

# TiffNews Bulletin no. 261

## October 2014



### From the Head's Study

Dear Tiffinian,

Our term has started with a real pace as the School is now at its largest with 1,114 students. We had our most recent whole school photograph in the first week of term and had to move the staging to the School field as the

size of the School required more space than usual! You can see some of the preparations in the news section of the school website.

School photographs are a key issue this year as we are gathering the information and detail for the Remembrance Service on 11 November which will mark the centenary of the start of the First World War. So much research is being done that more and more information is being found about Tiffinians from that era. Already, John King has received details of two additional former students who died in the First World War and are currently not on the School's memorial in the Main Hall. The recent centenary work of the Kingston Aviation Society has revealed more details of the links between the School and the Sopwith Factory in Canbury Road during this period.

On 9 September 2014 we enrolled another 170 students as Old Tiffinians when we presented them with their Tiffinian ties at the Leavers' Celebration before they left to go to university. It was a great pleasure to return to All Saints Church as the major refurbishment project has been completed, and to celebrate the successes of this latest group of Sixth Formers to complete their A levels at Tiffin School.

In October we will host a talk by former Tiffin teacher Robbie Brightwell and his wife Anne Packer (who taught at Coombe Girls' School). They will be coming to the School as part of the 50th celebrations of their successes at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. It will be a great honour to welcome both of them to the School, and for our students to meet such icons of British athletics.



Phil Phillips, the Chairman of Governors, has written to you about our new fundraising project and our plans for the next stages of development.

<http://www.tiffinschool.co.uk/about/Fundraising.html>

I am very keen to enrol as many Tiffinians in our fundraising efforts as I can. If any of you can help, please do not hesitate to contact me and we can meet to discuss how we can start to raise the funds we need to get our next building started. I would like to have the funds in place for Phase 2 (which includes a new dining hall, kitchen, teaching rooms, offices and other vital improvements) by the time I leave next August 2015! Do let me know if you can help.

Hilda Clarke, Headteacher

### Chairman's Letter



Dear Tiffinian,

During September I attended the Tiffin School Leavers' Celebration, representing TAL, to welcome 170 new Tiffinians to the Association. This year's results again were fantastic and a credit to Hilda and her team. It was also encouraging to hear about a number of non-academic achievements, illustrating that Tiffin is still very much about providing an

all-round education.

You will all have heard by now that Hilda has announced her retirement, and in her typical professional manner she gave the Governors a full twelve months' notice to allow them plenty of time to find a replacement. Although I am sure that will be very challenging task to find a replacement of her calibre. However having given us this time it also will allow us to properly mark her achievements over the year ahead.

I attended the 101st Skiff Marathon one of the oldest events in our calendar. Five crews took part and more details of this are given in a separate article.

In my last letter I appealed for people who felt they could help support the association particularly in the field of looking into grant finding options. This is still a high priority for the Trustees, as is strengthening the Trustee Board. So if anyone would like to discuss how they think they may be able to help the Association, please contact me.

Grist as seen the autumnal changeover to winter sports and I must say for those of you who don't visit the ground the playing surfaces are looking in excellent condition. My congratulations to the Rugby Club who at the time of writing have secured three bonus point wins out of their first three games in London3 SW having gained promotion last year.

Lastly may I please remind you all that the Annual Dinner is on the Friday 14th November at the School. Please give attending serious consideration and if you have decided to attend but not told anybody yet please get in touch. Details are enclosed. Lastly the AGM is at 20.00 on Wednesday 19th November at the Dean Pavilion.

Tony Millard

Chairman, The Tiffinian Association

## **Tiffinian Association - Notice of Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Tiffinian Association Limited which will be held 20:00 sharp on Wednesday 19th November 2014 at the Dean Pavilion, Tiffinian Association Sports Ground, Summer Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9LS 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

In accordance with the articles of association, the following Directors retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election:- Toby Brown, James Strong

The following Director was co-opted by the Board during the last year and stands for election at the AGM:- Kieron Garlic

At the conclusion of the formal meeting, the Chairman will open the meeting to the members present for a general discussion on the affairs of the Association.

The current Board of Trustees is as follows:

Atula Abeysekera

Nigel Angus

Toby Brown – Secretary

Mark Darby

Kieron Garlic

Gareth John – Editor, TiffNews

James McNicholas

Tony Millard – Chairman

Peter Osborne – Treasurer

Phil Phillips

James Strong – Chairman, Membership & Development Committee

Mike Taylor

TAL Administrator: Alex Swift

In response to the findings from the recent survey on people's preferences for the Dinner, this year's event will take place in the Main Hall of Tiffin School.

Drinks reception from 6.15pm; Dinner at 7.30pm in the Tiffin School Main Hall.

Black tie, Tiffin blazer or lounge suit

Tickets costing £40 each may be purchased

- 1) Online by visiting <http://www.tiffinfriends.org/events>
- 2) By sending a cheque made out to 'The Tiffinian Association' to The Tiffinian Association, c/o Tiffin School, Queen Elizabeth Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 6RL. At the time of booking, please advise us of any dietary requirements.
- 3) Directly into the Tiffinian Association bank account (account number 71886533; sort code 40-26-12) quoting your name as the payment reference and emailing us at [TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk) to advise us that you have paid directly.

