



Newsletter of Tiffinian Association No. 240 June 2009

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Chairman of Governors' Letter

Dear Fellow Tiffinians,

The next time you receive this newsletter I am very pleased to say that you will see on this page a letter from **Hilda Clarke**, our new Head Teacher, who will be starting in September. I am delighted that Hilda has agreed to join Tiffin. A former deputy head at Tiffin Girls, and an extremely successful head at Langley Grammar School in Slough, I have complete confidence that Hilda will provide a strong and determined leadership, be able to recover the sound financial footing which the School has enjoyed until recently, and also be able to continue to drive forward the academic and broader educational progress made by Tiffin in the past five years. The Governors are looking forward to developing a strategy for the School with Hilda, which will enable sustained but controlled investment into the futures of all the students who pass through Tiffin.



Through extremely tight financial controls and strong support from the various bodies associated with Tiffin, the School managed to see out the financial year without having to utilise any of the loan facility offered by the local education authority. Finances for the coming year remain extremely tight, and we are having to reduce the number of both teaching and non-teaching staff, the latter very sadly requiring a few redundancies. Once Hilda is in place, we shall be able to look at the overall staffing structure in more depth and set up an organisation more appropriate for our size and requirements. It is hoped that we shall just about be able to break even in the current financial year, which is a huge improvement on the situation that existed in January.

Having addressed the cost side, we are now starting to look at ways to increase funding, both to reinvest in the School's day-to-day activities, and to build reserves again for future development. A working party is actively seeking ways in which to maximise the voluntary donation income from current parents, a strategy for the School Development Office is being developed, and potential for additional grant income is being investigated.

A recent enquiry from parents about leveraging the wider Tiffin community more professionally, as many other Schools do, was the catalyst to implement an action plan which has been held in the wings for the last few years, but is now possible, since TAL is fully set up and Alex Swift is in place to give us dedicated resources to

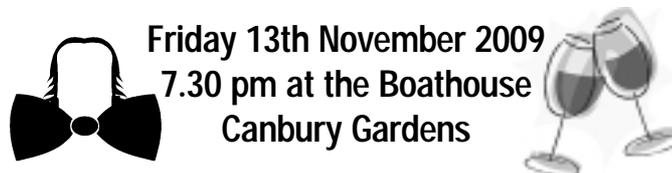
implement and respond to activities. A group of around 14 people has been set up to significantly broaden and increase the membership of TAL and improve the way we communicate and interact with all members. This includes current parents, recent past-parents, Governors, TAL Trustees, pupils who left in the last 10 years, and some who left in the 70s. Once active, you will be receiving updates on progress through Ian Redington and the TAL membership committee.

In the meantime, I should like to thank everyone for their continued support of Tiffin, and look forward to positive news on progress from Hilda in September.

Stuart Lester

STUART LESTER
Chair of Governors

Tiffin Association Annual Dinner



Friday 13th November 2009
7.30 pm at the Boathouse
Canbury Gardens

Come along for an enjoyable evening, to join old and new friends, and to hear the plans of the new Head Teacher, Hilda Clarke, for the future of Tiffin School.

Please book early as spaces are limited
Tickets at £30 each can be reserved through any of the following:

Jack Foster - 01372 813021
Stuart Vidler - 01590 678789
John Wright - 020 8337 8965

Alternatively, contact us by e-mail at: j.foster@ucl.ac.uk

Association Chairman's Letter

Dear Fellow Tiffinian,

Since I wrote to you in March, there have been a number of significant developments. As many of you know, Howard Mallinson has not been too well for some time now, and I am afraid I have to report that is still the case and at the time of writing is back in hospital. As a result, Howard has tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Association, although he has indicated a willingness to stay as a Trustee. At a recent meeting, the Trustees elected me as Chairman of the Tiffinian Association (TAL). In the OTA, the chairman was elected by the membership, but under the new constitution the membership now elects the trustees, who in turn elect their Chairman.



It is, of course, a great honour but also a significant responsibility, as there are a number of issues that need to be resolved to ensure the Tiffinian Association becomes an active and vibrant organisation which attracts support from those who have benefited from Tiffin School. Accordingly, we have been working on a strategy, which in simple terms, aims for TAL to be in a position by 2012 to be able to offer a more secure future for the School and correspondingly for itself. It has been a frustration that our ability to help the School overcome its recent financial problems has been very limited because our own financial resources are so very modest. That is not to say we have not been able to assist – we have, but more of that later. To achieve our aims – to which, as Trustees, we believe our charitable status drives us – we have set as objectives over the next three years; to increase membership, increase activities to provide a wider interest for members and prospective members, to establish sufficient funds to be able to not only help the School should there be financial difficulties in the future, but also to have an active and beneficial outreach (charitable grants) programme.

We believe that our activities and those of the School should be complementary and we shall strive to achieve that. Within the Association, there is a general recognition that the best way forward is to help the School to help itself; there are many resources within the wider Tiffin Community that can be better utilised to support the School with its own fundraising and support for the pupils. Our main aim will be working up projects to achieve this. In the last issue, I introduced you to Alex Swift, who is based at the School, as administrator of the Association but also provides support to the School consistent with this aim. We wish to improve communications between the Association and members, and Alex would normally be your first point of contact if you have any queries, ideas and so on. Her contact details are shown below. Tiffin has almost certainly brought us all many benefits, and we also aim to share that benefit with those that may need it – part of this is through outreach but also better using the resources we have.

One of our main resources is of course the Grists sports ground; you will have heard previously of the interest in relocating the Walton Athletic Club to our ground. This opportunity is once again 'live', having previously gone very quiet. However, I should also make it clear that discussions are still at a very early stage and there is a long way to go before it becomes a reality. We have, however, an opportunity to develop parts of the ground, which could be of immense benefit to all of us. I know that over the years there have been several such 'false dawns'. Development opportunities have a habit of sounding wonderful but then flounder. The Trustees are, quite rightly, giving the current proposals enthusiastic support and consideration, with Mike Taylor and Nigel Angus teaming up to pursue the project. With their professional expertise, I am confident the best interests of the Association will be served. We are very grateful for their offers of help.

In my last letter, I did mention that if anybody wished to make a donation to the Association, which would then be used to help the School or its pupils, they should do so through Alex Swift. I am delighted to say that although it was not a formal appeal, there were some positive responses. The donors have been written to and thanked, but I should like to record thanks here too. If anyone else wishes to follow suit, please contact Alex. A modest project the Association has agreed to fund, as the School is no longer able to do so, is to help boys with career coaching. While the cost is relatively modest, it is something that I personally think is very important, as they prepare to leave the school. Some of the money donated mentioned above will be used for this purpose.

Next term sees a new Head Teacher arrive at Tiffin School, and we welcome Hilda Clarke and look forward to working closely with her and her team to ensure that Tiffin continues to offer a quality and well-rounded education. We shall all have the opportunity to meet her at our Annual Dinner, which, as you will see, has been fixed for 13th November. Put the date in your diary; I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope you all have an excellent summer and if you have any thoughts on TAL, then please get in touch.

With kind regards, etc.

IAN REDINGTON, Chairman

Alex Swift's contact details are: Tel: 020 8546 4638 (extn. 282) or email at TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk The website is <http://www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk/ota/default.htm>

Dates for your Diary

Monday 8th June

- *Golf at Farnham*

Thursday 25th June

- School v. MCC Cricket

Thursday 2nd July

- *OTA Social Lunch*

Friday 10th July

- Tiffin in the Garden

Sunday 12th July

- *Cricket Club*
Vice-Presidents Lunch

Monday 13th July

- House rowing

Tuesday 14th July

- House swimming

Wednesday 15th July

- School sports day

Thursday 16th July

- Founders' Day
- School term ends

Tuesday 8th September

- Autumn Term begins

Friday 11th September

- *Tiffin Open Day*
- tours of Elmfield etc.

Thursday 8th October

- *OTA Social Lunch*

Friday 13th November

- *Association*
Annual Dinner

Wednesday 25th November

- *Association AGM*

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

Hilda Clarke appointed as new Tiffin Head



Following a rigorous selection process involving governors, staff and students, we are delighted to be able to announce the appointment of Miss Hilda Clarke as the School's new Headteacher. She will take up the post in September 2009.

Miss Clarke is currently Head of Langley Grammar School near Slough, a post she has held for nearly nine years. Under her leadership the school has been highly successful and was recently rated outstanding in all categories by Ofsted. Previously she was Deputy Head of Tiffin Girls' School from 1992–2000.

She was brought up in Hull and gained a History degree at the University of Sussex. She started her teaching career in Cheshire, before moving to London to take up the post at Tiffin Girls'. She now lives in Richmond upon Thames.

We believe this is an excellent appointment for the School. Miss Clarke is a very experienced Head with impressive leadership skills and a strong drive for progress and improvement. She clearly demonstrated to us a first-rate understanding of the School's ethos and its future needs, and an exciting future lies ahead for the School under her direction.

Miss Clarke has passed on the following comment to everyone: "I am really looking forward to the opportunity to lead Tiffin School into the future — it is a very special community with a strong sense of identity and a commitment to the very highest standards of teaching and learning".

Mrs Cox will remain the interim Executive Head of Tiffin School, until Miss Clarke joins in September.

STUART LESTER
Chairman of Governors

Editor

I must start with an apology to Members, who all received their March 'Tiffnews' exceptionally late. Despatch of that edition was delayed through circumstances beyond our control. This one should, however, reach you on time (during June).

In this edition, you have details of the new Head of Tiffin School. I trust your surprise at the appointment of a woman to this important post will be adequately countered by the impressive CV she has to offer, including local knowledge and a real appreciation of what both the Tiffin schools stand for in the area. We look forward to welcoming her to some of our OT gatherings, starting with the Annual Dinner in November.

During this *interregnum* period the Tiffin Community has cause to be extremely grateful to John King and other senior staff, together with Pauline Cox and the Governors, who have all been working hard to extricate the School from a legacy of financial problems.

BRIAN HOLDEN

Grammar School Places

This photo of a Tiffin maths classroom was featured in the Life supplement of the 'Sunday Telegraph' in January in an article highlighting the battle for the top grammar school places, now that the credit crunch is affecting many parents who would normally choose independent schools.



Blazers

Blazers in Old Boys' colours have by now been delivered.

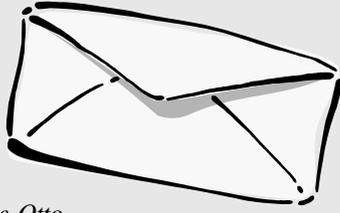
Have you ordered yours yet, or made your interest known ?

For further details contact
Bernard Davies on 020 8337 1545
or by email: lydyard@talktalk.net

BBC's 'Silent Witness' comes to Tiffins!

In March, BBC TV camera crews descended on the Tiffin Sports Centre to spend the day filming part of an episode of 'Silent Witness' — a scene that requires a temporary morgue to be set up in a sports hall.

