



Newsletter of Tiffinian Association No. 241 September 2009

Chairman
IAN REDINGTON
Home: 020 8398 1189
E: ian.redington@btinternet.com

Hon. Secretary
DAVID EVANS
Home: 01737 843794
Mob: 07785 393610
E: moreplace@btinternet.com

Hon Treasurer
MARK DARBY
Home: 020 8398 1050
Office: 020 7694 3322
E: mark.darby@ukgateway.net

Hon. Membership Sec.
DENNIS BARNARD
Home: 020 8942 9768

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Tiffin School Office: Tel: 020 8546 4638 Fax: 020 8546 6365 www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

TIFFNEWS Editor Brian Holden, 20 Green Lanes, Epsom, Surrey KT19 9UJ Telephone: 020 8393 3293 E Mail bholden93@hotmail.com

From the Head's Study

I am delighted to have this opportunity to write to you, as I take up my post as Headteacher at Tiffin School.



It has been an excellent start to the term, with the news of the School's successes in the summer examinations. Tiffin has performed again in the top five state boys' schools in the country at GCSE and A level. 71 boys achieved 3 A grades or more at A-Level and 20 boys gained places at Oxbridge. This is truly an impressive performance, and I believe that you would want to join with me in congratulating the staff and students on this achievement.

I have come to realise very quickly that high standards and excellence are a mark to which the School aspires in all that it does, whether in the classroom, on the playing fields, or in the many venues where the education of Tiffin students takes place. One of the unifying elements of the School that has been passed down is this striving for success and realisation of opportunity. It is obvious, as I walk around the School, that our students today are highly motivated and engaged in their learning and in their involvement in a range of activities. I would urge you to log on to our website and the September newsletter that is just going out, to read all about the activities in the school.

Do pause to look at the short video about the taking of the school photograph on 8th September with 1050 students and over 120 staff. Compare this with the number of boys and staff that you would have seen in your Tiffin School photographs. The size of the School that now lives on the existing site brings into perspective how much we need to do to get support for its future development. I will look forward to working with the Governors on how the School can develop and meet the needs of the 21st century.

Two weeks ago I had the great pleasure of meeting a former pupil, A.J.F. Jenkins, who Brian Holden kindly showed round the School. It was fascinating to hear of Mr Jenkins' days as a pupil in the 1930s, one of the first pupils to come into the new Tiffin School in 1930 and to share also in his reflections on the effects of his war service on his life. Through these links the School can stay in touch with its past and know that it is forever bound into the lives of the boys that have passed through its doors and those today who represent the School in the September 2009 photograph.

I look forward to meeting members of the Tiffin Association at the Annual Dinner in November and keeping you up to date about events in the School.

With best wishes

HILDA CLARKE, Headteacher

Book Column

'Breach of Privilege' by Graham Ison (1950)

Graham has recently published another in his Brock & Poole series.

When Hugh Blakemore, the Member of Parliament for Millingham, is shot dead near a bus stop in the Fulham Road, DCI Harry Brock and DS Dave Poole are assigned to the case. But there is a complication that, at first, misleads the detectives: months previously, Blakemore killed an inmate when visiting a prison. Although Blakemore was exonerated, Brock is convinced that underworld characters had exacted revenge.

In an investigation that has more ups and downs than a game of snakes and ladders, and more lies than a villain's alibi, the MP's widow, her ex-husband and their daughter, actresses, American gangsters and a string of petty criminals all feature, along with a hint of corruption and blackmail. Are they all conspirators, or is there one mastermind behind it all?

Do visit Graham's website at www.grahamison.co.uk.

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 your place NOW, as space is limited, and send off your cheque (£30 payable to "T.A.L.") as soon as possible to John Wright at his home address:
1 Delta Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7HP

Association Chairman's Letter

Dear Fellow Tiffinian,

The death of John Roberts is truly a sad occurrence. I predated him at School, so never knew him well, but there is no doubt he was a faithful supporter of Tiffinian affairs and made his mark as Headmaster of the School. There are tributes elsewhere in this edition, but you should know I have written to his wife, Pam, and the family to offer the Association's condolences and recognition of his contribution. You will have seen in the previous edition that Ken Jenkins passed away too. He was kind enough to leave the Association with a generous donation, for which we record our thanks.



Whilst on the subject of head teachers at the School, this term will be Hilda Clarke's first. At the time of writing, we have not had the opportunity to meet each other, but we are seeking to find mutually convenient dates in our respective diaries, and I am hopeful that by the time you receive this edition of Tiffnews, we shall have met. Apart from welcoming Hilda on behalf of us all, I am keen to put across the message that the Tiffinian Association consists of people who above all else want the School – and therefore Hilda herself – to be successful. However, this could easily be seen as nothing more than a platitude, unless it can be substantiated.

I believe we now have sufficient evidence to demonstrate that an effective Association can help to make a difference to the School. Whilst financial support would always be welcomed by the School, the massive network of Tiffinians around the world can also offer help and support in additional ways – for example by guiding others through the world of employment, explaining about life at university, sharing their acquired expertise and so on. Historically these resources have not been well harnessed, but as an Association we are starting to do this. Indeed, during the summer term, a colleague of mine, Roger Bonfield, with whom I had progressed through the School (and often the 213 bus as well!) came back and ran a workshop with some of the Sixth Form to help them better understand themselves and how they interact with others.

If anyone else feels they have something to offer, then please be in touch with Alex Swift, our Administrator (see below) and let her know.

We have benefited also from the input of a working party that was established after several parents questioned the Chairman of Governors, Stuart Lester, during the School's financial difficulties earlier in the year. They asked what the School was doing to approach alumni about helping the School. Stuart asked for ideas and volunteers to sit on a working party that was enhanced by the addition of some recent and less recent leavers, ex-parents and one or two of the governors. They have generated a number of constructive ideas, which they felt would be best implemented through the Association (rather than by an alternative body). The working party is now chaired by Phil Phillips, who has recently become a Governor of the School, which he attended between 1967 and 1974. I am grateful for their thoughts and proposals.

One proposal they have put forward offers a further example of what an effective Association can offer as well. We are, at the time of writing, looking into software that will not just help us to manage relationships with members but also enable new members to sign up on-line (as well as other functions). More recent generations of leavers expect to communicate and manage relationships on-line and if they are to be encouraged to become part of the Association, we must respond to their needs and make it as easy as possible for them to join.

On September 14th in Kingston Parish Church, this year's leavers and their parents said farewell to the School at their Leavers' Celebration and Presentation of Prizes, and the Association was there to explain our aims.

Many of you will also be aware that we now have a monthly on-line newsletter/bulletin, which gives regular updates on what is happening within the Tiffin community. This is currently being sent to all members for whom we have email addresses and so far has elicited very positive feedback. If we do not have your **up to date** email address, then please let Alex Swift, our Administrator, have it and you too will be able to receive the bulletin – it is also available on the website (for contact details see below). Receiving the bulletin is not compulsory though!

Just a further reminder for 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, when you will also have the opportunity to meet Hilda Clarke.

I hope you all had 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

Wednesday 7th October

- Tiffin Drama: 'Henry V'
7.30pm Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon

Thursday 8th October

- **OTA Social Lunch**

Saturday 17th October

- **OT Rugby Club VP & Former Players' Lunch**

Thursday 22nd October

- **Tiffinian Lodge Installation Meeting**

Monday 26th October

- Half Term week

Thursday 29th October

- **OT Golf Society at Cuddington**

Monday 2nd November

- Tiffin Choir: Fauré 'Requiem'
7.30pm Kingston Parish Church

Wednesday 11th November

- School Remembrance Day Service

Friday 13th November

- **Association Annual Dinner**

Sunday 15th November

- School Oratorio 'The Creation'
7.30pm Rose Theatre, Kingston
(Rehearsals every Tuesday evening, except half term)

Sunday 22nd November

- Tiffin Choir at St John's Smith Square

Wednesday 25th November

- **Association AGM**

9th – 12th December

- 'West Side Story': 7.00pm School Hall

Thursday 10th December

- **OTA Social Lunch**

Monday 14th December

- Christmas Instrumental Concert

Tuesday 15th December

- Royal Albert Hall 7.30pm
Tiffin Children's Chorus
& Boys' Choir (trebles)

Wednesday 16th December

- Carol Service: 7.30pm Parish Church
(parking available in school grounds)

Friday 18th December

- Term ends

Monday 21st December

- **OT Golf Society at Effingham**

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

Tiffinian Lodge

With our summer recess drawing to a close, we are about to embark on our 99th year as a Masonic Lodge, and we know it will certainly be both an exciting and an enjoyable year. Our first Committee Meeting of the year is to be held at Surbiton Masonic Hall on Tuesday 15th September, preparing the way for our most important meeting on October 22nd, when we shall install our new Master.

The Installation Meeting is always looked forward to by all members, for not only is our new Master installed, but the officers for the year ahead are invested, and the ceremony is always well conducted and highly enjoyable. Our new Master will be Michael Giddy, who was our 81st Master in 1991, and who will now become our 99th Master this year. Michael is a highly experienced and very popular Mason who was unanimously elected by the Lodge members, and we are looking forward with great pleasure to his installation. We are all confident that his direction of the Lodge for this coming Masonic year will be marked by his usual excellence.