Please inform us when booking if you have any seating preferences - we are happy to sit groups together.

A list of attendees can be found at <http://goo.gl/q0uEen>

## **The Tiffin Medical and Dental Society's 4th Meet and Greet**

Saturday 29th November between 4pm and 6pm

Main Hall, Tiffin School, Queen Elizabeth Road, Surrey KT2 6RL.

This is an opportunity for alumni, current parents and ex-parents to network with old school friends and colleagues from different specialties. It is also a chance for them to impart their wisdom to the current batch of 6th formers, from both Tiffin Schools, applying for medicine and dentistry.

All medics, dentists and Tiffin 6th formers most welcome!

There is no admission fee; refreshments provided.

To book your place, please sign up at <http://goo.gl/h4GgzX>

## **Tiffin School Results**

Our summer results have once again seen significant successes for your students at A, AS and GCSE levels. Our 15 Oxbridge candidates gained their places and the rest of the university applicants who have chosen to take up their places this September have now been confirmed.

In a year of changing patterns of university offers and clearing we are very pleased at how many students are confirmed in their places. This cohort of students achieved 63% of their grades at A\*/A and 85% of all their grades were at A\*/B grades. At AS, the results saw 78% of all grades were at A/B which augurs well for the students as they start on the second phase of their A level courses. At GCSE, our students achieved 78% of all their grades at A\*/A.

## **The Tiffinian Association's 103rd Annual Dinner and 2004 Reunion combined**

Friday 14th November 2014

View the 2014 university destinations at <http://goo.gl/T25jtr>

View the 2014 university courses at <http://goo.gl/dgUVA1>

## Summer Alumni Reunion, 27 June 2014

Alumni, including many 1964 Tiffinians, gathered together by Taff Allen (1964) and David Weatherup (1964) met at Tiffin School for a reunion on a warm summer's evening. It was 50 years since the 1964 year had left and it was fascinating to see photos which they brought with them. After a very enjoyable evening the 1964'ers decided to organise yet another reunion later this year! We were delighted that many 1974 leavers were able to attend and that Mike Burrage (1959) managed to co-ordinate the event with a visit from Australia!

See photos of the evening at <http://goo.gl/Y8cy0U>



## Tiffin School Drama

The Tiffin Drama department started our busy year with a sixth form production of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*. House Drama followed in December with a triumph for Livingstone with *Macmeth* – a mash-up of *Macbeth* and *Breaking Bad*. Our main school production, with students from all years and from Tiffin Girls', was a post-apocalyptic *Macbeth* in the round in the hall - featuring video projections, a derelict car on the stage and even rain! The Year 7 – 9 production was a promenade village-fete themed modern re-telling of *The Canterbury Tales*. In the summer, we took 15 members of the AS group up to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for two and a half weeks, with two original plays which the students had devised and staged. *The Caddington Affair* was a farcical play about a writer of detective stories coming into conflict with his characters; *Drowning Scott* told the tale of a group of teenage boys on holiday, and the assisted suicide of one boy with cancer. These each received 4 star reviews from *Broadway Baby* and received full audiences throughout.

This upcoming year's productions will be brought to you by the letter J! Our sixth form are currently rehearsing Stephen Adley Guirgis' *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* for performances from the 20th – 23rd Oct. *Julius Caesar* will follow around the Ides of February, and we will be collaborating with Music to stage *Joseph and the Technicoloured Dreamcoat* for the lower school in the summer term. We hope you will be able to come and support our work!

Tickets are £6 for adults and £4 for concessions - we recommend a 15+ advisory on this production. Please e-mail [ngoodman@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:ngoodman@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk) or call 0208 546 4638 ext. 157 to reserve your tickets!



## 2014 Leavers' Celebration, 8th September 2014

2014 leavers, their parents and Tiffin teachers and governors gathered at the newly restored Kingston Parish Church. The leavers received their prizes and Tiffinian Association ties from Hilda Clarke and the Chairman of the Governors, Phil Phillips. See photos of the evening at <http://goo.gl/Df2AKi>



## Tiffin School Music

Tiffin Boys' Choir trip to Czech Republic, July 2014:



On the final day of term 44 boys and 5 staff departed for the Tiffin Boys' Choir trip to the Czech Republic. The tour started in southern Bohemia, land of lakes and beautiful countryside, then on to the beautiful spa town of Mariánské Lázně in the west, and finally arriving at the magnificent historical city of Prague. With 7 concerts and 1 church service in 10 days, there was plenty of work to be done on the repertoire under the guidance of Philip Viveash. All of the performances were warmly received by large audiences who were clearly impressed by the high standard of singing. The tour music programme was built around Vaughan Williams Mass in G minor, with selected items accompanied superbly by organist Max Barley. The solo performance in Mendelssohn's Hear my Prayer was truly memorable. The choir deserves to be congratulated on mastering a challenging programme of music including the tricky Britten piece, Hymn to St Cecilia. The audiences were particularly moved by the choir's rendition of Tavener's Mother of God, here I stand (as seen in the film Philomena), with the choir standing in a circle around the audience. Apart from music making, highlights included a tour of the famous Pilsener Urquell brewery (beer tasting for staff only); rafting on the Vltava river, where the boys delighted in ambushing the unsuspecting staff boat; visits to pretty spa towns, castles and the majestic St Vitus's Cathedral in Prague. The more youthful members of staff, Max Barley and Ed Mylechreest delighted the boys by leading endless games of 'Ultimate Frisbee' so that everyone went to bed each night both mentally and physically exhausted.

