



# Newsletter of Tiffinian Association No. 247 MARCH 2011

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Copy for  
next edition  
by  
9th May

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## From the Head's Study

Dear Tiffinians,

The beginning of March each year is a key date in the life of the School. On this date, the parents of the prospective new Year 7 for the following September hear the news that their son has been awarded a place at Tiffin School. This year we had just over 1,500 candidates sit the 11+ examination for the 140 places in September 2011. It is a very nervous time for all parents of this age group, and we know that there are many able boys who will not get a place owing to the heavy oversubscription for places.

At this same time, we are also starting to meet with students who want to join our Sixth Form in the following September. Again, we shall be heavily oversubscribed for the number of places that we offer to students from outside the School. We are fortunate to be such a successful and attractive school, and, as we move closer to becoming an Academy school, it is encouraging to see the how strong the School is and how it stands at the forefront of secondary education in our area.



We have been receiving very good news of the successes of our students in this year's round of Oxbridge applications. 21 students have now received offers – and in a year where applications in many cases have risen by nearly 30%, not just for Oxbridge but also for other leading universities. The competition is very fierce this year. With the introduction of increased fees for September 2012 there have been very few students taking gap years or delaying entry for any reason. Our best wishes go to all our university applicants as they compete in this very congested market.

I look forward to meeting many Tiffinians at the Oxbridge Dinner to be held at St John's College, Cambridge on Saturday 5th March and in the forthcoming events in the summer term, such as the reunion in July. The School richly benefits from the assistance that Tiffinians give us in coming into the School to talk with students about their university experiences, careers and specialist studies. We welcome Wing Commander Simon Paul who is coming in on the 22nd March to talk to Sixth Formers about his career and particularly his work at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey.

Yours sincerely,

*HILDA CLARKE*, Headteacher

## OT Skiff Marathon

The 98th Skiff Marathon will take place on

**Sunday 15th May.**

(Our Centenary event will be in 2013.)

Entries are accepted from any Old Tiffinian of any age or standard, to race for the main trophy or the handicap event. Contact me on 07884 065629 (Mob) or email [ellispeel@btinternet.com](mailto:ellispeel@btinternet.com)

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

If you and your friends have not already done so, do register on the new website [www.TiffinFriends.org](http://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 hope that Christmas was kind to you all and that so far the New Year has been similar.



I was re-elected Chairman at the Trustee meeting following the November AGM, so I am afraid you have another year of my take on 'things Tiffinian'. I don't think that I have previously reported that James Strong (left in 2003) became a trustee in 2010 and has also taken over chairmanship of the 'working group', where many of the ways in which the Association develops are initiated. James is of course a relatively recent leaver and is just the sort of person the Association needs to drive it forward and make it relevant to a wider audience, and he has already contributed much, particularly in relation to the Association website (<http://www.tiffinfriends.org>) and expanding our numbers. We now have well over 600 Tiffinians who have registered through the website, and more are doing so every day. By far the majority are new to the Association. So if you haven't already registered or know of others who haven't done so, then take this as a call to action.

In addition, Atula Abeysekera also agreed to become a trustee. Atula's son, Kushala (Kush), is now a final year medical student and since leaving the school has regularly returned to help and advise boys aspiring to the medical profession. As a result there have been an increasing number of boys applying for Medicine and related degree courses. Kush is in the process of establishing a 'Tiffin Medics' Group, which, amongst other things, could advise boys and Tiffin Medical students on their careers, provide networking and many other opportunities (I suspect 'social' might fit into this category!) for those involved. So if you have an involvement in the medical world, even if you are retired, why not sign up for the group? This can be done via Alex Swift at the School. Personally I think this is a fantastic initiative and will hopefully provide a blueprint for other special interest groups within the Tiffinian community. It is one of the reasons why we exist and for many of such groups it would be an easy opportunity to help contribute to not only self-improvement but also to help others.

We are having some very encouraging discussions between ourselves and the School as to how we might get the best out of Grist. In particular, to get it under one management team which should help to optimise its use and one would expect also reduce costs. More of this, as discussions evolve.

Now, to return to other things I should report on. Prior to Christmas, Mary and I enjoyed two Tiffinian 'events'. I mentioned in my previous letter that we were due to go to see an updated version of Richard III in the school hall. Not one of Shakespeare's 'lightest' stories, but absolutely superb performances commanded the attention throughout and made it a very stimulating evening.

The Carol Service was as good as ever, and it was great to see a good few Tiffinian faces in the audience. This year, though, there was a big difference - the back of the Parish Church is now used a lot as a community area for the public

during the week, and we (i.e. the Association) were allowed to set up a bar there with mulled wine and other refreshments. This was a great success, and everyone was able to meet together socially without having to go off somewhere else. We were also entertained by an impromptu performance by a few of the choir who have formed a close harmony group called 'The Tiffinians'. They sang a mixture of musical genres for our entertainment. Best of all, it all worked really well and should be something you put in your diaries for this year!

There will be an increasing number of activities for members of the Association to participate in during 2011. Many of these can be found elsewhere in this edition. At the beginning of March, I am due to go to the Oxbridge Dinner in Cambridge (not I hasten to add by virtue of education but in my role as Chairman!). This event is held every five years, and Brian Holden and Gareth John have put in a lot of work to organise it. Another 'reunion' is planned for 1st July at the school, after the success of last year's. Do have a look and see what is going on - this can be done on the website too, and there is also the facility to book events.

**In my last letter, I mentioned that the Trustees feel that the cost of producing and despatching 'Tiffnews' and 'The Tiffinian' is a significant cost burden on the Association that could be mitigated, if members received 'Tiffnews' on line. For just about as long as I can remember, the annual contribution from members has been no more than £15/head and during that period there have been significant increases in cost. At the same time we do recognise that some members do not have the ability to receive publications on line and that most of these will now be retired.**

**We are asking that to continue receiving 'Tiffnews' and 'The Tiffinian' by post an annual donation of at least £35 p.a. is made. Whilst we are still allowed to do so under Equality legislation and in recognition that this may cause some members difficulty, those who were born on or before 30 September 1946 and are resident in the UK may continue to only pay at the existing level of £15 p.a., but we would ask, if you can afford to do so, that you consider donating £35 or more.**

**Enclosed with this edition of 'Tiffnews' you should find a standing order form, which I would ask you to complete in order to update your contribution if you wish to continue receiving 'Tiffnews' via the postal system after October this year. An email will be sent out when a new edition of 'Tiffnews' is published (the latest and previous editions can already be sourced via the website).**

**Thank you for your help in this matter. We do recognise that it is extra cost, but we feel the Association needs to act now to ensure we are financially strong enough to make more of a difference in the future.**

Before I close, the rate of Gift Aid reduces at the end of the current financial year and so, if anyone was thinking of making a donation to the Association; it would be very helpful to receive it by the end of March before the Government's contribution reduces. Again Alex Swift can help if you have any queries.

With kind regards

IAN REDINGTON

## Dates for your Diary

### Thursday 7th April

- OT Social Lunch

### Friday 8th April

- School Term ends

### Tuesday 26th April

- Summer Term Begins

### Tuesday 3rd , Wed 4th & Thursday 5th May

- School Concert 7.00pm School Hall

### Sunday 15th Mat

- OT Skiff Marathon

### Monday 16th May

- Golf Society v. Old Kingstonians at Surrey Downs

### Monday 28th May

- Half Term week

### Thursday 9th June pm

- Golf Society v. Old Surbs at Puttenham

### Friday 1st July pm

- Golf Society v. Surrey Schools Old Boys at Clandon Regis
- Summer Reunion at the School

### Thursday 7th July

- OT Social Lunch

### Friday 15th July

- Tiffin-in-the-Garden
- Tiffin Swing Band at the Rose

### 21st July – 8th August

- Choir tour of Australia

(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))

## Chairman of Governors



Phil (Pip) Phillips (1967 to 1974) was elected Chairman of Governors and Chairman of the Tiffin School Foundation in September 2010. He has been a Governor since February 2009 and is also a Trustee of Tiffinian Association Limited and of Tiffinian Limited.

During his time at Tiffin, he was Captain of Rugby, Deputy Head Boy and Captain of Kingsley-Montgomery. A keen sportsman, Phil was capped for England Schools against Wales at Twickenham in 1971 and held Surrey County and Surrey AAA titles in Shot, Discus and Pentathlon. He still holds a school athletics sprint relay record and was also a regular in the School 1st chess team. Phil won an Open Scholarship to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, in 1974 reading Physics (the rumour is he caught the rugby ball thrown at him at interview and threw the Principal a dummy!) graduating in 1977. He has spent his entire working career in investment banking, in London, Korea, Japan, the USA and Hong Kong, establishing a new firm Capstar Partners in New York in 1990 with four US partners, which he left recently in 2010. Phil met his wife Sunok in Korea in 1987.