Letters



Dear Brian,

We were lucky. We had some great teachers and the others were all excellent. Two who stand out in my mind as Great were Otto Meissner, whose Physics teaching captured my imagination, and M P Meshenberg, who would have turned me into a mathematician; he did his best, but silk purses and sows' ears come to mind.

At this time I will concentrate on 'Mesh' in the hope that it will start a thread in your columns. 'Mesh'. We schoolboys weren't very inventive, were we? Just to check the spelling of his name I visited the British Library online catalogue and there he was, Maurice Percival Meshenberg the author of **Algebraic Geometry**, that little green trigonometry book we used, the book with a multitude of different typestyles. What did surprise me was the date of publication: 1924. He must have been a young man then.

Each morning we'd make our way to Elmfield, through the front door, and into the small room immediately on the left and deposit our homework on the table. Thence to be registered and to assembly, while Mesh would have arrived on his seemingly ancient bicycle with its carbide (I think) lamp and be marking our homework. No form to register, no assembly to stand through for Mesh.

Every day we would crowd around the table with Mesh in this small Elmfield room, maybe a half-dozen of us, and it would be more in the way of a tutorial rather than a lesson. Yes, we worked hard and we practised hard at our trig, our calculus, our statistics, at whatever he gave us. Through his teaching we learned how enjoyable and beautiful mathematics could be. He engendered a sense of loyalty and we felt privileged to be in one of his groups.

Occasionally we would hear that he had done a piece of consultancy for the Ordnance Survey in Chessington and some of this he might pass on, giving us the benefit of 'real world' problems.

Beyond maths, he knew I was interested in books, often visiting the used-book shops of Charing Cross Road and Cecil Court. It was Mesh who taught me to be more discriminating in what I read and bought, in writers, in editions, and in the finer points of good books, lessons I'm grateful for and which have led me over many a horizon and given me much pleasure.

Another look in the internet and I found that he had died, aged 71 in 1968 and that someone, probably a family member, had used the Freedom of Information Act in 2007 to access the National Archives where there is a Nationality and Naturalisation Certificate dated 1931 for "Meshenberg, Moyshe Paysach (known as Maurice Percival Meshenberg), from Russia. Resident in Surbiton."

I would propose M P Meshenberg as a Great Teacher and hope that others will second this.

Yours,

Michael Farrington (1956)
(formerly Michael Koussoulos!)

Footnote

M P Meshenberg. Born 10/4/1897. 1910-1913 educated at Central Foundation Boys' School. 1913-1915 East London College, University of London. 1916 BSc (London) 2nd Class Honours in Mathematics. 1915-1921 Various teaching posts in Sleaford, Windsor, Newport (Essex) & Finchley. Appointment to Tiffins 1/9/1921 to teach Mathematics. Retired July 1959.

Dear Brian,

I just thought I would drop the School a line as an Old Boy now living and working in New Zealand. My wife is currently enjoying a trip to the South Island with some visitors from the UK. Yesterday she was on

the Interislander ferry service between Wellington and Picton. She heard an announcement for the 'Tiffin School party' to make their way to the car deck ready for disembarking. She rang me last night wondering whether there was a Tiffin School in NZ. I assured her that there could only be one Tiffin School and a search of the website confirmed that the boys' choir was currently touring. I only wish I had been on the ferry or that I had known sooner. I would have been immensely proud as an Old Boy to see them perform in New Zealand. What an opportunity for the boys to come to such a fantastic part of the world. I'm sure they will have received a warm welcome and that the experience of coming here will live with them for a very long time.

If Dave Morris is still running rugby and he has any plans to bring the 1st XV touring here, he should get in touch. The school I work in would be happy to arrange a fixture and give the boys an experience of the Auckland region.

Best wishes

Jason Laverock (1988)

Dear Brian,

I read Nigel Mee's letter (March 2009 Issue) with interest. It reminded me that I have a copy of the School Carol Service on vinyl. It was, strangely, left behind by the thieves, when our shipment of personal effects was raided somewhere between Istanbul and Johannesburg in 1992.

It was recorded, I think, in Kingston Parish church in 1958.

Side 1: Gloria in Excelsis

In Dulci Jubilo

Adam Lay Abounded

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Side 2: Sweet Baby Sleep (Soloist Colin Prince)

The Noble Stem of Jesse

Alleluia

I saw a Maiden

Regarding television, John Walker assembled a small choir of first and second formers in 1959 (I think) to appear on television in the programme 'All Your Own'. The programme was introduced by Brian Johnson and was transmitted live on Sunday Evenings. This particular edition went out just before Christmas, I believe, and had a theme running through it for the various 'acts' to follow. Our two pieces were especially composed for the occasion.

In those days it would have been very rare for a programme to have been recorded, so I do not expect a copy exists. The 'Surrey Comet' took and published a photograph of the choir and, to our delight, we later learned that the BBC had sent the School some money!

It was decided that this should be spent on a coach trip to Cambridge, where, after an afternoon punting, we sang Evensong. I still remember processing to the squelching of our soaking wet shoes and socks.

I hope this stirs some memories.

Best wishes,

Graham (Dick) Power (1965)

Dear Brian,

Regarding the request for information concerning the woodwork lab, we used this in my first year at the School in 1930 under Bargee Lambert. It was a new building, seemingly designed for the purpose, and I cannot believe it was part of the Elmfield Estate. I imagine it was built in 1929, on a corner of the playing field, at the same time as the row of lavatories nearby, together with the asphalt square between them, which was heavily populated during Break time, as the playing field and the lawns in front of the School were out of bounds. This part of the playground also gave access to the window at the side of Elmfield from which one could get doughnuts at Break time.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Phillips (1938)

OT Football Club

The last league fixtures of our football season were played at home on Saturday 9th May, with the first team taking on and beating UCL Academicals 5-1 and the seconds beating The Comets 4-2. The Saturday before, the 3s and 4s completed their seasons with a 1-2 defeat and an 8-2 victory respectively. The results epitomised the various teams' fortunes.

Jon Atkinson has done a great job in developing a very young 1st team side, built around talented teenagers, into winners, and overall it has been a very successful end to the season for the team. After Christmas the team showed its true potential and climbed out of a possible relegation battle (4 teams get relegated), winning nine of its last 15 games to just miss out on promotion and take a credible 4th place. Mathew Males led the team from the front scoring 27 goals including 3 hat tricks in the last 4 games, ably supported by ever-present midfielder Brett Law and tricky winger Jake Pitt. Jon has great hopes that this team can achieve more next season.

The Second XI looked capable of pushing for promotion in the league, when I made my last report, having enjoyed an unbeaten run. Unfortunately results have been mixed since then, with the team winning 6, drawing 1 and losing 4 to leave them in a credible 5th place.

The 3rd team had a difficult start to the season when new skipper Ralph Stadie was given the unenviable task of building a team more or less from scratch. After a couple of poor results early on, the team began to win some games and at the turn of the year, the team looked set to push on in the second half of the season. Unfortunately the side lost its momentum – and key players were absent in a couple of the 'must-win' games – during the business end of the season, and in the end the 3s were a little unlucky to find themselves in the relegation positions in a tight division. Overall a lot of credit goes to Ralph for bringing together a squad which enjoyed the season and battled hard right up to the last match which they lost with the last kick of the game.

The highlight of the 4ths season remains the 16-0 win over Fulham Compton O B IVs in the LOB Olympian cup, 2nd round. In the league the team lost one more than they won to finish in a comfortable 7th place. In a season of end to end high-scoring matches the team achieved a tally of 65 goals for and 69 against. Captain and goalkeeper Paul Cotterell has admitted that one of the goals could have been his fault.

LEAGUE RESULTS FOR 2008/09 SEASON

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
22	12	2	8	61	51	10	38	4th out of 12

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
20	10	3	7	44	37	7	33	5th out of 11

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
18	4	2	12	22	65	-43	14	10th out of 10

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

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
20	9	1	10	65	69	-4	28	7th out of 11

The Vets played a full fixture list of 26 friendlies, thanks to the efforts of Jon Kent and Dave Burrows. Highlights include; playing on pitches in mint condition at Economicals and Sandhurst; winning more than we lost, with two runs of five wins on the trot, including three games where we scored 7 or more goals with free flowing stylish football (compared to our normal style). Low points include; a mid-season run of one win in eight games; our keeper Mike Dash breaking his arm; having to play more than half the games without a keeper, although of the stand-ins Russell 'The Cat' Smith surprised everyone with his agility. It was also bittersweet to lose our final game of the season to local rivals Maori. Played as a 'Challenge Cup' match on the Met Police pitch at Imber Court we fought back into a fantastic match after being 0-2 down at half time to draw level at 2-2 before hitting the post to almost seal victory. And so to extra time. Unfortunately on a rare

excursion into our box their forward found our 'volunteer' goalie doing a fandango with his defender, missing the ball completely and gifting an open goal. We continued to press but to no avail and had to make do with the 'what ifs' in the bar later.

On the stats front, 33 players turned out for the Vets during the season, with 18 players playing in more than ten games. Steve Johnson in his first season for the Vets played in most games (23) followed by Jon Kent with 22. Ted Wightwick also in his first season for the Vets played 19 games and it would have been more if he hadn't been flattered by the attraction of playing for the 2s when they were really desperate. Brendan Dougan was top scorer with 27 goals (including scoring 5 goals and hitting the woodwork three times in one game), followed by Steve Johnson with 16 and Ben Loader with 12.

VETS - Friendlies

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD
26	13	2	11	89	76	13

FINALLY PLEASE NOTE; New players of all standards are always welcome. If you would like to play Saturday afternoon football, then please contact Club Secretary Errol Walker in the first instance on 07984 473 074 and join us for pre-season training.

STEVE JOHNSON, Chairman

OT Golf Society

On April 20th OTGS had our first interschool match of the season at Betchworth Park against Old Hamptonians. We were blessed with the most wonderful warm spring day, and the course was in excellent condition. Old Hamptonians' Golf Society almost ceased to exist a few years ago, but is now reinvigorated with many younger OHs and an active fixture list. This emphasises our need to continually attract younger Old Tiffs, and we are always seeking new members for our group. Our golf handicaps range from 6 to 26 and our ages from around 30 to around 80, so we offer good company for any old Tiff who might like to join us.

On the day, OHs had 11 golfers and we had 14, each including one visitor. The match was therefore 10 a side and OH narrowly won on the day, they also recorded the top score of 36 points. They won the Ford Trophy, which we have held for many years.

Our Betchworth winner was Geoff Howes, with 35 points, followed by Jim Tink second on countback with 34 points and Allan Piggott third also with 34 points. Front and back 9 prizes went to John Ebenezer and David Baron.

We then played Old Kingstonians at Tyrrells Wood on May 7th on a cool blustery day which tested our abilities to the full, especially on the back 9. We were competing for the "Over the Road" Cup. We had 12 players, including one guest, and OKs had 16 players. In spite of their superior numbers, in a best 8 score match we were able to win back the much coveted trophy by a narrow margin. It was great to meet up with old friends once more.

As well as a match against OKs, we were also contending for the Spring Cup, held by Chris Towlson, who brought the trophy along in a gleaming state.