Rebecca Bevan, Music Administrator

#### **Music dates for your diary:**

Monday 27th October, 7.30pm, St Clement Danes, Strand

Tiffin Boys' Choir with Capella St Lamberti, Oldenburg

Tickets at <http://goo.gl/3w85Uv>

Mon 3rd November, 7.00pm, Barbican

Tiffin Boys' Choir perform Boris Godunov with Gergiev

Tickets at <http://goo.gl/2snpfS>

Sunday 16th November, 7.00pm, Landmark Arts Centre,

Teddington

Tiffin Boys' Choir sing in Opera Gala Evening in aid of the Momentum Charity

Tickets from the Landmark Arts Centre on 020 8974 5931

Monday 1st, 8.00pm, Royal Festival Hall

Boys' Choir perform with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Katherine Jenkins, Jack Topping.

Tickets at <http://goo.gl/0kWc69>

Wednesday 17th December, 7.30pm, Kingston Parish Church

Tiffin School Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tiffin Boys' Choir

Please email Alex Swift at [TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk) to advise the School that you wish to attend.



### **Tiffin School Rowing**

Tiffin School Boat Club (TSBC) has experienced a strong start to the season on the water in terms of numbers with some 140 students participating, along with the addition of five new coaches, of which three are volunteers (the two paid coaches being a shared gap-year position). Off the water our efforts are focused on developing a business model that works and enables us to retain Tiffin School rowing, something which has been in existence since the 1880's and has proved to be of immense value to many students. Two of our wonderful alumni Kelvin Wong (2008) and Sam Hawkins (2008) have been the backbone of our call to arms by developing [tiffinrowing.com](http://tiffinrowing.com) - here you can read the testimonials of many of our oarsmen. Our current athletes started off the season with Wallingford as our benchmark head. We have four crews at the Pairs Head at the beginning of October and then we move onto Weybridge Silver Sculls on the 18th October. Support is always very welcome in all forms!

### **Names to be added to the First World War Memorial**

Two further names are to be added to the First World War Memorial in the School Hall. George Samuel Darnell's name was brought to the attention of the School by a visitor on

Heritage Open Day. An email on the same day enquired about Henry Godfrey. Research quickly proved that their names should be added to the memorial. The reasons why their names were not included cannot be explained but there are almost certainly other names which will come to light following the Centenary of the start of the First World War.

### **George Samuel Darnell (Tiffin 1908 - 1909)**

George was the youngest child in a family of two sons and two daughters living at 'Malvern' in Lock Road (now 14 Lock Road) in Ham. He was born on 29th October 1894, attended the local school in Ham and then won a scholarship to Tiffin, joining in September 1908 and leaving in July 1909. On leaving school he was working on a farm with his father. George was a member of the Boys' Brigade. Later he was apprenticed to Mr Allen, a golf professional, as a golf club maker at the Richmond Golf Club in Sudbrook Park, Petersham.

It is not clear when he joined the Army but he had been a Trooper in the local Reserve Yeomanry or Cavalry (A Territorial Unit). He enlisted in Richmond and joined the Gloucestershire Regiment and served with the 13th (Service) Battalion known as the Forest of Dean Pioneers. The reason for joining the Gloucesters may have been because his mother was born in Malvern in Gloucestershire and hence the name of the house in Ham. He had risen to the rank of Lance Corporal when he died of wounds on 11 February 1917 at the age of 22. The Regimental Diary records that February 1917 had been a relatively quiet month for casualties. He is buried in Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery to the west of Ypres in Belgium. His name is recorded on the War Memorial on Ham Common. The same Memorial also records the names of two of his cousins from Ham who lost their lives in the First World War.

George Samuel Darnell's name is to be added to the School War Memorial.



### **Henry Godfrey (Tiffin 1896-1899)**

Henry was born on 18 June 1883. At the time he was living in Algar Road, Isleworth. He attended the Blue Coat Junior School in Isleworth before joining Tiffin in 1896 in what was then the 5th year (now Year 11). His father, who died at some time between 1891 and 1901, was listed as a 'carter', a fairly humble occupation. Henry appears to have been a bright pupil, spending two years in the Sixth Form. There are no surviving records of what examinations he passed but by 1911 he was working for the Civil Service in the Accountant General's office, part of the Paymaster-General's office.

At some time after 1901 he moved with his mother Emma to 14 Bonser Road, Twickenham.

It is not recorded when he joined the Army but it was probably in 1916. He served with the 10th Battalion, The Queen's Regiment (Royal West Surrey Regiment). At the time of his death, during the Battle of Messines on 12 June 1917 he was aged 33. He had risen to the rank of Lance Corporal and his name is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. He is among over 30 Old Tiffinians who have no known final resting place. His name is also commemorated on the War Memorial in the St Mary's Church Twickenham. As far as we are aware he was not married.

Henry Godfrey's name is to be added to the School War Memorial.

### **William Robert McCleery (Tiffin 1912 - 1913)**

Towards the end of August whilst sorting papers in the archive room I came across a copy of the admission register for William Robert McCleery. The copy had been made by Colin Prince for an exhibition in 1980 at the time of the school's centenary. Colin had added a comment at the bottom "Note destination when leaving". The destination was "Army Aviation School" but the date of leaving was 29 November 1913. I felt this was worthy of further investigation and it has proved to be so.

