.

The Tiffin Parents' Association has helped to fund a major refurbishment of the School Hall with new lights, sound systems, screen and projector. As with all our projects we are trying to update our facilities for 21st century teaching and learning, whilst still preserving the many historical features of the school buildings.

We also have plans to add to our sporting facilities. Outline plans have been developed to install an all weather floodlit surface outside the Sports Centre that will be suitable primarily for rugby and football. It will greatly enhance our provision on site for the students and can also be used for the community, in liaison with the clubs who hire our facilities in the Sports Centre in the evenings and weekends.

This project will be greatly helped by the very generous bequest of Jim Dixon who was a Tiffin pupil from 1960. Mr Dixon was always keen on sport and I am sure that he would be very proud to see his bequest being enjoyed by all students, staff and members of the public. The School is most grateful for this funding, and with contributions from the Tiffin

Education Fund and some money from sporting grants, we hope to be able to build this facility for September 2011, subject to planning permission.

Tiffin is also installing a new virtual learning environment that will radically change how we can work with students and parents, both in school and with direct links to students' homes. In November we will also go live with our new biometric cashless catering system that will modernise and improve our canteen service. What we now need is the £3 million that we have to raise to build the next phase of the Governors' master plan for the school site, which is a new dining hall facility and sixth form centre. This is crucial to our next stage of development and has been long awaited to replace some very old facilities for dining that you would all still recognise from your days at Tiffin.

For full details of the changes in the school do link on to our newsletter on our school website www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

Best wishes

HILDA CLARKE, Headteacher



The Tiffin Association's Annual Dinner

FRIDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2010

6.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Venue: Tiffin School, London Road
Kingston upon Thames, KT2 6RL

Ticket Price: £30

Dress code: Black Tie, Lounge Suit or Tiffin Blazer

Carriages: 11.30 pm

Tickets can be purchased by using the link on the Events page of the www.TiffinFriends.org website or by sending a cheque to John Wright at 1 Delta Road, Worcester Park KT4 7HP

A tour of the School will be available, and those interested should register their interest by e-mailing j.foster@ucl.ac.uk or telephone 01372 813021

Parking is available in the School grounds, using the London Road entrance.

If you and your friends have not already done so, do register on the new website www.TiffinFriends.org We hope that this website will help you to maintain contact with people you met through Tiffin School, view photos from the School archives and book alumni events. Please note also that 'Tiffin Friends – the Tiffinian Association' is the official Association Facebook page.

Chairman's Letter

Dear Fellow Tiffinian

I have just arrived home after attending the 2010 Tiffin School Leavers' Celebration at the Parish Church in Kingston. Instead of using Speech Day for handing out prizes, this is now the event where that takes place. Parents and Boys (as well as staff) gather in the Church for drinks beforehand, which we as an Association arrange, and the prize-giving follows. John Inverdale, the TV and radio sports presenter was the guest speaker, and his relaxed and easy style fitted perfectly to the evening. John is a Kingston resident and has been for some 20 years or so. It is an important event as those present represent the potential new intake for the Association, and Paul Riley (left in 2000) and I were able to stand up and talk briefly about the Association. Paul of course relates more to the leavers' age group and was excellent. The School promoted the benefits of the Association throughout, and the evening really was a celebration.



I should also mention that each year the Association funds some of the prizes. This year 16 boys who achieved 3 A* grades at A-Level were awarded these prizes. The standards are very high – not only academically, but also in the way that many of the boys present themselves. It made me proud to be part of the Tiffin community.

We now have therefore some 150 additional Alumni as part of that community. The most exciting Association development over the last few months has been the new website www.TiffinFriends.org. I would encourage all of you (if you have not already done so) to log on and register – it doesn't cost anything! But not only that, also get in touch with other Tiffinians you may know, perhaps they are not members of the Association, and encourage them also to register. We already have had over 250 people registering of whom around 160 are new to the Association. So again, if you haven't registered, please do so, so we can have a thriving on-line community. There is also an active Tiffin Friends community on Facebook. I appreciate that some may not be active on the internet, but rest assured the Association will also continue to keep in touch by more traditional methods.

One thing about a community such as the one that surrounds Tiffin is that there are those who give service, which is exceptional. Traditionally this has been recognised by inviting them to become Life Vice Presidents – an honorary position, which is currently held by John Glasscock, 'Dickie' Webb, Gus Armstrong and Tony Dempsey (also Past President) – they held this position in the OTA and this was transferred across to TAL. It is many years since the honour was bestowed on a deserving few and the Trustees now propose that a further four be added to the list in recognition of their commitment, both past and present. In my view there are others who have also put in a great deal of effort on all our behalves and there will be future opportunities to recognise their contributions. It is for the membership to elect their Life Vice Presidents (at the forthcoming AGM), but the current four nominees are: Brian Holden, Howard Mallinson, Peter Smith and Mike Taylor. Elsewhere in this edition you will find details of their involvement. When I spoke to Mike and explained that it was in recognition of his many years of work with the Football Club, as an ex Chairman, Governor, Chair of Governors and now a TAL Trustee, he did remark; "I never managed to escape, did I?" I hope you will support these nominations at the AGM, as their contributions have made a difference.

We have the Annual Dinner to look forward to in November; this year back at the School again, which is fantastic. If you are thinking of coming (details elsewhere in this edition) do get your orders in quickly as tickets are already selling well. We do have some new faces now involved with the Association, and I was struck at a reunion in July at the School by the excitement that alumni exhibited when they met up with peers they had, in many cases, not seen for years. The constant question I received was: "When's the next event?", and of the course the answer was the Dinner! This may be one factor for the advance demand, but I am aware that the OT Rugby Club has pre-booked tables, which is a reflection of the renewed interest in the section. I hope you will be able to join us on 12th November.

Have a good Autumn.

IAN REDINGTON, Chairman

Dates for your Diary

Monday 25th October

- School Half Term week

Thursday 28th October

- Golf Society at Cuddington

Saturday 30th October

- Rugby Club VP & Former Players' Lunch

Thursday 11th November

- Remembrance Day (School Hall)

Friday 12th November

- Association Annual Dinner (School Hall)

Sunday 14th November

- Oratorio Concert (Rose Theatre 7.30pm)
Mendelssohn's 'Elijah'

Wednesday 17th November

- Instrumental Concert (School Hall 7pm)

Wednesday 24th November

- Association AGM

Wed 8th – Sat 11th December

- School Play 'Richard III' (School Hall 7pm)

Thursday 9th December

- OT Social Lunch

Tuesday 14th December

- Carol Service (Parish Church 7.30pm)

Friday 17th December

- Term ends

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

All Old Tiffinians and Friends

are invited to the **School Carol Service**
in Kingston Parish Church at 7.30pm
on **Tuesday 14th December**

**PARKING AVAILABLE
IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AS USUAL**

OT 200 Club

We draw a member's 200 Club number each week for a prize of £10. There are two special prizes each year of £500 and the next special draw will be made in December. We still have some available numbers.

200 Club membership costs multiples of £13 per year per number. Please contact me if you would like to join. My details are on the front of this newsletter.

Many congratulations to **Eddie Holbrook**, who won the most recent **£500 prize**

Since the previous Tiffnews the following members have drawn a £10 prize:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 122 Mrs J Smith | 132 D A Barnard | 102 J E Raynham |
| 169 R G Adolphus | 196 T Brain | 200 J Bingham |
| 167 P A R Baynham | 8 M J Bradford | 140 J Stockdill |
| 67 C J Mason | 25 P R Saville | 157 B A T Holden |
| 92 R Hewitt-Taylor | 183 M L Ford | |

Many thanks to all Club members. Your subscriptions provide important additional funds to the Association.

MARK DARBY

The AGM Agenda includes proposals to elect further Life Vice Presidents of the Association. Below are some details of those four members and their contribution to Association affairs.