Our OTGS winner was Roger Keep playing on his home track with a winning score of 34 on countback. John Ebenezer also had 34 points and was a worthy second. John Edney was third with a solid 32 points. Front and back 9 prizes went to Allan Piggott and Jim Tink (also on countback). Roger was therefore the proud winner of our Spring Cup, and gave an excellent thank you speech in spite of his tie.

Our next meeting is at Farnham Golf Club on Monday June 8th against Old Surbitonians who are the hosts. This time we are defending the trophy. The first tee time is 1pm. If any old Tiff would like to join us on that occasion, please contact me on 01483 282411 or email allan.piggott@btinternet.com

ALLAN PIGGOTT

OT Cricket Club

I am happy to report that OT cricket at Grist is still fully operational and in reasonably good health this summer, at least in terms of numbers to fill three league sides on a Saturday and one Sunday side. All teams on Saturday now play in the 'Fullers Brewery Surrey County League'. Matches on Sundays are half divided into league (Fullers Brewery 'Old Boys' Sunday League) and friendly ones.

The last 2008 season was not been such a memorable one for the Club in terms of achieving positive results, the exception being the Saturday 3rd XI who almost won their league, deservedly winning their league's best batsman (Anthony Moorthoti) and bowler (Pradeep Kumar) awards in the process. A number of new recruits have been added to our playing list this year. We are constantly making efforts and looking to attract Tiffin Old Boys back into the fold, and it seems that we might be a little more successful in that this time around.

The league season started on 9th May. The 3rd team have won both their matches so far, and the 1st team were unlucky not to register a win in their first match, failing to grab the last wicket in time. The 2nd team, although very enthusiastic, lost both their matches, but hopes are high that they will have a good season in the end. The Sunday side played their first 'Old Boys' league match against a strong Old Wimbledonians team on Sunday 10th May and managed to register an exciting narrow win by just 6 runs, with the opposition chasing a target of 212. It is hoped that this result will spur the side on to aim for

greater heights as the season progresses.

OTCC have a full fixture list, both on Saturdays and Sundays. All are more than welcome to come along and support the sides, whenever you can – a friendly smile and a warm cup of tea is always on offer. Anyone wishing to join the Club as playing members is also more than welcome to do so. We will hold our Vice-Presidents' Lunch on 12th July this year, and all VPs and guests are more than welcome. Please register your interest to attend with Peter Smith or Ravi soon.

As far as the Club officers are concerned, the following have been appointed for the 2009 season:

Chairman, 1st XI Captain (Sat & Sun) – Ravi Shankar-Kamineni
Vice-Chairman, 1st XI Vice-Captain (Sat & Sun)
& Welfare Officer: Matthew Bennett.
Saturday 2nd XI Captain: Aumran Khan
Saturday 3rd XI Captain: Jeewan Daniels
Fixture Secretary: Richard Bates
Team Secretary: Peter Smith

As always, we are indebted to and thankful for the support provided by our ever-present 'Old Boys' – Peter Smith, Greer Kirkwood, Michael Giddy and George Dryden – throughout the season, which certainly makes the season flow more smoothly for all concerned. Wishing you all a very happy summer from us all at OTCC.

RAVI SHANKAR KAMINENI

People



Tom Bloxham (1983) appeared during May on BBC2 with an English Heritage programme, looking at the refurbishment of the remaining block of 1950s concrete flats on the slope behind Sheffield Station.



Ron Butler (1950) has recently joined the Association. Ron was brought up in Chessington and arrived at Tiffins in 1943 from Tolworth Central School. Following School Cert., he went into VI Medical and in 1950 gained a County Major Scholarship to go to Durham University to study Biology. In that year also he rowed in a very successful school VIII – the first Tiffin crew to compete at Henley.

He joined a number of other Tiffinians at Durham, and both he and Mike Fry, another member of the school crew, rowed in the University VIII. He graduated with honours in 1953 and embarked on his National Service. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery, reaching the rank of Captain, and served in the Suez Canal Zone and Kenya. Following demob, he was awarded a Nuffield Research Fellowship at Southampton University to study the effect of light on the growth of plants, and was awarded his PhD in 1959. In that same year, he was appointed as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Manchester.

At Manchester he specialised in cytology, the study of cells, and after going through the ranks was appointed Reader in that subject. He spent a research year at Harvard learning electron microscopy, and returned to set up his own laboratory in Manchester which ultimately became the largest in the UK. Further research periods were spent in the Universities of North Carolina and Illinois. His research was on the ultrastructure and function of a range of cell types, but he was best known for his work on protozoa, both free-living forms and those parasitic on animals and humans. He published around 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers and a similar number of book chapters, reviews and reports of papers delivered at scientific meetings worldwide. His undergraduate teaching ranged

from cell biology to microbiology and he supervised 40 PhD students, all successful. He also became Director of the Undergraduate School, responsible for the delivery and administration of over 60 different degrees. Ron retired in 1999.

After retirement Ron continued his interest in science and education and is an editor of Biological Sciences Review, a publication aimed at sixth formers. He also helped promote science in a local primary school, which he found stimulating but more scary than facing an audience of undergraduates! Other activities and interests include Rotary (he is a past club president and current secretary), gardening, fell-walking, the history of World War I, reading, music and, of course, spending more time with his family! He has four children, three from his first marriage and one from the second, with ages ranging from fifty to fifteen. His first wife was a teacher and the second a neuroscientist. His latest venture is to join TAL where he hopes to renew old friendships and make new ones.



John Hore (1948) keeps in touch with us, even though he has lived and worked in Canada for many years. He has now published a very readable well-produced book about his life and career. A copy will be kept in the School Archives.

Jonny Lee Miller (1989) began his acting career in Frank Whately's Tiffin School production of 'The Ragged Child'. In May he was in the acclaimed TV drama 'Endgame', which re-enacted the secret talks that led to the ending of apartheid in South Africa. He played the part of Michael Young, the businessman who brought the various parties together for talks at a secret venue in Somerset. Jonny was praised for the understated way he played the role of catalyst in these significant events.



Chris Nott (1986) was installed as the Head Server of Guildford Cathedral in May. He began serving in 1998 and was elected to the post by the other volunteer servers. The responsibilities of the post

include working with clergy and others at the Cathedral in the preparation and execution of the Cathedral's liturgy. He now leads the team of servers to accompany and assist ministers at the altar.



John Pitts (1994), who has degrees from Bristol and Manchester Universities, has recently released a new CD of piano music: *'intensely pleasant music: 7 Airs & Fantasias and other piano music by John Pitts'*. The soloist is Steven Kings, a well respected pianist and conductor from Bristol, and the Assistant Director of the BBC National Chorus of Wales.

The CD was supported by the PRS Foundation for New Music / The Bliss Trust. Excerpts can be heard at <http://cd.tp/ipm08> where the CD (and sheet music) is also available to order or download. The CD comprises a collection of 14 pieces – the 7 Airs & Fantasias (including a couple started in the Sixth Form at Tiffin, and one piece for prepared piano), plus two other pieces – a minimalistic counting duel *for twenty nifty fingers* and a virtuosic Toccata. There is also an extra track available as a download-only from cd.tp/ipm08a - *"Are You Going?" for thirty nifty fingers* (based on the folk-tune Scarborough Fair), which has something of a novelty value in being for 6 hands at a single piano.

Cameron Porteous (2004) joined the Royal Navy on leaving school, and he has now passed out of Dartmouth, having previously completed a degree at Southampton in Electrical Engineering.

Michael Staples (1965) from Tiffins entered Bristol University, gaining a degree in Botany, followed by three years' research, before entering the Civil Service as HM Inspector of Taxes. Later he became Technical Advisor for shipping companies and, more recently, Employee Share Schemes. Michael converted to Catholicism in 1968 and became involved with the liturgy for the Cathedral in Clifton. In 1969 he married his wife Margaret and moved to Epsom & Ewell in 1974, where they raised their young family, Matthew and Hannah. His busy life continued, as he became a Borough Councillor for 16 years and Mayor in 1992/93. Honorary Alderman from 1995 and JP since 1984. He has been a Governor of various schools and taken a failed school out of special measures. Michael and his family moved to Seaford in April 2008. He has recently been enrolled in the Catenian Association.

Michael's father **Gerry (1930)** was a well-known active member of the Association, and his son, **Matthew (1992)**, more recently followed in the family Tiffin tradition.



Frank Whately (former Tiffin Head of Drama) was seen briefly on television in March, together with his brother Kevin, in a programme on Alzheimers (which affected their mother badly) and, earlier in that month, in a programme in the series *'Who Do You Think You Are?'*, featuring Kevin's quest to trace his family roots.

Andrew Williams (2008) took part in the Sheffield Half Marathon in April. He did it in a very respectable time of 1hr 41 min 53 sec. His position was 1006 out of around 4800. Those Saturday morning cross-country runs at school seem to have paid off.



Roddy Williams (former Tiffin Choirmaster) has had yet another tremendous write-up, this time for Stravinsky in Birmingham. His performance required exceptional stamina.

Maurice Powell (1950) encounters the Law

Lt. Col. Maurice Powell, Chairman of Curry Rivel Parish Council, enjoys being captured in the 'strong arms of the law'. The picture shows him on Curry Rivel village green during the recent celebrations for the tenth anniversary of the twinning agreement between Curry Rivel and the French town of Chevilly.



OT Social Lunch

Our fifty-eighth lunch was held on Thursday, 2nd April, at our usual venue, viz., the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Rd., Tolworth, Surrey, meeting at 12.30, for lunch at 1.00, departure usually at 3pm.

The 20 present were :-

Jim Aston, Dennis Barnard, David Baron, Paul Bettison, David Evans, Jack Foster, David French, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Derek Higham, David Ingall, Greer Kirkwood, David Larmar, Gordon Mylchreest, John Phillips, Roy Rathbone, Peter Robinson, Jim Swift, Ron Truin & Howard Watson.

Our Spring lunch was well supported with 7 of the 20 not being present



on the previous occasion. The death of Ken Jenkins and the ill-health of the OTA Chairman, Howard Mallinson, were in our thoughts. An excellent varied lunch was provided on a sunny day. Owing to the success of the 100 Club draws last time, the first four draws for 2009 were taken.

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

The Summer date will be **Thursday 2nd July** (clashes with Henley as usual). Also the Autumn date is **Thursday 8th October**.

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

GREER KIRKWOOD

De Mortuis



SIMON ALPE 1960 – 2008

Simon arrived at Tiffins from Green Lane Primary, Worcester Park, in September 1971. As he progressed through the school, he showed a special ability in languages, helped by a stay in a French chateau which made quite an impression on him, and he was eventually awarded a place at St John's College, Cambridge, to study languages. While at School, he helped in the Library and was

one of the organisers trusted to run the Tuckshop. He was a member of the Boat Club, and many of the family weekends were spent at regattas.