William Robert McCleery had been born on 21 January 1899. He had entered Tiffin School at the start of the Autumn term 1912 and stayed for a year and most of the Autumn term of 1913. The occupation of his father was listed as "Licensed Victualler" with an address at "Crooked Billet", Ham Common. His previous school was listed as the Technical

School, Wandsworth, now South Thames College. No examinations are listed on the register.

Searching on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission revealed that a William Robert McCleery had died in the Second World War but it was not clear if it was the same person who had attended Tiffin. Further research on the internet quickly revealed that it was the same person and that he was regarded as an aviation pioneer.

He had joined the Royal Flying Corps on 1 December 1913, his roll number being No. 973. Early in the First World War he is referred to as a 1st Class Air Mechanic being promoted to Sergeant on 15 August 1917. Just a month earlier he had gained his Royal Aero Club Certificate, No. 4971, as a pilot, on 12 July. He is listed as Mr McCleery. "Flight", the magazine of the Royal Aero Club, reports William as being wounded on 4 February 1918 but gives no indication of the circumstances. On the 17 August 1918, by which time the RFC and the RNAS had been combined to form the RAF, he is awarded the French "Croix de Guerre" but again there is no indication of the circumstances.

The next mention of William's career is in the London Gazette on 6 June 1934 where in the Birthday Honours Flt. Sergeant William Robert McCleery, 973, is awarded the Air Force Medal "in recognition of distinguished service in the Royal Air Force". Both "Flight" and "Aeroplane" record this honour.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer in April 1935 and commissioned as a Flying Officer (Equipment Branch), No. 31097, on the 8 January 1937. From October 1938 he was stationed at the Aircraft Depot, Habbaniya, Iraq. He was promoted to Flt. Lieutenant on 8 January 1940 and was later promoted to Squadron Leader. He was reported of dying of wounds received during the battle of Habbaniya on 18 May 1941. This battle was an attempt by the Iraqi army, following a revolt, to take over the Habbaniya base. It is in itself a remarkable story of an outnumbered British force defeating a numerically larger force. Again the circumstances in which he was wounded are not recorded.

A brief obituary was published in The Times 10 June 1941.

There are obviously some gaps to be filled in this story but it is noteworthy. The time between leaving school and joining the RFC is very short but one wonders whether he had been inspired by Tommy Sopwith who was building planes and testing them on the Thames at Kingston. Perhaps William had managed, whilst still at school, to get some experience working in Sopwith's factory in Canbury Park Road. Certainly his age when he entered the RFC was just short of 15 years whilst his gaining of the Aero Club pilot certificate as a ranker must have been highly unusual at the time.

Further research is required but until now there has been no account of this remarkable Tiffinian's life within the school.

## Old Tiffinian Social Lunch

Our seventy-ninth lunch was held at our usual venue on Thursday, 10th July, the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surrey - meeting at 12.30pm, for lunch at 1pm and

departure at about 3pm.

The eleven present were:-

Mike Burrage, David Chaffey, Dennis Clarke, David Ingall, Roger Keep, Greer Kirkwood, Gordon Mylchreest, John Philips, Roy Rathbone, Peter Smith, John Wright.

It was very pleasant to have two newcomers present. The recent school reunion had stirred Mike Burrage (over from Australia) & local lad Dennis Clarke to attend. Peter Smith missed his usual golf to meet Mike with memories of rugby days. This was true of several others as well. The usual excellent varied lunch in a busy restaurant was served.

Mike and Dennis were both pleased to join the OTA 100 Club, the draws for which were to follow.

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

Future dates are:

Autumn: Thursday 9th October 2014

Christmas: Wednesday 10th December 2014

Spring: Thursday 9th April 2015

All are welcome. If you wish to attend and bring guests, please let me know on 01483 850705 or email: greer.kirkwood@virginmedia.com

Greer Kirkwood

## OTA 100 Club

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

May 2014	£50	Nick Wright	Leatherhead
June 2014	£50	Dick Power	Norfolk
June 2014	£1,000	Brian Crisp	Surbiton
July 2014	£50	Ray Hewitt-Taylor	Walton (2nd number)

The above draws were held at the recent Old Tiffinian Social Lunch.

Since the demise of the smaller OTA 200 Club several members have transferred to this one or even entered a second number. With this in mind Nick, Brian & Ray have shown great support. What a way to start and win the 'Big One' so soon. 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/annum or £5/month by standing order. The prizes are £50 each month plus half-yearly major prizes of £1,000. Further information can be obtained from Greer Kirkwood, 28 Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9LX, telephone 01483 850705.

Also email: greer.kirkwood@virginmedia.com

Greer Kirkwood

## Tiffinian Association Blazers

Tiffinian Association blazers, in the distinctive purple, black and white strips of the Tiffinian Association, can now be

purchased at a cost of £180 (all-in delivered UK).

The shell material is a premium quality 265gm fibre dyed flat matt finish 70% wool and 30% cotton, lined in purple viscose, three-button single breasted, two hip patch pockets, one left breast patch pocket plus two inner pockets and three-button cuffs. Vents are usually omitted since they tend to spoil the drape of the stripes but exceptions can be made.