We are, indeed, looking forward to a very full year. In November we look forward to our annual official visit, and hopefully on that day we shall initiate a new member into the Lodge. There will be an Open Evening in March, after the regular meeting, when friends and family of Lodge Members are invited, together with anyone who may be interested in Masonry, to a very convivial dinner, which is always enjoyed by all. In April we shall be hosting a meeting of the St George's group of lodges, and shall be demonstrating our faultless command of ritual with a number of highly interesting and unusual pieces. The year ahead, therefore, promises to be highly entertaining and enjoyable.

We are confident that more new members will wish to be admitted to the Lodge in the near future, and we look forward to welcoming them. Freemasonry is highly rewarding, thoroughly worthwhile, and socially satisfying, and anyone who may be at all interested is invited to phone the Lodge Secretary on 020 8979 0107, or to email him at MJB2@talktalk.net

MICHAEL BECKERMAN
Lodge Secretary

Membership Matters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DENNIS BARNARD

Letters

Dear Brian,

I was very interested to read the letter from Michael Farrington about M P Meshenberg, Meshy as he was known in our family. Quite the greatest maths teacher there ever was. He made what was to me a difficult subject, appear easy, logical and most of all interesting. So much so that, when I returned to my interrupted studies after three years in the army, I spent most of my wartime gratuity on private lessons with him. He quickly got me back up to speed, and I will remember the hours spent studying in the front room of his house in Surbiton.

Meshy was a friend of the family. He and my father, Vic Mayhead, also an Old Tiffinian, and also Danny Emms, a well known Kingston personality, would swim before breakfast in the river just behind Nuttalls restaurant, summer and winter, even breaking the ice on occasions.

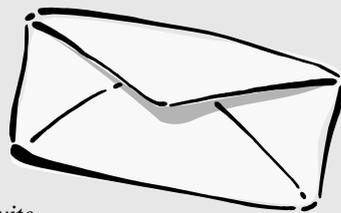
I was able on one occasion to repay him by mending his Marconi wireless, since I had by that time become a bit of an expert. Electronics became my lifelong career, and I owe a lot of my success to Meshy.

I have no hesitation in supporting Michael's proposal that M P Meshenberg was a Great Teacher.

Best regards,

Laurie Mayhead (1944)

(The above letter was written by Laurie shortly before his death this summer.)



Dear Brian,

May I enthusiastically second Michael Farrington's proposal that M P Meshenberg was a Great Teacher, and also thank him for providing new information. I had two maths teachers whilst at Tiffins - Spriggs who terrified me, and then, in the Sixth Form, Mesh, when terror was replaced by pleasure. Like Michael, we would sit round a table, and I would always sit opposite Mesh, becoming as a result competent at reading upside-down. A real change came after my Higher School Certificate (the A-Levels of today) in 1940, when he persuaded my parents to let me stay on and try for a Cambridge scholarship. They agreed, largely because it might save me from military service, for they knew nothing of Cambridge, except that it always won the boat race, as it did in those days. Then tuition became one-to-one, often in an air-raid shelter, and I knew Mesh as a friend and advisor. Only later did I realise how Mesh, a Jew, must have been worried more than most at the prospect of a German invasion. I used to help him with his allotment, much to my father's annoyance; "Why not help with mine?". I did not like to tell my father that Mesh's conversation was much more interesting. So I got to Cambridge, much to everyone's amazement, for it was a rare event then: and eventually to the faculty, dedicating my first book to him, who had virtually made me. He was a great teacher, and not just of maths, he taught me about life.

Best Wishes,

Dennis Lindley (1941)

[Dennis attended several OT Dinners in the 1950s while at Cambridge, later moving to Aberystwyth, where he held the Chair of Statistics.]

The Letter below is from Brian West, the very first Editor of 'Tiffnews' 48 years ago !

Hi Alex,

I have just received Tiffin Bulletin No. 2, and I just wanted to congratulate you warmly on an excellent production. It's heartening to us Old Boys to know that Tiffins is such a vibrant community in these difficult times for all educational establishments. I was particularly pleased to see the School marking the FAA centenary. I was a Fleet Air Arm observer (in fact the last National Service aircrew officer to be flying).

Best Wishes,

Brian West (1952)

[On 10th June a Royal Navy helicopter visited Tiffin School as part of the Fleet Air Arm 100 celebrations. The helicopter landed on the School Field, in front of hundreds of Tiffin pupils and some from nearby St Joseph's Primary School.]

Dear Brian,

Godfrey Smith's tribute to Ken Jenkins in the last 'Tiffnews' brought back memories of Edenmore School and Mr Manley! After I had been evacuated twice in 1944, my mother, worried by the interruption to my schooling, sent me to Edenmore (on the recommendation of one of the female teachers there) in October 1944. I lasted about a month, before she took me away, with our doctor's full backing. The bullying was the least of it; I was, and am, left-handed, and the Headmaster instructed the teachers to send me to him, whenever I was seen to be using my left hand for writing or eating – e.g. spoon in left hand (which I still do). This meant I was caned by the Head four, five, six times a day! I remember the Head saying that I would never get a job in a bank, if I wrote left-handed; this determined me NEVER to work in a bank.

Best Wishes,

Michael Farrington (1956)

Dear Alex,

I read in the July Bulletin the item about the School competing this year for the Princess Elizabeth Cup. I hope they did well. I was present for the School's first race for the cup in 1950. They'd had a highly successful season, including winning the Junior-Senior Vllls at Molesey, the Lovekyn Cup and the Schools Vllls cup against Kingston Grammar; winning the Junior-Senior Vllls at Staines and earning praise in the 'Times' which reported: 'Most promising form was shown by Tiffin School' As a result, the School was invited for the first time to enter the Princess Elizabeth Cup. The Headmaster then was JJ Harper and he invited Johnny Barker, Head Boy, and myself, Deputy Head Boy, to attend the regatta with him. We were privileged to be invited to follow the Tiffin VIII's race in the umpire's launch. The School was drawn against Shrewsbury in the first round, were level at the half-way mark, but the heavier weight of the other crew told and we

lost by a length and a half. But it had been a great 'first' for the School, for I believe that no other grammar school had ever been invited to compete.

I think your new Bulletin is excellent – thanks for it.

Best regards,

David Bateman (1950)

Dear Alex,

It is good to know that the Turk Rowing Trophy has been located and may well be reinstated.

I left the School in 1953 and attended the Old Boys' Centenary Dinner in 2003, to meet some of the crew and other old friends. A wonderful time.

Why was the Turk Trophy important to me? I weighed only 7 stone and was the first eight cox for Walton Rowing Club. Another Tiffinian, David Croucher, was cox for Weybridge Rowing Club. We were best of friends except when competing against each other, and then it was a case of 'no holds barred'. I wanted to row in the 1952 first eight – reason? Oarsmen would get a pint pot, while the cox got only a half pint pot. I decided I had to prove I could beat all the other contenders before the Rowing Master, Keith Southan, would consider me. The only way was to beat all the others in the School Sculling competition, held at the beginning of the season. I taught myself to scull at Walton and practised every night and at weekends. I soon learned that steering was very difficult, when you are facing backwards. I discussed this with David Croucher, who wanted to be school first eight cox and was willing to help me. Sometimes during my practice he would follow me along the towpath on a bicycle shouting instructions. It developed into him calling "Clive" meaning to "go out" and "Edwards" to "come in" as an aid to steering. When I entered my name on the list on the notice board, the other competitors for a place in the first eight thought it was a joke, and someone removed my name. They were of course even more surprised when I won every heat and the final. I have to admit that David's occasional shout was a help, but I don't think anyone realised or perhaps I could have been disqualified. Winning the Turk Trophy in 1952 and 1953 won me a place in the first eight both years. The award for the first event that we won was a medal - but no pint pot. It is great to know it has been located.

Kind regards,

Clive Edwards (1953)

Remembrance Day Service

This will take place on **Wednesday 11th November** (meeting at 10.30am). Numbers are limited, but if any OTs would like to attend, please contact Alex Swift at the School (TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk)

Editor

As indicated by our Chairman earlier, the sad event of the summer was news of the death of our former respected Head, John Roberts, after several years of ill health. A number of his former colleagues and several OTs attended a moving Memorial Service in St John's College, Oxford. The Service was enhanced by the full participation of the family and a carefully crafted eulogy delivered by James Roberts (see our *Obituaries page*).

It seems I owe an apology to those readers who took amiss my remarks in the June Editorial concerning the appointment of our new Head, Hilda Clarke. Some assumed that I was expressing an archaic view that a woman couldn't cope with such an important job as this! It is clear from her outstanding CV and the welcome she has since received from the Staff that we need have no fears! We wish her well.

If you have not yet booked yourself in for the Annual Dinner, do send off your cheque NOW, to make sure of your place. This for most OTs will be the first opportunity of meeting the new Head.

Do make a note of the Association AGM date (25th November), and try to come along and support the Trustees in what they are doing on your behalf. (The centre-fold pull-out will give you the information you need to bring along to the meeting.)

BRIAN HOLDEN

OT Football Club

At the time of writing the new season is almost upon us, and we invite all members of the Tiffin community and their friends to come and play for us. We offer players across the spectrum of playing ability and age the opportunity of more serious or less serious amateur football week in week out across the season. We currently expect to run four league sides and a Vets team, but this can change as player numbers dictate. **Any new players looking to play this season are invited to contact Club Secretary Errol Walker on 07984 473074 or to join us for training at Grist's, which is currently being held on Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm.** Pre-season fixtures started on 22nd August and were arranged each week until the league season started, providing the opportunity to get some match fitness and to get to know other players within the Club, and to ascertain appropriate playing standard.

