

TiffNews Bulletin no. 289

April 2022



From the Head's Study



It's been a very busy Easter term and it's been great to get back to all the normal activities at Tiffin as we gradually come out of the Covid crisis.

The sports programme has been extensive. We have had some terrific rugby victories and look forward to further victories in the Sevens competitions. Undoubtedly the

standard of our rugby is getting better and better, helped in part by the pupils' use of the fantastic new gym, in their strength and conditioning sessions. In addition, our girls' rugby is also doing extremely well and they are now a formidable side on the circuit. Also on sport, we saw a change this term with our first inter-school competitive football matches since 1946, and we look forward to seeing how this may develop in the future.

On the performing arts side it's also been good to get back to concerts and music, and to big stage productions. Just before half term we put on a terrific production of 'Guys and Dolls' and we look forward to getting more stage performances up and running.

The standard in our sixth form is very high and this was confirmed with another record year of Oxbridge offers. For the first time ever, we have over 30 offers to study at Oxford and Cambridge. We congratulate all those who are receiving offers from their university choices at the moment and hope that these will be fulfilled in the summer exams.

I am delighted that TAL and the School have been granted funding to upgrade, among other things, the cricket equipment at Grists. Many thanks to Greg Nutt who has been vigorous in pursuing this funding. We will be spending about £60,000, allowing us to purchase a number of mobile cricket covers, new sight screens, four new electronic scoreboards, two new cricket cages and lay two new artificial wickets. This represents a significant investment in cricket.



We have received the grant and we are also match funding it with contributions from the School and TAL. If you are able to help out and contribute towards this cricket equipment and the improvement of Tiffin's cricket facilities, we would really appreciate any donation that you can make. Please donate via: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/20295#!/DonationDetails>

Your donation will go directly to the cricket project and will be much appreciated.

Finally, I must finish by thanking Alex Swift for all the work that she has done as Tiffin School's Development and Alumni Manager. She will be leaving us at Easter and we wish her all the best for the future.

Mike Gascoigne, Headteacher

To read the Head's last newsletter, please click [here](#)

Tiffinian Association Chairman's Letter



Welcome to another edition of Tiffnews!

I have to begin by announcing the end of an era at the Tiffinian Association. After thirteen years working with us, Alex Swift has taken the difficult decision to move on to pastures new.

Many of you will have met Alex at

Tiffinian Association events over the years, and many of you will know that most of those events would not have happened without her organisational efforts. Others will have corresponded with her about donating to the Association, signing up for events, or volunteering to help the School. And all of you have read Tiffnews, which she has tirelessly edited for the best part of a decade. I have already told Alex that I doubt we'll fully recognise how much she does to help keep the Association running until she's no longer around. I'm sure you will want to join me in wishing her all the best in her new role in the Development Department at Putney High School. If you'd like to send her message directly, she'll be on TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk until the Easter weekend.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultation on the proposed merger between Tiffinian Association Limited and The Tiffin School Foundation, which ran from November 2021 to January 2022. I am pleased to report that the response was very positive overall, and contained some helpful points and suggestions which the Trustees and I have taken on board as we work on the next steps. The Trustees of the Association and of the Foundation are currently working with lawyers to finalise the merger terms, and I will report again when we are ready to complete the process. As I mentioned previously, I do not expect this change in the legal structure underpinning the Tiffinian Association to change how most of you experience membership of the Tiffin School alumni community.

One thing that will change, though, is that it will be easier to volunteer to support Tiffin School with building its alumni community and raising funds for future projects. If you have experience of fundraising or alumni relations, and would potentially be interested in getting involved in some capacity, please get in touch via the TAL email address.

A couple of months ago, some of you responded to a call from Grist's fundraising supremo and OTFC Chairman Greg Nutt, asking for examples of Tiffinians you knew who had done impressive things. The responses were so interesting that I thought it might be worth asking all of you for your thoughts. Do you know a Tiffinian who has achieved something significant? Someone who you consider embodies what it means to be a Tiffinian? Please use this [Google Form](#) to let me know.

James Strong (2003), Chair of the Tiffinian Association

Appeal for Tiffin School 'Stripy' Blazers



Are you still in possession of your 'stripy' blazer?

Would you donate it to the school for resale to current students by the Parents' Association?

If you would be willing to donate it to the school, please drop it off at the school's reception or send it by post to the school, addressed to Mrs J Barrett.

Recycling blazers raises money for the school, helps current parents and is good for the environment!

Donations of other current uniform are also welcome.

Tiffin School is saying 'au revoir' to the following staff at the end of this term:

Lesley Keirle, SEND
Trin Lu, Music
Alex Swift, Development and Alumni
Helen Varley, Careers

Events

Old Tiffinian Social Lunches

Our hundred & fourth lunch will be held at our usual venue on Thursday, 7th April at the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surrey. Meeting at 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm and departure at about 3pm.