They are available in chest sizes from 36" to 56" in 2" increments; all in the fittings of short, regular or long. By coincidence, the sizes and fittings match those of Marks & Spenser.

The mill requires 6-8 weeks to produce the cloth; the tailoring requires 4-5 weeks. However once the cloth is in stock delivery times are usually 4-6 weeks.

Please email [TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:TAL@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk) with the chest size, length of fitting and delivery address you require and confirmation that you have paid £185 directly into the Tiffinian Association bank account (account number 71886533; sort code 40-26-12) quoting your name as the payment reference.

## OT Skiff Marathon

Five crews competed in the 101st OT Skiff Marathon on 14th September 2014 with one new competitor, John Bevan (1975), followed by a good crowd of supporters on a lovely autumn day.

The race developed into two battles, the first between Tony Ellis (1980) / Martin Cruddace(1982) and Julian Kapica (1988) / John Bevan (1975) combinations who set off level and never had more than 2 lengths between them the whole way from Hampton Court to Kingston with Ellis and Cruddace just piping the new combination.

Meanwhile last year's champions Ashley Tilling (1974) / Peter Lawson (1974) were determined to defend their title and had to overhaul multiple winners, David Gattey (1971) / David Powell (1974) coming down the last straight to Kingston Bridge. The Andy Powell (1971) / John Roberts (1970) combination fought hard to hold off all the crews having set off first, however the handicapping did not prove sufficient.

After the event the trophies were presented by OT Chairman, Tony Millard at Dittons Skiff and Punting Club whose generous support for the event is greatly appreciated. Click [here](#) to see photos of the day.



The plan is to move the event back to May in 2015. Look out for the date in due course.

Final Results:

Tilling/ Lawson 24.04 minutes      Winners of Fastest Crew Trophy

Ellis/ Cruddace 24.25      Winners of Handicap Trophy

Kapica/ Bevan 24.34

Gattey/ Powell 24.35

Powell/ Roberts 27.46

**Tony Ellis**

## OT Golf Society

I am pleased to report that the recent OTGS fixtures have been very successful. On June 19th we played our annual match against Old Surbitonians at Effingham Golf Club. On the day we had 10 players and Old Surbs had 16, which made our task a real uphill struggle, but quality prevailed and we won the match (top 8 cards) by 251 to 238, an amazing victory. Brian Davies was magnanimous in his presentation of the much coveted trophy held by Old Surbs for many years. Our top scorers were Stuart Lester with 36 points, with Peter Robinson second and Allan Piggott third, both with 33 points. Front and back nine prizes went to Paul Baker and John Pitchford. It was disappointing that on such a good golf course we could manage only 10 players. Before dinner we said a quiet prayer to remember Ian Redington, whom we all miss so much.

Then on June 27th a team of 6 competed in the Surrey Schools Old Boys match at Clandon Regis. Our team was made up of messrs Pitchford, Williams (P), Forster, Baker, Knowles and Piggott. The rules allow a team of 7, but Peter Robinson unfortunately had to drop out at the very last minute. We still managed to come third out of 10 schools, with a score of 159 (same as KCS Old Boys), the winning school was Old Hinchleyans with 162 points, so we came very close. Our top scorers on the day were Allan Piggott and Peter Williams, both with 37 points.

On August 14th we played our annual 4 ball better ball match against KCS Old Boys at Royal Wimbledon. Our pairings were Lester / Piggott , Baker / Wright,

Forster / Williams (M), Knowles / Pitchford and Williams (P) / Robinson. Our winning pairs were Knowles / Pitchford and Williams / Robinson. The Baker / Wright pairing were 3 down with 3 to play and they somehow managed to get a half, so the overall result was a tie at two and a half to each team. As the holders, we therefore retained the trophy, which came as a big surprise as KCS had 5 RW members playing, which gave them a significant advantage. This is the first time we have managed to be successful at Royal Wimbledon.

If any Old Tiffinian would like to join our group, please contact me, Allan Piggott, on [allan.piggott@btinternet.com](mailto:allan.piggott@btinternet.com). Annual membership of the society is just £10.

## Letter from Peter Johnson (1942)

Dear Editor

I saw the enclosed obituary in a recent Daily Telegraph and believe it to be about a contemporary of mine who left in 1942 to become a doctor.

Arthur Hollman was one of several of my year who were inspired by the Biology teacher of that time 'Sam Brown' (others being Lippold, Mount and Rose) to turn to medicine.

That was my first thought! But I've searched my Tiffinian for 1941/42 and cannot find his name – so perhaps he didn't take his H.S.C. in '42! Perhaps he left in '41.

He was certainly in VI B Science having come from Culshaw's 4 year stream to G.S.C compared to me for Porter's 5-year stream.

He was in Raleigh and a keen scout and athlete – long distance. He was quite serious, very genuine and an enjoyable companion.

I was interested to see from his obituary that he had 'saved' the mmHg for blood pressure when the 'conference' wanted kilo-pascals. I've been confused by instructions in the car for tyre-pressure! Specification reads 'pascals'; I've grown up with p.s.i. or 'atmospheres'.

Meanwhile keep 'news' coming – I'm always reading something of interest!