HOWARD MALLINSON on leaving Tiffins in 1959 trained as a chartered accountant with the father of one of his form-mates, Andrew Buchan, “and that step looked after all my economics needs to date” he reports. He was in practice for most of his working life, spending 40 years in London, a city he grew to love with a passion. He joined Thomson McLintock after qualifying and stayed with them and a successor firm, KPMG, in which he became a partner, for 30 years. Howard’s career took him into a close involvement with many high-risk capital projects, working on nuclear power stations, the Thames Barrier and ultimately the Channel Tunnel project, becoming something of an authority in the accountancy profession on cost-reimbursable and target contracts. Howard progressed into management consultancy, and in the later stages of his career he specialised in property assignments, becoming particularly successful in liquidating difficult property portfolios; ultimately he worked freelance and developed a novel highly technical financing mechanism, which he used to buy, with his business partner, an office block in the City. It was ‘a spectacular transaction’ says Howard, more likely to make his children rich than him.

Howard played soccer for the OTA in the 1960s ‘without great effect’, but as a useful distraction from studying, and he has been since about 1990 (until bad health overtook him) a regular at the Golf Society meetings, in which he has been more noticeably successful from time to time. He has been a regular attendee at the quarterly Social Lunches, and in recent years has had much pleasure being a Friend of Tiffin Music – an activity he intends to pursue and to encourage others to join. “It’s a great joy to me”, says Howard, “to be associated with a successful arts school: the range and depth of talent is astonishing”.

From early days Howard had a love of history: “In today’s world I would have gone to university to study it structurally”, says Howard. “Now retired, I study it on my own terms and with great relish”. Association members will be familiar with some of Howard’s work, which has been featured in these pages. His work ‘*Send it by Semaphore: the old telegraphs during the wars with France*’ was published by Crowood Press. “It is a curse of teachers, I suppose”, says Howard, “that they may not often see their pupils redeemed, but one of my greatest regrets is that ‘Spud’ Murphy never knew that I had a proper history book in me: it would have given him great pleasure.” Howard went on to finish his fourth book, a history of the origins and the impact of the Guildford via Cobham railway line: “a line on which, like thousands of others, I travelled daily to earn my living in London”. Howard didn’t know that he was going to write when he retired: “it just happened”, says Howard. His training equips him well for researching his subject, and he can still remember English lessons at school, but he asserts that it was the training received in a good professional office that put him on the road to writing ‘economically’. The all-round education received in five years at Tiffins in the 1950s was, however, the bed-rock on which Howard’s life was built: but it is ‘perverse’, notes Howard, that the only subject that he did not pass at O-level was English Literature!

To many of us Howard’s greatest achievement was the leadership he gave as OTA Chairman and the work he put in to bring about the transformation of the various OT organisations into the present Registered Charity TAL — all the while fighting a battle against severe and increasing health problems.

Howard and his wife, Irene, are both practising Christians and live in Claygate, and they can often be found in the Foley Arms. They have a daughter and a son.



PETER SMITH attended Tiffin School from 1949 till 1956. On leaving he took up an apprenticeship with British Aerospace. He joined the OTRFC in 1960 and has served as its Chairman for the past 8 years. He was elected Chairman of the OTA in 1972 and served on the OT Sports Ground Ltd for 17 years. He was a member of the OTA Council for around 20 years.

He conceived and instigated the OT 200 Club, recruiting a large number of members, both Tiffinian and non-Tiffinian. This he ran for many years.

For a lengthy time he played both rugby and cricket for the Old Boys, and continued as scorer for the OTCC after giving up playing. Single-handed he ran an Appeal to raise funds to improve the state of the Dean

Pavilion, passing his own target of £10,000.

Peter helped for several years in the organisation and running of the Mid-Summer Ball, the OT Ladies’ Night and OTA Dinner. Currently he arranges the very successful VP and Former Rugby Players’ Lunches twice each season.

He is Past Master and active member of Tiffinian Lodge.



MIKE TAYLOR stood down in April 2008 as Chairman of Governors after 15 years in that role and has recently retired as Governor after 27 years of service to the School. During his time as Chairman much was achieved with the transition to Voluntary Aided and specialist school status, development of the sports hall, Dempsey Centre and other building improvements whilst academic standards continued to improve.

Mike has had a long involvement with OTA affairs, having played soccer for the 1st XI while still at the School, which he left in 1964. In a long career with the Soccer Club Mike joined the committee as a school representative and captained the 1st XI from 1967 to 1973, was Secretary from 1976 to 1980 and Chairman from 1982 to 1991. He chaired the committee that organised the OTFC Centenary Dinner. His sporting interests also included cricket for the OTCC, but this gave way to business commitments when he started his surveying practice in Kingston in 1973. His professional skill was put to use in supervising the construction of our two houses at Gristis and the extension to the Dean Pavilion.

In 1979 he was Chairman of the OTA and for many years was Chairman of the Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund. Mike continues his work with the Old Boys as a Trustee of Tiffinian Association Ltd, the successor body to the OTA.

Many colleagues in the OTA have heard its Chairman pay tribute to the way in which some of our key people manage to combine dedicated exertions for the Tiffin community with earning their livings. In the work that Mike Taylor has done for Tiffins, only touched on here, there can be few better illustrations of the truism: ‘If you want something done ask a busy person’.



BRIAN HOLDEN became involved in the OTA from the moment he graduated from Cambridge. He attended his first Association AGM in November 1960 and was promptly elected as Recruitment Officer (replacing Howard Booth). He held this office for many years and appeared to be well placed for it, when he was appointed to the Tiffin Staff in 1963. However, he found it a frustrating task, as many ideas were tried out, but none succeeded in recruiting school leavers in any significant numbers.

He remained a member of the OTA Council until the formation of TAL recently and served on the Social Committee & the Fair Committee. The Social Committee in its heyday, under the chairmanship of the late Ken Jenkins, had in the 1960s & 70s many responsibilities — it introduced ‘*Tiffnews*’ as the Association’s organ of communication, organised a Ladies’ Night in January, a Sherry Party in June to celebrate each year the opening of the Dean Pavilion, the Annual Dinner, and even, for a while, monthly dances. All that seems very ambitious now in the modern climate, but the most courageous step of all was the organisation of a Midsummer Ball, a magnificent event in the splendid setting of Upper Court in Esher, where spectacular food and live music were provided for some 300 guests — and for the first time at such an event all drinks were included! Luckily costs were covered, and the event was a regular sell-out for several years, until the venue became unavailable.

Brian was elected Chairman of the OTA in 1966, and in 1973 took over the role of Association Treasurer, when his predecessor, Dick Palmer, saw VAT fast approaching. Dick had by then served as Treasurer for 30 years, and Brian managed to match his record before retiring from that role and becoming one of the Association Auditors. He was elected a Trustee of the OT Memorial Fund and served as a Nominee Shareholder of the Ground Company, until both were subsumed in TAL, of which he is currently a Trustee.

He retired officially from the School Staff several years ago, but continues to be involved as Company Secretary & Treasurer of the Charity Tiffinian Ltd and a Director of its subsidiary, Elmfield Enterprises (the School Shop).

Brian’s present contribution to the Association is mainly as Editor of the newsletter, ‘*Tiffnews*’, and the OT Section of the annual school magazine ‘*The Tiffinian*’. In 2003 Brian took over as Editor of the newsletter from David Jagger, who had done the job for a record 19 years, which Brian admits he is unlikely to match.

OT Social Lunch

Our sixty-third lunch was held on Thursday 1st July at our usual venue, viz., the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Rd., Tolworth, meeting at 12.30 for lunch at 1.00, departure about 3pm.

The 14 present were :-

Jim Aston, Dennis Barnard, David Booth, David Chaffey, Jack Foster, David French, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Brian Holden, David Ingall, Greer Kirkwood, Bob Neville, Stuart Vidler & John Wright.

Our Summer Lunch had a surprisingly small turnout, as shown above, but nevertheless was no less enjoyable. The usual excellent varied lunch was provided, with a few leaving the main course and ordering two starters, thus keeping the quantity down. The session finished with draws for the OTA 100 Club at which Brian Boustead won the £1000 'Big One' and for the 200 Club, in which Eddie Holbrook won £500.

OT 100 Club

| | | | | Previous win |
|----------|-------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| May '10 | £50 | Tony Millard | East Molesey | '02 |
| June '10 | £50 | Sid Millar | Huntingdon | '09 |
| June '10 | £1000 | Brian Boustead | New Malden | '08 |
| July '10 | £50 | Dan Godfrey | Wraysbury | '09 |

The above draws were held at the Social Lunch in July.

