



## Newsletter of the Old Tiffinians' Association No. 227 March 2006

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## From the Head's Study

Dear Friends

In my last letter I spoke about how we should start to re-think links between the School and its community of former students. In School at the moment we are going through a process of finding out more about our current students and parents. In November every student and parent was sent a questionnaire and invited to participate in the survey. There was a very good take-up, and the results arrived in the School this week. The findings are fascinating, both for what they tell us about our strengths as well as our weaknesses.

The first question then arises about how to let everyone know what was said. I will be putting the electronic version of the survey on our staff area and then talking to all staff on the first day of next term about it. Next month I am running the second of my Head's Question Time events for parents, and the feedback of the results will obviously be a key feature. We shall also use our School Council as a forum for disseminating the results to our students.



The second question is then what do we do about the findings. We have many strengths but also some considerable areas for improvement. Against each area the School will draw up an action plan. Some of these actions are already happening; some are dependent upon finance; nearly all are dependent upon time. Nevertheless, if such an activity has any use, it is to show that we can listen, learn and act.

Finally, with the repetition of the exercise next year, I would like to believe that we can show improvement. The priorities will of course change and, as we address one area, another will surely emerge, so, as our vision statement claims that we are a 'learning community', we must show that we have the ability to ask difficult questions about ourselves in order to improve the experience for our whole community.

These are exciting times for Tiffin School. Please do make sure that you keep aware of what is going on and, by all means, make suggestions regarding the contribution that the Old Tiffinians' Association can make to the debate.

Sean Heslop

### OTA Skiff Marathon

The 93rd Skiff Marathon will take place on Sunday 7th May. Contact Tony Ellis - 020 8982 3866 (W) or 07774 123348 (Mob)

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

The spectator launch which follows the race will leave Dittons Skiff and Punting Club, Queens Road, Thames Ditton, at 11am.

Anyone is welcome. The Dittons Club bar will be open afterwards for refreshments.

## FA CUP FINAL DAY

### 13th MAY AT GRISTS

The Football Club is proposing to have an 'FA CUP DAY' at the Club for all players, family and friends. The proposal is along the lines of all-day drinking (tea or beer) whilst watching the FA Cup Final at Grists.

Outline details of the social proposed are given below.

**Start at 12.00 — Bar open**

*Football style teas and snacks for lunch/tea and throughout afternoon*

**Competitions/fundraising for Football Club. FA CUP Match - we would hope to bring in projector and large screen. Continue social into evening.**

*Please note the proposal is that, whilst OTFC organises it, the event would also be open to all other sporting sections and the wider OTA community.*

**Do check details nearer the date with Steve Johnson on 020 8397 2051 or steve\_johnson@yahoo.co.uk**

# Dates for your Diary

15th – 18th March

- Verdi's 'Nabucco' at Richmond Theatre

**Thursday 23rd March**

- Tiffinian Lodge Open Evening
- Instrumental Concert

**Sunday 26th March**

- Tiffin Choir at Kingston Parish Church

**Monday 27th March**

- OTA Council Meeting
- Strings Competition in Judge Lecture Theatre

**Thursday 30th March**

- OTA Social Lunch
- Tiffin Youth Orchestra Concert

**Tuesday 4th – Thursday 6th April**

- Main School Concert

**Friday 7th April**

- Spring Term ends
- OT Golf Society at Surbiton (plus AGM)

**Tuesday 25th April**

- Summer Term begins

**Thursday 4th May**

- OT Golf Society at Tyrrells Wood

**Friday 5th May**

- Tiffin Boys with the Royal Ballet School

**Sunday 7th May**

- OT Skiff Marathon

**Saturday 13th May**

- FA Cup Day at Grist's (see Front Page)

**Thursday 18th May**

- House Singing Competition

**Friday 19th May**

- Tiffin Gig Night

**Tuesday 20th June**

- OT Golf Society at Guildford

**Thursday 6th July**

- OTA Social Lunch

(Further details can be found later in this newsletter or on [www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk))

## Editor

Some readers may feel an apology is due, as they received their copy of the December 'Tiffnews' about the middle of last month! However, it was NOT our fault. All copies were posted by mid-December, so the problem lies with the Post Office. Do contact me, if in future your copy fails to arrive in the month due (except for the 'September' edition, which is normally posted in October).

If you are at all interested in Soccer, do support the Football Club's initiative in organising an FA Cup Day Social Event at Grist's. It should be a good occasion, bringing together many present and former players (and supporters) to enjoy the excitement together in a convivial Tiffinian environment. (See the Front Page for preliminary details.)

Words of mine are probably superfluous in urging you to support the unusual appeal by Peter Smith opposite. Those acquainted with Peter's extraordinary contribution to the OTA over the years will probably feel that in itself is sufficient reason to reach for their cheque book. Only a few of our Members have ever come close to matching his record of service. Let's support him now.