Future dates are:

Summer, Thursday 14th July 2022

Autumn, Thursday 13th October 2022

All are welcome and, if you wish to attend and bring guests, please let Greer Kirkwood know on 01483 850705 or at greer.kirkwood@virginmedia.com

100 Club Membership

The 100 Club makes a major donation towards the Association's income so 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 £1,000.

The entrance form can be obtained by [clicking here](#) and further information may be obtained from Greer Kirkwood at 28 Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9LX or 01483 850705 or greer.kirkwood@virginmedia.com

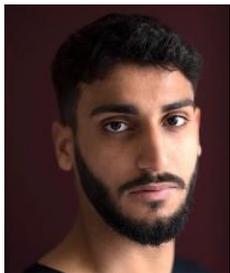
People

Abiram Uthayakumar [2020]



Abiram Uthayakumar, has taken part in University Challenge. He was part of Queen Mary's team in their first-round match against Oxford Brookes. Due to the national restrictions in place at the time, the team didn't all meet in person until the filming of their first-round match! Queen Mary beat Oxford Brookes 115 to 90. Ab is studying Economics at the University.

Akshay Khanna [2015]



Akshay had a major role in the popular BBC six-part psychological thriller, *Chloe*.

He played Anish, one of the close-knit group of friends that was befriended by Chloe, played by Erin Doherty.

John McCarthy [1985]



Throughout school I didn't excel at traditional team sports. The challenges and opportunities provided by the school Scout troop had more depth and meaning to me. The independence of thought and action, the responsibility for self and others, the fun of exploring and adventurous camps suited me better.



The quest for adventure flows deep in some. By the time I was 21 I had already travelled around the world, climbing erupting volcanoes, exploring jungles, swimming with sharks. There was often a thin line between adventure and misadventure.

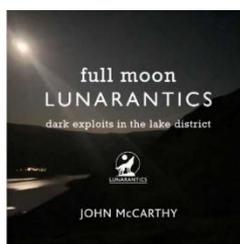
What career was appropriate for me? What would provide me with the ongoing adventures I had become used to? After exploring some enjoyable alternatives, the answer was clear; move to The Lake District and develop a career with The Outward Bound Trust, the world's leading provider of outdoor learning and development. Experience and relevant qualifications were gained and during a 25-year career with Outward Bound I worked with delegates from the classroom to the boardroom of FTSE 100 companies both in the UK and abroad.

With a midlife crisis long overdue, in 2012 I decided to gather a group of likeminded adventurers and relive the heady exploration of our youth. To increase the level of challenge in a landscape many of us knew intimately, I decided our monthly gathering should be at night, aided by the light of the Full Moon for a magical moonlit microadventure. Over the last ten years we have walked, climbed, scrambled, swum, cycled, canoed, kayaked, caved and eaten a lot of cheese, bathed in wonderful moonlight. Because we go out on the night of the Full Moon regardless of the weather we have also been hailed on, snowed on, rained on and frequently blown around, but let's not let the truth get in the way of a good story.

What started off as a conversation between four old friends around a dinner table has become a vastly extended sociable

group of over 25 adventurers who now receive the monthly call to action. Many of these folks were unknown to each other when the original Howlers set sail across the Solway in September 2012 to invade Scotland. That night gave them a great story to tell and soon other likeminded folk were attracted to the idea. Meeting once a month is enough to build a fellowship, a community of kindred spirits who now hatch ever stranger ideas of what activities and locations would be great for a moonlit night out together.

It was recently decided to gather the laughter and the learning from our monthly meanderings and write a book that might inspire others to consider their own nocturnal gatherings and enjoy the same physical, mental and social benefits as us.



The subsequent book, Full Moon Lunarantics, Dark Exploits in The Lake District by John McCarthy is available from most bookshops in Cumbria and online from publisher JJ Moff's

www.jjmoffs.co.uk

Tristan Sharps [1980]



Tristan Sharps has been creating large-scale site-specific projects for the past 26 years. He trained at the Jacques Lecoq School in Paris in 1988-1990 before performing and creating projects with a variety of companies in the UK and around the world. In 1995/6 he co-devised 2000 inspired by Dostoyevsky's *The Gambler*, transforming the Union Chapel in Islington into the fictional

world of the Hotel Roulettenburg.

He formed dreamthinkspeak in Brighton in 1999 and the company is now internationally recognised as a key practitioner of site-specific performance. The work interweaves live performance with a wide range of media to create extraordinary journeys that are ambitious, visually layered and popular with audiences wherever they are performed. Productions have taken place in a variety of sites, from an underground abattoir in Clerkenwell to the vast Zuidas office complex in Amsterdam.