Past rugby players did well on this series of draws. In particular, this is the third time that Brian has won the 'Big One', previously in '98 & '00.

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).

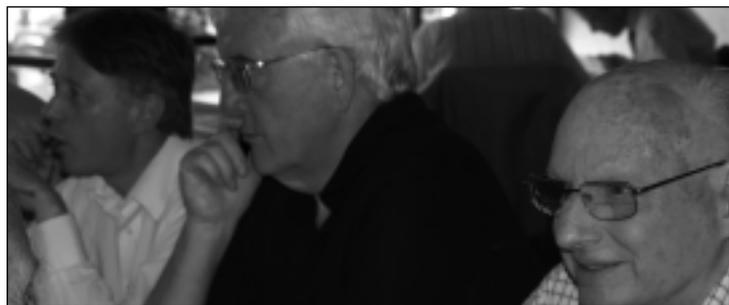
GREER KIRKWOOD

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

The remaining Thursday Lunch dates for 2010 are Autumn 30th September and the Christmas Lunch 9th December.

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

GREER KIRKWOOD



Reunion of 1960 Leavers

Our first reunion was held in 2003 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of starting our studies at Tiffins. Thirty-one Old Boys of the 130 or so original pupils attended this initial reunion at The Cricketers pub in Downside, Cobham. The reunion held on May 26th this year was our fifth, and was held to mark the 50th anniversary of the year in which many of us left the school. Eleven regulars attended this year, namely Ivor Atkinson, Ken Batstone, Alan Crabtree, David Eagles, John Gilbert, Geoff Hetherington, David Jagger, David Jux, Peter Horsman, Richard Littleton and John Prince, but we were particularly pleased to welcome Nigel Barnard to his very first reunion.

We met at the school building at 4.00pm for a tour of both the old and new facilities, but first we were taken to J J's old office, where we were greeted by the new Head, Hilda Clarke, who had generously rescheduled a meeting in order to meet us. We were then taken on a tour of the new facilities which had been added since our days such as the circular Learning Resources Centre and the magnificent new Judge Lecture Theatre. John King, the Senior Assistant Head, very ably led us on the tour, and we all immensely enjoyed his enthusiastic and humorous commentary. John then took us to parts of the school with which we were very familiar such as the main building with its classrooms and corridors, the Hall, and Elmfield. Many good memories were brought to mind and some not so good ones also (the slipper still being the disciplinary method of choice in our day). While in the Hall we

were each presented with a copy of our school record card, a much appreciated surprise. The tour lasted for two hours.

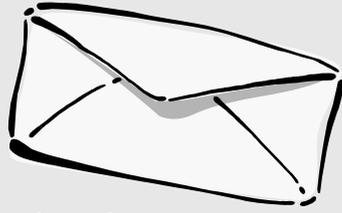
We then headed off to The French Table in Surbiton, but, having half an hour to spare, had a drink at a nearby pub en route. We were then joined by Ian Dow who, unfortunately, was unable to attend the school tour. Our dinner was served in a private upstairs room starting with pre-dinner drinks at 7.00pm. I think everybody agreed that the meal was absolutely outstanding, and we finally wrapped up the evening at about 11.00pm. I believe I heard some comments (perhaps alcohol induced) to the effect that it was our best reunion to date, and that we might, perhaps, repeat it next year at the same location.

JOHN GILBERT



Richard Littleton, John King, David Jagger, John Prince, David Jux, Ivor Atkinson, Hilda Clarke, Nigel Barnard, David Eagles, Peter Horsman, John Gilbert, Geoff Hetherington, Ken Batstone and Alan Crabtree
(Photo credit to Mrs King with David Eagle's camera)

Letters



Dear Brian,

I have just received my copy of 'The Tiffinian' for 2008-2009.

As is the norm, it contains a welter of information about the School's broad range of educational activities and successes, is well illustrated and amply provided with great detail about people and performance.

I always find the succinct Editorial provided by Tim McCann particularly revealing in adding a touch of reality to the UK educational scene. Here in Australia, where I teach physics at a university, the scene is depressingly similar to some of his comments. The average first-year student arrives with excellent school credentials but with less and less relevant background knowledge, thanks to the dumbing down of school curricula and the introduction of a broader range of less demanding subjects. Successive Australian governments, like their UK counterpart, expect an increasing percentage of school leavers to go on to university education, almost regardless of their intellectual capacity.

I would also like to comment on the title 'Head' or 'Head Teacher' now being used at Tiffins to accommodate a woman. The previous term 'Headmaster' for the man in charge parallels the term 'Master' (or equivalent) for the headship of an Oxbridge College, a description that has persisted for centuries. These days this term persists, notwithstanding an occasional gender change. For example, St Catharine's College, Cambridge, to which the School has a strong affiliation, retains the title 'Master' even though Dame Jean Thomas OBE currently occupies this position, and, conversely, the title 'Mistress' of Girton College, Cambridge, has been bestowed on a male incumbent. If one views this persistence of titles as a tradition, it is interesting to speculate if one could have established such a tradition at Tiffins and retained the title 'Headmaster'. It certainly would have been unique!

John Love (1961)
Canberra, Australia

Dear Brian,

A School Career with a Difference

When I arrived at Tiffin in 1944, I was placed in Form 1A. As a boy who had passed the Common Entrance, I was apparently deemed 'clever'! The School, however, was quickly disabused of this. In the first half-yearly examinations, I achieved the hitherto unsurpassed average of 17.7%, a record which I thought should have merited its own honour board in the School Hall. I still have my report book, and one of the entries was made by Iris Neath, who summarised my 2% result in French with a single word: "Appalling!".

This achievement did not go unnoticed by Thomas Dean, the Headmaster, who saw fit to comment on it before the entire school in morning assembly. I remember his words to this day. "An extraordinary co-incident has occurred", he began sarcastically. "The boy who has achieved the lowest average in the half-yearly examinations is in the same form as the boy who achieved the highest." That boy was John Harvey, but any thought of getting even was stillborn: Harvey was an ABA Junior Boxing Champion.

I was banished to Form 1C, and the tender ministrations of Mr Wyndham-Smith. But it did not finish there. At end of the year I was despatched to 1R – the Remove – under Mr Handyside, and had to do the first year's work all over again. Thereafter I found myself in the 'T' stream. In 5T I managed, presumably by some divine intervention, to obtain a General Schools Certificate, a success that caused 'Benny' Gutmann, my form master, to comment, somewhat dryly: "Ison, there is no justice in this world".

But I was probably good at sport, you may think. Wrong! I was hopeless at rugby, cricket, athletics and rowing, and was eventually relegated to cross-country running. Nevertheless, Mr Downs' sports report on me read: 'Needs to improve his stance at the wicket'. My musical talent was also recognised: George Spriggs threw me out of the band, and Eric Griffiths expelled me from the choir.

At my career interview with the Headmaster, I expressed an interest in the army. This brought forth a warm response from Brigadier John Harper who immediately placed me in Lower VI Medical to study for Sandhurst. I failed to see the logic of this, and just prevented myself from saying that I was not considering a commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Three weeks later, I decided to do it the hard way, join the Colours and obtain a commission from the ranks. I failed, three times, but did manage to achieve the rank of Warrant Officer. And so, after five years, four of which were spent with Rhine Army, I decided on a complete change of career. I was, however, uncertain whether to become an actor or a barrister. A High Court judge who I got to know years later, once told me that there was little difference between the two, but that on balance he would rather have an actor before him, as they tended not to forget their lines to the same extent as young barristers.

Still undecided on a career, I returned to the UK, took my discharge from the army, and joined the Metropolitan Police, until I could find a proper job. Thirty years later, I retired as a Commander.

On leaving the police, I embarked on a career as a writer, and have since had some thirty novels published, thanks in no small part to Alf Tuddenham who undertook the difficult task of teaching me English. Many years after leaving Tiffin, I met John Harper at a school function, and when he learned of my achievement as an author, he expressed the view that I was one of the School's successes.

Little did he know!

Graham Ison (1950)
(Graham Ison's website is at www.grahamison.co.uk)

Dear Brian,,

I came across 'Tiffnews' on the web recently and thought I would provide a brief summary of my past 50+ years.