They live in Barnes, and have two children, Jason (19) who is now a sophomore at Harvard University and Elizabeth (12) who attends Godolphin & Latymer School.

## Tiffinian School Summer Reunion

**Friday 1st July 2011 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Tiffin School**

**An opportunity to see the School and catch up with friends and teachers.**

**The event is open to all Tiffin alumni and friends of Tiffin School.**

**Evening drinks in the Head's Garden will be accompanied by music from the Tiffin School Swing Band.**

**Places are restricted and we anticipate demand to be high.**

**Please book your place via the Events page of the [www.TiffinFriends.org](http://www.TiffinFriends.org) website or by writing to Alex Swift, the TAL Administrator.**

**Comments after last year's reunion include:**

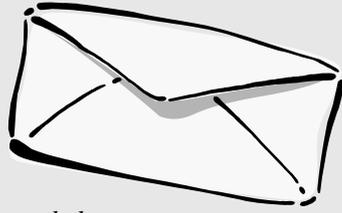
*'I thought it was great fun....'*

*'I met a number of people who I had not seen for years.'*

*'Lots of reminiscing all round!'*

*'I thoroughly enjoyed it. I wish I could have stayed longer but had to get back to Marlborough on public transport. I look forward to the next one.'*

# Letters



Dear Brian,  
In about 1942, the school took part in a 'Farm Week', which entailed a gang of us trooping off to Thursley, near Godalming, to help gather in part of the harvest at a farm owned by a Mr Fred Secrett. His claim to fame was that he had installed a system of galvanised pipes all across certain of his fields, so that they could be irrigated by a simple turn of a valve during dry spells. Our first job was following the potato 'Spinner', which, as its name implies, spun round at a goodly speed and whizzed the potatoes out of the ground like a dose of salts. We then had to pick up the spuds and put them into sacks, which would be taken off us when full and replaced. It was backbreaking work, and when we repaired to our Bell Tents (courtesy of the School Scout Group) we didn't need any rocking.

Same next day until the field was clear. Our next job was Onion Bending, and for this we had to walk along the rows of almost full grown onions and bend the top foliage right down as far as we could so as to encourage the onion bulbs to grow bigger. That too was backbreaking work but was also very smelly and we all went home with our clothes stinking of onions. Food was cooked by the Masters and some of the wives and in general was pretty good.

One night, some of the sixth formers took us 14 year olds down to the village pub and plied us with rough cider. Boy, did we have hangovers the next day, but nobody told the staff what had happened.

All in all, we enjoyed the week. I hated the community singing at night round the camp fire. The songs were so fatuous and simply childlike, but the masters enjoyed it so what did we care.

I don't know if any more such weeks were held. I wouldn't have gone on another one nor was I ever a Scout.

Sincerely,

Geoff Hunt (1944)

Dear Brian,

Dick Halloway writes in the December edition about early finishes to the school day in the 1930s, when the fog clamped down in the winter. Certainly this welcome – at least to me – practice continued in the early 1960s under Brig. Harper. As I remember, the whole school was spared the last period of the day, when a fog blanket descended in earnest and the light began to fade about 2.30pm. I waited in hope for a Prefect to come round with the good news, when conditions looked promising, but sometimes we were disappointed.

The Clean Air Act was in 1956 (?), but I rather think that the Kingston fogs of the 1960s were still smoggy, with the concomitant of the contents of a blown nose coming down black. New Malden, where I lived in 1956 was part of a smokeless zone, and my parents had to switch to the smokeless fuel Coalite. In contrast, Worcester Park, where the family moved a couple of years later, was outside the zone, and you could burn what you liked.

The other strong winter memory of that time is of cross-country running through the back streets of Kingston and in Richmond Park, which always seemed to be snow-covered, to get a House point. This memory encompasses the 'voluntary' All Weather Running Club after school on Tuesdays, the annual cross-country races with a marquee for changing in Richmond Park, the desperate cold waiting for the start while attired in thin shorts and PE top, keeping woollen gloves on until the last minute to minimise

numb finger tips. You were not of course allowed to run wearing gloves!

Best Wishes

Colin Knappitt (1964)

Dear Brian,

I was tempted into musical theatre when two of our teachers, Rolland Jones and Denis Bloodworth, wrote a comic opera entitled 'The Man of Enterprise', a fictional version of the story of Guy Fawkes. This treatment had Guy Fawkes (Colin Still) portrayed as an innocent dupe, who went on to marry the Prime Minister's daughter (Nigel Palk). It was produced in December 1953.

I had a comic part as the leader of the conspirators, who tricked Guy Fawkes into carrying the can for the botched Gunpowder Plot. The 'Surrey Comet' described me as 'a sinister combination of Sancho Panza and Groucho Marx, in an incredible hat, singing a number with more than a trace of The Red Flag'.

To digress, this wasn't the only time I've been likened to Groucho Marx. Many years later I was staying in Düsseldorf on business. One evening we went into a bar where a British jazz band was playing. Between numbers the bandleader commented to the customers that I reminded him of the wise-cracking Marx. A year later when we returned to the same bar, the leader immediately stopped playing and announced 'Hello, Groucho's back!'

'The Man of Enterprise' had a narrator in the form of a traditional guy, dressed in rags, who was pushed onto the stage in a wheelbarrow to tell the story of the 'original' Guy Fawkes. This scruffy guy went on to become Derek Wood CBE QC, Master of St Hugh's College, Oxford, and a leading expert on property law. I wonder if he still remembers his early life in a wheelbarrow?

About 30 years later I represented the electrical appliance industry in a meeting with representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry. I quickly recognised one of the DTI team as a former fellow-conspirator from 'The Man of Enterprise' (Tony Lloyd). When the meeting broke for coffee, the po-faced civil servants were regaled with a two-part rendition of the Red Flag-like number referred to by the 'Surrey Comet'. It went 'Conspirators are what we are, and that is what we choose to be!'. Fortunately, unlike our historical predecessors, we were not thrown into the Tower of London, or even burnt on a bonfire!

I went on to join the chorus in the OTMDS production in English of 'Les Cloches de Corneville', a once popular French operetta. This told of church bells, which, legend had it, would mysteriously chime of their own accord, when the true local Marquis returned to his rightful inheritance, replacing the evil impostor.

Last year we visited Burra, an old mining town in South Australia (yes, this is relevant!). The mines attracted many workers from Cornwall, and one part of the town is still known as Redruth. The mines have long since closed, and the town has become a living heritage site.

We visited the old town hall, which had been converted into a museum many years previously. It had a performance hall, and the first production after it was renovated in 1926 was... 'Les Cloches de Corneville'. What's more, the set of the original production was still intact on the stage. Obviously they hadn't had many bookings since then! That particular day visitors browsing among the memorabilia in the hall were startled to hear a ghostly bass voice performing the closing chorus of 'Les Cloches': '...Ding dong, ding dong bell! So the legend runneth, so the old folks tell'. Had the true Marquis returned at last? Perhaps not, but I still remembered the words after 56 years! Shame I can't remember what I did yesterday.

Yours,

Les Williams (1955)

# OT Football Club

Having made a promising start to the season, things began to falter, as the cold weather, cancelled matches and the Christmas break took their toll on player availability, fitness and performances.

The 1st XI have slipped to 6th in the league, having lost all 3 league games since the last report. The 2nd XI are currently 8th in the table with 2 wins, and 5 defeats since November. The 3rd team results of 1 win and 6 defeats since the last report has seen them slip from 2nd to 6th in their league. However, things are not all doom and gloom, and spirits and enthusiasm remain high in all teams. Whilst the 2s and 3s exited their cup competitions in the first rounds, the 1st team are having considerable success in the LOB Challenge Cup and on the 12th February emerged victorious in the quarter finals on penalties (5-4) against Tilbury Regents after drawing 2-2 after extra time. We wish them well in the semis.

Detailed reports on the 2s and 3s from Colin Waters and Ralph Stadie are given below.

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

The Vets side have a regular programme of fixtures throughout the season and are enjoying competitive games against regular old foes. Despite losing 5 games to the weather, 15 games have been played to date. Results so far have been mixed, with 5 wins, 5 draws (including a 0-0 draw – the first such result for many years) and 5 defeats.