Even as a teenager, his rather eccentric side began to show. Before he was a teenager, he became a member of the National Geographic. He loved Johnny Morris's "Animal Magic" on TV. From an early age he always wanted to be a zoo keeper, as his all-time hero was Jim Corbett, a white hunter who lived in India in the early part of the last century. His dream was always to visit the Corbett National Park. Simon visited the national park in northern India in 1998 where he tracked tigers on the back of an elephant and had tiffin. When only about 12 yrs old, he bought a set of real reindeer antlers, much to his parents' horror. In his mid-teens he started to buy leopard skin rugs with mounted heads.

At St John's Simon continued his love of antiques: his college rooms were bedecked with antique furniture, rugs and animal skins. Later on in life, many hand-stitched rugs were purchased in the Sudan where he was placed with Coutinho Caro. He also purchased many artifacts from the Battle of Omdurman.

Simon spent four years at Cambridge taking French and German, with a year out in the third year at Heidelberg University in Germany. After leaving Cambridge he joined Coutinho Caro to learn steel trading, although we all knew that this was mainly because it would facilitate his deep love of Africa. Simon was asked to represent his company in Sudan and Kenya. In 1988 he left Coutinho Caro and joined GCSE. In 1993 he was one of the first steel traders to enter the market in Ethiopia, and he remained one of the most prolific traders in that country until his death. At the end of 1989 he set up Parkes Steel and with Leo Pilato's help he secured his reputation as one of the principal steel traders in East Africa. Then he moved to Spain and he and Leo set up Casa Fortis to sell extraordinary reproductions of well-known

objets d'art. But the lure of Africa was too strong and in the last two years he was once again back there, steel trading as the representative of Duferco, one of the largest international trading and manufacturing steel companies. He took advantage of his time in Africa to go on many safaris, many nights out in the desert, many shooting trips, using most of his trophies to adorn the houses in Athens and Javea.

It is hard to move to a foreign country and take the measure of the place and then fit in. Simon lived in London, Khartoum, Spain and Athens and treated all as his home. He touched so many lives and will be sorely missed by so many.

One of Simon's passions was collecting old cars; his many cars included an old Mercedes Benz, an Alfa Romeo Spider and also a dusky pink Jaguar, a colour that the car manufacturer produced just for Princess Grace of Monaco. He tracked that particular car for about three years before he eventually bought it.

He was also an avid collector of antique Georgian furniture, 18th century English porcelain, Georgian and Victorian paintings and jewellery, and later in life he even tried his hand in jewellery design.

Simon has been described as a great friend. He had many of the qualities that make friendship easy. He was kind and generous, even-handed and intelligent, good-looking and charming, but above all great fun. Simon had real style. He was a great cook and was famed for his dinner parties and fancy dress parties.

We offer our condolences to Simon's widow, Katilena, and their young twins, Freddie and Athenais, to his father Glyn and two sisters, Alison & Elizabeth. Sophisticated, well-read and well-travelled, but most of all loyal and kind, Simon was simply one of the best friends you could wish for.

BRIAN SIDNEY BROWN 1928 – 2009

Brian made his mark at Tiffins by being an important member of the Chess Club, and he also joined the Scouts. After leaving, he went to a Teachers' Training College, and followed that career for the rest of his life.

His main contact with OTs seems to have been the Lodge, which he joined in 1961. He became its 69th Master in 1973, and served as Secretary from 1976 to 1989. He was a member of four other lodges. He was promoted Past Provincial Grand Registrar by Surrey in 1985 and became a Grand Officer in 1987. He resigned in 1989, before joining Lovekyn Chancery Lodge.

OT 200 Club

We draw a member's 200 Club number each week for a prize of £10. There are two special prizes each year of £500 and the next special draw is in July. We have some available numbers, and if you would like to take one or two by 30 June, then I will ensure these are included for the next special draw. My details are on the front of the newsletter.

Since the last 'Tiffnews' the following members have received a £10 prize:

8 M J Bradford	34 N C W Wright	88 J Wright
28 K A Q Jenkins	98 D R Ebenezer	110 R G Hamper
96 R G Hill	127 B P Smith	57 S R Day
33 H R Seymour	98 D R Ebenezer	

Many thanks to all Club members. Your subscriptions provide important additional funds to the Association and – together with the 100 club funds – these have contributed to the new sightscreens for the OTCC at Grists.

Best wishes.

MARK DARBY

Membership Matters

I must firstly prod those members who are in arrears with their payments. Should you be one of these, you will find a reminder enclosed.

Now to subscriptions, which become due on 1st October annually. The current rates are :

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

All of the above less £5, if payment is made before the end of October. Please note that the £10 Student Rate does NOT include a copy of 'The Tiffinian'. If students wish to receive a copy of the School Magazine, they should send an extra £5 towards the cost and postage.

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

DENNIS BARNARD



RALPH POYNTZ BURROWS
1910 – 2008.

Ralph was the son of Tom Burrows, also an Old Tiffinian and Chairman in 1914 of "The Old Tiffinians' Club", as it was then known. Tom was to compete in 1913 in the first Annual Skiff Race and, when it was resurrected after the First World War, donated with Bert Saunders the Loving Cup, still rowed for today. Whilst at school in 1923 and 1924 Ralph coxed the

winning pair of Harry Manning and Fred Sands (see photo below), starting a lifetime love of boats and the river. He and his wife Dulcie spent much time at Thames Sailing Club crewing the famous Thames Raters.

His association with water didn't end there, as when his two daughters, Sheila and Christine, became keen members of Kingston Ladies, Ralph and Dulcie joined in with the running of the Club, Ralph becoming President of Surrey County Swimming and Water Polo Association in 1976.

His early years were spent with cousins, the Gloyns family, as Ralph's mother died just days after childbirth and then with his father off at war. He was sent to Redcliffe School for the Sons of Gentlemen and then in 1921 to Tiffin, where his school reports show him to be a dedicated and conscientious student. A keen sportsman, he played rugby and rowed for the School yet maintained a good academic standard.

After school he went into the family grocery business and was trained in the early 1930s as a master grocer with a speciality in coffee. By 1939 he was a reserve fire-fighter and with the outbreak of war was enlisted full-time into the Fire service. Although stationed mainly in Kingston, he saw much service all over London, especially at the height of the Blitz.

He married Dulcie in 1936 and they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a second telegram from The Queen in 1996.

After the war he entered local government, working until retirement for Surrey County Council based in Penrhyn Road, mainly in the management of Old People's Homes. Retirement allowed the two of them to travel, with journeys to Hong Kong and many visits to Surbiton's twin town of Delft in Holland permitting Dulcie to indulge her love of flowers.

Ralph had a keen sense of humour and a vitality that belittled his years. After Dulcie died in 1999 he attempted to maintain a garden far too big for him but could be found well into his 90s in his gardening clothes attempting to gain control over a jungle. He only gave up driving at 95, when the car failed its MOT. I'm not sure Ralph would have passed his by then.

At a family wedding in 2004 he was asked if he had a nickname at school. He replied with a straight face 'Nobler'. We never found out why.



JOHN ERIC HUGH GRIFFITHS
1914 – 2009

Eric had strong Welsh roots, being born in Pembroke, South West Wales, and living both there and in Portsmouth with his parents and younger brother, Trevor. He took a London External Degree in English at Portsmouth Municipal College (now Portsmouth University). He also studied piano and conducting, obtaining LRAM (Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music) and LGSM (Guildhall School of Music).

Eric did his postgraduate teaching year in Hull. Children came to school in bare feet and some would faint in assembly through lack of food. The headmaster would send Eric out to buy food for the children. He then taught in Beckenham, Kent and at the outbreak of World War II joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and trained as a radiographer. He was stationed in Plymouth, but after Plymouth was bombed in 1941 was sent to Knightshayes Court in Tiverton, Devon, a grand country house that had been taken over as an army evacuation hospital, now a National Trust property. He met his beloved Inez there, where she was working as a Nursing Sister in the Queen Alexandra's Corps. They had a whirlwind romance, meeting and marrying in six weeks and had 61 happy years together. Bronwen was born the following year.

Eric was posted to India shortly after marrying and served in the Indian Army. He had the choice of being in either the British or Indian Armies and chose the Indian Army, as he would be able to have his family in India with him, once it was safe for them to travel. Inez and Bronwen travelled out to India by ship, Bronwen having her third birthday on board, and joined Eric for the last year of his time in India. Eric was very involved in music while in India, meeting the violinist, Tom Jenkins, who, in the UK, was leader of the Palm Court Orchestra which broadcast every Sunday evening in the programme 'Grand Hotel' on the BBC Light Programme. Eric and Tom regularly gave concerts (piano and violin) to the troops in India.

After demobilisation Eric and family returned to Beckenham for six months and in 1947 moved to Kingston where Eric took up the post of Music master at Tiffins, being the first appointment made by John Harper. He also taught English and Latin. Mary was born in 1950.

Eric's passion was music and he raised considerably the profile of music at Tiffins, starting the school choir which is now internationally known and bringing in peripatetic music teachers to further the learning of a wide variety of instruments. During his 18 years as Head of Music the School supplied several players to the National Youth Orchestra and gained 10 choral scholarships at Cambridge. Eric conducted the Tiffinian Musical and Dramatic Society in light opera (eg. Gilbert and Sullivan) and gave regular concerts with professional soloists. He was also a guest conductor for the BBC Welsh Orchestra and conducted local amateur choral and amateur dramatic societies. He was involved in guiding the next generation of musicians conducting the Leatherhead Youth Orchestra.

Eric's Masonic career commenced on the 18th January 1946. He joined Jamrud Lodge No. 4372 on the Afghan Border whilst in the Army. When he left the Forces this Lodge moved in due course to London and Eric had secured his post at Tiffins. On the 22nd January 1948 he became a joining member of Tiffinian Lodge. On the 15th November 1948 he became the Lodge Organist and would remain in charge of the Lodge music for 40 years until 1988. This was a record. On the 29th June 1966 he was honoured by the Province of Surrey and became the Provincial Grand Organist. This was unique, because he had not been through the Chair of Tiffinian Lodge. Looking back, this office was one that our older members all think he would have loved to achieve but he really was too busy with his music. The last accolade he received was a Grand Lodge Certificate for his 57 years of service to Freemasonry from the Provincial Grand Master of Surrey on the 28th April 2005. Finally he was made an Honorary Member

of the Lodge on 24th January 2008. All the Members of the Lodge miss him terribly, and he really was one of the nicest men you could ever meet and the world is a lesser place for his passing.

Eric was an accomplished sportsman, playing rugby (at scrum-half) for the London Welsh and the Old Tiffinians. He played his last game aged 54 when a player in a game he was refereeing was injured and he stood in for them! He was a keen cricketer, hockey and tennis player.

In 1965 Eric took up the post of Schools Music Advisor for the London Boroughs of Richmond, Twickenham, Hounslow and Ealing. He carried on with extensive music activity outside work, coaching professional singers and accompanying soloists, continuing well into retirement. Also in retirement he played the organ for the Christian Science Church in Kingston and travelled all over the country playing the piano as soloist and accompanist for the charity Council for Music in Hospitals.