Tristan is a Co-Director, with the Syrian architect and author, Marwa Al-Sabouni, of this year's [Brighton Festival](#), which will run 7-29 May 2022 and has the theme 'Rebuilding'. Tristan's dreamthinkspeak production '[Unchain Me](#)' has performances 3 May – 28 May. The production takes place on the streets of Brighton using headphones, a mobile device and live performers. It is inspired by Dostoyevsky's novel, 'The Possessed', in which a provincial town descends into chaos.

Richard Plummer

In 2005, former Head of Art, Richard Plummer, identified the Education Action International charity as a worthy contender for the annual Tiffin school council charity. Through Richard the jazz and blues singer, George Melly, took an interest in the project and a benefit concert at the School was organised. The concert was a sell-out and generated a large donation for charity.

Richard would like to get in touch with anyone who attended the concert on 5th July 2005 to hear their reminiscences of the event. Richard is intending to include the Melly concert in the second of a series of three books that he is in process of completing. If you have any interesting recollections from the concert, please contact Richard at richardplummer@live.co.uk

Tiffin School

School Badminton

Badminton has more or less finished for this season but the senior teams had a comfortable win at the King's College School Tournament. With two teams in the competition, the teams finished by playing each other in the final. Result? The A team (Year 11) were beaten by the B team (Year 12) in straight sets.

The photograph below shows the Tiffin A team (on the right) and the B team (on the left).



Martin Williams, Tiffin Badminton Coach

Tiffin School Football

A surprisingly sunny Saturday morning marked the first inter-school football match for a Tiffin U16 side in over three-quarters of a century! It was quite fitting that the match was against the school's biggest rivals, Kingston Grammar School. Eventually Tiffin were three goals down, but the team did well to keep it at three with KGS attacking for almost the entire half.



Towards half-time, Tiffin got a better grasp of the game and seemed for the first time to take control. A handful of good chances gave hope for a second half in which the

twelfth man – the wind – would be playing for us, not against us. A raft of half-time substitutions brought a newfound confidence, stability and attacking threat to the team. Tiffin were quickly in the ascendancy, setting up camp some 20 yards higher up the pitch than where they had spent most of the first half. A change in tactics and formation from Mr. Atkinson resulted in most of the game being played in the KGS half: they were trapped.

The Germans call it an *Anschlussstreffer* – the goal from a team losing a match that just might give them the impetus they need to haul back the rest of the score line – and it wasn't long before it arrived with a diving header. The Tiffin players and crowd celebrated, but this was only the beginning as just minutes later, the Tiffin team burst through again after a beautiful through-ball split the KGS centre-backs. Tiffin's No. 11 raced into the box and coolly slid his shot across the keeper for 3-2. Game on!

KGS rallied, growing back into a game of which they appeared momentarily to have lost control. But the hammer blow came in the shape of a low drive from Tiffin from outside the box, which hit the inside of the post before finding the back of the net. Tiffin were back and were pushing for the winner with 20 minutes still to play.

Queen Elizabeth Road's finest continued to press and eventually found their reward with another one-on one against the keeper that he smashed in at the near post. Nothing could stop us now...could it?

In the last few minutes of the game a KGS attack led to a shot from their right-winger who had come infield. Happily though, Tiffin quickly reclaimed the ball and the team went into another attack. We then kept possession in the KGS half for another minute before the final whistle blew. Well played by everyone involved.

After this strong opening win against Kingston Grammar School the 1st XI travelled to Richard Challoner for their second outing of the season. Richard Challoner has had a great season to date reaching the semi-final of the regional tournament and beating local rivals Hampton School. In terrible weather conditions the home side started much brighter and 20 minutes into the game Tiffin found themselves 2 - 0 down through lack of intensity of pressure. This pattern continued to half time which saw the hosts double their lead to 4 - 0. The second half saw vast

improvements across the whole team and Tiffin were unlucky not to come away from the match with a couple of goals to their name. The match finished 4 - 0 with everyone happy to get inside out of the rain. Next up for the first team they travel to face Royal Alexandra & Albert School.

Tiffin School Maths

Congratulations to students in Years 8 to 11 who achieved fantastic results in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. They are the best results for Tiffin by a huge margin. Nationally, only 50% of participants receive a certificate but a whopping 89% of Tiffin students did. This includes 194 Golds, almost double the number achieved in 2020. A staggering 255 students have qualified to compete in the follow-on rounds, including 20 for the prestigious Olympiads.



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

Tiffin School Music

The Spring Term began early for the Music Department, with the Chamber Choir setting off for a short residency in Winchester before term had begun for the rest of the school. Over three days the choir of 20 Y11-13s sang two Evensongs and a Eucharist in the glorious setting of Winchester Cathedral, settling right into the role of temporary cathedral choir and producing some wonderfully polished and professional performances. Music included Leighton's Second Service, Harold Darke's Communion in F, *My Lord Has Come* by Will Todd, and Bob Chilcott's *Midwinter* - the latter two of which can be heard on our CD, *A Tiffin Christmas*. The Choir was accompanied on the organ by Daniel Blaze, a former pupil who left the school in 2021.