## LEAGUE RESULTS TO 19 Feb 2011

1sts – AFC Division – Intermediate South. Captain – Tom Wightwick

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
11	4	3	3	19	23	-4	15	6th out of 10

2nds – AFC Division – Five South. Captain – Paul Cotterell

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
14	4	2	8	24	36	-12	14	8th out of 10

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
13	5	1	7	26	30	-4	16	6th out of 10

### The 2nd team report

The "terrible twos", as history is likely to remember us, made an early decision to concentrate on the league this season. This was taken care of by getting knocked out of each of the three cup competitions in the first round. Most memorable of these was a 12-1 (although it may have been 14) loss that not even the ref or Cottee could be blamed for! With cup glory deferred for yet another year, attention turned to the league. After an opening day defeat, the twos dared to dream after a sequence of two wins and two draws in October gave us nose-bleeds, as we reached the dizzy heights of third, tucked in behind the leaders, waiting to pounce. At this point, the team was far more than the sum of its parts. Whilst not the most skilful of outfits, we were well organised, difficult to break down and, with big Dan Brahma providing the inspiration as top scorer, with Mike "Makelele" Carpenter and Aussie "Where's my snood?" Andy ably assisting in the middle of the park, we had belief. However, October seems a long time ago and having been comfortably placed in mid-table at Christmas, the New Year has been less kind to us, with one win and five defeats plunging us into a relegation dogfight with four games to go. However, hope springs eternal and, despite some heavy defeats, the team's spirit is a real strength.

Cottee, as manager / goalkeeper extraordinaire would be phenomenal, if he could jump. However, having been unsuccessful in the January transfer window, he has performed heroics with a make-shift defence

in front of him – although special mention should be made of Dicky Van Bostelman (aka Mr Consistency) and James Platt (who has filled in at left-back admirably), who do their best to make up for veteran Colin (Winkle) Waters, who now turns slower than milk and possibly Pete Stevens. Aside from a shortage of defenders, the team has a glut of Bens, and it is surely only a matter of time before the team comprises 11 Bens. Wing wizard Ben Davies is in line for goal of the season for a wondrous volley in Catford, followed by an equally memorable celebration, reminiscent of Marco Tardelli in the 1982 World Cup Final. Ben Seabrook adds some much-needed finesse to the side and has scored some fine goals despite the Tourettes. Alex and Carl have brought some unpredictability to the team, with their level of performance depending on the extent of their hangovers, whilst Nari has been our enigmatic front-man, who makes life very difficult for defenders, without actually scoring many goals, ably supported by John, Justin and Chris.

In recent weeks, the team has benefited from the input of experienced Old Tiff players Simon Keane and Ben Riley, as well as the energy and skill of Conor Frehill and, fingers crossed, with this extra bit of quality, relegation will be avoided. Anyway, there's always next season!

*COLIN WATERS*

### 3rd Team report

The season started off pretty well, although, owing to an oversight with the league, we were only entered into one cup competition, which we were duly dispatched from against a side 5 divisions higher than us. We put in a good run of games and we were even on top of our division for one brief week in November and it looked as though it could turn out to be a promising season. That all went pear-shaped before Christmas, as we've now been on a slide of going 6 games without a win and now sit firmly in mid-table. Having said this, the games we've lost have been quite close, and, with a bit of boost in confidence in upcoming double-headers, we can look to change things around very quickly and move back up the table.

One thing we've benefited from this year is an abundance of players regularly available for selection, with a lot of them having come from the school. In a recent match against Woking, we fielded no fewer than 5 players (Ciaran Morris, Mike Lutz, John Edwards, Greg Nutt and Owen Griffiths) all from the same year at Tiffs (class of 2000). This was in addition to OT regulars such as Pete Markham, Nick Dempsey, Jon Angell, his brother Paul and Ben Lewis (brother of 1s player Sam Lewis), which continue to give us a strong connection to the school.

Selection has often been a problem, as we regularly have 15 or 16 players available each week and face having to stand players down because we can't give them a game. If this trend continues and we can recruit a few more players, we will look at fielding a 4th team next season.

Our highlight of the season is hopefully still yet to come, although so far it would have to be the Christmas get-together where we all braved the snow and cold for a Saturday evening out in Clapham, duly arranged by John Edwards and co., in which Bruce Houghton walked away with the award for silliest Christmas jumper (as if we were really surprised that he wouldn't!).

*RALPH STADIE*

**FINALLY, PLEASE NOTE: New players of all standards are always welcome and NEEDED. If you would like to play Saturday afternoon football, then please contact Club Secretary Errol Walker in the first instance on 07984 473 074 and join us for training at Grist's which is currently being held on Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm.**

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

*STEVE JOHNSON*  
*Chairman*

# OT Social Lunch

Our sixty-fifth lunch was held on Thursday 9th December at our usual venue, viz. the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Road, Tolworth — meeting at 12.30, for lunch at 1.00, departure about 3pm.

The 14 present were :-

Dennis Barnard, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Willy Harper, Derek Higham, Brian Holden, Greer Kirkwood, David Larmar, Gordon Mylchreest, Peter Osborne, Chris Shires, Stan Slinger, Howard Watson & John Wright.

Our Christmas lunch had a smallish turnout, with only 5 of those from the previous occasion attending. The usual excellent varied lunch was provided. During the session the draws for the OTA 100 & 200 Clubs were taken.

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

Future Thursday Lunch dates are Spring **7th April**, Summer **7th July**.

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

*GREER KIRKWOOD*



## OT Rugby Football Club

Although competing with the Oxbridge Dinner, the VP & Ex-Players' Lunch was held on 5th March, with 51 people sitting down to lunch. Both 1st and 2nd XV's were at home, so there was plenty of entertainment afterwards. The 2nds lost narrowly to Battersea Ironsides(15-20), but the 1st XV defeated O.Emanuel 26-18 to cement their place at the top of the league. With 3 matches to go, Tiffs are 3 points clear of the 2nd team, 9 clear of 3rd and 13 clear of 4th and 5th. Although things look good for promotion, we have to play two of these teams, so it is not guaranteed.

The Club has recently purchased a set of portable floodlights, to enable the teams to resume training on a regular basis. With this facility and with a number of players returning from University and from other Clubs, we hope that the upward surge of the Club is continued next year. I would recommend people to visit the Club's website, which has some very entertaining content.

*PETER SMITH*

## OT Golf Society

On December 30th we met at Effingham Golf Club to compete for our winter trophy. We were lucky with the weather, as the course had been closed for two weeks prior to this due to snow. On the day the greens played really well, and we had only one temporary green. Unfortunately only 11 players supported the meeting, which was disappointing. An excellent lunch followed in the Armada Room.

Some very good golf was played, and our winner with 39 points was Paul Baker, who received the Baron trophy. Paul managed to drive the green on the par 4 second hole and got the eagle putt for 4 points, followed by a birdie (also for 4 points) on the 3rd hole.

Second was Richard Hallala with 37 points and third Nigel Pimm with 35 points. Front and back nine prizes went to Ian Redington and Allan Piggott, both on countback.

We have a varied collection of fixtures for 2011 as follows :

**Thursday March 10th match v Old Hamptonians**  
at New Zealand

**Monday May 16th match v Old Kingstonians**  
at Surrey Downs

**Thursday 9th June pm match v Old Surbs**  
at Puttenham

**Friday 1st July pm Surrey Schools Old Boys**  
at Clandon Regis (Team of 6)

**Wednesday 17th August pm match v KCS Old Boys**  
at Royal Wimbledon (team of 10)

**Thursday 27th October Autumn Meeting**  
at Cuddington

Any Old Tiff who would like to attend any of the 2011 venues, please contact me on 01483 282411 or email [allan.piggott@btinternet.com](mailto:allan.piggott@btinternet.com).

*ALLAN PIGGOTT*

## OT Skiff Marathon

The 98th Skiff Marathon will take place on **Sunday 15th May**. (Our Centenary event will be in 2013.)

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

Contact me on 07884 065629 (Mob) or email [ellispeel@btinternet.com](mailto:ellispeel@btinternet.com)

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*

## OT 100 Club

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

				Previous win
Nov '10	£50	Andy Goodwin	Guildford	'97
Dec '10	£50	John Pitchford	Dorking	'08
Dec '10	£1000	Alec Holden	Ewell	'02

The above draws were held at the Old Tiffinian Social Lunch in December last.

Brian Holden was present at the lunch and, of course, was very pleased with his Dad's great win. Alec has recently come out of hospital, but will require regular assistance (not surprising at his age). The win will help the financing of this and also allow a holiday. We wish him several more years.

All three winners are long-standing members of the Club.