I left Tiffins in 1957, spent three years at UCL getting a BSc in Maths, joined one of the UK's more unsuccessful computer manufacturers, then moved into IT consulting with PA. I moved to the US in 1965, and after a spell at Boeing, moved back into IT consulting with what is now Ernst & Young. I then started my own consulting firm, specializing in health care IT, which eventually was acquired by KPMG. I retired from KPMG after 5 years as national partner-in-charge of health and welfare systems consulting, but have continued to do the occasional independent consulting project.

I was particularly interested in the story in the June 'Tiffnews' about David Larmar's bike ride to Paris, having just for the third time completed the 205-mile 2-day ride from Seattle to Portland (with 10,000 others — it's one of the biggest bike rides in the world). I've become an avid cyclist over the past few years and have now ridden on every continent (except Antarctica, for which I have no plans), most recently in the Andes and in the mountains of Northern Vietnam.

Other than cycling, I do some skiing and scuba diving (both of which would have seemed very exotic in 1957), and a little jogging. I'm lucky enough to live (with my wife, from Wyoming) in what I think is one of the world's loveliest places, the San Juan Islands, north of Seattle and close to Vancouver Island, where we own a small farm that takes up most of the rest of my time.

Thanks for editing Tiffnews.

Roger Collier (1957)

People

CHRIS BARNES (1962) was a chorister at Westminster Abbey Choir School before joining Tiffins. After leaving he went on to study Music at Durham and then became an actor. His theatre work, as an actor and director, has taken him all over the world, as well as to the National Theatre, the West End, the Bush Theatre, the Traverse in Edinburgh, the Donmar Warehouse, the Young Vic and the Old Vic. He was also a founder member of Actors Touring Company. Film appearances include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Frankenstein*, *the Grotesque* and, most recently, *Amazing Grace*. TV credits include *Hornblower*, *Silent Witness*, *Wycliffe*, *Waking the Dead*, *Trial & Retribution*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*, *The Ebbtide*, *Midsomer Murders* & *Holby City*. He is due to appear in *New Tricks*.

He appeared at The Rose Theatre in September in a performance of *Hanging Hooke*, a new play about the 17th century English genius, Robert Hooke, thought by many to be our English Leonardo; an artist, architect, physicist, chemist, engineer and astronomer. Reviews of the production paid fulsome tribute to Chris and to the writer, Siobhán Nicholas. Amongst a large audience were Ralph Allwood, David Nield,



Chris Barnes, David Nield, Jeremy Taylor & Ralph Allwood

Naomi Lyons (Tiffin Girl and old friend) and Jeremy James Taylor, who met Chris & Ralph as undergraduates at Durham University in the late sixties.

KEVIN BUTLER (1973) has decided, after 33 years working for the Bank of England, to take retirement a few years early and seek pastures new. He may embark on some part-time work.



SIMON EASTWOOD (1983) has since 2002 been manager of the Jonas Centre, situated in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire. A Registered Charity, this is operated as a non-profit Christian holiday venue, offering accommodation for up to 84 people. Plans are afoot for building 24 new eco-lodges and a new community centre. These will be insulated and heated by solar power or ground sourced heating.

KEITH HAMMETT (1960) emigrated to New Zealand many years ago and is now a world authority on the cultivation and derivation of new varieties of dahlias and sweet peas.



CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS (1986), elected in May as MP for Daventry, made his Maiden Speech in the Commons later that month. He observed the long-established traditions on such occasions and then made the main thrust of his speech a protest against the proliferation of onshore wind farms. He later made a contribution to PM's Questions, and on another occasion intervened on the subject of

Facebook allowing a tribute page to the killer, Raoul Moat. He urged David Cameron to ask Facebook to remove the RIP page, which he said carried a "whole host of anti-police statements".

BERT JENKINS (1937) in June paid his third visit to Buckingham Palace, when he was nominated by the Not Forgotten Association to go

as a World War II veteran for their 90th Anniversary Celebration. He was presented to the Princess Royal in the Blue Drawing Room and later attended with his daughter a concert in the Palace Ballroom.

DAVID KNIGHT (1963) went on from Tiffins to Churchill College, Cambridge, where he was undergraduate, post-graduate, post-doctorate and Junior Lecturer. His current affiliation is as Honorary Research Associate in the Department of Zoology, Oxford University. He is now living in Winchester.

MIKE LIGGETT (1961) is now fully retired, having given up a few years ago the chairmanship of the International Standards Organisation (ISO) committee on dermal & ocular safety aspects of medical devices.

GRAHAM PADDON (1969) recently visited the School in connection with his business, Amber Sound Ltd (in Potters Bar, Herts).



ANTONY PITTS (1986) was responsible for the electroacoustic sound design for the production in July on BBC Radio 3 of *The Wandering Jew* (music and libretto by Robert Saxton). **Roderick Williams** took the title role. Antony has worked with Robert Saxton for over a decade on the realization of his unique radio opera, and recorded early workshop versions of key scenes for the landmark 18-hour history of Western Music (*The Unfinished Symphony*) broadcast on BBC Radio 3 at the turn of the millennium.



JOHN PITTS (1994) was mentioned in 'Tiffnews' several months ago in connection with the release of his CD. Following a number of great reviews of John's album of contemporary piano music released last year ('intensely pleasant music: 7 Airs & Fantasias'), track 1 – *Changes for 20 nifty fingers* – was performed at last year's Kiev Music Festival by international piano duet competition winners the Kiev Piano Duo, receiving a standing ovation and encore. They have decided to perform it again, starting off the final concert of this year's Kiev Music Festival in the Kiev Philharmonic Hall on Saturday 11 September 2010, immediately followed by the world concert premiere of *Are You Going?* for 30 nifty fingers (a piano triet based on the folk-tune Scarborough Fair). The Duo will be joined at the piano by Antoniy Baryshevkiy, recent winner of the Jaen International Piano Competition. The British Council are funding John's travel expenses over to attend the concert. You can hear both pieces on iTunes, or order the CD from www.cd.tp/ipm08

TONY SALMON, who taught at Tiffins in the late 1950s in his first appointment, has recently been in touch again. He has now been retired 19 years. His last appointment was as Deputy Head at a school in Shrewsbury, where he still lives.

VANESSA WARD is to be congratulated on her appointment as Head of Tiffin Girls'. She has a Tiffin background as a Governor (initially a Parent Governor and then a Foundation Governor), sons at School, and her grandfather attended Tiffin Boys' (Allan Miles Ward 1918). We wish her well.



MARTIN WILLIAMS, member of the Tiffin Modern Languages Department and in charge of school cricket, had a letter published in *The Times* in June, in which he referred to earlier times, "when the schools' cricket results used to appear regularly in the finest dailies, when cricket was broadcast on national television, and when schoolboys & girls were able to play throughout a summer term unhindered by the unceasing encroachment of the exam season".

JOHN WOODVILLE (1978) is to be congratulated on being chosen as the next Master of Tiffinian Lodge, to be installed at the October meeting.

Fred Gompertz (1919) — very senior Old Tiffinian

The School discovered recently that OT Fred Gompertz is now 103 years old. John Haskey from the Tiffin History Department, accompanied by two senior students (Joe Cooper & Frank Johnson) went to see him and had a very interesting conversation about the School under its first Head, Charles Grist. Fred was delighted with the visit.



Stockdill Marathon

Willie Stockdill (1962) in recent years has tackled the Three Peaks Race, and this year at 65 years young will be running in the New York Marathon on Sunday 7th November. While he is concentrating on getting round the course in one piece, he has agreed to run on behalf of The Tiffinian Association Limited and the Neil Desai Foundation. If you would like to support him by making a contribution to either of these charities please either go to www.TiffinFriends.org or www.neildesai.org and follow the relevant links to make a donation, or alternatively write to John Wright (Appeal Organiser) at 1 Delta Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7HP enclosing a cheque made out to your chosen charity. And, if you wish to gift aid your donation, please add the following words to the accompanying letter:— 'I am a UK taxpayer and have paid income or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax I want (The Tiffinian Association Limited or Neil Desai Foundation as appropriate) to reclaim on my donation to enable them to recover basic rate tax under their Gift Aid Scheme. I understand this can only be done where payments are made from a personal account (not a business account)'.