BRIAN HOLDEN

## Chairman

Dear Old Tiffinian

Within the Tiffin community today there are two tough places to be: at School, always, and on the board of Old Tiffinians' Ground Company Ltd.

At School, the demands are perennially tough, for in the pursuit of excellence there are few resting-places; but when a Headteacher can declare that Tiffin is a "good school, but not yet a great one" and have a plan for achieving greatness through change, we can be sure that tough times are ahead. It is with pride that I echo Sean Heslop's mission statement for the School: *A leading creative community; an enduring love of learning.*

The other tough place is with the Ground Company. In my December letter I referred to the need for new sources of income to fund renewal of the fabric of the Dean Pavilion. I did not go too far in saying that without new income 'the storm clouds will gather over Grist's'. There is some urgent work that needs to be done now on the roof and to external decorations for which no funds are available: the Ground Company needs help. In these circumstances Peter Smith's personal appeal (see page 3) to raise £10,000 from members is both well-timed and correctly focussed on the immediate issue of work that, if delayed, will bring greater cost later. I urge all of you who have enjoyed the benefits of the Dean Pavilion and the facilities at Grist's (and not to exclude any other member who wishes to include himself) to respond to Peter's appeal.

When I said in my December letter that I intended to assist in a process of change by evolution, I now realize that I was too cautious: the problems of the Dean Pavilion are deep-seated and may require some revolutionary thinking if they are to be solved. The 40-year old facility is not suited to present requirements. Is it realistic to expect outsiders to use it without considerable expenditure, not on repairs, but on modernisation? Another issue is the division of effort between the School and the Ground Company in managing the Grist resource, of which it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the OTA has more than it needs. It is not easy to contemplate how a replacement of the Dean Pavilion could be funded, and yet it has plainly come to the end of its economic life. In these circumstances we may be obliged to consider how a new facility can be provided which is not wholly for OTA members: we need to think again about the relationship with the School at Grist's, and we need to assess how the market could provide a facility which satisfies the OTA playing sections' reduced needs, but which brings in rental income from external sources. We need to understand what community needs there might be, which, if provided, may bring funding sources.

We need to start with a clean sheet of paper and think through what we want at Grist's. I should like members to write to me or to the Editor: tell us what your thoughts are and widen the debate about how to move forward.

In the Summer is the annual *Tiffin in the Garden* on Saturday 15th July. I shall be attending this event with my wife, and I hope to see many members there. It is the occasion on which practically the whole range of the School's musical abilities is on show, in a relaxed outdoor setting in the afternoon, with a concert in the School Hall in the evening. Catering is available, courtesy of Friends of Tiffin Music. For the present, just make a note of the date and plan to be there to meet up with other Old Tiffinians and Staff, as well as appreciating the exceptional musical talent that the School produces.

Yours in fellowship

HOWARD MALLINSON



# The Dean Pavilion

The letter below has been received from Peter Smith. He is well known to many members as a true stalwart of the Association, playing an active role since most of us can remember. He had a successful year as our Chairman in 1971/72, and served on the OTA Council for over 20 years. He was the founder of the OTA 200 Club, which funded the building of the squash courts. He is currently Chairman of the Rugby Club, is Vice-President & Scorer for the Cricket Club, and he runs the OT Bridge Club. Do give him your support.

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Tel: 020 8398 4748

5th January 2006

Dear Old Tiffinian,

DEAN PAVILION – GRISTS



I am a regular attender at Grists for Rugby, Cricket and the Bridge Club, and it is very noticeable that the Pavilion is in GREAT NEED of external decoration.

However, the Ground Company tell me that money is too short to action this for quite some time. The cost will be in the order of £10,000 and will be increasing every day that nothing is done. Bearing in mind that the Pavilion is the building that all our visitors see and, thereby, judge the

O.T.A., it is essential that we get the work done as soon as possible.

There are many hundreds of you who have enjoyed the O.T.A. facilities over the years, and of these I am sure that we could find the equivalent of 100 members who are willing to pay £100 each as a ONE-OFF payment to enable the work to be done.

This is a personal letter that I have not told the O.T. Sports Ground Company about, as I feel that they could not make this appeal on their own. PLEASE send me a cheque, payable to "Tiffinian Limited" for £100 (more if you can afford it, less if you cannot), and I will pass the monies on to the relevant people so that the work can proceed. If you include a Declaration along the lines of that below, we shall be able to reclaim Basic Rate tax, thus adding 28% to your donation.

Thank you in anticipation.

PETER D SMITH (1949–56)

**When sending your donation to Peter, please be sure to make your cheque payable to "Tiffinian Ltd" and make the following Gift Aid declaration:**

I am a UK taxpayer and have paid income tax at least equal to the tax that I want Tiffinian Ltd to reclaim on my donation of £.....