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*

## Membership Matters

Those members who appear in my records not to have paid the current year's subscription will find an arrears letter enclosed. Should any of you have paid by banker's order, please let me have the full details of the debit on your account. We need to know whether the funds were routed to either Nat West or HSBC, both being the Kingston upon Thames branches. We still have some un-identified amounts on our statements, as they have incomplete references, so one of these may be yours?

Thank you for your support to the School via TAL. They need it.

Best wishes for the rest of the year 2011.

*DENNIS BARNARD*

# Oxbridge Reunion Dinner

On Saturday 5th March we gathered at St John's College, Cambridge, for a long-awaited Reunion Dinner. Over 90 graduates, undergraduates and school staff (past and present) sat down to a magnificent meal, accompanied by suitable wines. The evening was chaired by Ian Redington (Association Chairman), the Loyal Toast was given by Senior Deputy Head John King in recognition of his forthcoming retirement after 38 years of valuable service to the School. This was followed by a few words from the Head, Hilda Clarke.

The formal part of the evening concluded with the drinking of a toast to The School. All seemed to agree that the evening had been a success. Our thanks go to Dr Robin Glasscock, a senior member of the College, for arranging the event, and to Gareth John and Alex Swift for their hard work behind the scenes.

*BRIAN HOLDEN*



# People

**MARTIN ALLEN**, a former member of the Tiffin English Department, was the writer for an important episode of 'Coronation Street' on Wednesday 8th December.

**JIM DE RENNES**, former Head of English, is Chairman of the Kingston Referees' Society and, together with other local referees, enjoyed the chance to referee at Wembley. He took charge of one of the games on the hallowed turf as part of the Bobby Moore Cancer Research fund-raising event. Four matches raised more than £63,000, with all officials working free of charge.

**TIM LANE (2005)**, left Tiffins to study Geography at Durham and is currently engaged in research in Greenland. He appeared on the cover of a recent edition of the Royal Geographical Society Bulletin. Tim gained one of the Society's Postgraduate Research Awards and has spent an isolated month studying the Uummannaq ice stream system. His work will reveal the historical advance and retreat of the ice sheet, and his findings will place recent changes in ice coverage and also sea level change in perspective. The work is physically demanding, and Tim and his two colleagues are working tirelessly to gather data.



**SEAN LANG (1980)**, now Senior Lecturer in History at Anglia Ruskin College, is the author of a number of highly authoritative books on a wide range of modern historical topics. In November he gave two outstanding lectures to Tiffin Sixth Form historians: one on the fall of Napoleon and the other on the diplomacy of Winston Churchill during the Second World War. In both sessions Dr Lang challenged the students to think beyond their A-Levels.

In January, Sean in a lead letter published in 'The Guardian' defended Michael Gove's vision for school history. He wrote: "Learning history is an essential part of democratic society, and it is good to have a government at long last that is taking it seriously". Sean was writing as Chairman of the Better History Group.

**DOUGLAS LUCIE (1973)**, was responsible in January for a four episode adaptation for Radio 4 of Wilkie Collins' 1868 novel 'The Moonstone'.



**JONNY LEE MILLER (1989)**, was the subject of a major article in the 'Times Review' of 29th January. His career has never looked back since he took to the stage at Tiffins and went on, only a few years after leaving school, to make the highly successful film 'Trainspotting'. His latest venture is playing the Creature and his creator in 'Frankenstein' at the

National (to be broadcast live to cinemas on March 17th as part of National Theatre Live).

**NEIL PARRY (1973)**, is a Clinical Vision scientist and Honorary Lecturer in Ophthalmology at Manchester University. His research interests include electrophysiology, reaction times, psychophysics, colour vision, visual development and ageing.



**ANTONY PITTS (1986)**, has been commissioned to compose a setting of the 'Te Deum' for this year's London Festival of Contemporary Church Music, due for first performance at the Festival in May. It is in Latin and will feature live on BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong.

His recently completed project was 'Road to Jericho - Neighbours?'. This is a new musical presentation of the Biblical story of the Good Samaritan, in which the characters of the original parable are fused with mythical and musical elements from Arab and Jewish cultural history.

**PETER ROBERTS (1982)**, has been appointed as the new Head of King's Canterbury, said to be the oldest school in the country, dating from the days of early Christianity. Our congratulations to him on gaining this prestigious post. Peter went from Tiffins to Merton College, Oxford, where he gained a First Class honours degree in Modern History. He took a PGCE at London University. He was on the staff of Winchester College from 1986 to 2003, first as an assistant teacher, then from 1991 as Head of History and also from 1991 as Master in College (housemaster of the Scholars' house). He became Headmaster of Bradfield College in August 2003 and is a Governor of two prep schools. Peter is married to Marie, and they have three teenage daughters.

**WILL SAWNEY (2007)**, was awarded a First in English at Exeter last summer and is now spending some time travelling.

**RICHARD STAFF (2002)**, is completing his PhD and now has obtained a post-doctoral research post in Oxford.

## Book Column

'The Horseman's Word' by Roger Garfitt (1962)

In a memoir as vivid and unpredictable as any novel, Roger Garfitt takes us into his confidence, as he tries on different selves, from stable boy to jazz dancer, from Oxford dandy to Sixties drop-out. We see him on horseback with the Riding Master to the Kings of Portugal and in a beatnik pad with Redmond O'Hanlon. We watch as he is introduced to David Bowie and realises that the wrong one has come as the rock star. We follow him back to the Norfolk village where as a small child he had glimpsed the world through his grandfather's eyes. And we are inside his head as he gradually cuts loose from the real world, eventually being committed to a locked ward in a mental hospital.

Written with a poet's gift for language, 'The Horseman's Word' is an account of what it is like to feel the world too acutely, to love too obsessively, to go right to the very edge and, miraculously, to survive.

Roger Garfitt's compelling journey takes in an intensely remembered childhood, the feverish disconnects and forced logic of a 'fine madness' during young manhood, and an eventual domestic calm that has, nonetheless, its own sense of risk. The writing is hauntingly evocative. No one, having picked up this book, could willingly put it down.

*David Harsent*

This astonishing memoir is to run-of-the-mill autobiography what poetry is to prose, dancing to walking. Elizabeth Bishop called it writing in 'experience time' - this artist's ability to select from an objective chronology of months and years exactly those blocks of memory he needed to construct an absorbing, un-put-downable collage of himself. As a portrait of a poet growing up as war-torn England became swinging England in the 1950s and 60s, I can't believe it could be bettered.

*Anne Stevenson*

Roger Garfitt: *The Horseman's Word*, to be published by Jonathan Cape on 21st April 2011. Available for pre-order on Amazon.co.uk

# De Mortuis

## MICHAEL J GAMBRILL 1935 – 2011

Mike did not shine either scholastically or in any sport while at school but went on to become one of the finest racing cyclists in the country. He won a number of National titles in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and represented Great Britain as one of the four members of the 4,000 metres Team Pursuit in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, when they won a bronze medal. Mike was the lead rider for the last lap.

He also competed in the 1958 Commonwealth Games for England and returned to the Olympic arena for the 1960 Games in Rome.

His performances were the more unexpected as, although he passed his National Service medical, his spell in the RAF was limited to 11 days, when the follow-up checks found him unfit to serve! This set-back did not prevent him from succeeding as a cost engineer working on a number of large construction contracts both in the UK and in North Africa.

Mike had had a spell in hospital early in 2010 and returned again in December. He is survived by a daughter and two sons.



## MICHAEL ROY JARVIS 1937 – 2010

I first met Michael at a St Valentine's Day dance at Tiffins organised by the members of the school swimming team to raise money for a new water polo ball! This was in 1955. He walked me home, in the snow, to Surbiton and we married two years later.

He was an enthusiastic backstroke swimmer, winning many medals for the school and for Surrey. He attended Tiffins from 1948 to 1955.

Michael was born in Hurst Green, Sussex, the youngest of six. After the war the family moved to Kingston, and his father opened a fresh fish shop which, with the help of Michael's three older brothers, became a famous and flourishing business. However, a partnership in A H Jarvis & Sons did not appeal to Michael, and after three years National Service in the RAF, working on the computerised bomb-aiming equipment on Vulcan bombers, he joined National Cash Registers to work on the latest, huge, computers. He was seconded to Legal and General Insurance Company to maintain their computer at Kingswood, Surrey, (it took up a whole floor of their large office building) but was very soon recruited by that company to join them as a systems analyst. The whole of Michael's working life was spent with Legal & General in increasingly senior roles. He was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis at the age of 25 (no more rugby with the Old Tiffinians), an affliction he bore with great courage. He was able to retire in his mid-fifties due to ill health, by which time he had become a Financial Director at Temple Bar in London.