Editor

Many of you have not yet registered on the new website www.TiffinFriends.com Please do so, to join the members and non-members who have taken this step. It makes contacts easier, enables you to view photos of events and to plan reunions etc.

The Annual Dinner, this year in the School Hall, is heading for a sell-out, so do organise your ticket without delay.

We hope you will try to attend the AGM on 24th November, to support the TAL Trustees in their work and to discuss any issues you wish to raise.

Members will wish to congratulate the Head and her Staff on the truly excellent exam results this summer. In the league tables Tiffin School was fourth amongst boys' state schools in the UK.

BRIAN HOLDEN

Membership Matters

Yes, it is the end of yet another Association membership year and I have to remind you that your payment became due on the 1st October.

Cheques should now be payable to **Tiffinian Association Ltd** (instead of the Old Tiffinians' Association). We hope that you will pay your dues by Standing Order, as this method greatly simplifies our administration. I personally shall definitely be helped considerably, as I shall not have to send out hundreds of late payment notices! The current rates of payment are unchanged and are set out again below:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Ordinary Members, wherever resident | £20.00 |
| Pensioners (i.e. 65+ on 1st October) | £15.00 |
| Young Members (i.e. under 25 on 1st October) | £15.00 |
| Those receiving full-time education | £10.00 |

The Student rate of £10 does not include the annual magazine (£5 extra to help towards postage costs etc).

All of the above **less £5**, if payment is made before the end of October.

Standing Order forms are available on request. Should you not feel able to set up a Standing Order, you may of course pay by cheque or cash. Please send your remittances (cheques or cash) to me at **40 Bramshaw Rise, New Malden, Surrey KT3 5JU**.

If sending from abroad, please ensure that the cheque is drawn on a UK bank. Clearance charges on cheques drawn on foreign banks can be somewhat excessive, even exceeding the amount being paid. An alternative method would be for you to mail to me the equivalent in local currency notes.

Please read the next edition of this newsletter carefully, to take note of changes in membership rules and payment of annual donations from 1st October 2011 onwards.

DENNIS BARNARD

Tiffinian Lodge

The Tiffinian Lodge's meeting in April saw the Lodge host a meeting for members of all those that are members of the St George's Group. This is a collection of lodges in the Surrey Province, and was a huge honour for us. Visiting our Lodge was the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Eric Stuart-Bamford, and Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro J Milner, as well as many Masters from other Lodges in the St George's Group. This was our opportunity to show the Province what the Tiffinian Lodge was capable of and the quality of 'Tiffinian workings'. The meeting consisted of lectures and orations in the First Degree, giving further explanation to certain aspects of Masonic life. WBro Eric Fogg provided an exemplary explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board. The Lodge's Worshipful Master, WBro Michael Giddy, accompanied by Bro Richard Feltham, followed this with an accomplished delivery of the Seventh Section of the First Lecture. Finally, WBro Mike Beckerman gave two Orations, which posed many questions as well as provided enlightenment. The meeting went well, allowing the Lodge to hold its head high, as we did ourselves proud amongst such distinguished guests. A splendid time was had by both members of the Lodge and guests, both in the temple and at the dinner afterwards.

The April meeting usually marks the end of our Masonic calendar as our next meeting that follows in October is when we install our new Master. However, before our current Master relinquished the chair, he hosted a couple of charitable events. In July, the Worshipful Master held a Charity Garden party at his home. This was an opportunity for him to thank the members of the Lodge for their work throughout the year, as well as raise some further money for his designated charity. He also held a Ladies Festival Weekend in September in Bournemouth.

Watch this space in the next publication to hear how that Weekend went, as well as our next Installation Meeting in October, when our new Master for our Centenary year will be WBro John Woodville. However, until then we would urge, and gladly welcome, any Old Tiffinian, any member or ex-member of staff or governor who may have an interest in Masonry to get in touch. Please feel free to contact me, the Lodge Membership Officer and Press Secretary, on 07941430706 or at richard.feltham@blueyonder.co.uk for more details. I will be happy to answer any questions and queries and supply you with further details.

RICHARD FELTHAM

De Mortuis



MICHAEL ANDREW McLENNAN 1940 – 2009

Michael (Mike) Andrew McLennan died in London on 31st December 2009.

He was born during the Second World War in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, one of the great London teaching hospitals and where Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin. His mother, to whom we all lovingly referred as Mrs Mac, was one of the first people to be given the new wonder drug at St Mary's Hospital to treat her septicaemia, and it saved her life. After the war Mike and his parents moved to New Malden in Surrey. Mike's friends will recall years of wonderful evenings spent in the C17 cottage situated across the pond opposite the Plough Inn. It was there that we would drink Mr Mac's whiskey and dry ginger and listen to the Kingston Trio while discussing every subject under the sun including the politics of Tiffins. Mike had a lifelong passion for sport, both as player and spectator (he was an ardent Arsenal fan from an early age). He was a naturally gifted ball player and demonstrated his prowess on the rugby and the cricket field. When Mike started at Tiffins in 1951, although not somebody to put himself forward, his talents were quickly recognised and he became hugely involved in school sport, playing for the 1st XI cricket team, where he topped the bowling averages and, the following year, successfully captained the team as an attacking middle-order batsman and aggressive medium paced bowler, thus gaining a Tercels cap and school cricket colours. He also played for the 1st XV rugby team in his final year, winning his rugby colours. Another interest was debating (he had considerable respect for his English teacher, Stewart Griffiths, who was also a keen debater) and he went on to sit on the school debating society committee in his final year. Mike was in Livingstone House, and for several years participated in the house drama competition. He had an eclectic career on the acting stage, his most respectable performance being in Act 3 Coriolanus. However, one of the most memorable comic sights, in an earlier year, was his appearance in Percy Silley's murder mystery play when he played the part of a police constable. Mike suddenly appeared from under a table wearing his helmet and uttered the immortal words: "Ello, 'ello, what's going on 'ere then?"

It goes without saying that he was a prefect in his final year.

From Tiffins he went up to Magdalen College, Oxford, to read English. Subsequently, he spent a gap year travelling with close friend and Old Tiffinian, Trevor Glover, to Canada and returning to the UK by banana boat from the Caribbean, where he had been staying with another friend from school, Barry Cox, with the intention of establishing a career in publishing. He issued instructions to another Tiffinian friend, John Gately, to find a place for him and Gately to share in London. Although the latter was enjoying a comfortable existence in Charterhouse Square whilst being a medical student at St Bartholomews Hospital, he arranged for Mike and himself to share a new abode at 1 St Phillips Way, Islington with two other medical students. After a brief career as a porter in Kingston Hospital, Mike joined Longmans Publishers and it was here that his life took its most significant turn. He met Joyce whom he decided to marry, as soon as she could demonstrate her ability to cook "surprise" peas in a saucepan of water!

Mike moved from Longmans to CUP and finally to Fabers where he worked until he retired. He revelled in the travelling which was an integral part of the job. It took him to book fairs in Europe and further afield meeting up with local distributors, with whom his easy, courteous and considerate manner made him extremely popular.

Meanwhile, soon after getting married, Mike and Joyce set up home in Ealing and lived there for the rest of their married life. It was where their sons Gareth and Matthew were born and, as they grew up and went to school, Mike was encouraged to join with local parents in community activities. Inevitably his previous prowess on the stage became known and he was persuaded to participate in the North Ealing School pantomimes, during which he gave a number of memorable performances. In the meantime, Joyce continued a fulfilling career as private secretary to the author P D James.

Latterly, in retirement, Mike resumed his early interest in history and took up a course of history studies at Birkbeck College and was able to indulge more readily in his passion for books, film, his catholic taste in music and his enjoyment of professional sport.

Mike enjoyed debating the issues of the day with friends, perhaps harping back to his involvement with the debating society at school. He had a keen interest in politics and all sporting issues and always argued his position cogently but with a ready awareness and understanding of other points of view. In particular he revelled in the

'competitive' element of the debate at the regular lunches with a group of retired school friends – likened by one of the group to the characters in Kingsley Amis's book, 'The Old Devils'. Mike usually came out top when it came to verbal dexterity, despite being up against some formidable rivals!