On returning to school, we were at once plunged into the chaos that is the lead-up to House Singing. As ever, the final featured some fiercely fought battles and some very impressive performances. Following the adjudication by judge Nicholas Chalmers (Artistic Director of Neville Holt Opera), Kingsley-Montgomery were awarded the prize for Unison Song with a beautifully sincere and understated performance of Keane's *Somewhere Only We Know*, while Darwin-Wilberforce took the Partsong cup for their version of Earth, Wind & Fire's

September in an arrangement by a Year 10 pupil. A performance of Britten's *A New Year Carol* by a Year 8 boy won the Treble Solo category for Churchill-Gordon, while a Year 13 tenor took the SATB Solo cup, also for Churchill-Gordon.

Instrumental music has continued to flourish, with the usual Ensembles Concert showcasing a number of the school's chamber groups, as well as the Jazz Combo, Concert Band, Wind Band, and the String Orchestra. We also had two full days of ABRSM exams, with some excellent results in a variety of instruments across a variety of grades.

In early March the new Batman film, *The Batman*, was released, in which a number of our 2020 Trebles make a brief appearance on screen, as well as in some of the soundtrack.



The current Trebles will also be appearing in a performance of Britten's *St Nicolas* in Kingston Parish Church on Saturday 2nd April, and things will really be back to normal on Thursday 23rd June, when Tiffin Trebles will once more sing the bims and bams of Mahler's Third Symphony at the Royal Festival Hall.

The school choirs have sung a weekly Thursday evensong at St Luke's Church throughout this term, with services rotating between Boys' Choir, Chamber Choir, Cambiata, and the Boys' Choir Trebles. This week the Boys' Choir will sing Evensong at Westminster Abbey, including Sumsion's Evening Canticles in A, Ayleward Responses and Boys' Choir favourite, Gabriel Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*. The service is open to the public and is free to attend.

Future 2022 music events:

Thursday 5th May, 7pm	The School Spring Concert, Kingston Parish Church
Thursday 23rd June, 7.30pm	Mahler 3, Royal Festival Hall
Friday 8th July, 5.30pm	Tiffin in the Garden
Tuesday 12th July, 7pm	Choir Summer Concert, Kingston Parish Church
Sunday 17 th - Wednesday 20th July	Tiffin Boys' Choir Summer Tour, Bristol & Exeter

Information about all our music events can be found on the [Music Department website](#). If you would like to attend any of our events or have any questions, please email Fleur Smith, Tiffin Music Administrator, at fsmith@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

Tiffin School Netball



Since January the Tiffin Netball team have played in numerous matches and in their first tournament, the Kingston Borough, when our 13 students competed against 8 schools. Their energy, commitment and play was outstanding, enabling them to win against Kingston Grammar School Bs, Holyfield, Surbiton and draw against Coombe School. When playing Tiffin Girls (hosts), the match was fiercely competitive resulting in Tiffin only losing by 1 point (7-6). Overall, the team came 5th in the tournament and played 7 fantastic matches.

Tiffin hosted Ibstock School for two matches. Unfortunately, the A team lost (28-11) but our B team won (16-11). The girls' commitment and energy levels during play is illustrated in their success. We continue to train and practise for the rest of the academic year.

Tiffin School Rowing

The rowers took part in their first National event at Eton Dorney, in the Oarsport Junior Sculling Head. The event includes schools and clubs from the whole UK, rowing over 3.6km. All the Tiffin crews did well!

Year 12s rowed up a year in the Championship Division. They produced a time that puts them in 8th position from 24 clubs in their year group; the Year 11s finished a very credible 13th from nearly 40 crews. 5 seconds was the margin from making the top 10; Year 10s didn't race as they were doing exams; Year 9s (pictured below) produced the best result of the day, coming 5th and 14th out of 40! The A boat was 5th, by 15 seconds off 1st place, but had to stop when they couldn't pass other crews in their lane, having caught up several hundred meters! Without this delay who knows ...



We had lots of crews in the Kingston Head from both the boys' and girls' squads. The race ran from Hampton Court back to the Boat Club and was challenging in windy and rough conditions. We had success in both Year 9 (J14) and Year 11 (J16) crews, and a very credible 2nd place in J15s (Year 10) and 3rd place in J18 (pictured below), which was year 12 racing in the year 13 category.



Mr A Di Luzio, Head of Tiffin Rowing

Tiffin School Rugby



The sevens season has finished with a flurry of fantastic performances from across multiple year groups. The year 7s completed clean sweep for Tiffin with every year group winning their respective Boroughs 7s tournament held at Richard Challoner School. First up at the Rosslyn Park sevens tournament was a Y11 side looking to build on their already impressive school record which has seen them only lose one game in the past calendar year. Unfortunately, the Tiffin side came up against some strong competition in their group, losing out to Millfield School (28 - 15) and Plymouth College (19 - 24) before sealing a consolation win against Waterloo School (24 - 17).