Michael had many happy and fulfilled years of retirement. He was a man of absolute integrity, with a wonderful sense of humour, who used his considerable financial skills to help many charities, mainly connected to music. It was very important to him that young people who couldn't afford to buy a musical instrument or pay for lessons were given the opportunity to do both. He had a fine tenor voice and for over 30 years was an energetic member of an excellent Choral Society for which, as Treasurer, he worked tirelessly to ensure they had funds enough to employ the best soloists, orchestral players and conductors.

Mike and I were married at the tender age of twenty, but he was astonishingly mature even then. He made my life safe and happy for fifty-three years. He was immensely proud of our two sons, Simon and Tim, and of our three grandchildren.

In 2008, as Mike's health deteriorated, we moved to York to be near family. It was a very successful move despite being a very long way from Surrey where we had lived all our married life. So Simon, Tim and I were delighted and much comforted by the number of friends and extended family who travelled many miles from Sussex, Kent and Surrey to be present at Michael's Funeral Service in York Minster. The wonderful singing would have gladdened his heart.

*The obituary above was supplied by Michael's widow, Gillian*



## ERIC CHARLES PEARSON 1920 – 2010

Many people who have sent cards and greetings to the family following Eric's death on Christmas Day have written of a man of absolute integrity, who was kind and generous, a good husband, father and Grandpa, and who was one of life's true gentlemen.

Eric was born in Epsom, Surrey, on 14th January 1920, to James Charles & Rose Violet Pearson. He was the youngest of six children: Stanley, Vera, Leonard, Bernard & Phyllis. He grew up in Worcester Park and New Malden. At Tiffins he enjoyed rugby and water polo, and, partly due to breaking his collar bone playing rugby, he left school in 1936 and began working as an office junior for E R Babbs & Sons, later the John Gibbs Partnership, a firm of quantity surveyors, where he became Senior Partner. He retired in 1987. Eric had a strong Christian faith – a constant in his life was his local parish church, and at St. John's, New Malden, he met his future wife, Joan Esdaile Wyatt, whom he married there on 10th February 1942.

Eric joined the Territorial Army in September 1939, and then the Royal Artillery, in which he served for seven years. He went to Madagascar, en route for India and Burma, just three weeks after his wedding, and he did not see his wife for 3½ years, during which he fought in Burma. During his time in Burma Eric and Joan maintained a remarkable correspondence, and the family still have all the letters, which give glimpses of the ferocity of the fighting, memories of which remained with him all his life, but which are mainly exchanges between him and Joan, in which he shares his thoughts about the future as well as the present. Joan wrote over 600 letters and Eric wrote over 300. They both looked forward to his demobilisation, and when he got home he was only with Joan for a month before being sent to Germany for six months to help with war reparations. His skills as a surveyor were clearly needed and put to good use in the pursuit of international justice!

Once home and enjoying civilian life he engaged fully in his work as a quantity surveyor, and even more so in his role as a husband and father. Angela Mary was born on 19th August 1947 and David Charles on 14th June 1950. Eric & Joan moved to Manchester in 1954. Andrew John was born on 15th October 1959.

Eric built up the business for the John Gibbs Partnership in Manchester so successfully that for many years it largely subsidised the other six offices in the Partnership. In recognition of his services to the profession Eric served as Chairman of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Manchester & North West Branch, for three years. He was especially proud of this, as he was chosen by his peers for this honorary role. The work was hard at times and not kind to either his social or family life, he did not return home on many Friday nights until well into the early hours.

Marking their Silver Wedding, Eric & Joan were among the first of their generation to take a package deal, flying to Majorca. For their Ruby Anniversary they flew to Chile to visit David who was working there, but they had the misfortune to fly with Sir Freddie Laker on the day his airline went bust. Eric & Joan were actually on the plane when the captain announced the company's failure. The plane had to return to its stand and Eric had to return his duty-free purchases,

about which he was quite peeved. Still, they made it to Chile and stayed with David in Santiago and explored some of the southern reaches of Chile which even David and Coca have never visited.

In the fifties and sixties Eric got involved in local politics in Heald Green and was an active member of the Ratepayers' Association, an independent political group which has returned three councillors to the Cheadle UDC/Stockport MBC, year in, year out. Eric single-handedly produced the local magazine, 'Contact', for many years, campaigning on issues such as street-lighting (where there wasn't any), double-glazing (against aircraft noise) and the building of a local library and health centre. Eric not only produced 'Contact' (which Angela & David helped collate and staple), he also delivered it – again with Angela's and David's help – to thousands of homes every other month.

He sang together with David and Andrew in the choir at St. Catherine's, Heald Green. The choir's summer visits to sing in some of our finest cathedrals, including York Minster, Salisbury and Gloucester, were among his most cherished memories. Eric was proud of the standard of singing (an LP record was made in 1970), and he particularly enjoyed singing the bass solos in anthems such as 'Declare His Honour' and 'Rejoice in the Lord Always' (by Henry Purcell).

Their Golden Wedding in 1992 was celebrated in Reigate and, appropriately, just over fifty guests, including their best man and bridesmaid made the lunch, which David & Coca, Angela & Perran, and Andrew & Lindsey, and the grand children helped set up. Many of us remember Joan starting a grape-throwing fight and Eric's long, heartfelt, speech.

Eric was a skilled amateur painter and he could produce works of astonishing accuracy. He also expressed his creativity through gardening. At 4 Elmsleigh Road, and later at 1 Wasdale Drive, he was landscape architect, designer, grafter, digger, planter, all rolled into one. He and Joan loved to visit gardens and get new ideas. At Wasdale Drive he applied professional QS standards to install a system to drain the lawn and he had twenty tons of quality soil delivered to make that garden, which was probably located on a former swamp, into a fine garden. Mind you, he dug out as many tons of clay (Andrew helping too). He was keen too on DIY and made many improvements to all his homes, and he was never averse to crawling into tight spaces, be they under the floorboards or in the loft. Eric had incredibly strong hands, matched by an amazing indifference to hot and cold. Such was his ability to drink almost boiling liquids that in the Army he was sometimes known as 'asbestos guts', but at the other end of the scale he routinely took a daily cold shower.

Eric was proud of his children's achievements, seeing Angela & David through Oxford University to careers in international development and marketing, and Andrew ordained into full-time ministry in the C of E. He was equally proud of his grandchildren: Jago & Sefryn, Andrew & Michelle. Sefryn remembered learning through him (and Angela) that 'if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well'.

As Eric's dementia became worse, he moved to Springfield House, North Hill, in October 2004, leaving behind Heald Green and Gatley, home for 50 of his ninety years. The people of the Parish welcomed him, and he attended services in this church until he was no longer able to do so. Lindsey & Andrew have a fond memory of taking him to church on the Sundays either side of Angela & Perran's Ruby celebration and Jago & Ngoc's commitment ceremony in August 2009.

We give thanks for a man who lived a very full life, who fought for his country and did his duty, who worked hard, raised a good family in which all his children, like him, have strong and long-lasting marriages. He was a loving husband, father and Grandpa, a man of

integrity and tenacity, who was dependable, conscientious, supportive, and a true gentleman.



## ROB TILLING MBE RI

Rob Tilling taught at Tiffin for just two years in the late 1960s. The fact that he taught under Bert Seaborn without doubt explains the brevity of his stay here, for Rob Tilling was a forthright man, strong in his opinions, an extremely talented artist, a modest cricketer, a gifted musician and a man who

had distinct views on the way in which art should be taught. Herbert Seaborn had one or two opinions of his own, and, whilst I have no evidence for suggesting a stormy relationship, I have read between the lines on your behalf !

I was privileged to meet Rob at his delightful mill house on the island of Jersey back in August this year. It was a meeting that Colin Prince had suggested. Beckie, my daughter, and I spent a marvellous morning with Rob and his wife Thelma reminiscing about Tiffin, art, music, the state of education and, of course, Bert. At the time, Rob knew that he had a limited span of life to fulfill, his cancer being already at an advanced stage, but none would have guessed from his delightful, engaging and witty personality. To walk round his house and studio was an education in itself, with every square inch of wall space devoted to some artistic gem and a commentary to match !

Rob had left Tiffin to take up a post as Head of Department at Victoria College in Jersey, where he remained for the rest of his academic career. During that span of 30 plus years he was to become something of a local celebrity, and apart from his numerous exhibitions in London and Jersey he was also a sought after lecturer, writer and a world-renowned authority on the blues movement. He made a lasting impression on me. Beckie returned to interview him for the BBC some weeks later and this, along with jottings on the web, forms part of a wonderful tribute to Robert Tilling.