Most of all, however, we remember him for his compassion, his honesty and his keen and infectious sense of humour. He could not stand pretension and, as one close friend said – "Mike kept us all honest". Two comments from tributes at his funeral stand out: he was 'totally unpretentious and completely his own man, a person of integrity with a great wit that was very accurate and very funny but never malicious or cruel'; and 'Mike was a warm, caring and gentle man, he was erudite and anyone who listened to his descriptive conversation knew that his command and use of the English language was second to none'. Typically, even during his battle with cancer he humbled us with his first thoughts always being compassion and concern for his friends and their families.

Mike had a long and happy marriage to Joyce, whom he frequently referred to as 'his rock', and they were both very proud of the achievements of their two boys.



ANTHONY DAVID GABRIEL SWABEY 1936 – 2010

Tony was brought up in West Molesey. He came to Tiffins in 1948, and we became friends about a year later. We soon learned how to lighten the daily routine by imitating the masters and laughing at their idiosyncrasies. Tony had a lively, keen and imaginative mind, and could have done well academically, but there was in him a certain *lack of application*, as school reports used to say in those days. He was also mildly eccentric, in a quite unselfconscious way: for three or four terms he wore with his school blazer a waistcoat with watch and chain.

We were both much influenced by the daily act of worship led by the Headmaster, J J Harper, and were members of the school Christian Union. In 1953, probably as a result of watching the Coronation on television, Tony went for the first time to his parish church, St Peter's West Molesey, and got me to go too. For him it was the beginning of a commitment to the faith which endured: in his last years, when he was housebound with chronic ill health, he regularly received Holy Communion at home.

(For me, this introduction led to ordination and many other blessings, and I am ever grateful to Tony for that.)

After National Service with the RAF, he worked for a time in what was then the Labour Exchange in Kingston, and then he and his young family moved to Scotland, near Edinburgh, where he was a successful Area Manager of Scottish Rehabilitation Centres.

In recent years, Tony received much help and support at home from neighbours and professional carers, and used his time profitably by reading and some writing. He used to e-mail his friends with extracts from 'The Parchment Papers'. These were drawn from the imaginary journal of Squire Parchment, a rough, jolly, hard-drinking, earthy, eighteenth-century Tory landowner. The stories were written in the style of that age, all outrageous and extremely funny.

At Tony's Requiem at Holy Trinity Dunfermline on 24th August was sung the hymn 'Glorious things of thee are spoken / Zion, city of our God', a favourite of his, in which occur the words 'Solid joys and lasting treasure'. May these things be his inheritance now.

D C V



GERALD FREDERICK WHATLEY 1925– 2009

Gerry was born in London on 8th November 1925 and passed away peacefully in Ridge Meadows Hospital in Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada on 27th December 2009. He was pre-deceased by Veronica, his beloved wife of almost 61 years. He is survived by his sons John and Raymond, daughter Barbara Desjardins, sister Joy and loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. After serving in the British Royal Navy, Gerry moved with his family to Windsor, Ontario, Canada and retired to Pitt Meadows, British Columbia, Canada from a long career with Ford Motor Company. He was an enthusiastic pilot of both radio-controlled and full size aircraft, and enjoyed snooker, golf and fishing. A Gathering in Remembrance was held at 11:00 am on Saturday 9th January 2010 and was well attended, with warm memories contributed and shared by family and friends.

We regret to announce also the deaths of

MALCOLM TERRY (1950), PETER WARN (1956) and JIM GREENWOOD (Head of English in the 1960s).

OT Rugby Football Club

Welcome to the new season - new faces, a new league, new socials, new hopes and expectations, and hopefully no new dust clouds.

Old Tiffs have kicked off their pre-season with an impressive Club win over Surrey 1 side Kingston, followed by the second outing for the Old Tiffs Annual Sevens Tournament. The day was a tremendous success, with team 2008 combining with team 2007 to form an unstoppable force and retain the Cup against a spirited 2004 team. The 94/01/03 team made it through to the Plate final by means of some on-field match-fixing Pakistan would have been proud of, and saw off the 2002 Pink and Black Zebras who by then had run out of steam.

A huge thanks to all those who took part, either playing or supporting, and even bigger thanks to TIPRA, Steve Cathcart, Paddy and Gloria for organising and ensuring the day went so well.

If the day gave you the itch to throw on some boots more regularly, then Old Tiffs RFC would love to welcome you to play. As I write, the season starts in a few weeks (Surrey 2) and we run two regular teams.

For details, please contact me on 07947 546 390 or on email fentiman11@yahoo.co.uk, and please see our new website for news, photos, updates and match reports, (www.otrfc.com).

JAMES FENTIMAN

Mick Rootsey visit

If this 'Tiffnews' reaches you in time, you may be interested to know that that **Mick Rootsey** and his wife, Di, are visiting the country from Australia and hope to be at the Rugby Club's game on Saturday **9th October** against Farnham, and either during or after the game they would love to meet-up with anyone who played rugby or went to School with Mick.

Vice Presidents' & Ex-players' Lunch

This will take place on **Saturday 30th October** at Grist's, and the opponents that day will be The Law Society. Tickets are priced at £20 (which includes some wine & beer on the tables). All are welcome. Tickets can be obtained from Peter Smith on 020 8398 4748.

OT Golf Society

Our June fixture at Guildford Golf Club took place on a breezy, mostly cloudy, day with fine views from the golf course. The match was against Old Surbs, where we have many friends, and they are always good company. On the day, however, Old Tiffs could manage only 8 players plus a guest, while Old Surbs managed 24 !! I think the outcome was predictable, with Old Surbs retaining the trophy they won last year at Farnham. We did however have the overall winner, with John Pitchford returning 41 points. Our second was Allan Piggott with 36 and third Geoff Howes with 34 points. Front and back 9 prizes went to Peter Smith and Nigel Pimm, our only scratch golfer. It was great to see Nigel join us for a fun event, after all the serious golf he has played. John Edney was this time part of the opposition !

Our next fixture was the Surrey Schools Old Boys match at Clandon Regis, and our team of 6 consisted of Paul Baker, Stuart Lester, Allan Piggott, John Pitchford, Ian Redington & Nick Wright. 10 schools entered this year and a few more have expressed interest in entering next year. Old Tiffs came a very creditable third place, behind Old Surbs (again !!) and Old Rutlishians. Nick Wright was our top scorer with 41 points.

Then in early August we had our 10-a-side better ball match against KCS Old Boys at Royal Wimbledon, for which we have recently jointly purchased a trophy. Our team was David Lester, Tim Whittaker, Mike Goodbun, Martin Williams, Allan Piggott, Nick Wright, Duncan Knowles, Stuart Lester, Geoff Howes & Ian Redington. KCS won three of the matches and we won two, which was a good result, given their greater familiarity with Royal Wimbledon. Congratulations to our two winning pairs of Goodbun / Williams and Howes / Redington.

Our final meeting of the year, open to everyone, will be at Cuddington Golf Club on Thursday 28th October. The format for the day is a cooked breakfast at 08.45, we have the tee from 10.00 and a late lunch to follow. Any OT golfer who would like to join us for that event, please contact me on 01483 282411 or email allan.piggott@btinternet.com

ALLAN PIGGOTT

OT Football Club

As we prepare for the start of a new season, we should like to invite all members of the Tiffin community and their friends who want to play Saturday afternoon football to come and play for us. We run multiple teams, offering players across the spectrum of playing ability and age the opportunity of playing amateur football week in and week out across the season. We currently run 3 league sides and a Vets team, but this can change as player numbers dictate.

Pre-season friendlies began on 21st August, and further matches have been arranged for each week until the league season starts, providing players with the opportunity to get some match fitness and to get to know other players within the Club. The Vets begin their season on 4th September with a home game against Claygate.

The league season starts on Saturday 11th September for the 1st team, with the other league sides starting their competitive matches the following week. You can follow our league and cup fixtures and success or otherwise by visiting the comprehensive league website at www.amateurfootballcombination.com on a weekly basis.

Any new players looking to play this season are invited to contact Club Secretary Errol Walker on 07984 473074 or to join us for training at Grist's, which is currently being held on Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm.

We should also be pleased to hear from any qualified referees able to officiate at our home games.