Next up was the Senior 1st team who started the tournament with two dominant performances against Royal Wootton Bassett Academy (36 - 7) and Harris City Academy Crystal Palace (32 - 5). This set up a clash with Eastbourne College at the top of their pool to determine who progressed through to the next round of the competition. Unfortunately, Tiffin never really got going in the match and the score finished 35 - 7 to the team from the south coast. Despite this loss the team can be proud of their performance, which included some fantastic free flowing rugby.

Chris Taylor, Tiffin Conditioning Coach

School Running Club

It was the 22nd of September, and the cross-country season commenced on a lovely afternoon at Oxted for the inter form fixture. All forms looked to be strong and had good teams, but one form proved to be a bit too good for the rest, yet 7AE could only manage 2nd behind a strong John Fisher Year 8 team, while 7CH finished in an impressive third, again against Year 8s.

The second race of the season was the 2nd and last Surrey relay fixture of the year. It was another form competition, but this time with a Tiffin A team, racing against John Fisher and Oxted. After a great start, Tiffin's A team saw themselves with a 10 second lead at the 3rd leg handover and after an unlucky slip on the third leg the gap was narrowing. Unfortunately, Tiffin was just beaten to the finish line by a John Fisher Year 8 team, but overall, a great effort from Tiffin and a great result of 2nd in just the 2nd race of the season.

One of the first major races of the season was the Charterhouse cross country. The Tiffin team performed exceptionally well on a cold Saturday morning, placing 4th out of many top performing schools including Judd, Eaton, and John Fisher. Even though this course was particularly dry, this race was by no means easy, with a killer hill halting momentum before the finish. The Year 7 team performed exceptionally well considering that they were racing against athletes who were up to two years older than them.



One of the biggest, if not the biggest, race of the season yet, was the Harrow Schools match. All years raced, with the Year 7's, 8's and 9's all racing in the same race and the older years racing together. Despite the challenges of racing against athletes two years older than them, the Year 7s earned a brilliant and well-deserved fourth place.

Another crucial race was the Kingston Borough Cross Country Championships held at Grist. A high place in this event would qualify athletes to represent Kingston at the Surrey Schools Cross Country Championships at Reigate Priory. In Year 7, three Tiffin students competed at Reigate. The Kingston team performed exceptionally well and finished equal on points with the winners, narrowly missing out on the victory due to the last scorer's position. In the other age groups, runners placed high in the order. Amazingly, Tiffin students finished as high as 3rd

and 1st in their respective age groups, and the success from everybody who competed made this race a memorable one.

One of the final races of the season was the National Schools Relay Championships in Coventry. After a very long bus ride, the team arrived in Coventry along with a surprisingly large number of other schools. This race was for all year groups; therefore, tiny Year 7s were running against 6th formers. Overall, the team ran very well, and this event marked an impressive end to the season for some runners.

Tiffinian Sport

A Little Cricketing Information ...with an Opportunity Tied In



As the Tiffinian Association continues to encourage the revival of cricket for the Old Tiffinians Cricket Club (OTCC), we will be setting-up an 'All Stars Cricket' hub at Grist this spring to build a junior cricket platform. For this, we are looking for volunteers to help.

We essentially need a handful of volunteers to help Lead Activator, Krishan Sachdeva (2017), to run the short sessions at the weekends and coordinate other activators. Here is a link for more information on what an activator/volunteer needs to do and what we are looking to achieve at Grist: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars/centres>

Activators are volunteers who will create a fun and inclusive environment for kids and parents alike. Activators should be enthusiastic, vibrant and motivated people who will inspire young children and create a fantastic all-round experience. Although many All Stars Cricket (aged 5-8 years old) and Dynamos Cricket (aged 8-11 years old) activators will have excellent experience of cricket, it is by no means essential – first and foremost, we are looking for people with fantastic personal skills.

The English Cricket Board and Surrey Cricket Foundation have plenty of resources for us to utilise to help us get up and running. We just need a handful of volunteers to get started. Parents will then provide support to help run sessions as the hub expands.

We will also be installing four new electronic scoreboards at Grist, refurbishing the OT Pavilion and have a wealth of

other cricket equipment coming our way! Any volunteers, please get in touch with OTCC at oldtiffinianscc@gmail.com

To see the dates for the next All Stars Cricket programme (5-8 year olds) running on Sunday mornings from 8 May to 26 June at Grist's and the booking procedure, please [click on this link](#).

Please feel free to pass this information on to friends and family who may be interested in signing their child up to the All Stars programme at Grist's or becoming an activator themselves.