Eric loved the sea and in the 1960s took up sea fishing in Cornwall. Polruan and Fowey became favourite haunts for himself and Inez. They became friendly with many people there, associations that continued until his death. He became an avid fly-fisherman and would fish on lakes and reservoirs locally, in Devon and Wales. Eric and Inez had many idyllic holidays in Scotland where Inez would go off painting while Eric fished.

Eric was always drawn back to Wales and the sea, and some of the happiest times Bronwen and Mary recall were when they were on their annual summer holiday to Pembrokeshire, spending time with Eric's parents and then some weeks staying in a bungalow overlooking the sea which they would share with another family.

Eric loved his family completely and was proud of his daughters, all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. All of them recall his kindness and generosity and interest in everything they did.

Eric was amazing for a 94 year old, living at home on his own after the death of Inez nearly six years ago, cooking and shopping for himself. He never got over the loss of Inez but kept going through sheer determination. He was very grateful for all the support Bronwen gave him and help from neighbours. He rarely missed a day when he would go to his local for a 'wee dram'. He played the piano every day until shortly before his death and was still doing 'The Times' crossword, sudoku and polygon until two days before he died. He will be missed.

Below is Eric caught in a frivolous moment in about 1960. It shows a young Eric Griffiths doing his bit for the Tiffin Fair.



**KENNETH ARTHUR QUIBELL JENKINS
1926 – 2009**

(We felt that for this obituary we could do no better than quote the tribute given at the funeral by Godfrey Smith, a lifelong friend of Ken. Godfrey was Editor of the 'Sunday Times' magazine 1965–72 and then Associate Editor of 'The Sunday Times', until he retired in 1991. He is well known to many OTs for his excellent speeches and company at our Annual Dinners.)

My dear friends: we are all here today because each one of us had an extraordinary piece of luck. We all knew one of the most remarkable men of our time: Ken Jenkins. He was remarkable because he believed with all his great heart in certain deeply odd and unfashionable things: that he had been born in the best country in the world and in its greatest city. That he had been educated at the best of all schools, served in the finest of all armies and worked in the greatest of all banks. Time may have dulled the shining edge of one or two of those firm principles; but the bottom line was always the same. Ken turned his long life into one tremendous celebration of his amazing good fortune.

He was born at Surbiton in 1926 – a vintage year, he always maintained, which he shared with the Queen and Marilyn Monroe. Coming into the world then, he liked to say, meant that his generation had been too late for the ghastly slaughter of the Somme, but in time to see at 13 the heart-stopping scrap that was the Battle of Britain fought out in the high blue skies of a perfect English summer – the silver shoals of German bombers up there in the wispy cirrus, the Spitfires climbing up to meet the Messerschmitts, the distant rattle of the Browning machine guns.

Surbiton has entered the language as the name for nowhere-ville – an anonymous place that bored for England. It didn't bore us boys. Brooklands race track was down the Kingston bye-pass, John Cooper built his world-famous cars in a Surbiton garage. Larwood was skittling the Aussies with his bodyline bowling and Tommy Farr went the whole distance with Joe Louis, while we boys listened in on the whistling transatlantic wireless. In that dawn 'twas bliss to be alive – but to be young was very heaven.

Ken went to St Annes kindergarten with me when he was five, when all mums stayed at home after they married and did the best job in the world – looking after their families. Ken adored his father, the brilliant Arthur Jenkins, who rose with no advantage – except a sound education at Tiffins – to be a director of the National Bank; and he loved deeply his gentle mother who had been born a Quibell from the Channel Islands – hence Ken's unforgettable initials KAQ Jenkins. From St Annes Ken and I moved on to Edenmore preparatory school, a Dickensian establishment ruled by the fearsome Mr Manley. He was an 18 stone tyrant with a booming voice and port-touched face who ruled his boys with a swishing stick for the slightest offence, a flying shilling for a good answer.

Ken caught a shilling one day simply because he had brilliantined his hair rather well and looked, he said ruefully later, as if he were already about to start work at the bank. We worked in sub-zero temperatures and ate lunches in an underground dungeon, where the meat tasted of iron filings and there was rhubarb every day. But woe betide any boy who left a mouthful on his plate – the stick would follow, for it was a sin to waste food – even Mr Manley's ghastly grub. Life after Edenmore seemed downhill all the way, and Ken and I never met in all the years after without having a good laugh at Mr Manley's obsession with constipation. "Never be afraid to take a laxative, boys" he would thunder. "If taken short in the street, approach the first respectable house, explain to the lady what has happened and ask to use her lavatory. Afterwards raise your cap and leave sixpence for the maid." Whether any boy ever took this extraordinary advice I very much doubt; but if Ken and I ever seemed a touch eccentric to you, now you know why.

Ken followed his father to Tiffins in 1937 and loved every minute. It was already a big and celebrated school, 600 strong, with a proud record of university places – notably with the help of the maths master Maurice Meshenberg to Cambridge – and an awesome sporting reputation. The first eight had defeated Eton on the Thames, its first fifteen, years before Enoch Powell, were known as the schoolboy All Blacks. Ken played rugby – as his school report said – with great pluck but, being rather slightly built in those days, lacked the necessary physique. He found it easier to walk up stairs backwards to the end of his days because of an old rugby injury; and he was at an Old Tiffinian rugby lunch a few days before he died.

Tiffins shaped his life, and whatever it gave him, he handsomely repaid. The proudest moment in his life was probably the day in 1972 when he was elected chairman of the Old Tiffinians, so following his father who had been chairman in 1930. He was given the rare distinction of being elected in 2003 an Honorary Vice-President too to mark his magnificent contribution to the Association over the years. He was one of the founders and Company Secretary of Tiffinian Limited, a charitable company set up to save the school from Shirley Williams's ambition to turn it into a comprehensive and to raise funds, if it ever decided to become an independent fee-paying school. It still has a vital function – as the channel for parents' voluntary donations. Ken was the master-mind behind the Tiffinian summer ball, held in an Esher mansion, and he loved to call the bingo numbers at the Tiffin Fair: "two fat ladies – 88!" All this devoted work by Ken and his comrades has paid off handsomely: today there are 1064 boys at Tiffins. It sends 20 to 25 boys each year to Oxbridge, and last September 10 boys applied for every single place.

Ken longed to fly in the RAF but was born just too late, so he joined the East Surreys, was commissioned, and served in India at the very end of the British Raj. Needless to say, he kept in touch with his brother officers and went to all their reunions. His knowledge of war was encyclopaedic; I stood beside him on the steps of the Bank of England when the Falklands victory parade went by, and he could identify every gun, every tank, and every plane that swept by in that heroic cavalcade. He liked nothing better than to go over to France to tour the sites of the great battles of both world wars. His favourite schoolboy board game had been Attack. He understood all too well both the majesty and the tragedy of war and, not surprisingly, his favourite politician after Churchill was Margaret Thatcher.

He should have gone to the London School of Economics – he had a place – but the Bank in its wisdom told him they would teach him all he needed to know. It was for him a lifetime regret. I think too that he looked back wistfully to the great days when we fought six years of war with four dollars to the pound and a steady bank rate of 2%. Yet he served the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street faithfully all his working life – much of it in exchange control during those desperate post-war sterling crises – and he earned the love and friendship of his colleagues there. He used to meet them for a convivial pub lunch every six weeks – I had the honour and pleasure of joining them at the Mulberry Tree by the Thames a few weeks before Christmas.

But the principal joy of his life was his family. He married Marjorie in 1953, and she was to prove a magnificent wife to him till he lost her ten years ago. He was intensely proud of his sons: Graeme, the celebrated international conductor and Music Director of Dallas Opera for the past ten years, his daughter-in-law Joanna and his grand-daughters Martha and Isabella. He never forgot their birthdays and liked nothing better than to visit them at their enchanting farmhouse at Winterbourne Clenton, when with friends they would make their own music at Christmas. He was equally proud of Mark, now a senior Boeing 737 pilot, his daughter-in-law Adrienne and their children Stephanie and James. I think one of Ken's happiest days - it was certainly one of mine – came when I joined him and Mark and Adrienne in his box at Glyndebourne to see Graeme conduct Mozart's *'La Clemenza di Tito'*. He enjoyed Mozart's music, but to be honest – in the field of classical music – he preferred Verdi's *'Trovatore'* with that shattering clash of the anvils in the Anvil Chorus.

Ken never talked much about his faith, but the Church where we now give thanks for his life was very important to him. Here Marjorie was confirmed, and both his sons christened. It was in the worship and fellowship of this church too that he met dear Joan who has shared his life and brought him happiness these last ten years. Here I too must say farewell to the best friend a man could want – seventy-seven years on. We lunched together on our two birthdays exactly six months apart every year: at the Garrick, or the Wolseley or, most recently, at the Caprice. He always ordered Dover sole because his father had taught him – quite rightly in my view - that it was the finest of all English

dishes. Last October we went to hear the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra re-create the great swinging music of our young days: Artie Shaw playing 'When they begin the Beguine', 'It brings back a sound of music so tender' and so on. And various other lines have been running through my head since I heard he'd gone. I kept hearing Stephen Spender: 'I think continually of those who were truly great'. It could have been written for Ken.

Thank you, dear Ken, for inviting us to the great party that you made out of your long and marvellous life. We had a Ball. It was a privilege to have known you. And what a pleasure!



KEITH HARRY JOHN NARRACOTT 1944 – 2008

Keith joined Tiffins in September 1955 from Cheam Common Junior School. He quickly made his mark, both academically and in the many sports and other activities in which he was involved. Cricket seems to have been his main love: he became Captain of the Junior Team and progressing through the Elevens to the School First XI, where he was awarded his colours. He was appointed a School Prefect, but also played a part in the Photographic Society, Orchestra, Band and Choir. He was also one of the select group trusted to assist as stage electricians.

As he progressed through the Sixth Form, he specialised in the Maths and Science subjects, was awarded a State Scholarship and gained a place at Cambridge in 1963.

Keith worked as a software designer and computer programmer, but retired early, to enjoy his five grandchildren. He gave them the same fun, informative and disciplined attention that he had given to his own three children.

He enjoyed his sport, playing football and cricket regularly. He and his son played together in the same football team — almost certainly the first father-son combination in an Old Boys match at Churchill College, Cambridge.

Keith was also very musical. His first love was classical music, and he played the piano right up to his last weeks. This musical talent was passed on to both his daughters.

Over 200 people attended Keith's Requiem Mass — family and friends who had come to say goodbye to a much-loved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend.

Keith was stubborn and strong, and he fought against the relentless disease of cancer time and again, for over five years, always keeping his keen sense of humour and fun.

If you got beneath the surface of his carefully cultivated grouchiness, you would find a gentle man who would do anything for his family. Keith gave his family the gift of his knowledge, his laughter and his love. They were as proud of him as he was of them.

We offer our condolences to Teresa and to the whole of his family and friends.

We regret to announce also the death of **STEVE R B DAVIES (1969)**, brother of Peter and son of 'Sam'.