MARTIN WILLIAMS



## NIGEL JOHN WHITNALL 1956 – 2010

My brother Paul and I never expected to be here today, but it has happened, and so we want to share our memories with Nigel's many friends and family who are gathered with us.

Where did it all begin ? Nigel was born in August 1956 and we were living in Belmont Avenue, New Malden, when he won his place at Tiffin School. We were very happy in New Malden, with Rover the dog, family holidays on farms, Grandparents down the road and round the corner, and wonderful Christmas times watching Morecombe & Wise. Going to St James's Church, with you Nig and Dad singing in the choir. Paul and I can still recall those magical carol concerts by candlelight.

We moved to Claygate when Nigel was 13, and he continued his success at Tiffins, in the orchestra, choir and cross-country team. Later playing cricket and football for Church, University and the Old Tiffinians. So very good at sport, as well as music. Then it was off to Cambridge on a choral exhibition to read English. His voice maturing into a wonderful tenor. Taking me to his first Cambridge May Ball. Recordings for the BBC and other organisations/choirs. Trips abroad – appearing on Japanese television. Graduating from Cambridge. Becoming a journalist. Life was very busy and full.

We were so pleased when Nigel met and married Cathy, someone who shared his love of music. Moving to Cobham they continued singing here at St Andrew's Church. This amazing congregation of friends with whom they shared so much over the last 25 years. You

accepted Nigel for who he was, eccentricities and all. You showed both of them so much love, so much kindness and gave them practical help and support when they needed it. We as a family just want to thank you all at St Andrew's for all you did for Nigel from the bottom of our hearts.

And then the birth of Benjamin. Nigel couldn't have been happier. And he was a marvellous Dad in so many ways.

We will always remember with gladness our wonderful family lunches, held in Guildford, often followed by very competitive family games of football or cricket on Stoke Park. All Nigel's nephews and nieces, Chris, Phil, Rebecca, Emily and Lucy, and of course Benjamin, loved those afternoons.

But life was never easy for Nigel. Since his late teenage years he suffered from terrible times of deep, deep depression, which were so hard for him to bear. He was such a proud, stubborn man, and hated to ask for help. And it was so very hard for all of us watching him suffer. Especially Mum & Dad, and in later years Cathy, who supported him, stood by him, when others would have given up.

But thankfully Nigel was blessed with so many wonderful,

remarkable gifts, which he shared with us all. His beautiful singing voice, his wonderful way with words, his incredible memory, never forgetting a name. His great sense of humour and quick wit and immense enjoyment of life when times were good, and most of all his genuine care for others. His faith, which was so important to him, we know went up and down, but it never let him go.

We will miss you so much Nigel, and you know you will always be in our hearts. May God now take care of you and give you that peace you craved but so often couldn't find. Thank you for being our brother, a son, a father and husband, and for giving us 54 precious years together. God bless you.

*This is adapted from a tribute prepared by Nigel's brother Paul & sister Michelle and given by Michelle at the Funeral Service.*

We regret to announce also the deaths of **MAURICE BERRY** (1951), **ALAN MARTIN** (1940) and also of **KEVIN STEEPER**, an Associate Member of the Association for many years and well-known to many in the Playing Sections.

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## Tiffin History

### RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following addition to the Archives : From Philip Betteridge (1947), via his brother, an interesting scrapbook of photos and programmes of TMDS productions from 1957 to 1960.

### MUSIC IN THE NEW SCHOOL (contd.)

#### *Postwar*

The cry throughout the country after the war was to return to normal, with rationing etc. to end. What a hope ! Britain was never to be the same.

As for the band, it had enlarged during the war, and its reputation was much enhanced. In Autumn 1945 it had over 70 players. Famous people appeared again; Charles Hambourg took over a rehearsal and was amazed to discover that many of musicians were self-taught. Jack Mackintosh of the BBC Symphony Orchestra visited for two hours. Once again the band performed at the Kingston Empire to great applause, and with the reintroduction of Speech Day after its wartime break the band played on that occasion too. Also reappearing was the Kingston Regatta and the band played there and also on Canbury Gardens and at Motspur Park. Also in the choir, Mr Purdy replaced Mr Spriggs, as they sang on Speech Day.

The Headmastership was also changing, as at Christmas 1946 Mr T Dean was replaced by Mr J J Harper who had been a teacher at the school pre-war. He was not likely to oppose musical and dramatic events, for hadn't he sung solo in pre-war productions ?

The band suffered when Mr Spriggs was away for over a term in hospital; in his absence Mr Pashley helped out, and a committee of three senior boys kept the boat afloat. Apart from Dean's final Speech Day, the band performed at the Town Hall and Mr Mackintosh reappeared, and the band took part in a long series of concerts designed to fund a coming Kingston Philharmonic Orchestra. Another great event was the playing at Ashbridge College, followed by the usual performances at the Regatta and the school sports.

In the years 1947-49 the band appeared at all the usual places, with the addition of Molesey Regatta and the programme at the Empire

was especially long, but for the future the most important event was the forming of a Junior Choir, conducted by the new music teacher, Mr Eric Griffiths. It was 30 odd strong and its first public appearance was at the Kingston Musical Festival where it came a close second, then they appeared at the Wimbledon Music Festival, where they again came second. The full choir of 80 performed in the usual school events.

At Christmas 1948 the Junior Choir joined the band in a Christmas concert. A new venue for the band was Southfields, where a widely appreciated concert was performed, and for the first time in 1949 the band performed at Grists on Sports Day.

I normally do not mention myself in these ramblings, but I must say two productions of this period remain firmly in my mind, the first one was *'The Housemaster'*, a pure play with no music except that achieved by a downward coming cane, and the second was *'Trial by Jury'*, in which my close friend Peter took part. This production was the first production by the newly reformed Tiffinian Musical and Dramatic Society. This was followed shortly by *'Gypsy Love'*; I think it is fair to say that those productions never reached the popularity of the pre-war shows. *'Trial by Jury'* was performed in November 1949 for four nights. Mr Griffiths was in charge of the music and Tiffin Girls' sent over quite a number of girls for the production. Just before this production a small orchestra was quickly gathered together, to include 16 students from the Guildhall School of Music. Mr Griffiths' choirs took part in the above.

At a band concert in London in October a new member of the staff, Mr Bloodworth, conducted part of the programme, but he had plans of his own, for he wished to resurrect the orchestra. This he did, and the school year 1949-50 ended with a combined school concert with the newly formed recorder club together with the band and choirs and the embryo of the School Orchestra, under Mr Bloodworth and a visiting music teacher, Mr Crowther. The leader of the growing orchestra was Mike Prescott, a friend of mine, and the double-bass player was my close friend John.

Nowadays of course there are other musical associations, with a swing band, a jazz band and so on performing regularly.

BRIAN BUNKER

## 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 big draw will be made in May. 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.

Our £500 Prize winner from December was J E 'Jumbo' Raynham (No. 102).

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

34 N C W Wright	195 W J Webb	84 A E Owen
104 P B Wyatt	173 D W Laidler	4 P Chivers
31 J R Pitchford	34 N C W Wright	106 C M Bennett
64 P D Smith	95 A G Smith	44 Mrs J Smith
32 B A Bunker		

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

MARK DARBY

## Editor

Many Tiffinians have now become acquainted with the website **TiffinFriends.org** since it was launched. Its membership and content are growing all the time. If you are not yet involved, do register now.

If you receive with this 'Tiffnews' a 'Subscription Overdue' notice from our hard-working Membership Secretary, please send him your cheque promptly, to save unnecessary work.

Do re-read the Chairman's Letter at the beginning of this newsletter, to make sure you understand the membership rules from next October. If you can help to reduce TAL costs by viewing 'Tiffnews' on the website, please do so. If this is not, however, your preferred option, then please make sure you make use of the enclosed Standing Order to increase your donation to the Association, if necessary.

BRIAN HOLDEN

## Tiffinian Lodge

The Tiffinian Lodge's year began in January with a very sociable meeting. January 27th was our now annual Open Evening at the Lodge. This is where family and friends get the opportunity to enter the temple and see little more of what we do as Masons. The guests this year were treated to a talk and discussion from WBro Michael Giddy. In the past, previous lectures have been focused on the ceremonial aspects of Masonry, and it is very easy for an outsider to want to know more, once inside the temple for the first time and witnessing the dress and layout within. However, for this meeting, WBro Giddy talked about the more public side of Masonry and what we do outside the temple; this being the charity work we do. Although not as well publicised as perhaps it should be, the guests were informed of all the good charity work the Lodge contributes towards and on a larger scale how much Freemasonry raises in general. A splendid time was had by both members of the Lodge and guests, both in the temple and at the dinner afterwards.