The first team kicked off its league season on Saturday 12th September, with the other league sides starting their competitive matches the following week. You can follow our fixtures and success or otherwise by visiting the comprehensive league website at www.amateurfootballcombination.com on a weekly basis.

We also need qualified referees to officiate for the lower team games, and we would be pleased to hear from anyone in a position to help out, so please get in touch.

STEVE JOHNSON, *Chairman*

OT Music & Drama

Towards the end of May three OTs featured in radio programmes. **Richard Wigmore** (1968) was heard on Radio 3 giving a commentary on the works of Haydn. A play by **Doug Lucie** (1973), entitled "Sunny afternoon", was broadcast on Radio 4 on Friday 29 May, while earlier on the same day **Stephen Rice** (1985) spoke about Henry VIII the Musician in a series of five short programmes devoted to different aspects of Henry's life. The choir founded and directed by Stephen, the Brabant Ensemble, gave a well-attended concert in the Great Hall of Hampton Court Palace on 8th May, performing a *cappella* works by Henry himself and by several of his contemporaries.

OT Golf Society

Since my last article for Tiffnews, OTGS have had three summer fixtures. The first of these was played at Farnham GC at the beginning of June against Old Surbs, and we were severely tested. The greens were really fast, and most of the OTs were playing Farnham for the first time. Old Surbs won the match, outnumbering us by 22 to 14. Our top scorer was Allan Piggott with 37 points. Tim Whittaker with 36 points and John Pitchford with 35 points were close behind. Front and back nine prizes went to Norman Mayes and Jim Tink.

We then had two 'by invitation' fixtures which many OTs enjoyed. Firstly, in July our OT team of Goodbun, Wright, Knowles, Howes, Redington and Piggott played at Clandon Regis in the Surrey Schools Old Boys' Tournament with seven schools represented. Sadly Old Surbs failed to raise a team this year. The event was won by Old Emanuel with a combined score of 179 points (best 5 scores count), second were Old Hinchleyans with 176 points, and Old Tiffs were third with 171 points. A very commendable effort, if not a winning score. Our top scorer was Geoff Howes with 39 points, so as you can see some very good golf was played.

Then in August a team of 10 represented OTGS at Royal Wimbledon in a match against KCS Old Boys. For this restricted fixture we played 4 ball better ball which KCS won by three and a half to one and a half. Many of us would play Royal Wimbledon better next year as there are quite a few holes where a driver is fatal, and the opposition knew the course better than we did! Full marks to our captain Duncan Knowles playing with Stuart Lester, who recorded our only win, and also congratulations to Nick Wright and Ian Redington who halved their match. The matches lost were close run things and the match was played in an excellent spirit. I hope we can go back to Royal Wimbledon again next year for our home fixture against KCS.

Our Autumn meeting will be at **Cuddington Golf Club on Thursday October 29th.**

OT 100 Club

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

				Previous win
May' 09	£50	Peter Boshier	Essex	'07
Jun' 09	£50	Alec Pringle	New Malden	'09
Jun' 09	£1000	Gus Armstrong	Hants	'06
Jul' 09	£50	Howard Mallinson	Claygate	'09

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

Two of the above winning twice in a year was a surprise, but I assure you that the balls were well shaken. Gus is being looked after in a retirement home now, and we hope this major win helps in some way. As mentioned in the Social Lunch section, Howard should be home soon and hope this cheers him up.

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

Any old Tiff that would like to join us on that occasion, please contact Allan Piggott on 01483 282411 or email allan.piggott@btinternet.com Two enticing prospects follow, we will be having a Christmas meeting on **Monday December 21 at Effingham Golf Club** and a Spring meeting on **Thursday March 25 at New Zealand Golf Club.**

ALLAN PIGGOTT

OT Rugby Football Club

The inaugural Tiffin seven-a-side tournament, organised by Steve Cathcart and Dave Morris on 13th September, was a resounding success, with teams from the last nine years and three OT teams competing. The competition was won by the 2008 Leavers and the Plate Competition by the OTs. Most importantly, the Old Boys recruited several new members to their ranks, and it is hoped that we shall be able to run a Second XV on several occasions during the year. With the Vets also arranging three or four fixtures, this could be the stimulus needed to make the OTRFC a real force in Surrey once more. The season kicked off with a home League match on 27th September against Mitcham, which was won by 40-13. Tries were scored by Will Staples, Mark Anstey, Nick Kearns & James Fentiman (2). Matt Kearle kicked three penalties and three conversions. The good news was Luke Proctor, Donald McKenzie, Sam Madden & Matt Kearle made their debut for the OTRFC.

The first of the season's VP & Former Players' Lunches will be held on Saturday 17th October, when the team play a League fixture against Haslemere. The Bar will be open from 12.00, and the Lunch will commence at 1.15pm, to enable support for the match at 3.00pm. Please phone Peter Smith on 020 8398 4748, if you wish to attend. Anyone wishing to play rugby this year will be most welcome and should phone James Fentiman on 07947 564390 (or email him on james.fentiman@freud.com or fentiman11@yahoo.co.uk

PETER SMITH, *Chairman*

96th OT Skiff Marathon

This year's race took place on Sunday 17th May. Unfortunately early morning wild weather kept many spectators away, so there was only a band of hardened followers. As race time approached, the weather cleared, and the race was held in perfect conditions...only in England! Four crews took part this year. All participants had competed in previous years, making the handicapping easier. Andy Powell & John Roberts set off first, 50 seconds ahead of Peter Lawson & Ashley Tilling. Prior winners Tony Ellis & Julian Kapica started a further 30

seconds later, and David Gattey & David Powell set off 14 seconds later.

All crews took a steady pace to stave off the usual arm cramps and sore bottoms. It has become the norm that crews do not practice and turn up to race, saving their strength for the big day. Men will be men!!

The crews gradually converged during the race and as the first three crews neared one another, a side-by-side race developed down the last 1000M. Unfortunately, this left the two Davids out of the sprint, and as a result the spectator boat washed them down.

It was neck and neck until the finishing line, with all three crews crossing the line within 4 seconds. Peter & Ashley hung on to take the handicap trophy. The battle for the line pulled Tony & Julian through to take the fastest crew by 30 seconds from the Davids. David Gattey finally had to relinquish the trophy, after it has held a lofty position on his trophy shelf for the past 3 years.



Tony Ellis & Julian Kapica push to Kingston Bridge to take this year's race, coxed by OT Daniel Ellis in a more relaxed position.

Past OTA Skiff racer Dickie Rumble kindly presented the prizes after the race. He pointed out that he made 29 races. There may still be one more race in him !

Dittons Skiff and Punting Club continue to provide their support for the event. It is a great day out and I encourage any Tiffinians to try the sport. The event will be held at a similar date and time in May 2010. The Centenary event will be held in 2013 - just 3 years to go.

If you are interested in competing, please contact me on tony.ellis@ge.com

Results:

	Race time	
Tony Ellis/Julian Kapica	21.56	Fastest Crew
Ashley Tilling/Peter Lawson	22.25	Handicap winners
David Powell/David Gattey	22.26	
Andy Powell/John Roberts	23.20	

TONY ELLIS



David Gattey & David Powell feel the strain, as they relinquish their title.

Two for the price of one

David Larmar (1955) writes of his excitement when, on opening the programme for a performance of the Bach B Minor Mass in Tewkesbury Abbey, as part of the Three Choirs Festival on 10th August, he saw OT (1967) **Ralph Allwood's** name as conductor of the huge orchestral and choral forces, the Rodolphus Choir and the Corelli Orchestra; then to hear that the advertised but indisposed bass soloist, was to be replaced, at very short notice, by OT **Robert Rice** (1988).

Ralph is currently Precentor and Director of Music at Eton College, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music, and an Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. Robert, also a graduate of the Royal Academy, is pursuing his career as a bass/baritone soloist, arranger, ensemble and opera singer and singing teacher. He can be heard on BBC Radio from time to time.

Both had been members of King's College Choir, Cambridge, in their time, as was Robert's brother **Stephen Rice** (OT 1985), also on the professional singing circuit with his choir, The Brabant Ensemble, which specialises in 16th century choral music, performing occasionally on BBC Radio. Both, of course, are sons of former Tiffin Master John Rice.

Needless to say, the concert itself in the Abbey, with a packed audience, was magnificent and received tumultuous applause, Ralph and Robert excelling in their respective roles.

A memorable concert for David and Pat Larmar.

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

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

21 Mrs K Bonfield	9 J Wright	103 D E Edney
148 J Wright	85 A E Owen	115 C W Wright
169 R G Adolphus	67 C J Mason	80 Mrs B Armstrong
50 G Chivers	57 S R Day	25 P. Saville
111 K J Goodwin		

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

Best wishes.

MARK DARBY

New Zealand Old Boys

Trevor Cardo (1950) with students Jack Bazelgette & Matty McConnell, together with OT **Jim Woodward** (1945), who had blazer material sent specially from Bentalls to have one made for himself for Napier's Art Deco week. They drove for two hours from Napier to the Tiffin concert at St Andrew's Church at Lake Taupo. **Stephen Bannister** (1973) also came to the concert from Wellington.





Tiffinian Association



Notice of General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the First Annual General Meeting of the Tiffinian Association on Wednesday 25th November 2009 at Dean Pavilion, Tiffinian Association Sports Ground, Summer Road, East Molesey at 20:00 sharp to transact the following business:

- 1) Welcome to Members
- 2) Apologies for Absence
- 3) Chairman's Report
- 4) Financial Report
- 5) Appointment of Auditors
- 6) Elections to the Board of Directors
Election Results
- 7) Amendment of the Bylaws
- 8) AOB

...ooo0ooo...