Many OTs will remember **JOHN COLLINS**, who died in 2001. He played rugby for the Old Tiffs for many years at prop forward, battling all the while against severe diabetes, which eventually cost him a leg. His widow, Phyllis, has remained in touch and has in John's memory embroidered a kneeler for her local church, St Nicolas in Great Bookham, where she hopes it will serve as a memorial to John for many years to come.



Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives

- a) From Alan Taylor (1967) a whole school photo taken in 1923.
- b) From Graham Hards, grandson of OT Cecil Hobart (1911), a photo showing part of the football team in the season 1910/11.

PREFECTS AT TIFFINS 1921 - 1970

Prefects did not exist before the reforms introduced by T Dean. After he took over the headmastership in 1919 the Houses Drake, Gordon, Kingsley, Livingstone, Raleigh & Scott rapidly came, complete with house colours and mottos; incidentally this resulted in the Houses having mottos, while 'Faire Sans Dire', the school motto, did not follow until 1922. Before Houses existed, internal sporting encounters were between forms.

Though there were no prefects, there was a Head Boy by 1919, if that was his title. When Mr Lucas retired in 1920, the Head Boy was T S Aldhouse (1920 - 1922), and from 1921 he had six prefects to help him. Prior to him the Head Boy was G R Coates. I have used the term 'Head Boy', but in fact both of these were termed 'School Captain'. Did anybody hold such a post prior to 1919? Not as far as I have been able to discover, except that in 1930, using loaned negatives or prints, the 'Surrey Comet' published two photos said to be taken in 1883. The state of them means that they cannot be reproduced in 'Tiffnews'. In the caption of one of these the elder Blacktop is stated to be School Captain. If this is true and not merely a 'Surrey Comet' invention, then we're merely looking for the names of over 30 school captains !! Where might some of these be found? Well, if, when the stage was enlarged in the new school, an honours board was covered up, if it were possible to get at this and if it were readable, we might find some. A lot of ifs! Now what about the honours board of the Old School, if one existed? Some 'boys' from the Old School have told me that there was no such board: on the other hand I have been told that it came down from the Old School and about 1930 was in a temporary builders' shed between Elmfield and the London Road gate. After that we just don't know. I have hesitated between the two views until I read in the school mag that Mr Porter says in an obituary for a World War One death that that gentleman's name was on the 1910 honours board !!! I believe in Porter. And while on the subject of missing items, what happened to the painting/drawing of the Old School presented to Dean by A E Rayment, one of the original pupils, which according to the recipient would have an honoured place in the new school.

School Captain / Head Boy? Well, working from captions in the school mags, from 1923 to 1925 the Head Boy was entitled 'President', and there was a 'Secretary' too. In 1925 and 1927 the title was 'Head Prefect', and into the new school 1928-31 'Senior Prefect'. After that the title 'Head Boy' reigned supreme. In the school photo for 1926 I have taken the Head Prefect to be the boy on the right hand of Dean, though he is given no title on the photo. The school mags published photos of the prefects of 1921/2 and then 1925 onwards to 1970, with the exception of 1958-1960 and 1963-1968. I imagine the later ones were taken but not published.

Now onto Senior prefects and Junior prefects. Let's get our terminology clear: the Junior Prefects I am talking about are not junior boys but Sixth Formers. It seems likely that there were from almost the beginning of prefects both varieties. The heading to the published photos sometimes states 'School Prefects', sometimes 'Senior School Prefects'. The number of prefects in these photos can vary from 6 to 14. Thus I think it's safe to say that senior and junior prefects numbered together about the higher figure. How were they distinguished one from another? From the early days the prefects wore a shield type emblem with 'Prefect' on it. The juniors when they appeared had 'Prefect' on an oblong badge. When the felt prefects' cap was introduced in about 1932, only senior prefects wore these. For a long time, I thought that junior prefects were abolished by amalgamation by Harper in 1947, but it now appears likely that they were abolished about ten years earlier owing to their becoming scapegoats for the state of the prefects' room after an end-of-term party, which resulted in a complaint by Mr Hyde, the longstanding caretaker, to the Head. It appears

Tiffinian Lodge

We are now coming to an end of our 97th year as a Masonic Lodge, and we have had a very enjoyable and entertaining year. At our March meeting we were treated to two orations delivered by Mike Beckerman. The orations are a new initiative, designed to add further interest to Masonic ceremonies, and Mike is a member of the newly-formed Orations Team.

At our April meeting we were entertained by a presentation from Michael Giddy on the life and times of J J Harper, once headmaster of the school and a distinguished freemason, entitled: 'A Man for All Degrees.' Following the meeting we were joined in the Temple by many friends and relatives, and a number of others who were interested in freemasonry, as this was an open evening, and Michael Giddy gave a fascinating talk about aspects of freemasonry. Following this, we retired to the dining hall, and a great festive dinner was enjoyed by all.

The Lodge also elected Michael Giddy as Master of the Lodge for the coming year, and we look forward with great anticipation to his installation ceremony in October, and to a great year to follow. Michael will be the fourth master in our 96-year history to serve as Master of this Lodge for the second time. We had hoped to reach our centenary without any Masters serving for a second year, but at the present time we are still not attracting a sufficient number of new entrants. This is due to the fact that the Lodge is open only to the Tiffinian community, and we do intend to maintain this policy, as it makes the Lodge very special.

We should, therefore, love to hear from anyone thinking of becoming a new member of the Lodge, and extend a warm welcome to any Old Tiffinian, any member or ex-member of staff, or any governor or past governor of the School who may be interested in becoming a freemason. Please do not hesitate to call me on 020 8979 0107 if you would like any further information. Alternatively, I can be emailed at MJB2@talktalk.net

MICHAEL BECKERMAN
Lodge Secretary

Internet Corner

I expect, like me, you have received from time to time emails forwarded to you by well-meaning friends, passing on warnings about the very latest deadly computer virus – and also occasionally warnings about the latest criminal scam, purportedly issued by the Police. Before forwarding these messages to others, do pause a moment to check whether they are genuine. A search on Google (keying in perhaps 'hoax' and a key word taken from the warning) will often reveal immediately the history of the particular email you have received. Alternatively, you can look on a website such as www.hoax-slayer.com. It's really amazing how long some of the bogus warnings have been circulating!

This advice was published here two years ago, but I am still receiving warnings forwarded to friends by well-meaning Members.

BRIAN HOLDEN

that it was possible for a boy to pass from 'pleb' status to Senior Prefect without passing through the 'Junior' ranks. In 1952 red gowns were introduced for School Prefects. House Prefects, who wore a red ribbon on their breast pocket since their recent introduction wore mauve gowns when on duty only. The Head Boy's red gown was of a duller red/maroon and had different design details.

Where did the prefects live, while at school? Yes, I can hear you shout "In the Prefects' Room, you silly old" Yes, but the traditional prefects' room was required for other purposes too. For those readers who do not know where that room was: "Come in by the main entrance, ignore a door to a small room on the right, turning right into the main corridor, the first door on the right was the Prefects' Room. The next room along is accessed via a short offshoot off the main corridor, leading down to a small room which could be entered by that door or an internal door from the Prefects' Room (as incidentally could originally the first small room). These two rooms were to be linked in two of their functions.

We are lucky that a plan of the New School, to be built for £39,000, against an allocation of £45,000, exists fairly unusually with the function of each room given. This plan, undated but probably drawn up about 1927, shows that Prefects' Room as the medical inspection room, and it is as such that Dean refers to it in a number of 'what is to be' speeches, once the New School had become a reality. The smaller room next to it is labelled as female staff room. Apparently the prospect of a mixed staff room was too much to be contemplated! It cannot have been used for such a purpose, for, when the New School opened in Sept. 1929, there were no female staff (excluding the office staff). In fact, what the smaller room was used for during about the first seven years of the school's existence, I haven't a clue. Information please.

I would have thought it was very unlikely that in the Old School the prefects had a room, as accommodation was more than a little tight; again information please. At first there was plenty of room in the New School, but quickly an old friend, overcrowding, reared its ugly head. Did the prefects move into the medical inspection room in September 1929? Frankly I don't know, but by 1937 they were certainly in residence. Then duality began, as a day-to-day situation, as the school lending library moved from Room 21, as I remember it; some of you may remember it as a letter for up until about 1948 all the rooms were lettered. Lettered or numbered, it was the last room on the right hand side on the top corridor going towards the Queen Elizabeth Road gate. I think shortly afterwards the room next door to the Prefects' Room became part of the new library too. It is often difficult to use the school mag to extract information; for example, this move was only referred to by a passing remark that it is hoped the new boys had found where the lending library now was, without saying where it now was. What the prefects thought, I can guess and so can you, but I doubt Dean asked them. Thus the Prefects' Room now had a dual purpose, requiring entry to be allowed both to librarians and, worse than that, to grubby little boys who claimed to be looking for a book. I believe the new library was only open after school, but confirmation please. The joint use continued to annoy the prefects, until the Library moved to Elmfield into the old dining room area in 1949.

But the prefects had other nuisances to work round, ignoring Piffle's orals in there, the room reverted to its original purpose of Medical Room when the school nurse descended on her visits to check the health of a number of boys. Again, I would love to know how many boys were dealt with and how often the visits occurred, help please. In the 1930s a school doctor came in rarely, boys having to go, on receiving a bad report from the nurse about their condition, to an outside clinic. Another interruption may have been the school dentist, who certainly came in, but where he operated from I don't know for certain, 'Nitty Nora' operated in the hall, as I personally discovered.

So the war came in the situation described above, except that the doctor, together with a nurse came in more often than pre-war, but still not that often. Most boys in the school managed never to see a doctor in their whole career, though some like me managed to perform more than once. From rather late in the war the small room next door to the Prefects' Room became the Deputy Head's room, Burgess, Rhodes and Chapple being the first three occupants. They, of course, were caused interruption by the doctor who examined the boys in this room and who Ted Key said were most co-operative. So the prefects had use of the room full-time, except for interruptions — or did they? I thought they did, but then an ex-Head Boy told me that in the latter years of the war they had no room. What had happened there?

(to be continued)

BRIAN BUNKER

I have been having a look at the history of the Juniors:

1. First appearance in school mag in exam list of 1921. Did it start in 1920?
2. In the March Tiffnews, Martin Summers says he spent the first year in the Juniors under Miss Delany. That would be about 1923 or 1924, but did Miss Delany take the Juniors from its beginnings to her departure in 1929?
3. From then on until its closure was Wyndham -Smith the Juniors' boss?
4. Recent material has given the date of the end of the Juniors as 8/7/41; if that was so, then what did the Juniors do until the end of the term on the 25th? Despite the date given, I suspect they carried on till the 25th.
5. Why were the Juniors closed: it appears to have been a last-minute decision, as places had already been allocated for the following year?

If anyone can help, please get into touch.

BRIAN BUNKER

TOUR OF ELMFIELD

This year the School will again be supporting the Kingston Heritage Open Day programme by offering two tours of Elmfield (and other points of interest) on Friday 11th September. John King will be available for these at 11.15am and 14.00pm. Meet at the London Road gate just before these times.