Greg Nutt (2000)
TAL Trustee and Chair of the Old Tiffinians Football Club

Old Tiffinians Football Club

Continuing to be able to play at Grist's under a Tiffinian flag, and alongside other Tiffin sports teams will always be special. I wasn't really surprised a few weeks ago when the biggest cheer of the day on our 2nd XI pitch, was when the school U16As rugby team beat Hampton on our adjacent pitch during our warm up. We're also hugely proud of the return of competitive football within Tiffin School (who also seem to be quite good at beating Hampton recently!) and we're very excited to provide an outlet for all Tiffinian men and women to continue playing to a high standard even after they leave the school. We are always looking for new recruits, especially from within the Tiffinian community – if you are interested, please email us at oldtiffiniansfc@hotmail.co.uk, find us on Instagram, or pop down to training every Wednesday, Tiffin Sports Centre 3G, for Women (6-8pm) and Men/Vets (7-9pm)).

Within the club, the Men's 1st XI continue their strong season with a fight for promotion, with the top 7 teams (out of 10 in the league) separated by just 3 points with a handful of games to go. This will come down for sure to games in hand and goal difference, so we are excited to see what occurs. The Women's XI also continue their strong season *still undefeated* including their first tournament entry and win in January. This is a phenomenal start to the club's existence and big congratulations to all the players and coaches for the hard work they are putting in every week to keep this achievement up.



The Men's 2nd, 3rd and 4th XIs are all remaining competitive in their pursuit for mid-table anonymity, at this stage minimising any end-of-season admin fuss. The 4th team in particular are showing great late season form clocking-up a couple of hard-fought wins against tough opposition and really coming together as a squad. The Vets' 1st and 2nd XIs are also ending the season in similar positions and good form in the WLVFL, including putting a combined 14 goals past Hampton-based opposition this past weekend - there's a theme here, surely. Competition for places is also at an all-time high as Vets' football grows in popularity and accessibility, so watch this space as we decide how we might expand our Vets' division into 2022/23. Over 50s Super Vets or Walking Football, anyone? Do get in touch if either of those whet your appetite! We are also running various refereeing courses at Grist's this summer and autumn, so please email us accordingly if you would like to roam the pitches with a whistle in hand.

The other exciting piece of news is the decision to return to Europe this summer for a tour to Rotterdam. Having postponed for two years due to the pandemic, we're excited to paint the continent purple again, for few days in July (15-18th). All ages, genders and footballing ability welcome, if you are interested, please do get in touch!

Tom Nichols (2011), Club Secretary

Tiffinian Golf Society



Farleigh proved to be an inspired choice for our meeting. Relatively inexpensive but with generous catering both before and after, most found the course to their liking.

There were some spectacular scores in conditions that were far from clement. Nick Wright won the overall Stableford prize with an impressive 41 points, followed closely by Kapilan who also scored 41 but lost out by virtue of the duck pond. Peter avoided the pond despite having had plenty of practice culling the moor-hens off the 12th tee at Puttenham. With Nick and Kapilan featuring in the same team, the team prize was a foregone and highly worthy conclusion. Kapilan also hit the green in 2 shots on the Yellow 7th hole whilst Ian Langrish celebrated his birthday with a nearest the pin drive on the tricky Blue 3rd.

Tiffin Golf Society continues to thrive, but we could still do with some more players at our events.

Martin Williams, Fixtures Secretary OTGS
mwilliams@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

When?	Where?	What?	Why?	How Much?
Mon 23 May	Puttenham GC	Coffee & rolls. Dinner	Match v OH	£71.35 £24.35 for Puttenham members
Mon 30 May	Guildford GC	Coffee, rolls, sandwich es and chips	Match v OKs	£50
Fri 1 Jul	Bramley GC	Surrey Schools	Competiti on 7 players to count	£75
Wed 20 Jul	Chiddingfold	3-ball event	KGS invitation	
Fri 12 Aug	Cowdray Park	Match v KCS Old Boys		£67
Mon 31 Oct	Betchworth			£50



Thank you for your support of the Tiffinian Association

The Tiffinian Association relies on donations from Old Tiffinians and friends to continue its community-building activities such as *Tiffnews*, the Association's website www.tiffinfriends.org, the various Tiffinian events and its support of career groups for the benefit of alumni and students.

To expand our support for the School or to support the Tiffinian Association in some way, please click [here](#) for more information.

We regret to announce:

Robbie Brightwell M.B.E.

Robbie Brightwell, the Olympic athlete, died in March 2022 at the age of 82.

Robbie Brightwell was born in Rawalpindi, British Raj (now part of Pakistan) but moved with his family to Shropshire, where he grew up. Following his departure from Loughborough College in 1962, Robbie was appointed by Brigadier Harper to teach Physical Training and Games at Tiffin School. At the same time his wife, Ann Packer, was a PE Teacher at Coombe Girls' School. Shortly after his arrival at Tiffin, he departed for the European Athletics Championships in Belgrade where he won the European 400 metre gold medal in a record breaking 45.9 seconds. A few months later, running in Perth, Australia he added a Commonwealth Silver medal to his tally.