The Chairman will now open the meeting to the members present for a general discussion on the affairs of the Association.

...ooo0ooo...

The current Board of Trustees is as follows:-

Ian Redington – Chairman
Mark Darby – Treasurer
David Evans – Secretary
Mike Taylor
Brian Holden
Tony Millard

Howard Mallinson
Chris Shires
Stuart Lester
Nigel Angus
Peter Osborne
Phil Phillips.

In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles, ALL members of the Board of Trustees resign but have agreed to stand for re-election. Additional candidates for election should be nominated by a current member of the Association and seconded by two further members of the Association. Nominations for election MUST be with the Secretary by 5.00 pm on 13 November 2009. Election will be decided at the meeting by those present and voting.

By Order

David Evans, 23 September 2009
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

TIFFINIAN ASSOCIATION LTD - draft accounts for the period ended 31 March 2009

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

GENERAL ACCOUNT		£	£
Income	Members' regular donations	11,431.73	
	School ground hire	11,153.77	
	Hire of pitches	13,748.50	
	Nursery rent	3,676.90	
	House rent	4,380.00	
	Yard rent	600.00	
	Other donations	1,300.00	
	Net bar income	1,982.11	
	Other income	26.00	
	Annual Dinner	103.30	
			<u>48,402.31</u>
Expenses	Equipment and supplies	443.14	
	Legal and audit fees	2,000.00	
	Maintenance	14,385.10	
	Outlays	155.35	
	Postage	700.03	
	Service contracts	600.16	
	Tiffnews	2,859.00	
	Utilities	3,893.59	
			<u>(25,036.37)</u>
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT			
	Income	1,053.73	
	Valuation movement	(2,221.75)	
			<u>(1,168.02)</u>
DONATIONS MADE			18,418.00
RESULT FOR THE PERIOD			<u><u>3,779.92</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2009

Assets		£	£
Fixed assets	Freehold land and premises	113,517.00	
	Land	15,625.00	
	Plant and equipment	3,166.00	
			<u>132,308.00</u>
Investments	Charifund	4,907.25	
	COIF	24,664.83	
	HM Treasury	1,730.00	
	NS&I	2,692.87	
			<u>33,994.95</u>
Cash			137,171.52
Debtors			4,557.14
Creditors			<u>(11,119.45)</u>
			<u>296,912.16</u>
Funds introduced:			
OTA		23,583.28	
OTMF		88,032.33	
OTSG		181,516.63	
			<u>293,132.24</u>
RESULT FOR THE PERIOD			<u><u>3,779.92</u></u>
			<u>296,912.16</u>

NOTES

1 Notes to the accounts

(a) TAL commenced trading on 1 October 2008 and has taken over the previous activities of Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund (OTMF - a charity), Old Tiffinian Association (OTA - an unincorporated club) and Old Tiffinian Sports Ground Company (OTSG - a company)

(b) Basis of accounting - the Board has prepared these financial statements to meet applicable accounting standards under the historic cost convention.

(c) Investments - are stated at the latest valuation figure received by the Treasurer. The discount or premium on the purchase of an investment is amortised over the period to maturity

(d) Regular donations - donations are credited to income on receipt

(e) Rents and amounts due on lettings are accounted for on an accruals basis.

(f) Depreciation - the rates for depreciating fixed assets are as follows:

1% freehold premises, excluding land

10% plant

20% equipment and furnishings

These rates correspond to the estimated useful life of the assets.

2 Funds introduced from other organisations

	OTA	OTMF	OTSG	
Last accounts to	31/03/2008	31/12/2008	30/09/2008	
	£	£	£	
Members' funds	22,102	86,852	180,027	
Movement	1,481	1,180	1,490	
Funds introduced	23,583	88,032	181,517	293,132

Tiffinian Association Annual Report 2009

The Association was established in September 2008 as a registered charity, with the following charitable aims:

- To promote the participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of the following:
 - former and present pupils of Tiffin School, Kingston upon Thames, and their families;
 - employees of Tiffin School and their families; others associated with Tiffin School; and
 - the local community of Kingston upon Thames and its environs, by the provision of such sporting and recreational activities as the Charity may decide.
- To further the education of pupils at Tiffin School by the award of grants, in consultation with Tiffin School, to pupils who, by reason of financial hardship, would not otherwise be able to fully participate in educational or sporting activities, whether within or outside the curriculum offered by Tiffin School.
- To further excellence in academic studies, performing arts, sport & citizenship by promoting the award of prizes for effort and achievement to the pupils of Tiffin School, in consultation with Tiffin School.
- To further education and citizenship by making grants which enable Tiffin School to:
 - enhance its educational and sporting facilities;
 - make its facilities, educational materials and know-how available to the local community;
 - enter into partnerships with other schools, further education colleges and other bodies, including sponsoring awards and competitions;
 - provide holiday courses and exchange programmes open to the local community.

Whilst the previous activities of the Old Tiffinian Association are clearly incorporated in the above, the remit is now wider and lends itself to a much closer relationship to the School. We are indebted to the work of Howard Mallinson, who, as Chairman, ensured the transition took place as smoothly as possible. Unfortunately Howard has not been well and stood down as Chairman early in 2009, and Ian Redington was elected as his successor by the Board of Trustees.

Since the start of 2009, the Association has funded the employment of an administrator of its affairs, Alex Swift, who is based at the School and has proved to be a very valuable asset in helping to organise activities, communication, and has generated ideas to help the Association move forward. Part of her activity is to produce a monthly email bulletin, which is an innovation, complementary to *'Tiffnews'*, and covers current Tiffinian affairs. *'Tiffnews'* continues quarterly under the editorship of Brian Holden.

The School experienced some severe financial difficulties in 2008/9, which were given a deal of press coverage. Rapid action stabilised the situation, and, whilst finances still are obviously tight, there is no crisis. The Association continues to work with the School and Governors to help wherever we can, but our resources are currently limited in terms of the overall need. However, in the longer term this is something the Association is seeking to rectify, so that it has resources that can be made available; should a future need arise. With this in mind a strategic plan through to 2012 was developed and is the umbrella under which the Association operates. Key elements of the plan are to work more closely with the School, encourage fundraising, increase membership and activities for the members.

A working group was established to generate ideas on future ways forward, and key to this has been a proposal to implement software, which will enable much more membership and record keeping to be carried out on line. This will not only reduce the administrative burden but also communication with links to the website for information, events and so forth.

Grists continues to be a major asset and the Association has been approached to see whether it might consider working with Walton & Hersham Football Club to develop an athletics stadium, so that the Football Club can develop their own ground, which is currently used by the Athletics Club of the same name. The Association has confirmed its interest, and discussions are ongoing, although they are taking time and the Association is seeking certain guarantees, before it will even consider any changes. It does represent an opportunity, however, and so we wait with anticipation to see how proposals develop.

The Headmaster, Sean Heslop, left the School in January. Tiffin was then managed through a difficult period financially by Pauline Cox, who acted as Head Teacher at both the boys' and girls' schools. Pauline did an excellent job, and the Association would wish to express its thanks for her efforts. At the same time we welcome the new Head Teacher, Hilda Clarke, who took up her appointment in September, and we wish her a successful tenure at the School; she can be assured of our full support. It was sad to hear of the death of a previous head, A J V Roberts in July. A full report is in the September issue of *Tiffnews*.

During the year the Association has sought to meet its charitable aims and objectives in several ways. It continues to make available the Grists playing ground to the School and the Old Tiffinian Football, Cricket and Rugby Clubs, who in turn offer sporting facilities to many in the local community. In addition the ground is available to local clubs who also need sporting facilities.

The provision of nursery facilities in the Dean pavilion also continues, and improvements have been made by the Association, to improve the quality of the amenities there, to allow for expansion of this facility. Modest investment has been made within the School to cover prizes (as an incentive to encourage pupils to perform well), help with careers support and enhancements to the School Hall.

The Association, and indeed the School, face many challenges in the future, but it is 'fit for purpose', committed and ready to move forward. We shall no doubt be helped in this by the addition of a new trustee, Phil Phillips, who left the School in 1974 and has also recently been appointed a Governor of the school.

People



MICHAEL GIDDY (1965) is to be congratulated on his election as the next Master of Tiffinian Lodge. He also served as Master in 1991.

ROGER (W.T.) GILL (1959) has been appointed a Visiting Professor at Durham Business School, Durham University. He was Visiting Professor of Leadership Studies at the University of Strathclyde Business School from 1997 to the present, and previously Professor of Organizational Behaviour & Human Resource Management and Director of Executive Development Programmes. He was also Director of the Research Centre for Leadership Studies at The Leadership Trust (1997-2005). He published *'Theory and Practice of Leadership'* (London: SAGE Publications) in 2006, and is currently writing a second edition. He was married to Pat, his childhood sweetheart, in September 2009. He was advised by an old school friend that "There's no point in rushing these things" !

ARUN HARINATH (2005) was playing in the Surrey side against Warwickshire at the Oval on 16th September. He was batting at number 7 (21 not out), whilst his brother **Muhunthan** came on as substitute fielder later in the proceedings. The match was televised on Sky Sports.



CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS (1986) stepped down as an MEP in June after 10 years fulfilling that role with distinction. He was recently named in the *'Daily Telegraph'* as a 'Rising Star' for David Cameron's prospective government, where his 10 years' experience in politics could prove valuable. He should have a lot to offer. He is candidate for the Daventry constituency in Northamptonshire, where he now lives. His background is seen as an antidote to some claims

that the Tories are still led by the privileged. Educated at a grammar school (Tiffins) and Wolverhampton Polytechnic, he originally went to work for the family business in New Covent Garden.