OT 100 Club

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

				Previous win
Jan'09	£50	Dan Godfrey	Staines	'04
Feb'09	£50	Ian Mason	Horsham	'05
Mar'09	£50	Alec Pringle	New Malden	'07
Apr'09	£50	Howard Mallinson	Claygate	'04

The above draws were held at the Old Tiffinian Social Lunch in April last. Dan's win encouraged him to buy another ticket, and Howard's win was met with applause owing to his illness & absence. This change of venue for the draw saw the possibility of 3 new members.

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

Queen Elizabeth Road News

Performing Arts

NEW ZEALAND CHOIR TOUR

The choir's tour to New Zealand in February promised to be the trip of a lifetime – and it didn't disappoint. The prospect of leaving Heathrow just a few days after the closure of South-East England for snow, with the promise of wearing beach wear continuously for the following two and a half weeks, had been an enticing one for all concerned; and, if the elements didn't entirely behave on the other side of the world – we arrived in a very damp and grey Auckland after 25 hours on the plane and had to jettison our sunny weather plan immediately – every day of the tour brought new, exciting and invigorating delights.

Many of these can be read about from the boys' perspective on the blog page (www.tiffinboyschoirnztour.blogspot.com), which was written on the hoof by several boys as the tour progressed and offers wonderful insights into boys' orders of priorities (food always at the top of the list here). For my part and that of the staff (Simon Ferris, Lyn Foden and Alison White), it was a trip never to be forgotten, with a great group of boys, all of them wonderful musicians and great company, gaining a deep understanding of each other as singers and as people, making many new friends in a country whose consistently warm welcome made us feel increasingly at home. All of the choir's performances, in concerts and services, played to large audiences and real acclaim, whether they were in schools, concert halls or cathedrals. And it soon became apparent to us all that 45 boys singing great cornerstones of the English choral repertoire with conviction, passion and delicacy was to be a winning combination – and something that we really have to be proud of and to cherish.

After an opening day spent combating jetlag through retail therapy, going up Auckland's Sky Tower and partaking of a huge buffet in the same building, the choir woke early on Sunday morning, some members of the group (me) even moved to go for a pre-breakfast run, and we arrived at Holy Trinity Cathedral to take part in the morning Eucharist. In a staggering modern building, architecturally bridging the gap between late 20th Century British and early 21st Century Kiwi, Holy Trinity's vibrant congregation and Brit organist Philip Smith welcomed us with open arms as we took part in the service with the Cathedral Choir and gently warmed up with Tallis *Salvator Mundi*. The storms of the previous day had subsided and we felt well and truly far away from the UK singing Tallis in increasing heat and humidity with the cicadas competing with the trebles for supremacy. Lunch in the beautiful neighbourhood of Parnell was followed by evensong in Old St Mary's Cathedral, the original Anglican Cathedral next door, made entirely out of timber, with beautiful stained glass, and with a traditional Romantic organ. Stanford in C and *Hear my Prayer*, forming the first of a number of workouts for Tom Batstone, finished a great first day. The response of the congregation, clearly moved by Tom's beautifully poised extended solo, was wonderful – and it was great to see the Air New Zealand cabin crew from our flight there too!

We had planned the itinerary carefully to allow enough time to acclimatise and get over jetlag, and I'm glad we heeded the warnings. Although the temperature is relatively low, the humidity in the North of the Islands is great, and full school uniform isn't always compatible – but we got off relatively lightly compared with other choirs who have toured there, our only casualties being some of the meals which the sleepy trebles fell into....

King's College Auckland had very kindly agreed that we could have the run of the school for a couple of days to rehearse the tour programmes. Their welcome was to set the standard that we would receive wherever we went, and we soon got used to our presence in New Zealand representing a major event in the choral scene. Our performances of some Tippett spirituals and Tudor motets to the whole school was met with outstandingly attentive listening and a real sense of our singing being valued. Rest time during these days included visiting the Auckland Museum and experiencing the earthquake simulator, inventing some curious beach game with rules only known to the ATB, played to the great delight of the general public in Mission Bay, and receiving the traditional Maori welcome at a Marae. I was delighted to be referred to as Chief Toyne, assisted by Sub-Chief Ferris, and the choir being seated in seniority order. Alison and Lyn, following Maori custom, were at the

back. We learnt to sing the alphabet in Maori, assimilated the various fertility symbols on display, and were treated to a Haka, the first of many we were to encounter on the tour.

Publicity for the rest of the tour was beginning to hot up. I was interviewed live on Radio New Zealand (you can listen to the interview at www.radionz.co.nz/concert/programmes/upbeat/20090216) and also for Accent on Family TV, and reports were coming in of widespread interest in the choir, especially its all-boys set-up. Interestingly, most of the cathedrals are now restarting their treble choirs which, with the exception of the superb Christ Church Cathedral Choir, had lain dormant for many years. Wherever we went, we became the subject of fascination for so many people.

We then headed off for Taupo – a wonderful small town by the side of a large volcanic lake. An evening trip to the Hot Springs was greatly enjoyed by everyone and was the first opportunity properly to relax out of the public gaze (well, almost). Seven pools of differing temperature proved to be an enticing smorgasbord for much of the time; while a tall, curved water-slide threatened to interrupt the calm as yet another game was invented – this time enquiring how many bodies could descend the slide at the same time. They only got thrown off (not literally, of course) a mere ten minutes before closing. The following morning saw a Duran-Duran-like experience on the lake as we took over a boat (the "Cruise Cat") and retro shades and wind-blasted quiffs became all the rage; and this segued into a walk around the volcanic "Craters of the Moon" plains.

Lest readers think this was all one big jolly, our first concert loomed in the late afternoon, at the delightful modern church of St Andrew's Taupo. Extra seats had to be sent for as the choir, whose visual appearance increasingly reflected the influence of the sun earlier that day, wowed the Taupoans with Britten, Mendelssohn, Tudor music and the first outing for Zulu wedding song *Hamba Lulu* as encore. This was also our first collaboration with 17-year old Kiwi organist Tom Gaynor, currently Organ Scholar at Wellington Cathedral and a student at Wellington College (the Tiffin of Wellington) – he played magnificently and soon became an integral part of the choir's social set-up. Also at this concert (as there would be at all our appearances) were several Old Tiffinians – it was great to see them, especially as one of them was proudly wearing a newly-fitted school blazer!

After Taupo came the central part of the tour, which was Wellington. A coach journey alongside Lake Taupo, soon ascending to the mountainous region along what is known as the 'Desert Road', provided postcard-like vistas at every turn. The journey was broken by a tour of the National Army Museum at Waiorou, led by two ex-Army soldiers – this was greatly enjoyed by all; as was the Dante-Inferno-position we and the museum found themselves in when it turned out that every Mars bar, given out free as part of our packed lunch, contained a voucher for a further free Mars bar.... But we eventually called it quits and continued the journey where we arrived to the wonderful welcome of the Kotuku Choir, a lavish tea, and a combined rehearsal.

Up to this point, we had been staying in hotel and hostel accommodation, and this was the moment when we were to have our first experience of hosting New Zealand style – which meant homes being opened to us and a level of generosity extended to the boys which none of us could have imagined. Both choirs bonded remarkably quickly; and the boys entered into the spirit of things, with unfamiliar repertoire (You raise me up, Dry Your Tears Afrika etc) and performance requirements (actions and dancing very much to the fore – of which the Hope Stomp remains etched in the memory) being assimilated with ease and with style. Friendships have been made that will last a long time.

It was great to stay with Wang-Theng and Jit Lim and their family, whose chance meeting with me in China a few years back set the whole ball in motion for this trip. Wonderfully hospitable people, and really great fun (also with a mean wine cellar), they had masterminded all the host families and provided day-to-day arrangements in Wellington that ensured great memories were had by everyone. Now, in truth, I spent much of the Friday grumpily traipsing from rehearsal venue to photo shoot to rehearsal venue and lamenting the pitiful state of affairs that is the Lord of the Rings exhibition (one room of tatty merchandise). This was because I, and the cricket-mad members of the choir, had been counting down the days until this one, when

we were to sing in the interval of the Twenty20 match at the historic Basin Reserve ground – and it never stopped raining all day. Suffice it to say, the cricket, and the singing, was off. A consolation visit to "Bowllarama" was hastily arranged, and all it took was one thing to put the smile back on our faces – yes, Lyn Foden was refused a drink because she had no Photo ID. Searching for assistance, no verbal assurance from the other staff was to be accepted, and so the honourable course was pursued. Choir Prefect Daniel D'Souza pitched up, and Lyn's thirst was sated....

The weekend was to be a performing one. On Saturday, we were singing in a fundraising concert for Kotuku in the impressive Michael Fowler Centre, along with opera singer Zane Te Wiremu Jarvis, the 'singing policeman' Daniel Rodriguez, Wellington Male Voice Choir, the Wellington Cathedral Choristers and hundreds of primary school children. Our two 'sets', one of Tudor and Tippett, the other of *Hear my Prayer*, were rapturously received, and the big set-piece numbers – Simon Ferris conducting the New Zealand National Anthem (with verse 2 in his own specially commissioned arrangement), Kotuku founder Sharon Thorburn directing *You raise me up*, and me conducting *Dry Your Tears* and *Riu, riu, chiu*, were great fun and knockouts. Kotuku is a young community choir, whose members come from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds, and their work, especially witnessed here by the large numbers of singing primary school children from underprivileged backgrounds, in bringing about a greater sense of wellbeing through singing is important, and it was a pleasure to support them actively.

This was followed on the Sunday by evensong in Wellington Cathedral – an enormous, modern building on top of a hill overlooking the harbour – sung jointly with the Cathedral Choir. Blockbuster renditions of the day's Psalm, Stanford in C, and rousing hymns reverberated through the building, enjoyed by a large congregation. The evensong was also part of the New Zealand Shakespeare Festival, and so – in place of a sermon – readings of sonnets were weaved around the Tiffin choir's sensitive performances of Byrd, Tallis and the Tavener *Song for Athene* (whose words are taken from *Hamlet*).

Time was marching on, however, and the following morning saw (often tearful) farewells at the harbour as we boarded the ferry for the South Island. A gloriously sunny day saw the choppy Tasman Strait becalmed, and the choir gathered on deck to see the North Island fade into the distance and the fjord-like landscape of the top of the South Island appear. In many ways, this is where the tour really started to lift off, as it slowly dawned on everyone that, having gone 10 days (the normal duration of a choir tour), we still had a further nine to go. We had sung well, were fully acclimatised, and were travelling through some of the greatest scenery on the planet. This was further confirmed, when we transferred to the Transislander train, which makes its way along the East Coast of the Island. Picnic lunches on board, with much time spent on the observation deck, contributed to a wonderful day.

An overnight stop at Christchurch was necessary to break the journey to Dunedin, where we arrived at lunchtime the following day. Dunedin, named after Edinburgh and settled by the Scots in the mid-19th century, has a unique character (including George and Princes Streets) and also the most southerly Anglican Cathedral in the world. It was here that we would give our evening concert, widely publicised and attracting a large audience. More Tavener came on the programme, as did *For lo, I raise up* and several pieces for smaller choirs scattered around the building. David Burchell, another Brit Cathedral Organist in New Zealand, made the choir feel completely at home in the Cathedral, and we received excellent hosting from the boys and parents of Otago Boys' High School. It was also an acoustic (and climate!) which made everyone feel comfortable, together with a terrific Willis organ complementing the Romantic repertoire wonderfully. The choir came into true focus here, with everyone doing a great job.