Appointed captain of the British Olympic athletic team in 1964, he led the British team's revolt against the sport's governing body threatening its departure to the XV111th Olympiad. When resolved, it proved instrumental in remodelling the amateur rules, and a gateway for other sports to emulate.

At the Games, he finished fourth in the Tokyo 400 metres final, but redeemed his fortunes running a sterling 44.3 seconds last leg in the 4 x 400 metres relay, which earned him a silver Olympic medal. His fiancée at that time was Ann Packer who won a gold medal in the women's 800 metres, the day after the men's individual 400 metres final. After winning a silver medal in the 400 metres Packer had no plans to run in the 800 metres and had a shopping trip planned until Brightwell's disappointing 400 metres. She said she ran it for him and broke the world record in the process. He retired from competitive athletics after the Games aged 24, but always retained a keen interest in coaching.

Returning to Tiffin School, he formed a friendship with Jim Greenwood (also a member of the Loughborough Hall of Fame), who had been appointed as an English and Rugby teacher. Together, they improved the performances of the schools' rugby and athletics teams. Robbie left Tiffin School later in 1964. He and Packer were each awarded the MBE in 1965. Invited in 1966 to become a Member of Parliament, he opted instead to become a lecturer at Loughborough University.

Armed with his newly awarded MSc, he joined Adidas UK, and two years later became Managing Director and led the brand through a period of growth. In a rapidly changing market, he was asked to launch a fashion orientated sports brand into the British market and in 1980 helped to establish Le Coq Sportif UK. After five years he left to become Managing Director of Pure Fishing UK Ltd, the world's largest fishing tackle company.

Brightwell and Packer were married in December 1964 and had three sons: Gary, and two former Manchester City players Ian and David. Retiring in 2000, he took a keen interest in coaching, fishing, walking, gardening, consulting, writing and holidaying with his wife, Ann. He was persuaded to enter local politics and in 2010 was elected a Town Councillor for Congleton, Cheshire.

Robbie died after a long brave fight against pancreatic cancer.

The 1964 edition of the Tiffinian Magazine reads: *'The School gave Mr Brightwell a rousing welcome on his return from Tokyo. The Headmaster, congratulating him on his silver medal for the 400 metres relay, commented that quite as important was his captaincy of the British Athletics Team – the most successful Olympic team we have sent in recent years, a team which set out with the determination to win, a spirit evoked by the personal example of its captain. His greatest moment was in the relay when, by superhuman efforts in the last few yards, he brought his team up to second place.*

The Chairman of Governors added his tribute to Mr Brightwell and recalled another Tiffinian, Harold Smith, who was an Olympic Champion in 1908, representing Australia. Robbie Brightwell however was the first member of the Tiffinian community to captain his team.

It was with pleasure that we learned soon afterwards that Mr Brightwell had been awarded the MBE. Though he has now left us to return to Loughborough College we are glad that Mr Brightwell's experience will be harnessed to the service of British athletes.'

Robbie Brightwell and Ann Packer last visited Tiffin School in 2014 to give a presentation to Year 8 and the exam PE classes on the history of sport in Britain, the development of elite sport and issues surrounding the lack of fitness levels in children. The Brightwells are pictured below on that occasion with the then Headteacher, Hilda Clarke:



The Brightwells' Olympic Medals:



Geoffrey Corbett [1948]



Having been born in Richmond Upon Thames, Geoffrey (Geoff to his friends) started at Tiffin School in September 1943. He loved Tiffin School. He played cricket, rugby and football for the school and he was in his element!

After leaving the school he started work in the Westminster Bank, of which he was very proud. He was a Westminster Bank man through and through. He played cricket and rugby for them too! He worked hard, passed his exams to join the Institute of Bankers and even went on to teach theory to others. He worked his way up the career ladder, mainly in London's West End, Baker Street, Hanover Square, Oxford Street amongst others, including a spell travelling the country as an inspector, rooting out bad practice and fraud. Then he became the classic suburban bank manager until he retired in 1992.

In his earlier days at the bank he met a colleague, Ivy, fell in love and went on to be married to her for 65 years. They had two daughters. He travelled the world with Ivy. They went all around the world, including travelling on Concorde and the QEII, but he also loved his home and garden, always fussing over the lawn as if it was the wicket at Lords.

Throughout his life he loved to be involved and this included many years of playing cricket for the Old Tiffinians, serving on the committee and then proudly becoming Chairman of the Old Tiffinians. The OTA was a big part of his life and for many years the family, at the school fete and at Grist's. Geoff died aged 89.