ALBERT JENKINS (1937) recently visited the School, to observe the many changes in the buildings since his time there in the 1930s. He afterwards enjoyed meeting the Head over a cup of tea. Bert worked for Surrey County Council at County Hall, and when he retired in 1979 was Senior Officer in the Treasurer's Department. He served in the Army from 1939 to 1946, including four years as a POW in Greece, Poland and Germany. A few years ago he was treated by Lufthansa to a special flight in a 1936 Junkers 52 plane – the same type of aircraft that transported him as a POW from Crete to Athens. He has also had the honour, together with his late wife, of attending a Garden Party and, at a later date, a Luncheon at Buckingham Palace with HM the Queen and most of the Royal Family.



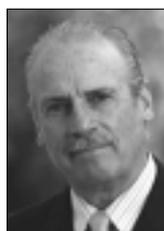
ARUN MIODOWNIK (1983) has recently joined the Association. He studied Engineering & Management at Durham (1984-87) with a National Engineering Scholarship, and was also sponsored by British Rail. He travelled to Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, India & Nepal in his year off (July '87 – June '88). He was then at Andersen Consulting strategic services division for 8 years, of which 3 were spent in Moscow covering Eastern Europe. In 1996 he got

married and joined SBC Warburg. In 1997 he was sent to the US and stayed with Warburg until 2000, when he left to join Merrill Lynch. There he held a number of CIO & COO positions in Technology, Research & Operations. He left in 2005, to start his own firm (Cambrian Consulting), which advises technology firms. He and his wife are now joint citizens living in Manhattan with their two children, Ella (10 and Zack (8).



ALEC STEWART (1980), former England Cricket Captain, is still in demand. He was heard on Radio 4 at the beginning of August paying tribute to the late Robby Robson, who he said was a family friend. In June Alec revisited his old club, Malden Wanderers, to open officially its new clubhouse. The ex-Surrey wicketkeeper turned out for Wanderers between the ages of 8 and 15, before being snapped up by Surrey.

KEVIN RUNDALL (1969) is Principal Double Bass with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. His son, who has just completed his time at Winchester College, also plays the double bass !



TIM REEVES (1963) has worked for 40 years in agricultural research, development and extension, focussed on sustainable agriculture in Australia and overseas. His professional career includes positions in the Department of Agriculture, Victoria; Foundation Professor of Sustainable Agricultural Production, Adelaide University (1992-95) and Director General of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) based in Mexico (1995-2002).

His other roles in recent years have included: Member, United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger; Member, European Commission Expert Group for Evaluation of Framework Projects; Senior Expert, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He is currently a Board Director of the Grains Research and Development Corporation, and a Board Director of the Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre. He is also a Professorial Fellow at Melbourne University, and a former President of the Australian Society of Agronomy. Tim has received several international and national honours. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering; an Honorary Professor in the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; and in 2003 received the Centenary of Federation Medal. Tim participated in the Rural Stream of the Australia 2020 Summit at Parliament House. He is currently Director and Principal of Timothy G. Reeves and Associates Pty. Ltd., specializing in national and international consulting in agricultural research and development. (See also our *Letters page*.)



IAN SYGRAVE, former Head of History at Tiffins, continues to be fully occupied with his community work in the London Borough of Haringey, where he has lived for the past 35 years. He was, in the summer, heard on BBC Radio 4 (*'Face the Facts'*, 30th July and 2nd August) discussing the issues surrounding HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation), explaining why the Government should give local authorities greater planning powers to deal with such properties. He has

been kept very busy on the organising committee for the first ever Green Lanes Festival (September), which looks set to become an annual event. In between all this, he still enjoys regular visits to France, with the Eurostar now only 20 minutes away at St Pancras !

DANIEL VERNON (1997) and Lisa are delighted to announce the birth of their son Adam James on 12th October 2008. All are doing well. Not content with expanding their family, they have also moved house to Billinge (near Wigan).



FRANK WEBB (1966) has just resigned his position from 10th July. He has not had one complete day off in a year. A lot has been achieved and it has gone well, but he decided that he just didn't want to work that hard any more. He'll continue to teach as an adjunct at Duke, though, because it's fun. A good friend, who was a partner with him on projects when he was consulting and who is 10 years his junior and a marathon runner, collapsed suddenly last Christmas

Day. He was diagnosed with a brain stem tumour and now, six months later, it is a good day when he can lift his arm high enough to clean his own teeth or complete an entire sentence without forgetting what he was about to say. That was a wake-up call for Frank that started him thinking about what he is doing with his life.

He is in regular touch with his 1960s contemporaries, Brian Woodham, David Bowden, Stuart Mealing and Ian Layzell. He met up with David in Beverley in June and Brian in Thame when he was on a quick business trip to the UK. Of course they are friends for many reasons, he says, but Tiffin provided the glue that created those bonds, so don't underestimate the power of the brand!



FRANK WHATELY, former Head of Drama at Tiffins, has now retired as Head of the School of Performance & Screen Studies at Kingston University. He plans to continue to do some part-time teaching and lecturing, and also developing stage productions. His production of *'Pendragon'*, written by him (music by Peter Allwood 1970), and that he and David Nield directed at the Rose Theatre in July was well attended. Prince Edward joined the audience for a gala performance and met the cast of young actors afterwards.

ROY WOODGATE (1935) enjoyed a visit to the School in the summer, when he was shown round the site by John King.

De Mortuis



STEPHEN ROBERT DAVIES 1950 – 2009

Stephen was the younger son of 'Sam' and Freda Davies, and brother of Peter (also an OT). He was born in Kingston but spent his formative years in the small village of Radyr in South Wales. Aged eight, he and the family moved back to Thames Ditton, and in 1962 Stephen entered Tiffin School. Both parents were great stalwarts of the Association.

Stephen was not one of life's academics, but his enthusiasm for rugby and cricket knew no bounds! He played for the School and subsequently the Old Boys, and was a well known face at Grist's. On the rugby field he was known for his famous 'dummies' and his great sense of humour.

On leaving school he worked at Town and City Properties in London. However, property management did not satisfy the creative side of Stephen's personality. After several years of trying to adapt to the mundane lifestyle of office work, he pursued a more varied career encompassing catering, painting & decorating and, in more recent years, photography. He used his photographs to create calendars for his friends.

Stephen was diagnosed with diabetes approximately fourteen years ago, which inevitably had an effect on his health and limited his ability to work.

However, about ten years ago he read the book '*Captain Corelli's Mandolin*' and the family remember him enthusiastically expounding about it one night, when out to dinner. It proved a turning point in Stephen's life. He visited Kefalonia, where the story is based, and immediately fell in love with the island and its people. He made numerous friends there and returned several times a year over the ensuing years. He also became great friends with the people who ran the hotel where he stayed and was frequently the life and soul of the party. In many ways Kefalonia was the love of his life, and at his request his ashes are to be scattered there.

Stephen had an outgoing personality, a good sense of humour and was a great tease. He also possessed some wonderfully kind and caring qualities. These qualities evidenced themselves through his passion for 'Guide Dogs for the Blind', and at his local hostelry the extrovert and caring side of his personality would prevail and he organized numerous fund-raising nights for this charity. His ability to draw in the crowds was further reflected by the many lunchtime gatherings he organized at the local pub to watch his much-loved rugby and cricket matches.

A great observer of life, he would keep people amused for hours when recounting incidents that he had witnessed. He was an avid reader and loved books and music, both classical and popular.

Stephen married and divorced twice – first to Ailsa Bennett, sister of Neil Bennett, and secondly to Lyn Baker. There were no children. He lived in the Worcester Park area and finally settled in Ewell Village, where he spent the past seven years.

Many Old Tiffs attended Stephen's funeral and a moving eulogy was delivered by a long standing friend, Steve Baker – no relation to Lyn.

ARNOLD ROBERT FISH 1911 – 2009

Arnold, known as Taffy to his school friends and later on as Bob, must have been one of Tiffin's oldest Old Boys. He was born on 25th July 1911 in Kingston and was still living at his home in Esher to within a week of his death on 28th June this year. He was very nearly 98.

His father, Thomas Arnold Fish was the first in the family to obtain a degree – a BA in Modern Languages from Manchester University. He moved, with his wife, from Lancashire to Kingston in order to take up a teaching post at Tiffin Boys' School before WW1. He taught German and rose to be Head of Modern Languages before retiring. He was known to the boys as 'Taf' due to his initials. When Arnold joined the school, he quickly became known as 'Young Taffy.' Although 'Taf' was very keen that his son should attend the school, Taffy was not actually taught by his father, as he decided to study French instead of German. Both father and son had a great affection for and loyalty to the school. We know Taffy was very grateful for the education and opportunities that he gained. He used to refer with pride to having been a School Prefect from 1926 till he left in 1928. He kept in touch with his old school friends (all of whom he out-lived), and was a life-long member of the Old Tiffinians' Association. He was always interested in the progress of the school and was very pleased and proud when two of his grandsons also went to Tiffins (Andrew 1998-2005 and Christopher 2000-2007).