A trip the following morning on the scenic Taieri Gorge Railway was followed by a brief performance and Question and Answer session at Otago Boys' High School. As with all our appearances in schools, this was great fun, and proved that, across the world, boys are the same – with one exception: the Haka! After some good performances of the core repertoire and some interesting questions (one being a request for Tallis *Salvator Mundi*, another being "what's England like?"), we reached the end of our time, received applause and then Years 9 and 10 stood. Led by a Maori teacher up front, all of them performed their school haka to the choir. I'm told the choir faces ranged from polite delight (we all knew that hakas need to be received in a formal and respectful way) to complete, unadorned terror. Overheard responses afterwards on the way back to the coach ranged from simple awe, to regret that we don't have a haka of our own, to "I know – why don't you stand up straight with your arms in the air, and I'll dance in a circle around your Maypole?". It's probably something best left to the Kiwis, I think....

The trebles had a great time with their host families, while the older boys and staff went to the Albatross colony (truly awe-inspiring and then, minus staff of course, attempted to run up the world's steepest street. Dinner in a stately home with spectacular views over the Otago Peninsula brought a fitting end to our time in Dunedin.

And so the time came for our final stop on the tour, Christchurch. In many ways the most English of New Zealand towns – and consciously modelled on Oxford – at its centre is the beautiful Victorian Cathedral, where we were to give a Saturday evening concert and sing evensong on Sunday, and, at the end of an adjoining street, is Christ's College, often referred to as the Eton of New Zealand. The hosting, with most boys staying in the homes of Christ's College boys, and some in the boarding houses, was again wonderful and provided the perfect place to stay at the end of a long tour. Christchurch itself was greatly enjoyed by everyone – scenic yet busy, full of heritage yet outward-looking. A day of rehearsing, sight-seeing and exploring finished with a joint rehearsal and dinner with the Christ's College Chapel Choir. We learnt a *Wiata* – a beautiful Maori hymn of blessing – and then went on the field to learn the Christ's College haka, taught by the boys themselves. Several choir members, most notably half-Kiwi Ed Spragg, took to this exceptionally well, and all had a great time. As with our time in Wellington, good friendships were being formed, which were cemented later the same evening, when several boys went over to the ANZ stadium with their Christ's College counterparts to support the Highlanders in the Rugby Super14s.

The Saturday saw the biggest, and most high profile, concert of the tour – a Saturday evening full length concert in Christ Church Cathedral. Christchurch has enjoyed a long choral tradition through its all-male Cathedral choir, which is the only choir in the Southern hemisphere to be supported by a choir school. As a result, the city is a magnet for lovers of choral music, with a vibrant church and concert scene, good choirs in local schools, and a Cathedral choir whose excellent treble line is matched by a young, highly professional back row – and it was great to be reunited with Old Tiffinian Nick Edwards, currently singing in the choir before taking up a choral scholarship at St John's College Cambridge next year.

It was vital that we put on a good show, and everyone raised their game accordingly. The concert was terrific – one of those occasions when everyone, performers and audience alike, realise that what's going on really matters – with the choir ratcheting up the intensity and producing great performances of all the repertoire, including concert opener *Chichester Psalms*, making its only appearance on tour. A packed Cathedral responded with great enthusiasm.

Sunday morning was spent with host families, and the great weather saw boys going to the beach, kayaking, punting, playing tennis and generally having some time off. Meanwhile Nick Fletcher was drafted into the Cathedral Choir to deputise for an ill counter-tenor and acquitted himself very well indeed! We all gathered after lunch to prepare for our final 'official' performance, that of Choral Evensong in the Cathedral. The choir was by now fully conversant (and at home) with evensong, having sung it for the past three Sundays, and Stanford in C and *For lo, I raise up* were dispatched with effortless professionalism, again to a full Cathedral.

The last final day in New Zealand saw the choir sing the Morning Chapel service in Christ's College, and then take a trip to the secluded harbour village of Akeroa for lunch and beach-time before a fun tour of the International Antarctic Centre (including recreations of Antarctic blizzards, complete with wind-chill factor!) at the airport, before embarking on the long journey home. It felt strange, and all of us were sad to leave New Zealand. We had all made many friends (not the least of whom were each other) and had encountered enormous highs, every day, for the past 19 days. We were used to coming up with impromptu performances on demand wherever we visited, whether it be at museums, in restaurants or even on the plane. And the email barrage throughout the tour, of ordinary members of the public who had encountered the choir along the way and felt moved to write to say how impressed they were by them (and this not just for their music-making), was constant and constantly moving. Of equal importance had been the phenomenal excitement and pride generated back home, with so many helping raise the money needed to ensure this was the best trip it could possibly be, uncovering depths of support we never realised we had.

And so, we arrived back home on a Tuesday morning, tired and exhausted, but also exhilarated and happy. I had the time of my life – and I think the boys did too.

SIMON TOYNE

Tiffin Dance

Summer term is extremely busy for Tiffin Dance, from performing in the open amphitheatre outside of City Hall, to leading primary schools workshops, to performing with Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, to spending a day at The Royal Ballet School in Richmond. Make sure you come and support dancers as the standard of performances is extremely high. Here is the timetable of the events:

Tuesday 9 June, 7:00 pm

St Andrews and St Marks Junior School

- Yr 10 Dancers leading a workshop and performing
- Yr 10 Dancers performing at Kingston Grammar's House Dance Competition as guest performers

Tuesday 16 June, time tbc

Burlington Primary School

- Yr 10 Dancers leading a workshop and performing

Mon 22 June, time tbc

Robin Hood Primary School

- Yr 10 Dancers leading a workshop and performing

Saturday 4 July, time tbc

Rose Theatre

- Boys Dance @ Tiffin, Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance performing *A Thin Space*

Part of International Youth Arts Festival Day of Dance

Tickets and further information from www.iyafestival.org

Sunday 5 July, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

The Scoop (open air amphitheatre next to City Hall) free

- BOYS DANCE @ TIFFIN performing their new piece *Transformations* – part of London Youth Dance Day

Sunday 5 July, time tbc

The Clore Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House

- Taha Ghauri, Chae Young Chang, Joe Latimer participate in the Finale of Young Creatives Choreographic Competition

Tuesday 7 July, time tbc

Kingston Parish Church

- BOYS DANCE @ TIFFIN performing *Transformation*
- YR 10 DANCERS performing *Front Line* (Shostakovich Quartet No 9) with live accompaniment
- RAMBERT SCHOOL OF BALLET AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE, performing *A Thin Space*, accompanied by the TIFFIN BOYS' CHOIR

Tickets £10/£5 from tickets@askingston.co.uk; 020 8546 5964; and online at www.kingston.gov.uk

Friday 10 July, 6:00 – 9:30 pm

Tiffin in the Garden

- Dance performances including Yr 8, KS3 dance club, Tiffin Dance Company and Yr 10
- Drama performances from Yr 9 and Yr 10 Drama students
- Musical performances from the Swing Band, School Orchestra, Second Orchestra, Concert Band, Samba Group, Horn Group, Massed Strings, Children's Chorus and the BIG TIFFIN ORCHESTRA

Music for the Big Tiffin Orchestra available on the school website from Monday 15 June

Tickets £5 each on sale from 15 June

KAROLINA CZERNIAK

FURTHER PERFORMING ARTS DATES

Sunday 5 July, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

The Scoop (open air amphitheatre next to City Hall) free

- Tiffin Dance Company performing their new piece *'Transformations'* – part of London Youth Dance Day

Sunday 5 July, time tbc

The Clore Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House

- Taha Ghauri, Chae Young Chang, Joe Latimer participate in the Finale of Young Creatives Choreographic Competition

Monday 6 July, 5:30 pm (provisional time)

Rose Studio Theatre

- UBU ROI

One last chance to see 'Les Polonais' (Tiffin 6th formers) rip,

tear and smash Alfred Jarry's infamous masterpiece

Part of International Youth Arts Festival

Tickets £10

Tuesday 7 July, 7:30 pm

Kingston Parish Church

- Tiffin Dance Company performing *'Transformations'*
- YR 10 DANCERS performing 'Front Line' (Shostakovich Quartet No 9) with live accompaniment; also performing their own choreographic project
- RAMBERT SCHOOL OF BALLET AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE performing *'A Thin Space'*, accompanied by the TIFFIN BOYS' CHOIR

Tickets £10/£5 from tickets@askingston.co.uk

020 8546 5964; and online

SIMON TOYNE

School Tennis

The Tennis season has started well, and the BSTA has given us a grant of £250 towards the coaching costs and court hire at Coombe Wood and New Malden Tennis Clubs. Good news.

The teams at each age group have started well, with wins against St Pauls, Reigate and Howard of Effingham. The U-14s have won two games to date and have a real chance of reaching the Surrey School finals. Many thanks to Messrs Taylor, Worth, Foden & Hameed for all their hard work on behalf of the boys.

We are looking forward to the Surrey Festival, with the best pair in each age group and the progress of Brian Wang in the 'Road to Wimbledon' competition.

PETER WILLIAMS

School Cricket

This has been the worst possible start for the 1st. XI, recording just one win against Trinity in the period before half term. All the matches have been desperately close affairs with the narrowest of margins separating defeat from victory. Reed's beat us in the last over of the match after a terrific fight-back from Tiffin, and the matches v. Lord Wandsworth College and Emanuel were lost by 16 and 14 runs respectively. However, some terrific cricket has been played and the addition of a league between nine of the top Surrey schools has added a degree of spice to the fixtures. It is a shame that the league has started some 30 years too late for us! Alistair Watkins has become the leading all-rounder of the season with runs, wickets and the only player so far to register a half century. Herein lies much of the problem, for the batting has been fragile, when it has mattered most. Lower down the school, results have been mixed although the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 XIs are beginning to show promise.

Tercels cricket begins this weekend against the Old Tiffs, an annual fixture that has now become a memorial match for Neil Desai.

We look forward to a better second half of the season.

The all star 3rd Cricket XI continues to do well. Two excellent chases of below hundred scores saw off Reeds and Trinity with ease. Lord Wandsworth College bowled far better than the previous opposition and we struggled to set a realistic total. The bowlers blitzkrieg into the opposition, skittling two out without much on the board. An untimely no-ball cost us a change of another key wicket, and they limped over the line. So far key Batsmen Nikhil Garg, Roshik Patel and Usman Choudry have looked good. The spinner Zaheen Shah impressed in the last outing, and James Walsh and Amrik Rattu have pegged back and frightened batsmen respectively. With these two, coupled with Armajaj Sharma's left arm deliveries, we look set to continue another good season.

MARTIN WILLIAMS
ROBIN SHAW



Kumara Mallikaaratchi in action against Trinity