(A more detailed obituary for Arthur Hollman can be viewed later in this newsletter)

## People

### **Dr Michael Dixon (1974)**

the Director of the Natural History Museum for 10 years, was conferred a Knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours announced in June 2014. It is exactly 40 years since he left Tiffin School to go onto Imperial College to read Zoology. During his tenure, annual visitor attendance has grown to almost five and a half million and the Museum is now the third most visited free UK visitor attraction.



**David Evans (1957)** spent the summer of 2014 sailing to Spain and back in his 48 foot Nicholson Ketch. As his contemporaries may recall, David learn to navigate while still at school and navigation at sea has been an interest and passion ever since. At the tender age of 73 David decided that he had one last boat in him and purchased his yacht SEAMOGS in 2011. SEAMOGS is an elderly Nicholson 48, a robust and roomy craft with a large engine and good sailing performance. She was completed in 1982 and among her previous adventures has completed a circumnavigation. So she is probably a bit underwhelmed by coming into the ownership of a couple of septuagenarians. David and his partner Paula, both now in their mid to late 70s, left the Isle of Wight in mid-June bound for the

Channel Islands. After a few days in St Peter Port, they then proceeded to the North Brittany coast and then to L'Aberwrach. There they joined company with an American yacht and sailed the three day journey across the Bay of Biscay to Vivero in North Spain. A splendid three weeks followed with SEAMOGS



returning back across the Biscay in late July.

The passage home gave David and Paula a chance to visit all the interesting ports in North Brittany that they had missed on

the way to Spain. David says that he regrets not paying a little more attention to Geoff Sircom in French classes--rusty 60 year old school boy French just doesn't cut it in 2014! SEAMOGS eventually arrived at her home port of Lowestoft at the end of August after logging over 2,000 miles during the summer.

**Edward Green (2001)** took part in the BBC2 quiz show Only Connect on 15th September 2014. The show asks the contestants to make connections between apparently unconnected things, and requires patience and lateral thinking.



**Dr John Moore-Gillon (1970)** has been elected the 403rd Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. The Apothecaries are one of the ancient Livery Companies of the City of London. Just over 85% of the membership are doctors, about 10% pharmacists, and the remainder in professions allied to medicine and pharmacy. The Society is highly active in postgraduate medical education, and has thriving Faculties of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy, and of Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine. It has a busy charity committee, and the Apothecaries' social events are held in its historic Hall, dating from just after the Great Fire, and the oldest in the City of London. John encourages all interested medical and pharmaceutical Tiffinians to visit the website, and then contact him at [Master@apothecaries.org](mailto:Master@apothecaries.org)



**Mark Shearman (1960)** received his MBE from the Queen on 18th July 2014



**Roderick Williams** (Director of Choral Music at Tiffin School between 1988 to 1991) was the principle baritone at the last night of the Proms on 13th September. See a YouTube clip of Roddy’s performance of ‘Old Man River’ at <http://goo.gl/tLbkSI>



## De Mortuis



### Kingston Schools Scout Group reunion

The attached photo shows (l to r) Tony Rice (1960) visiting from Australia, where he’s lived for 30 years, Kneale Ashwell (1960) now living in Windsor, having lived in Tokyo, Manila, New York, and Sydney for a total of 22 years, Dick Andrews (1960) now living in Bath after 32 years in Canada, and Martin Turner (1958) now a successful wood sculptor living in Dorset. All four were members of the Kingston Schools Scout Group and were part of the troop’s epic bicycle tour across Holland in 1955. Together they have covered a lot of countries!



### Richard Felton (1965)

Richard Felton passed away at the Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford on 31st July 2014 aged 66 years. His funeral was on 13th August 14 at Didcot. Having left Tiffins to further his education at Tynemouth High School and then Birmingham University, he spent all of his life as a journalist in the Far and Middle East before returning to UK. He leaves Christine and his children Rebecca and Harry.

Morris Felton (1962)

### John Gately (1960)

John Gately arrived at Tiffin from Stoneleigh West County Primary School in 1952 when he was not quite 11 years old, making him certainly one of the youngest in his year if not the youngest.

Initially he was to make his mark at Tiffin on the sports field and in the break time football games in the school playground. John was in Churchill house and demonstrated his prowess annually on Sports Day in the “throwing the cricket ball” competition and in the 100yd and 220yd sprints. He clearly impressed somebody because in his last year at Tiffin he came third in the 220yd, a performance which stimulated the writer of the house report for that year to describe as “Gately showed Churchillians the path to achievement by becoming the paragon of courage and determination in the senior 220 yards”!

Initially his academic performance was modest although he was placed first in the annual exams in form 2B, winning a Lower School Prize. However he was beginning to demonstrate his ability on the cricket and rugby field, representing the Under 14 and Under 15 at rugby and cricket, captaining the latter and getting mention as a “useful bat”. However his shoulders were by now starting to present problems with repetitive dislocation, a problem which was finally solved by pinning each shoulder – I can still recall his

description of the eerie feeling, prior to pinning, as the shoulder started to dislocate when commencing a tackle on the rugby pitch. This shoulder problem prevented John from reaching his full potential on the rugby field as a full back. However it did not impact on his performance on the cricket pitch where he played with distinction for the 1st XI for three years, captaining the side in his final year. He was awarded his cricket colours and a Terrels cap.