Taffy's enthusiasm for sport probably started at school. There are photos of him in the school rugby team 1928/9, Old Tiffs cricket team 1930 and

Old Tiffs 1st XI 1935/6. He was also in the school cricket XI and the chess team, as well as being secretary of the literary & debating society. He later played rugby for the club in Kingston that his father re-founded after the war. He also continued his tennis playing, joining Twickenham Tennis Club in 1946, where he met Joan who was to become his wife. He remained active all his life: he refereed at Kingston RFC until into his mid-50s, he then took up dinghy sailing and raced at Shepperton Sailing Club whilst working and took up golf when he retired, playing with a group from the Sandown Probus. He would also go on long walks when he could, and all the outdoor activity no doubt contributed to his long and healthy life.

Taffy was due to follow his dad to university but a rugby injury just before he was due to take his school matriculation exams changed these plans. His parents decided that as it was a time of major economic crisis (he was 17 in 1928), it was best if he started working. His father found him a place in a city bank through a friend and hit on something that really suited him, as he was able to travel and use his French, and he never looked back. He had a very successful career in merchant banking, culminating in being a director of Hill Samuel (now part of Lloyds group), when he retired from full-time employment, aged 65, although he took on a new part-time role with Ansbacher Bank for a further five years.

His banking career was of course interrupted by the war. He joined the Royal Corps of Signals and was posted to Burma. He always told family that he went bald due to coming too close to the Japanese army in the jungle! When war ended, he had reached the rank of Major.

He retained a love of learning all his life and a curiosity about a very wide range of subjects. One of the first things he did after retiring was to experience the university education that he had missed out on earlier, achieving a BA Hons in Humanities at the Open University. Modern technology, which might reasonably have baffled him in later years, held only fascination. He bought a Sinclair computer in the very early days, happily used a mobile phone and digital camera, and was programming the television and DVD to the last.

Bob was initiated in Tiffinian Lodge in 1947, but resigned in 1978.

He was also a home-loving and family man. He bought his house in Esher with discharge money in 1948 and lived there until his death. He was married to Joan for 58 years until her death in 2006. They had two children – Ann & Peter and five grandchildren (Victoria & Emma; Laurence, Andrew & Christopher). He always had a care and concern for others and was remembered by former colleagues and friends for being a 'true gentleman'.



ALFRED JOHN VICTOR ROBERTS 1922 – 2009

According to our father's philosophy of education a good school is one which is able to:

'Educate the whole man, according to his ability and aptitudes; to do its utmost for each individual and to train him to use his mind; to think, discriminate, and make right judgements, and play a useful, responsible role in a democratic society.'

This creed is striking for its wisdom and clarity, which is unsurprising, because if there is one thing which AJV Roberts was vehemently opposed to it was unnecessary innovation and gimmicks. In fact, very few people could utter the word 'gimmick' with quite the tone of disdain that he achieved. Throughout his professional life his principles remained unchanged, and scores of pupils at MGS, Newcastle High School and Tiffin benefited from his determination to enthuse others with a desire to embrace meritocracy and pursue excellence. AJVR believed with certainty in the power of clear-sighted individuals to shape and enhance institutions, and he saw the traditions and communities attached to those institutions as the greatest safeguards of the educational good. Educational evil had to be resisted, and all too often it came in the shape of politicians or, even worse, local politicians and bureaucrats. Much of the last fifteen years of our father's career, at Tiffin, was spent resisting them and trying to ensure the preservation of opportunity. At the time he was perceived as a conservative – ironically, in the context of today, he actually appears rather radical.

Our father was a modest and reserved man and talked little of his formative experiences, other than perhaps in a more general historical context in conversation. He enjoyed a conventional middle-class upbringing in Four Oaks, although the shadow of the Great War must have been ever present in a very close-knit family, because his Uncle Victor had been killed on the Somme in 1916, and his father had survived that terrible battle. Our father was very close to his younger brother, Sidney – they maintained an impressive written correspondence until Sidney's sad passing in 2002 – and it must have been a great source

of pride to their parents that they should both go on to study at St John's College where we have come together today. The two brothers were very proud of their association with the college and maintained close links with it throughout their lives.

AJVR was educated at King Edward's Birmingham, initially attending the school at its former site in New Street, and, when war broke out in 1939, moving to Bishop Vesey's, Sutton Coldfield. Very strong in History and English, less strong in French, he was awarded an Open Exhibition to read Modern History at St John's in March 1941. With military service imminent, the Senior Tutor, the great medievalist Austin Lane Poole, wrote to congratulate him on his award and strongly advised him to matriculate in the Trinity Term of 1941 and start his studies whilst he could. As a consequence our father completed four terms of study up to the summer of 1942 before his war service commenced, guided in his academic development by such remarkable historians as Costain and Poole, strongly influenced by the exciting scholarship of Dick Southern and Christopher Hill. It was at St John's that he struck up the first of his great adult friendships, with John Ackrill – a future Emeritus Professor of Philosophy – and they maintained a succinct and wry correspondence for sixty years.

Any active service in one of the major theatres of the Second World War can only have had an extraordinary formative influence on the outlook of a young man of just twenty. However, our father was never one to talk in such personal, introspective terms, and it is left to our understanding of his subsequent character and values to consider the possible influence of his distinguished service with the Royal Artillery in the Western Desert, as part of the Eighth Army, and then in Italy. Intensive artillery training at Alton Towers threw together the epic pairing of officer-cadet Roberts and officer-cadet Alan Woods – I understand that our father was greatly indebted to Alan for helping with the mathematical side of gunner training; I also believe that gunner-cadet Roberts' greater sense of caution might have helped prevent Alan from killing himself on numerous occasions whilst training on motorbikes. They would later be reunited on the staff at MGS, and a lifelong friendship was formed.

Our father served in the Western Desert from April 1943 and then in Italy through to July 1945. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1944 and ended the war as a Battery Captain – Second in Command of a field battery of Twenty-Five Pounders. How remarkable must this experience have been – how vivid the contrasts! The glimmer of camp fires in the desert; shaking out boots for scorpions; Bombardier Bramble providing an endless supply of strong, syrupy tea; the dust and heat of long convoy drives; and then the bitter cold and mud of a staging camp in the Italian winter. But military life clearly held some attraction for Captain Roberts – having reached Milan, where they were ordered to drive through the streets with their guns on show to deter a possible communist takeover; he then volunteered for further service with the 8th Indian Division in the Far East. This came to nothing, although his commanding officer did attempt to persuade him to pursue an army career. AJVR, aged 22, returned to Oxford for the Michaelmas Term of 1945. The college photo from that term reveals an extraordinary visual contrast between those who had experienced active service and returned, and the young undergraduates straight from school – our father and his contemporaries look at least ten or fifteen years older than the eighteen and nineteen year olds.

Our father's decision to enter teaching would appear to have been one taken decisively and soon after the completion of his degree in 1946, although he did sit the Civil Service exam around this time. Initial teaching experience was gained at a variety of schools – Bedford Modern, Richard Thomas Secondary Modern (Walsall) and Sedbergh. AJVR's first permanent post, however, was at Oakham School, then a small independent boys' school buried rather deep in the sticks. But it was here that he was introduced to a distinguished guest at a speech-day reception, a certain Eric James, High Master of Manchester Grammar School. It was at this time that the future Lord James was head-hunting for talented, young ex-servicemen to revitalise the common room. Subsequently, our father joined the History side at MGS in the autumn of 1950. It is clear from the deep affection with which he always spoke of his time in Manchester, and the lifelong friendships that he formed there with a number of colleagues, that this was the defining, formative experience of our father's professional life. Eric James' commitment to the educational ethos of meritocracy – specifically that the talented should not be deprived of the opportunity to realise their potential because of a quirk of family circumstance – had a profound impact on the young schoolmasters who served under him. For over a decade MGS demonstrated that selective state schools could rival and out-perform the great public schools – it was truly a golden age. It was an ethos that our father and his great friends would take into their own experiences of headship.

AJVR would eventually take over the running of the History side at MGS from his mentor and friend, Bob Bun, in 1961 – he had had to wait a long time for the opportunity – but his scholarship sixth groups had already become the thing of legend, with most of the twenty or so historians in his charge winning places at Oxford and Cambridge each year – many with awards. For those of us who only knew AJVR as a headmaster it is important to remember that he was a committed all-round schoolmaster, leading two art tours to Italy, running the 1st XV Rugby and playing a key part in the Alpine treks and Borrowdale camps.

The Alpine treks, in particular, came to enjoy an almost mythical status in MGS history – I don't think anyone living in the world of 'risk assessments' can quite believe that young schoolmasters with no mountaineering qualification were allowed to march sixth formers across Alpine glaciers. The 1954 trek to Mont Blanc was followed by what Sir Roger Young describes as 'one of the most memorable moments of our lives' – when he, David Williams and AJVR hired a guide to take them to the top of Mont Blanc. They spent a night in the Hut by the Aiguille de Gouter at 12,000 feet before donning crampons, roping up, and climbing the remaining 4000 feet to the summit, enjoying an extraordinary, bright morning view from their 16,000 foot perch. 'Excitement' was still to come, however, on the descent, when their guide casually stopped to light a Gauloise and was suddenly to be seen sliding past the three schoolmasters with a stricken expression as he gathered speed. Fortunately for many of us here today, they were still roped up and 'the three' were able to break the descent of the 'one'. Subsequently, our father would pass on his love of the mountains to his children through repeated trips to Wales and Cumbria, characterised by his somewhat puritanical philosophy in the mountains – emergency rations only – best left untouched. It is also rather ironic to recall that he always urged great caution in the mountains; following Mont Blanc, he had gone on to attempt the Matterhorn by the Hornli Ridge but was turned back by a ferocious storm.