Our March meeting will see our newest member take his next step as a Mason. Bro Chris Balasingam, who joined Tiffinian Lodge back in November, will become a Fellowcraft Mason and progress closer to becoming a Master Mason. The Lodge is busy rehearsing for this ceremony and will hope to make it a memorable occasion for Bro Chris.

The next publication will report how that meeting went. 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, at [richard.feltham@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:richard.feltham@blueyonder.co.uk) or on 07941 430706 for more details. I will be happy to answer any questions or queries and supply you with further details.

RICHARD FELTHAM

## Tiffin Dance

The Tiffin Dance Company were performing at The Place on Saturday 19th February.

Six youth dance companies from all over London were invited last autumn to create a new dance to a piece of music selected by a leading UK choreographer to mark the end of this year's **Resolution!** festival. The result was **ReFresh**, a new experiment in youth dance featuring the six invited companies. A unique challenge for the chosen groups was to work with music chosen by the following top British choreographers: Richard Alston, Jasmin Vardimon, Kate Prince, Shobana Jeyasingh, Hofesh Shechter & Wayne McGregor.

The Review from the Londondance website :

*'Tiffin Dance Company was first with No Way Out, danced to music chosen by Jasmin Vardimon. The piece explores limitations and entrapment inspired by the idea of a cul-de-sac, the dancers forming into angular blockades and preventing one another from advancing over the stage. The highly physical work contains shades of Vardimon's own, and it's great to see an 18-strong all-male dance company in action'.*

Congratulations to all the dancers for their hard work and commitment throughout the project.

KAROLINA CZERNIAK

# Queen Elizabeth Road News

## School Boat Club

Following a very successful autumn racing season, the rowers of Tiffin Schools Boat Club prepared for a long cold winter of head races. Our last race of 2010 came in the form of Walton Small Boats Head, in which Tiffin was widely represented, with 35 scullers racing in 24 boats. The day yielded a slew of near-misses, as the team celebrated three second-place finishes, in the form of Richard Clarke in J17 singles, Isaac Jarrat-Barnham in J15 singles, and the pair of Jack Claydon and Joel Nulsen in J18 doubles.

Our biggest test so far this year came at Hampton Head on the 5th of February, a huge schools event in which nearly all of the biggest clubs compete. TSBC raced 9 quads and one double; our most notable successes came from our J13 coxed quad which came second in its category, and two of our three J15 coxed quads, which came 2nd and 4th in a large category of eleven boats. The 'A' J15 quad, which consisted of Jarrat-Barnham, Michael Moore, Jack Pearce, Jack Hawkins and cox Thaddeus Umrigar, were awarded a medal for their win, which at Hampton Head is a notable achievement.

As the head season comes to an end and we look ahead to an exciting sprint season, TSBC rowers continue to work hard to improve on the Club's recent successes. We are also proud to report that Lower Sixth rower Richard Clarke has recently returned from a Great Britain Rowing Junior Squad training camp in Nantes, France, in which he excelled, and we are confident that this will stand him in good stead for the upcoming GB Trials in late February. Interestingly, France will again play host to TSBC rowing when the entire team decamps there during our upcoming Easter holidays for a week-long training camp in Vichy. There the team hopes to prepare for the busy and strenuous spring racing season, with an aim to achieve success at the National Schools Regatta, held in Nottingham in late May.

Until then, however, we have our eyes fixed firmly on the upcoming Kingston Head, which takes place on our home stretch of water on Saturday, 26th of March. It's a big fixture in our calendar and we hope to see as many Tiffin supporters at Canbury Park as possible. TSBC again thanks everyone in the Tiffin community for their continued support.

KRISTINA FERRARO

## School Rugby

The 15-a-side season ended on a high for the First XV, when they were awarded the London Evening Standard Award for the team of the month for their results in January – [http://www.schoolsrugby.co.uk/team\\_ofTheMonth.asp?id=121](http://www.schoolsrugby.co.uk/team_ofTheMonth.asp?id=121) Overall they played 22 games, won 15, drew 2 and lost 5. The record could have been even better had they played to their potential throughout, particularly against Wimbledon College and St Georges Harpenden. The Second XV also finished the season strongly with three good wins, particularly their victory against Hampton. At the other end of the school the U12s have gone from strength to strength and have won most of their matches. Hopes are high for a successful

7s season and Browne Trophy. The other Year groups have all made substantial progress, despite results being difficult to come by and the current U16 squad look to have the quality required to successfully manage the transition to senior rugby next year.

We have again had success in the other code with the U15s reaching the national stages of the Carnegie Rugby League Champion Schools Competition, and the Senior team one step away from the national Quarter Finals of the same competition. These will be continuing after half term.

STEVE CATHCART

## School Cross Country

The team returned to be the best school at the Surrey Clubs Championships on 8th January. At Croydon in the new year, Adam Curran, Nicholaj Schubert, Ben Whitfield were supported by Captains Zhu Lee and Adam Raimondo. Ben Gibbons led the school inter-team home, with great support from Joe Klein, Edwin Hariss, Harshul Patel, Tristan Perera, Julian Hewitt and a great debut from Ben Williamson. Daniel Riding led home a star-studded Junior team, with Tom Jackson, Christian Beatie, Kirusanth Mugariah, William Andrews, Will Burdess, Ewan Traynor and Rueban Dracup completing the most numerous team in the junior sections.

### Old Boys

Ian Leitch (1993) and Sean Renfer (2006) posted 1 & 2 in the Bushy Park Time trial on February 5th. In the same 'Athletics Weekly' there was Andrew Arbour (1988) running for Kingston in the Surrey league, along with Matthew Hyett (1998), both appearing in the top 30. In the week before there was Ralph Street, who was the top runner for Sheffield Hallam University, and in the British Universities and Colleges National Championships he posted around 18th, an unofficial record for Old Boys of the School, just bettering a position top 50 by Nic Scroxtton posted nearly a decade earlier. More recently, Ralph Street came 19th in the National Cross-Country Championships.

ROBIN SHAW

## School Music

The beginning of the Spring Term saw a flurry of high-profile musical events, coming off the back of a marathon sequence of shows at the Royal Opera House: with Tiffin boys appearing in both *Tannhäuser* and *Hänsel und Gretel* (with two separate teams of boys), which meant that, on **every day** over the Christmas and New Year period, there were Tiffinians on stage at Covent Garden! The boys acquitted themselves magnificently, but were soon hard at work preparing for an atmospheric late Friday night *capella* concert in St Martin-in-the-Fields, comprising Tudor motets (including the Tallis Lamentations) interspersed with Tippett spirituals. The choir is in wonderful shape at the moment, with an especially strong ATB section and a treble line which is becoming increasingly vibrant – these are times to be treasured.

The following day saw the Thames Youth Orchestra perform a well-programmed British concert – of Vaughan Williams *Pastoral Symphony*, Elgar *'Cockaigne' Overture and Adès ...but all shall be well* – in Kingston Parish Church. It was a pleasure to welcome the Adès family to the concert; such was the success of the orchestra's performance that the Adès will be repeated in the TYO's Cadogan Hall concert in July (Saturday 9th), enhanced by video projection by Head Boy Robert Hawkins. This term, the orchestra is preparing Tchaikovsky *Symphony No 4* and Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto No 2*, featuring the remarkable young pianist Patrick Milne (Saturday 2nd April).

A couple of weeks later, the Choir was up for another concert, this time on home turf with the London Mozart Players, and featuring the Duruflé *Requiem* as well as *Fauré Cantique de Jean Racine*, Debussy *Trois chansons de Charles d'Orléans* and the Poulenc Organ Concerto. The choir's now characteristic trademarks of sensitive blending, excellent intonation and intelligent colouring and projection of text were every bit the match for the superb orchestral playing, and this concert will live long in the memory of all who were there.

A vintage House Singing competition, which saw solos, close harmony, and unison songs of consistent quality, was adjudicated by David Nield – and such a pleasure to welcome David back to the school – and saw a packed hall augmented by a live video relay to the boys watching in six classrooms. Next year, we'll webcast it!