John was appointed a school prefect in his penultimate year and deputy head boy and Churchill house captain in his last year, also being awarded a Cory Chapple Memorial prize.

John had followed the "Arts" stream through the school but, by the time he got into the sixth form he had decided that medicine was to be his chosen career. This necessitated a change to the "Science" stream and spending an extra year in the lower sixth – a brave decision for a 16 year old at a time when schooling was less flexible than now. It was not easy for John but he finished MVI Science with the requisite A levels for entry to a London teaching hospital. In his own words (in a tribute to Ben Lyon, then a master at Tiffin) – "During this process I realised how a career can so easily hang by a single thread. For the [A level] Physics practical I was instructed to determine the polarity of two magnets using iron filings. Quite a simple task you might say but not so. It was not long before the iron filings made a mass exodus from the bench to the floor. Fortunately my very close friend, Keith Goodwin, who had little faith in my practical abilities, was nearby and came over to help retrieve the iron filings and surreptitiously moved one of the magnets, while in the meantime Mr Les Wallis discreetly occupied himself over the other side of the room!"

John was born in Cambridge and visits on school rugby and cricket tours had fostered his desire to pursue his medical studies there rather than at a London teaching hospital – the standard route at that time. In his own words (in the aforesaid tribute) – "after A-levels I decided to go for broke and made it clear I wanted to go to Cambridge rather than London to read medicine .... No one from Tiffins had gone to Cambridge to study medicine, so there was no curriculum for Parts III and IV, 1st MB. I was entering uncharted waters. "Good luck, old chap, if you need any help just give a shout." I went up to St Catharine's Cambridge in 1960".

After obtaining his degree at St Catherine's, Cambridge, John continued his medical studies at St Bartholomew's Hospital ("Barts") in London and duly qualified as a doctor in 1966. House jobs (now known as F1 and F2) followed in Barts and Norwich, followed by a year in A&E at Charing Cross Hospital. John, by then married, moved to Scotland at the end of 1968 and spent a year at the Astley Ainslie Hospital in Edinburgh whilst studying for the Scottish and English surgical fellowship exams which he passed in 1969, subsequently passing the Canadian surgical fellowship exam. John decided to try his hand as a GP in Canada and in late 1969 emigrated with his family and took a post in Bradford, Ontario; partly to earn some money and get on his financial feet in the early days of marriage. After 4 years as a GP he returned with his family to Scotland where he obtained a posting in Dundee.

However the life and career prospects in Canada drew him back there in 1978 and he obtained a posting in general surgery at McMaster University Faculty of Health Sciences in

Hamilton. He enjoyed a successful career at McMaster, much respected both as a General Surgeon and a teacher, occasionally filling locum posts in Saudi Arabia and Northern Ontario. He ended his career as an Emeritus Professor of Surgery. John retired from surgery in 2005 but continued with teaching for a while thereafter until health problems caused him to retire fully in 2009.

Medical studies had forced John to give up his sporting activities but while in Scotland he took up golf which he played to a good standard, achieving the golfer's dream of a "hole in one" on his honeymoon! The move to Canada ultimately enabled him to spend more time playing golf and he served as a board member at his club, Dundas Valley Golf & Country Club, becoming Chairman of the Greens Committee where he was notorious for keeping close tabs on the duration of meetings, rarely allowing them to exceed the allotted time. He repeated the feat of a "hole in one", at the second hole at Dundas Valley – an achievement which he shared with his son who performed the same feat at this hole!

The last few years of John's life were blighted by illness but, typically, he did not allow this to impact on his enjoyment of life and his consideration for others, seemingly always more concerned about his friends and family than his own situation. John's third wife, Marie, and three of his four children were at his bedside when he died on 9th August 2013.

In the words of his first wife, Val, with whom he remained on friendly terms after their divorce, John enjoyed a very remarkable career and a very remarkable life!

Keith Goodwin (1960)

## Arthur Hollman (1941)

Arthur Hollman died August 2014. He was a senior registrar at the first successful heart lung machine marked a revolution in the development of the heart lung machine - a world's first open-heart surgery.

Hollman was known to be 'the of mercury' as the internat pressure. He felt strongly that visible to the eyes of the doctor be retained.

He was senior registrar at the F first successful heart lung mach marked a revolution in the deve Hollman then became the cardiologist in the operating theatre at the hospital.

He went on to become as a consultant cardiologist at University College and Great Ormond Street hospitals and a senior lecturer at University College, London. He lectured and worked as a cardiologist in Russia, the Seychelles and Mauritius.

One of his first papers as a consultant, published in the British Medical Journal, helped lead to the replacement of phenindione by warfarin as the medical profession's anticoagulant of choice, which remains the anticoagulant most commonly prescribed today for heart disease.

Hollman, a keen swimmer, swam daily in the sea close to his home near Hastings.

Hollman tended the garden at Royal College of Physicians building in Regent's Park, where his planting scheme linked its plants and trees with their medicinal uses. His conducted an annual lecture and tour at the Chelsea Physic Garden on the topic of "Plants in Medicine".

In retirement, Hollman pursued his interests in botanic pharmacology and the history of medicine. He published books on plants in medicine and the history of cardiology, including a biography of Sir Thomas Lewis, the pioneer cardiologist, which won the Society of Authors' Prize for the best medical history book in 1997. The American Journal of Cardiology published his final article in April 2014, when he was 90!