Despite his great affection for MGS, it was not long before our father decided it was time that he transferred his experience and ideals to the great challenges and practicalities of running his own school. He cut his teeth during eight very happy years at the High School, Newcastle-under-Lyme, before moving on, in 1972, to run a school more akin in character to MGS – Tiffin School in Kingston-upon-Thames. It was here that he had the opportunity to disseminate his educational philosophy in an institution which was largely in tune with it. However, our father also faced up to battles both internal and political – the latter would run and run through the remainder of his professional life, as he became highly adept at handling local councillors and bureaucrats. More positively, AJVR appointed young, talented schoolmasters at Tiffin and the school enjoyed a period of extraordinary academic success whilst also offering an unrivalled and exciting all-round education. The ethos of the school was infectious – at the time it seemed to matter not a jot that it was all taking place in a cynically cash-starved institution that featured ever more rickety huts and portacabins. Our father's professional standing was reflected at this time in the unusual decision taken by HMC to invite him, as a representative of the state sector, to join its ranks.

Retirement in 1987 was a happy and perhaps surprisingly comfortable transition for such a dedicated professional. In that adjustment our father was, of course, incredibly fortunate to have at his side our mother, Pamela. Their marriage of 49 years blossomed amongst the fun and close friendships of Manchester – although the horrors of the bachelor-kitchen our mother first had to confront have never been adequately described – proved robust in the face of bringing up four strong-willed children at 26 Presburg Road, and ultimately found peaceful and relaxed contentment in the rural idyll of Wyke, with a beautiful garden to tend and nurture. Our father would be the first to pay tribute to our mother as his source of strength and wisdom throughout his professional life and after. She also, of course, cared for our father with utter devotion for four long years when he was in poor and declining health.

Our father influenced so many lives through his vocation, but we will always think first of the rather more mellow, almost donnish figure we experienced at home. He could appear, and indeed be, stern and very headmasterly – for much of the time, however, he was actually more shy and reserved than remote. Similarly, his Christian faith was very strong, but his piety was intensely private. He loved discussion – he was extraordinarily well-read (his notes indicating that he would often get through as many as thirty scholarly texts in a year) and not just in his own subject. He also kept bang up-to-date with historical scholarship through his assiduous study of periodicals – and his memory for people and connections was phenomenal. Although bookish, AJVR was also an active man and was quite an athlete in his youth, excelling at 440 yards, the toughest test of a sprinter, and establishing a reputation as a

flying wing-forward. As a keen gardener, our father applied the same meticulous approach to double-digging a vegetable bed as he had to his marking. He also revelled in institutions and their associated, worthy traditions – there were many memorable test match days at Lords – he was a MCC member for thirty years, and he was honoured to be asked by the Army to become part of the scholarship interview board at Sandhurst in his retirement. He also delighted in the successes of his children and grandchildren, although he would never devalue his measured praise with hyperbole. Most memorable of all were his words of advice, always delivered with great seriousness of intent but often quite reassuringly comic in delivery and effect. When destined for interview one could always rely on the classic line: ‘Whatever you do, don’t try to crack a joke.’

AJVR was a historian and scholar, a teacher and leader. He was also a gentleman. First and foremost he was devoted to his family. He was a shy and humane man with a strong sense of faith and duty. These qualities – and our own personal memories of him – are clear in our minds and to be treasured.

JAMES ROBERTS



LLEWELLYN ARTHUR TRAVIS 1922 – 2008

Llewellyn Arthur Travis, the son of a police sergeant, was born in Limington, London, on 12th November 1922. He was known as ‘Jack’ to all his family, friends and work colleagues.

At Tiffins he excelled in most of the sports available. He was a member of the School First Team in all of cricket, soccer & rugby (a rare achievement), and was Captain of boxing in his final year. He also performed well in athletics, shooting and swimming. He was a sergeant in the cadets and a patrol leader in the scouts. This love of sport stayed with him.

On leaving School in the summer of 1939, it was his intention (according to the school records) to work as a clerk in industry, and Leyland Motors was mentioned. However, the outbreak of war no doubt changed his plans.

Jack served in World War II in Egypt as a navigator in the Royal Air Force. After the war he studied in England to become a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. After graduating, Jack started working for the

British Division of the Prudential Insurance Company. He remained with the Prudential until his retirement.

After just a few years in the Prudential British branch he was asked to set up a division of the Prudential in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was to be a six month stay; however, he fell in love with the wonderful weather and endless sports available in South Africa and never returned to England permanently.

During his first six months of arriving in South Africa he also met and fell in love with Sheila Weavers, a South African lass. Sheila and Jack were married on 12th April 1958 and would spend the next 50 wonderful years together until his passing in June 2008.

Jack became the General Manager of the Prudential South Africa for the last decade of his employment before his retirement. During his retirement he was on the board of companies in a consultancy capacity.

Sheila and Jack had an only daughter Kim. He was a devoted father and a grandfather of Katie and Wesley and son-in-law Michael Traill.

Jack loved any form of sport. His love of South African sport allowed him to play endless days of cricket, golf and his special love of tennis. Jack was introduced to the Wanderers Club within weeks of arriving in South Africa, and he would go on to play his beloved tennis twice a week until just after his 84th birthday. He became one of the oldest long-standing members of the Wanderers Tennis Club.

He enjoyed a wonderful retirement of good health, overseas travel, and of course his beloved tennis and endless hours of watching cricket, especially the tests between South Africa and England.

Jack never forgot England and would return many times on business trips and family holidays. He always instilled the beauty of the English country side to his daughter Kim, and the deep history that England holds. He remained throughout his life a loyal member of the Tiffinian Association and made a point of keeping in touch.

Jack will be forever in our hearts of his family. He has left a legacy, which they will always honour.

We regret also to report the deaths of **TOM DUCKETT (1951), RICHARD JARVIS (1962), LAURIE MAYHEAD (1944), JACK MINNITT (1935) & BRIAN L SMITH (1953).**

OT Social Lunch

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

The 18 present were :-

Jim Aston, Dennis Barnard, Dave Chaffey, Bernard Davies, Jack Foster, David French, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Willy Harper, Brian Holden, David Ingall, Godfrey Jillings, Greer Kirkwood, David Larmar, Gordon Mylchreest, Bob Neville, Peter Robinson & Peter Shepherd.

Despite holidays and various sporting events, the usual number attended in an air-conditioned atmosphere and enjoyed an excellent lunch. Bernard Davies arrived in his new Old Boys’ blazer and encouraged

those present to purchase one. Others had not been seen for a year in Willy Harper & Godfrey Jillings.

Our thoughts again were with Howard Mallinson, still in hospital but hoping to be home soon. The 100 Club draws followed in which Howard won a £50.

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

The Autumn date will be **Thursday 8th October**. Also the Christmas date is **Thursday 10th December**.

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

GREER KIRKWOOD



Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives

- a) From Alan Taylor (1967) further archive material relating to his father's time at Tiffins 1923–29, including a School Prospectus from 1923
- b) From Roy Woodgate (1935) a beautifully written account of a Youth Hostel cycling tour of the Cotswolds.
- c) From Peter Fish various memorabilia kept by his late father, Bob Fish (1928), including a Staff photo from the 1930s (as Peter's grandfather was on the Staff).
- d) From Jim Aston (1941) his Leaving Certificate.

PREFECTS AT TIFFINS 1921 - 1970 (continued from our last issue)

A pre-war prefect has told me that a favourite activity was playing football with coins on the table. My visits were limited in my earlier days to two visits, in both cases for a medical inspection, for which, when fetched from the class room, you stripped to the waist and barefooted yourself to be weighed and measured and other things done before going next door for the doctor. Both of my medicals were last before a break, so on each occasion I got into my clothes as quickly as possible, before the prefects who had come in to collect books and suchlike encouraged me to leave with the toe of their boots. As far as I remember, there were bureaux down each side of the room (were they Dalton left-overs?), and the room was not as tidy as it might have been and not made any tidier by half a dozen boys' clothes. No doubt the

furniture can be described by our Editor, as he 'lived' in there for some time. The school got so overcrowded that half a dozen of us had A-Level Geography in there. By the time a blackboard was up Perce Silley was backed up against the door, so that if an entry was attempted he was almost flung across the room. This was solved by putting on the door a notice saying "anybody attempting to enter will be Percycuted". Actually, I am told that for a while the medicals were transferred to Elmfield. If anybody can remember such an occasion, I'd like to be told exactly where in Elmfield they took place.

to be continued BRIAN BUNKER

QUESTIONS OUTSTANDING :

- a) In the Autumn 1933 edition of the school magazine we find mention of a Harry Thomas Roberts who "entered the School in May 1880 and, as recorded on the wall of the School Hall was Head Boy for the first two years of the School's existence". Another entry says Light was the first Head Boy. When several of us arrived at the School in 1946, there were no Head Boys recorded in the Hall prior to about 1920. Does anyone know what happened to the earlier list?
- b) We have been asked about the history of the Woodwork Shop (since demolished, to make way for the Creative Studies Centre). We know that 'Bargee' Lambert taught woodwork in the Old School and, as far as we know, went on doing so in the New School, so when was the Woodwork Shop built? Was it new in 1929? It was not on the plans, but then no buildings outside the main building were. Was it already built and taken over by the School with the Elmfield Estate and then modified to be the Woodwork Room?

Queen Elizabeth Road News

Oxford Interviews

John King has for the past two years had the distinction of being invited to be part of the panel interviewing Geography candidates at St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, (a compliment no doubt to the Geography teaching at Tiffins), whilst Mike Gascoigne has been involved in medical interviews at King's College, London. The experience provides useful feedback for the School's Oxbridge and other candidates on the interview process.