STEVE JOHNSON, Chairman

97th OT Skiff Marathon

This year's race took place on Sunday 16th May. The weather was perfect and the river conditions were calm. The regular crews were formed for this year's race with Neil Mears making a return to replace Julian Kapica who unfortunately has suffered with the rower's eternal challenge, a bad back. As the 2009 race was very close, it enabled the handicaps for 2010 to be reduced, giving the spectators the chance to see all crews in close proximity.

Andy Powell and John Roberts set off first, followed by Peter Lawson and a brave Ashley Tilling who would have been sensible and withdrawn with a bad back, but, not to let his crew down, he took his wife as cox to keep an eye on him as he competed. This year's new combination of Tony Ellis and Neil Mears started next, closely followed by multiple winners David Gattey and David Powell.

The two Davids showed the style and caught Tony & Neil soon after Dittons bend and then closed on the other crews. Tony and Neil managed to catch the other two crews soon after Ravens Ait, and all crews raced together down the last 1000M straight to Kingston Bridge.

By this stage of the race most crews were showing some tiredness; however, the tactic of Peter and Ashley to take it easy early on paid off and they almost re-took Tony and Neil at the line.

Trophies were presented at the Dittons Club soon after by our regular chief supporter, Harry Prior.

Dittons Skiff and Punting Club continue to provide their support for the event. It is a great day out and I encourage any Tiffinians to try the sport. The event will be held at a similar date and time in May 2011. The Centenary event will be held in 2013, just 3 years to go. Please start to think of ideas for the 2013 race, traditional dress, boaters and blazers, all prior winners compete, after-race dinner, etc. If you are interested in competing, please contact Tony on tony.ellis@ge.com

| Results: | Race time | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| David Powell & David Gattey | 23.19 | Fastest Crew |
| Neil Mears & Tony Ellis | 23.43 | Handicap winners |
| Ashley Tilling & Peter Lawson | 24.16 | |
| Andy Powell & John Robert | 25.16 | |

TONY ELLIS

Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives :

- a) a Lovekyn Cup rowing medal from 1937 bearing the name of Allan Picknett, whose widow kindly presented it to the School. The School Boat Club paid tribute to him by naming a boat after him this summer.
- b) from Bill Neate (1956) an original copy of the School Song.
- c) from the family of Philip Martin (1914) a collection of Tiffin memorabilia. The most precious of these are a bound copy of several magazines from 1890-95 and two scrapbooks containing a variety of newspaper cuttings and other items from the early days of the Old Tiffinian Club up to the 1950s. Prior to the first printed copy of *'The Tiffinian'* in 1918, a hand-written magazine was passed around amongst pupils — quite an undertaking, as even in those days there were about 120 pupils. The scrapbooks include Surrey Comet articles covering discussions in the town over the site of a new Tiffin School. In 1914 proposals were put forward to build the new school on the unenclosed portion of the Fairfield and later on the Denmark Road site.

QUESTIONS OUTSTANDING

Concerning the Juniors, a number of questions remain unanswered. Can anyone confirm that the Juniors did (or did not) pay fees ? Did the Juniors finish at 3.30, while the rest went on till 4.00 ? Why were the Juniors closed down in 1941 ? We know it was a rushed affair, because places had already been allocated, when parents received a letter telling them their boy would go straight into the First Year, despite their age. It may be that the war authorities ordered the school to give up the Junior room in Elmfield, as it was the only room in that building big enough to accommodate a Communications Centre. The records also indicate that the Juniors closed down before the last day of the Summer Term, so presumably there was some urgency. We know of two instances where boys were admitted at the age of only 7 ! Surely this was the youngest age on record ? How was such a young boy handled in the system ? Did he stay with the same form for 3 years ? In the 1930s the Governors were demanding that no boy be admitted before the age of 10, so younger boys were still being admitted at that time.

MUSIC IN THE NEW SCHOOL (contd.)

Pre-War

In the years leading up to the war there was a series of great shows put on by the Tiffin Musical and Dramatic people. The first of these shows was *'Floradora'* staged in the school hall on April 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th & 13th 1935, and the entry was two shillings per head. Again the performance was enhanced by the presence among the players of several Tiffin Girls' School pupils. Equally again many names are printed on pages 36-38 of the school magazine for the Spring Term 1935. The 1936 success was again operatic *'The Count of Como'*. Surprisingly no performance dates are given, but again named performers are given on pages 17-19 of the school magazine for the Spring Term 1936. Though an advert for *'The Scarlet Pimpernel'* was published, I can find no sign that a production took place – verification, please. What certainly did take place were the choral and orchestral concerts of March 18th & 20th 1937. Guest conductors were Mr Hambourg and Mr Kingston, well-known conductors. The school choir also took part, and present was a ladies only choir, the origin of which is uncertain. There was also a production of *'Lets Go'* late in the Autumn Term.

The next major production was the *'Vagabond King'*. Mr Hambourg not only conducted the orchestra but also co-produced the play. Then came *'The Amazing Dr Clitterhouse'* in the Autumn Term 1938. Both proved great successes; again there are names of players available in the school magazine of the Autumn Term 1939 (pages 27-28). The conductor, Mr Hambourg was again to the fore, conducting the orchestra in *'Miss Hook of Holland'* produced for four nights April 12th-15th 1939, comments on cast on pages 46-48 of the Spring Term 1939 magazine. The Musical and Dramatic Society also produced a programme for

1940, but we all know what happened to that, as government regulations forbade gatherings of any great size, and also the players themselves were scattered to the four winds by the war effort.

It should be pointed out that, apart from the above, the orchestra also played at routine events such as Speech Days, Sports Days and Carol Concerts and other Christmas celebrations, year after year.

During the second half of the 1930s the band and drums saw its reputation spreading. They regularly played at the Kingston Regatta, and also most years played at the annual camps, usually held at Hunstanton in Norfolk. A great influence was the leadership of Drum Major Norris, who led the band admirably. To some the title of the band was the Marching Band, but, in spite of its excellent marching at Sports Days, it could also play seated. When Drum Major Norris was appointed, the strength of the band was nearly 100. At camp under Mr Hind's baton the band went to camp, and then a few days later they played at the Hunstanton Hall's fete before giving a concert of their own. The second Sunday saw them playing in divine service followed by, later in the week, performing at the officers' mess. There was also a night concert which ended with over a thousand singing *'Abide With Me'*. In the summer term of 1936 the band played at Farnham Castle, giving a concert in the afternoon and then playing *'Retreat'* in the evening. Later they played at Cottenham Park. Next term the band played at a youth rally and then, back in Kingston, played at the accession of George VI. The summer term saw bookings which sent the band in May to a Civic Church parade, a Coronation Parade and then in the evening they took part in a concert on the Fairfield. The very next day took them to the Kingstonian Football Field for a folk drama display, and then in the next few weeks they played at no fewer than three fetes. Drum Major Norris left school to be replaced by Drum Major Mitchell, as conductor Mr Hind departed, to be replaced by Mr Silley.

In the summer term, in addition to the visits to the usual fetes, the band went to the Kingston Civic Festival. There was a failure to send a band to the annual camp as in the previous year, but the band went in the next year to the one at Cheltenham, where they performed several times to great acclaim.

For reasons not clear to me, in which the Mayor of Kingston had a part, the Cadet Corps transferred its allegiance to the newly formed Air Defence Cadet Corps, changing uniform from khaki to blue. This new organisation was termed to be No 28 (Tiffin Corps) Squadron attached to No 17 Squadron RAF, then stationed at Kenley, and the band went with them. At that time Mr Silley carried on the work of Mr Hind, playing, as they always did, at Regatta Day, Speech Day and Sports Day. On Armistice Day 1938, the band played before the Kingston War Memorial and then next term at the Surbiton Assembly Rooms. For the first time in August 1939, the band could be heard on the radio, but unfortunately, owing to a thunderstorm, reception was poor. Prior to the 1939 camp, at which they did not appear, the band was very busy, starting off with an ARP demonstration, where they alternated with the East Surrey Band. This was followed by 'military' engagements, twice at Kenley, at the opening of the Richmond & Barnes ADCC and at an inspection of the East Surrey Cadets. Also they played at a YMCA fete and on Canbury Gardens and then into the summer holidays at an open air service at Molesey.