His grandson Toby Brown (1999) is the Secretary of the Tiffinian Association.

## Ian Redington (1966)

Ian Redington died of a stroke on 18th June 2014. Ian left Tiffin School to study mathematics at Brunel University and later gained an MA in Strategic Human Resource Management from Kingston University. He worked for the Milk Marketing Board and then became Commercial and Human Resources Director for Milk Marque, the dairy farmers' marketing co-operative. He went on to act as a consultant on strategic human resources and spent much of his time working for the Virtuous Circle, supporting organisations with risk and reputation matters such as business ethics, corporate social



responsibility, corporate reporting and risk management. He was a valued member of the Tiffin School Old Boys' rugby and cricket teams and was Chairman of the Tiffin School Charitable Fund. The Tiffinian Association is extremely grateful to him for his services as a Trustee and as Chairman until 2011, when he became Captain of Surbiton Golf Club.

Many Old Tiffinians were at Ian's Memorial Service at All Saints Church, Esher. A eulogy was given by Ian's brother David Redington (1971) and by some of Ian's Tiffin friends Chris Bennett (1966), Brent Stevens (1966), Roger Bonfield (1966) and Phil Missen (1966) who together with Ian formed the 'Games Cupboard Crew'. A section of their eulogies is presented here:



### Chris Bennett:

'In keeping with the current trend in bringing back sixties pop groups and comedy teams today we have assembled the remaining members of the games cupboard crew circa 1960's for one final performance.

An explanation of the function of the games cupboard crew will follow shortly.

Ian along with Brent, Phil and Roger entered Tiffin's in September 1959; I joined them some twenty months later.

The system that operated at that time was that at the end of the second year pupils were separated into two groups the bright and the not so bright. The bright were streamed to sit 'O' levels after four years at the school and the not so bright sat their 'O' levels at the end of their fifth year. Ian was "a bright" the rest of us were the "not so bright".

However Ian did do the decent thing having got his 'O' levels he decided to spend two years in the lower sixth, so that enabled us four to catch up.

It was during these years in the sixth form that Ian and I spent a considerable amount of time together, as we both studied Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics and because those subjects did not fill a full timetable, Technical Drawing was added to our schedule.

It was during my first term in the lower sixth that an event occurred that I have never really forgiven Ian for. The philosophy at the school was that up until the completion of your 'O' levels you were taught and set homework by the staff. Once you were in the sixth form it was reasoned that you were there because you wanted to learn and therefore you set your own programme of work and attended 'lectures' given by the members of staff. However controls were put in place to try and ensure we were studying the subject.

At the end of the first half term it was customary for the 1st XV to go to Cambridge to play rugby against some of the college teams. Ian and I were selected so that meant that we would be away for all of half term week.

At the last Physics lesson before we were due to break up our



teacher, Reg Dodgson requested to see our notes and research details covering the first half terms topics on the first day back after the half term holiday. What notes I asked myself as I had not written anything at all and with being away I would have no time to do any within the specified timescale.

Ian's reaction 'Oh, he did that last year didn't I tell you?'

Cross country running believe it or not was a strong activity for Ian. However his running and breathing style meant that you normally heard Ian coming before you saw him.

Ian achieved many things at the school as House Captain of Scott, a prefect and eventually Head Boy. He represented the school at rugby, rugby sevens and cricket. He even attained academic

success that enabled him to further his education at Brunel University.'

## **Denis Soul (1940)**

Denis Soul died on 12th July 2014, aged 91.

After attending Tiffin School, Denis served in the RAF in the Second World War before becoming a reporter at the Surrey Comet and then the Editor of the Richmond, Twickenham and Barnes Herald.

He worked for the Kilburn Times during the 1980s and, before his retirement in 1990, edited the City of London Recorder.

A committed Christian, Denis Soul worked voluntarily for two years at a missionary radio station in the Seychelles and was an elder of Canbury Park Church in Kingston for more than three decades, where he taught, preached and led services. A thanksgiving service was held at the Church on August 1st.

## **Charles Wick (1930)**

Charles Wick died on 6th June 2014 after a short illness. He celebrated his 100th birthday with family from Canada, South Africa, Scotland and distant places in England on 31st March this year. He kept his Tiffins School tie, which he wore at school 1925-1930, his whole life along with his school cuff links and blazer badge.

He left school to become a junior clerk at an insurance shipping broker (where he met his wife). He then worked for over 40 years in the wine and spirit trade and retired in 1979 as Sales Director of H Parrot and Co, mainly associated with Veuve Cliquot Champagne.

During the war he was in the D-Day landings. He died on the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Valerie Sprake, daughter

## **Events for your diary**

### **Thursday 9th October 2014**

Autumn Old Tiffinian Social Lunch

### **Friday 14th November 2014**

Autumn Dinner and 2004 Leavers' Reunion Incorporated

### **Wednesday 19th November 2014**

TAL AGM 8pm

### **Saturday 29th November 2014**

Tiffin Medical & Dental Society Meet & Greet 4pm

### **Wednesday 10th December 2014**

Christmas Old Tiffinian Social Lunch

### **Wednesday 17th December 2014**

Tiffin School Evening Carol Service at Kingston Parish Church 7.30pm

**Content for the next Tiffnews to be in by 2nd December 2014**