Celebration of Outstanding Schools

In July the Chairman of Governors, Stuart Lester, and John King, Senior Deputy Head, were invited to Cambridge for a celebration of schools which had achieved the accolade of 'outstanding' in their most recent OFSTED inspections. The meeting, hosted by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and held at King's College, included a number of presentations and allowed for much networking. It is encouraging to see the School's academic success being recognised at national level and celebrated in this way.

School Tennis

In the Road to Wimbledon Competition Brian Wang won through to the quarter-finals of the boys' doubles in August, before his partner withdrew with a back injury! The organiser told me they were quietly confident of his reaching the final with a very good chance of winning it. So congratulations to Brian.

PETER WILLIAMS

School Rugby

It has been a mixed start to the 2009/10 season for the Senior School sides. With no pre-season tournament this year and a late return to school, it has taken the 1st XV some time to find their feet. There were early defeats at the hands of Wallington and Bishop Stortford High School before the first victory against Strodes College in the Daily

Mail Cup. The 2nd XV have had a contrasting start with excellent victories against Wallington and Bishop Stortford, and competition for places is fierce. The senior squad departed at the end of September on the annual tour to Italy, and it was hoped they would return a more tightly-knitted and cohesive unit.

STEVE CATHCART

School Cross Country

We have had our best start this millennium for the first match of the year. 26 athletes represented the School, and 26 got round – a great credit to all. Winning a trophy and six medals in the process is a great start. Oliver Garner started us off with a great individual third place. Analysis of the results proved Alex Demitrescu had the fastest debut for the School. He was closely followed by Harry Jarvis who looked like the fastest before we obtained the official results. Both gained medals for a fast debut for the School. The inters section debutant was Julian Hewitt, who had a promising first spin for the School and gained a medal in the process. Jamie Tabbert and Tristan Perara looked very rapid in U6 and Year 8; they both obtained medals as well. It was great to see us obtain a trophy on our first outing of the year despite some just having run for the first time in their new school. Fixtures and results should be on the school web site.

ROBIN SHAW

School Boat Club

School rowing has had many successes over the past year. Our Eight pre-qualified for Royal Henley in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup for school eights in July. This means that the boys have performed at a sufficiently high level throughout the year for the stewards of Royal Henley to pre-select Tiffin — instead of our being forced to complete a time trial for qualification. In the event our 1st eight — featuring Alex Thomas, George Nottidge, Rupert Price, Eddie Rolls, Alex Dodd, Richard Clarke (J15), Jon Williams (J16), Arran Mornin & cox Charlie Harrison — lost to St Edward's School by 4 lengths, having rowed the race of their lives and being on average two stone per man lighter!

School Cricket

It has been marvellous to watch the progress of the two Harinaths, Arun and Muhunthan, both of whom have Surrey CCC contracts. Arun has been playing in the 1st XI for the last six weeks, where he has been filling the considerable boots of the injured Mark Ramprakash. He recorded his first first-class half century v Glamorgan at the Oval this week. Both Harinaths were on the field v Warwickshire, Muhunthan as twelfth man, whilst Alec Stewart was commentating on the game for Sky sport.

Muhunthan of course captained the school 1st XI this year, again being the leading wicket-taker and, with Alistair Watkins, shared the leading all-rounder's spot. This was the foray of the school into League cricket, a league consisting of 9 of the stronger schools in Surrey in which a 50 or 40 over game is played according to Wednesday or Saturday matches. Despite the scepticism of your correspondent, it turned out to be great fun for spectators and players alike, with every match that Tiffin played being a cliff-hanging affair! It was impossible to arrange a match against all 8 schools and swine flu put paid to



Alistair Watkins in action at St George's



Tiffin 1st XI after the win against St George's

another, but Tiffin finished creditably losing two closely fought games to Reed's and Lord Wandsworth College, but beating St. George's College and R.G.S. Guildford to finish in mid-table. Despite swine flu, Hampton, the strongest school on the circuit at the moment, won the League in its inaugural season. For Tiffin it is a shame that the League has come some 30 years too late! For the 2009 1st XI, the season was characterised by immense team spirit and by some of the best fielding that it has been my privilege to watch from a school side. Runs were spread pretty evenly throughout the principal batsmen and the five bowlers needed to be, and were, quite exceptional in the league format. Lower down the school, there is much to do with the new U12 side, who have struggled to play catch-up for most of the season. The U13s show great promise and contain the only Tiffin centurion this year, Peter Chamberlain. The U14s, under the outstanding guidance of the evergreen Tim McCann, had an outstanding season despite being plagued by injuries, whilst the U15s are yet to turn great promise into consistent performances. Robin Shaw's 3rd XI and Ian Langrish's 2nd XI enjoyed much successful cricket from a large squad of interested players.

The Tits tour came and went in a soggy end to July. Of the 7 matches, only two were played, one of which on the Budleigh boating lake. The Tercels were lucky enough to bat first in the Sunbury cricket week, to rattle up 245 for 5 declared before adjourning to the bar to watch the latest monsoon wash out the rest of the day. Worcester Park were well beaten in a non rain-affected match, and we now look forward to 2010.

Arrangements for the 1st.XI tour to Holland are already afoot!

MARTIN WILLIAMS

Performing Arts

In early July **Ubu Roi** played at the Rose and was extraordinary – one of the finest pieces of Drama seen coming out of the School. At the Arthur Cotterell Theatre (Kingston College) the Key Stage 3 production of **Zigger Zagger** played out. A large cast of around 30 boys were in this and there were some terrific performances, notably from Elliot Linsey in the lead role – making his acting debut!

Also in early July, the School Dance Company performed in Kingston Parish Church, alongside the Ballet Rambert students (undergraduates) and the choir. The church was transformed into a Dance theatre – complete with lights, lasers and smoke.... Karolina Czerniak has done splendid work with the Dance Company and the Year 10 students – their dancing of Oguike's choreography to Shostakovich's Ninth Quartet was really terrific. The final piece was specially devised and featured the Rambert dancers accompanied by the choir singing 'Riu riu chiu, God is with us' and 'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day'. It was enough to take the breath away – really profound and uplifting stuff.

The end-of-term event was **Tiffin in the Garden**, which kicked off from 5.45pm in the Head's Garden with musical events on two stages, featuring all the school's ensembles as well as a number of groups from the Year 9 Battle of the Bands competition, dance in the Main Hall and drama in the Drama Studio. A record number of people (well over 100) took part in the Big Tiffin Orchestra's idiomatic rendition of *Star Wars*, which was followed by the Swing Band accompanying the audience dancing into the night.

There are many exciting events taking place this term, chief among them being a production of **West Side Story** in the Main Hall in December. Directed by Jack Stigner, choreographed by Karolina Czerniak, and conducted by Simon Ferris, the show is progressing well in the rehearsal stage – we have assembled a cast of extraordinary young singers, dancers and actors, and I do urge you to come and see it.

The **Oratorio** also takes place this term, but with a different date and venue from previous years; the performance of Haydn 'The Creation' will take place on Sunday 15th November (7.30pm) at the Rose Theatre, featuring 270 singers, soloists Fflur Wyn, Andrew Staples and Matthew Rose, and the London Mozart Players as the orchestra. Tickets are £15 and are available from the Rose Theatre Box Office.

SIMON TOYNE

Performing Arts Calendar

September

Tuesday 8 - 7.30 pm First SATB Oratorio rehearsal for The Creation (Haydn). Rehearsals continue every Tuesday evening (excluding half-term)

October

Wednesday 7 - 7.30 pm, Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon. Shakespeare Henry V. Tiffin Drama Company

Thursday 15 - 7.00 pm, Main Hall. Instrumental Competition

Thursday 22 - 7.00 pm, Main Hall. Year 7 Inter-Form Music Competition

November

Monday 2 - 7.30 pm, Kingston Parish Church. Tiffin Boys' Choir (Full) sings Fauré Requiem as part of All Souls' Day Requiem Mass

Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 - 7.30 pm, Main Hall. Full Oratorio rehearsals

Sunday 15 - 7.30 pm, Rose Theatre. Oratorio Concert. Haydn The Creation. Fflur Wyn (soprano), Andrew Staples (tenor), Matthew Rose (bass). London Mozart Players. Simon Toyne (conductor)

November

Thursday 19 - 7.00 pm, Main Hall and Walden Hall. Informal Concerts

Sunday 22 - 7.30 pm, St John's Smith Square. Tiffin Boys' Choir (10 trebles) sing in Purcell Anniversary Concert

December

WEST SIDE STORY - Wednesday 9 to Saturday 12 - 7.00 pm, Main Hall. Preview night Tuesday 8; additional matinée performance on Saturday 12. Jack Stigner (director), Karolina Czerniak (choreographer), Simon Ferris (musical director)

Monday 14 - 7.00 pm, Main Hall. Christmas Instrumental Concert featuring all the school's instrumental ensembles

Tuesday 15 - 7.30 pm, Royal Albert Hall. Tiffin Children's Chorus & Boys' Choir (trebles) Christmas Concert

Wednesday 16 - 7.30 pm, Kingston Parish Church. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Tiffin Boys' Choir (Full)

Friday 18 - 10.45 am, Kingston Parish Church. School Carol Service

Saturday 19 - 7.30 pm, Kingston Parish Church. Thames Youth Orchestra and Kingston Parish Church Choir Christmas Concert. Music to include Panufnik Sinfonia Sacra