The second half of term sees visits from The Duke's Men of Yale and the Maggini Quartet – the latter spending a whole day working with all of the school's string players (around 75 boys), all of Year 7 seeing the Philharmonia Orchestra in action and all of Year 8 seeing the LSO. The Training Choir perform *Carmina Burana* with the Kingston Choral Society (Saturday 26th March), as well as joining with the Boys' Choir for Mahler *Eighth Symphony* in the Royal Albert Hall in May (Sunday 15th); and a new choir for tenors and basses in Years 9 – 13 has been formed (called the Chorale), which is already relishing singing Robbie Williams's *Angels* and Leonard Cohen's iconic *Hallelujah*.

The Swing Band gave a superb Jazz Evening in the Main Hall in February and is now gearing up for a busy summer schedule that will take in playing the Duke Ellington *Nutcracker Suite* and Stravinsky *Ebony Concerto* (Tom Nichols, clarinet) in the School Concert (Tuesday 3rd – Thursday 5th May), recording a CD in the BBC's Maida Vale studios and giving a Friday evening concert on the Rose Theatre Main Stage as part of the International Youth Arts Festival (Friday 15th July).

All of the school's instrumental ensembles will be performing in the Spring Instrumental Concerto on Thursday 31st March, and this will be followed the following week by Woodwind and Brass Day, in which all the woodwind and brass players will perform solo pieces in small concerts as well as forming the largest Concert Band ever. The term finishes with a choral performance in Kingston Parish Church on Thursday 7th April at 7.30 pm, offering a sequence of Music and words for Lent.

## SCHOOL CONCERT

**(Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th May)**

This year, the concert will showcase the remarkable quality of this year's Swing Band, with selections from Duke Ellington's *Nutcracker Suite* (a Jazz reworking of some of Tchaikovsky's dances) and clarinetist Tom Nichols performing Stravinsky's *Ebony Concerto*, originally written for Woody Herman. The second half

features the premiere performances of Simon Ferris's new 'Junior Jazz of biblical proportions', *The Remains of Nineveh*, about Sir Henry Layard's discovery of the world of ancient Assyria, and will be sung by all of Year 7.

## CHORAL PERFORMANCES IN MAY / AUSTRALIA TOUR

The choir has four external engagements in May. On Sunday 8th May, they will be performing Mahler *Third Symphony* with the Philharmonia Orchestra under veteran conductor Lorin Maazel at the Royal Festival Hall. (Some Old Tiffinians may remember performing Mahler 8 with Maazel at the First Night of the Proms 1986.) The following Sunday, 15th May, an enlarged choir will join with many London choruses to perform Mahler *Eighth Symphony* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the Royal Albert Hall. Then, at the end of the month, on Saturday 28th at 7.30 pm, we have a special Gala concert (fundraising for the Australia tour) in St James's Piccadilly, featuring the Fauré *Requiem* alongside music by Wesley, Brahms and Debussy. The following day, the choir travels to Cambridge to sing Evensong at Selwyn College at 6 pm.

It would be wonderful to see Old Tiffinians at some of the above events, which are gearing the choir up for its summer tour of Australia. By the time you receive this, details of our performances will be on the website [www.tiffinboyschoir.com](http://www.tiffinboyschoir.com) – these include Brisbane Cathedral (evensong on Sunday 24th July, concert on Monday 25th), Canberra (joint concert with Canberra Grammar School on Wednesday 27th), Sydney (concert on Saturday 30th), Melbourne (concert on Tuesday 2nd August) and Perth (evensong at St George's College on Thursday 4th, concert on Friday 5th).

**In addition, we shall be holding a reception in Sydney on Friday 29th July for all Old Tiffinians in Australasia – and TAL will be contacting you about this. We very much look forward to seeing you there.**

Our main focus in the lead-in to the tour is on fundraising. The boys need to provide the transport costs themselves (both the intercontinental and two internal flights, as well as internal rail travel, amounting in total to £1900 per boy), but we are aiming to finance the rest of the trip through fundraising. Our target figure for this tour is £30,000, which covers the entire cost of the tour on the ground in Australia, the staffing costs, and bursaries for those unable to fund the initial transport costs.

The boys themselves are actively involved in this fundraising, whether through busking, promoting their own concerts (including an acoustic bands night in Normansfield Theatre) or engaging in activities such as sponsored runs, silences and so on. However, we do need to cast the net wider than the boys' immediate contacts, and this is where you may be able to help us, whether through making a donation on the choir's Justgiving site ([www.justgiving.com/tiffinboyschoir](http://www.justgiving.com/tiffinboyschoir)), taking an advertisement in the gala concert and tour brochure or through connecting us with a trust fund.

Touring is expensive, and every donation matters. Please do consider supporting us in this important ambassadorial role for the school. If you would like to get in touch, please email me at [stoyne@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:stoyne@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk)

SIMON TOYNE

# Music Dates

March

## Monday 21st

Year 8 trip to LSO Schools' concert at the Barbican Hall (morning)

## Wednesday 23rd

7.00 pm (United Reformed Church)  
Thames Youth Choir, The Tiffinians, Children's Chorus, Training Choir and Chorale concert

## Saturday 26th

7.30 pm (St Andrew's Church, Surbiton)  
Training Choir sings *Carmina Burana* with Kingston Choral Society

## Monday 28th

Year 7 trip to Philharmonia Schools' concert at the Rose Theatre (afternoon)

## w/b Monday 28th

Rehearsals begin for Year 7 Junior Jazz

## Thursday 31st

7.00 pm (Main Hall)  
Spring Instrumental Concert  
Samba Group / Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band, Massed strings, Second Orchestra, Horn Group

April

## Saturday 2nd

7.30 pm (Kingston Parish Church)  
Thames Youth Orchestra concert  
Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto No 2* (Patrick Milne, piano)  
Tchaikovsky *Symphony No 4*

## Tuesday 5th

WOODWIND AND BRASS DAY  
All woodwind and brass players  
Morning: mini-masterclasses with instrumental teachers  
Afternoon: sectional and full rehearsals, culminating in Concert Band at 3.00 – 4.00 pm

## Thursday 7th

7.30 pm (Kingston Parish Church)  
A sequence of music and readings for Lent (Boys' Choir and Chamber Choir)

## Friday 8th

Chamber Choir performs in End-of-term Assembly

May

## Tuesday 3, Wednesday 4, Thursday 5

7.00 pm, Main Hall  
The School Concert  
All of Year 7  
Tiffin Boys' Choir  
Tiffin Swing Band  
Tom Nichols, clarinet  
Stravinsky *Ebony Concerto*  
Ellington *Nutcracker Suite*  
Ferris *Sir Henry Layard's Journey to Assyria*

## Wednesday 4

2.00 – 3.30 pm, Main Hall  
Pianist Andreas Boyde performs to all piano students  
Schumann *Carnaval*

## Sunday 8

7.30 pm, Royal Festival Hall  
Tiffin Boys' Choir

Philharmonia Orchestra  
Lorin Maazel, conductor  
Mahler *Symphony No 3*

## Sunday 15

7.30 pm, Royal Albert Hall  
Tiffin Boys' Choir  
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra  
Jeremy Backhouse, conductor  
Mahler *Symphony No 8*

## Saturday 28

7.30 pm, St James's Piccadilly  
Tiffin Boys' Choir  
Popular Choral Classics  
including Fauré *Requiem*

## Sunday 29

6.00 pm, Selwyn College, Cambridge  
Tiffin Boys' Choir sings Evensong  
Noble in B minor  
Wesley *The Wilderness*

July

## Friday 1

1.10 pm, Ely Cathedral  
Thames Youth Choir Concert

6.15 pm, Clare College, Cambridge  
Thames Youth Choir sings Evensong

## Tuesday 5

PIANO DAY

## Saturday 9

7.30 pm, Cadogan Hall  
Thames Youth Orchestra  
*Adès ...but all shall be well...*  
Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto No 2* (Patrick Milne, piano)  
Vaughan Williams *Symphony No 3*

## Friday 15

6.00 – 7.45 pm  
TIFFIN-IN-THE-GARDEN followed by

8.30 pm, Rose Theatre  
TIFFIN SWING BAND AT THE ROSE  
Ellington *Nutcracker Suite*  
Stravinsky *Ebony Concerto* (Tom Nichols, clarinet)  
Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue* (Patrick Milne, piano)  
followed by Big Band favourites

## Saturday 16

7.30 pm, Kingston Parish Church  
Thames Youth Orchestra  
Poulenc *Les Biches*  
Satie *Parade*  
Respighi *La Boutique Fantasque*

## Monday 18

7.30 pm, Kingston Parish Church  
Tiffin Boys' Choir  
International Youth Arts Festival Final Concert  
Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb*  
Wesley *The Wilderness*  
Fauré *Requiem*

## Thursday 21 July – Monday 8 August

Tiffin Boys' Choir tour of Australia