BRIAN BUNKER (to be continued)

Remembrance Day Service

This will take place on
Thursday 11th November
(meeting at 10.30am).

Numbers are limited, but if any OTs would like to attend, please contact
Alex Swift at the School
TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

Queen Elizabeth Road News

School Boat Club

TSBC had a very exciting summer season, which began with the prestigious National Schools' Regatta in Nottingham. The Club entered seven events from J14 quads to Senior singles, and we were pleased to have had so many boats qualify in such tough conditions. The standout performance of the day was undoubtedly that of the recently graduated Jonathan Williams, who collected a bronze medal in an extremely difficult category. We hope to return next year to see even more boats make it into the knockout rounds.

With a comparatively depleted senior squad, TSBC fought hard to remain competitive in the top level regattas. A composite crew combining Tiffin's George Nottidge with rowers from Windsor Boys, KRC and Henley competed at the Met and Marlowe Regattas as an Elite quad, winning the latter. This victory led the way for the quad to attempt to qualify for Henley Royal Regatta in July. This Elite quad was entered in the Prince of Wales Cup and was a mere two seconds off qualifying, while the Junior Quad comprised J16s and J17s were entered in the Fawley Cup, but also narrowly failed to qualify. The Club continues to aim for qualification and we hope our work this term and in the spring season should assist us in this.

The year finished with the ever popular Kingston Regatta, which is always a great way for TSBC to succeed on home ground. Tiffin made a strong showing by winning three events, J18 singles, J15 coxed quads

and a great new addition to the regatta, J12 doubles. All of the support on the banks was greatly appreciated! Just before the school broke up for the summer TSBC hosted the annual House Regatta, which saw both novice and veteran rowers team up to win points for their Houses. The event was made even more exciting by the naming of the Club's newly purchased quad, the 'Alan Picknett' (see photo below). The boat was named after a recently deceased old Tiffinian who spent much of his time at Tiffin on the river, and whose widow kindly sent the Boat Club medals Picknett won while rowing for the Club. This great event was capped off by the news that Tiffin's Tim Livingston had taken the Concept 2 erg record by rowing 1,249 meters in just four minutes – a fabulous way to end the year!

KRISTINA FERRARO



Hilda Clarke, George Nottidge (outgoing Captain of Boats) & John King

School Cricket

This was a difficult year for school cricket. Not only were results at the top of the school disappointing, but more boys than ever opted out of upper school cricket as a result of the examination season. The 1st XI had a disastrous start in a match that they had dominated for 95% of the game. It was a numbing experience, from which they never really recovered. Happily, there was a silver lining, and the post-examination period saw a tremendous finish to the year, with the side enjoying a brilliant tour in Holland (photos below) and finishing the season with a run of 7 wins from 9 matches. Kamran Toor and Gevindu Liyanage were the leading run-scorers and wicket-takers respectively, both enjoying a very good season. Prospects for 2011 at this level look

reasonably rosy with a good proportion of the XI returning for a second or third season in the side. Lower down the school, the Under 12s are full of promise and learnt quickly under Chris O'Connell after a shaky start. The Under 13s were fortunate to secure the services of Old Tiffinian Rathulan Gnanendran for the entire summer term. His work with them was invaluable and they have now started to play some properly competitive cricket. Tim McCann continues to coach the Under 14 side with consistent success, whilst Alex Marley and the Under 15s enjoyed a season of mixed fortunes.

A short tour of Devon was all that the Tits could muster this year and the Tercels enjoyed 4 fixtures, a number that we are hoping to increase in 2011 due to a surge of post-youthful enthusiasm.

MARTIN WILLIAMS



Performing Arts

The Summer holidays saw two successful musical tours take place, the choir travelling to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and the Thames Youth Orchestra and Swing Band performing in Catalonia.

The Choir's performances in the Baltic States were special, drawing full houses and standing ovations in every concert. Especially memorable was the concert in Vilnius, where every nook and cranny of St Casimir's Church was occupied by audience, whether standing or sitting on the floor. The intensity of the choir's singing was surely influenced by moving trips to the Latvian Occupation Museum in Riga and the KGB headquarters in Vilnius, as well as by hearing stories first hand from locals about their experiences. As ever, these strong cultural experiences (as well as seeing Toy Story 3D in Tallinn and sword fighting in an Estonian castle!) will stay with us for a long time. Further information, including the boys' accounts of life on tour, is available at www.tiffinboyschoir.com

The Youth Orchestra gave three well attended concerts in Barcelona at the end of August, with highlights including Patrick Milne performing 'Rhapsody in Blue' and orchestra repertoire encompassing Milhaud's 'Le Boeuf sur le toit', Prokofiev's 'Classical Symphony', Arnold's 'Clarinet Concerto' and Vaughan Williams's 'English Folk Song Suite'. You can view clips of one of the concerts online at www.gloria.tv (with the strap-line "the more Catholic, the better"). As most of the Swing Band also play in the TYO, an outdoor performance was arranged, beginning at 10pm, in which the Band played to over 500 people, and the piazza turned into a gigantic dance floor! The orchestra is in terrific form at the moment – do check out their future plans by visiting www.thamesyouthorchestra.org.uk

There are plenty of events taking place this term, and I hope we may see you at some of them. In particular, please note that the Carol Service this year is on a Tuesday – this is to allow the boys to sing in Tannhauser at the Royal Opera House on the Wednesday evening.

We welcome several new members to the Performing Arts Faculty staff this term: Carmelina Critcher (Music Secretary), Hugo Fagandini (TYO Administrator), Lucy Hughes (Head of Drama), Nik Partridge (Drama Assistant) and Philip Viveash (Music). Lucy and Nik are directing 'Richard III' as the Main School Production in December – last year's production sold out well in advance, so be sure to get your tickets early !

SIMON TOYNE



Performing Arts Calendar

OCTOBER

Wednesday 20th, 7 pm (Main Hall) - Year 7 Inter-Form Choir Competition involving all of Year 7

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 2nd, 7.30 pm (Parish Church) - Boys' Choir sings Durufle Requiem as part of Requiem Mass service

Wednesday 3rd, 7.30 pm (Main Hall) - Oratorio rehearsal (instead of Tues 2nd)

Sunday 14th, 7.30 pm (Rose Theatre) - ORATORIO CONCERT Mendelssohn *Elijah*, Sarah Fox, soprano, Miranda Westcott, mezzo-soprano, Justin Lavender, tenor, Michael Bundy, bass-baritone, Sinfonia Britannica
Simon Toyne, conductor

Wednesday 17th Nov, 7 pm (Main Hall) - Instrumental Concert Featuring the Orchestra, Second Orchestra, Concert Band, Samba Band, Horn Group, Massed Strings and Swing Band

Thursday 18th Nov, 7 pm (Drama Studio) - Year 10 & 11 Dance Night

DECEMBER

Thursday 2nd, 7 pm (Walden Hall) - Ensembles Concert involving all Music Year I I GCSE & A Level music students performing their own ensembles

Tuesday 7th - STRINGS DAY involving all string players in the school culminating in a concert at 7 pm in the Main Hall

Wednesday 8th - Saturday 11th Dec, 7 pm; also Saturday matinee at 2 pm (Main Hall) THE SCHOOL PLAY Shakespeare *Richard III* directed by Lucy Hughes

Saturday 11th, 6.30 pm (Royal Opera House) - Boys' Choir (15 trebles) in *Tannhäuser* - also 15, 22, 27, 30 December at 6.30 pm 19 December, 2 January at 3 pm

Tuesday 14th, 7.30 pm (Royal Albert Hall) Children's Chorus and Training Choir sing in BT Christmas Concert

Also **Tuesday 14th**, 7.30 pm (Parish Church) - A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols sung by the Tiffin Boys' Choir

Saturday 18th, 7.30 pm (Parish Church) Thames Youth Orchestra Christmas Concert with Kingston Parish Church Choir and Thames Youth Choir

Thursday 23rd, 7.30 pm (Royal Opera House) - Children's Chorus and Boys' Choir (12 girls & 13 boys) in *Hansel and Gretel*- also 3, 4, 7 January at 7.30 pm; 28, 29 December at 12.30 pm; 31 December at 12 pm; 1 January at 6 pm