TAL is very grateful to Geoff's family for nominating TAL as the recipient charity for donations in his memory. Over £1,000 has been donated by his family and friends to go towards improving Grist's, and a bench at Grist's has now been dedicated in Geoff's memory.

Eric Hall [1951]



Eric was one of Britain's finest race walkers during a golden era for the discipline. He represented Britain in both the 1956 and 1960 Olympics and passed away aged 89 after a period of declining health.

Eric was born in Oxshott and developed his appetite for race walking by going for long walks with his family on Sunday afternoons. As a teenager he began training with competitive race walkers and was inspired by the

1948 Olympics in London. His father, A W Hall, was one of Tiffin School's ground staff in the early 1960s

After leaving Tiffin School, he started a lifelong job outside athletics as a customs and excise officer, but after rising through the ranks as a race walker represented his country in the Olympics on a hot day in Melbourne, finishing ninth.

At the Rome Games in 1960 Hall had another shot at the Olympics and this time completed in the 20km event, placing 10th.

In 1957, Hall was elected a life member of his race walking club, the Belgrave Harriers, and was named president in 1999.

Many years ago, Jack Crump, the then Secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board, said that Eric was 'Gentlemanly, modest, temperamentally and technically a perfect walker'.

Frank Dobson [1952]



Frank passed away, aged 87, on 19th December 2021 after a long illness. He and his brother John (1946) both attended Tiffin School.

He was a British sports shooter, competing in the 50-metre pistol event at the 1960 Summer Olympics, and continued to support the Olympic movement his entire life, taking part in the Olympians' Westminster Mile, up to his 85th birthday

He was a leading lichenologist, writing and illustrating many books and articles on lichenology, natural history, and photography. He helped to popularise lichenology to the public with his book 'Lichens: An Illustrated Guide to the British and Irish Species' which was initially published in 1979 and became the best-selling guide to the species ever written. It is now in its 7th Edition. The book broke new ground as the first fully illustrated guide to lichens for Britain and Ireland. It was popular from the start and is still the main introductory manual, indispensable to anyone starting to study lichens or wishing to know the British and Irish species better. Frank dedicated the book to former Tiffin Head of Biology, Denis Bloodworth.

Frank lectured and ran many courses on lichenology for the Field Studies Council and other similar organisations. He served on the British Lichen Society Council for a number of years as its Treasurer and then as its President 1992-94. He was made an honorary member of the British Lichen Society in 1997. Frank was professionally involved in photography for most of his working life and was on the photographic consultative committees of both Twickenham College and the London College of Printing. He leaves six daughters.

Peter Smith [1959]



Peter passed away on 29th December 2021 at the age of 81.

Crispin Jones [1960]

Crispin passed away 5th May 2021, aged 79. He was an emeritus reader of The University of London, Institute of Education, where he worked from 1979 until his retirement. His academic work centred on conflict resolution, intercultural and urban education. He held the Tiffin School long jump record in feet until his death, as measurement switched to metres!

Dr David Clive Price [1967]



David died in December 2020 from COVID after a short illness, aged 71. After Tiffin School, David read History at St John's, Cambridge where he was a Choral Scholar. He then completed a PhD, also at Cambridge. An international cultural business expert, bestselling author, speaker and revenue growth strategist, he was consultant to many

organisations, notably in Hong Kong and London. Founder and CEO of DCP Global Coaching Ltd, David was an authority on mental wellbeing and on personal and professional development, and his work on emotional intelligence and leadership was embraced by Fortune 500s, CEOs, and political and trade leaders. Chief speechwriter at HSBC, at the return of Hong Kong to China, and lecturing on crisis communication skills, Hong Kong Civil Service Training Institute, David received many awards. He published broadly on music history, travel, food and culture, and wrote *Hidden Demons: How to Overcome Fear, Anxiety and Addiction to Thrive in Uncertain Times*, drawing on personal experience. An able linguist and entertaining, motivational speaker, David lectured on Renaissance thought and ideas and delivered a series of talks on Italian rural life on BBC Radio 3.

We also are very sad to announce:

Tristan Galvin-Sparks (2021) passed away in March 2022. Obituary to follow.

**Please send content for the next edition of
Tiffnews by 22 June 2022 to**

TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk or by post to:

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Queen Elizabeth Road

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Surrey KT2 6RL

And finally...

I've had a great time working with you all over the last thirteen years and will miss your chats, jokes and anecdotes. Together we've built a stronger alumni community that supports Tiffin School in so many ways. The alumni events diary has become busier than ever. Financial support for the recent Dining Hall and Gym fundraising campaigns has been fantastic. Careers support for current students is really appreciated. There are so many ways you help support this excellent school. Thank you and please may it continue.

After working with three Headteachers, four TAL Chairmen, and twenty TAL Trustees, it's time for me to say goodbye.

Alex Swift

Development and Alumni Manager, Tiffin School