Name:

Home address:

## Old Tiffinian Social Lunch

Our forty-fifth Lunch was held on Thursday 8th December at our usual venue, viz. the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

Those present were :-

Dennis Barnard, David Chaffey, Jim Dixon, Jack Foster, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Ray Hewitt-Taylor, Derek Higham, Brian Holden, David Jagger, Ken Jenkins, Ted Key, John King, Greer Kirkwood, Howard Mallinson, Gordon Mylchreest, Peter Osborne, Dick Power, Bryn Prisk, Jim Swift, Ron Truin, Howard Watson & John Wright.

Our Christmas Lunch was splendidly supported with a record number of 23 attending. Of those, five were newcomers, and it is expected they will become regulars. An excellent lunch, with great variety, was enjoyed by all.

The Spring date will be **Thursday 30th March**, and **Thursday 6th July** was agreed for the Summer date.

All are welcome, and, if you wish to attend and bring guests, please let me know on 01483 850705. Early notification will be appreciated.

GREER KIRKWOOD

## Book Column

**'Send it by Semaphore' (The Old Telegraphs During the Wars with France)** by Howard Mallinson (published by The Crowood Press)

This scholarly but very readable book follows the history of the telegraph on both sides of the English Channel and examines it in the context of the war that dominated the period. The stories are told of how the greatest news stories of a lifetime — the Nile, Trafalgar and Waterloo — arrived in England, and it becomes clear how important this innovation, which presaged the electric telegraph, the telephone, radio, satellites and the internet, really was at a time when Britain's liberty was gravely threatened.

Howard's love of history shows through in his writing. It is now one of his regrets that his History teacher at Tiffins, 'Spud' Murphy, didn't live to learn that Howard actually had a real history book in him. I, for one, await with interest his next book, which is a thoroughly researched history of the origins and impact of the Guildford via Cobham railway line.

B. H.

*'Send it by Semaphore' (ISBN 1 86126 7347) is priced at £19.95, but is available from [swotbooks.com](http://swotbooks.com) or [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) for around £16 (incl. postage).*

## Internet Corner

David Baron has reminded me that the AA have now re-launched their fuel price comparison website. On [www.petroprices.com](http://www.petroprices.com) you can key in your postcode and have access to the cheapest petrol and diesel prices in your area.

Did you know that you can now renew your car tax on-line? This assumes you have the usual paperwork, including, if necessary, an MOT Certificate with computerised reference number. The site you need is [www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk). This will save you the usual trip to the Post Office (and lengthy queue) — and you can also download from this site any forms you might need for reclaiming car tax or for taxing a fresh vehicle etc.

BRIAN HOLDEN

# Letters

Dear Brian,

With reference to your article on the Rifle Range, I can throw some light on its wartime activities !

During the war my father, Lt Col. Clatworthy, was in charge of the Army Cadets in Kingston and New Malden under the flag of the East Surrey Regiment. In that capacity he occupied the Rifle Range at Tiffins and, when it was opened to the Cadets, he asked me, at about the age of 15, to go along and fire the first shot in the Range ! I had spent the first two months of the war in Hampshire, and my uncle, who was Rural Dean of Andover, took me shooting for rabbits, so I was not too bad a shot. I used a Winchester .22 repeater and managed to get a fair score. I don't know whether the Home Guard used the Range, but I imagine so. My father was also a member of the Home Guard, but mostly in New Malden.

Yours,

Pam Parry (former School Secretary)

Dear Brian,

I do not know what happened about the Range, but I can confirm that we lost the Scout Hut to the Army fairly early in the war. However, I must stress it was not taken over straight away. There was, as we know, a delay in starting the Autumn Term in 1939, because the shelters were not yet ready. As a result, my fellow scout Arthur Hollman and I felt we ought to do something for the newly declared war effort, and we started a wastepaper collection, the Town Council being, we felt, a little slow off the mark. This we did, on our old push bikes, towing the troop's 'trek cart'. We were very successful, so much so that parts of the Scout Hut floor began to sink under the weight !

My feeling is that the Army would have moved in about the time of Dunkirk and the start of the daytime raids, no doubt with the nearby Hawker Aircraft works as a target. I have a clear memory of the Bofors ack-ack gun on the cricket field, with the crew billeted in our Scout Hut, and seeing them walk across to Elmfield for water and, I suppose, cooking facilities, toilets etc. I wonder if they took over the Range as Sergeants' or Officers' Messes, or even a Guard Room, if it was not as big as the Hut ?

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the whole episode was the co-operation between the School and Kingston Grammar School, resulting in our being able to use the Lovekyn Chapel for our Friday afternoon meetings. Until then I don't think we had recognised each other's existence; even the respective staffs used different London Road pubs ! I think the weekday evening Troop meetings must have been abandoned at the outbreak of war, not least because of the difficulty of blacking out the Hut windows.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Aston (1941)

Dear Brian

My first contact with the rifle range was in Form 2B in 1948/9. We were surprised to discover that our form room was to be out in the wilds, but we soon discovered that it had certain advantages in that no teacher or prefect could get near us without our being informed by our look out. I presume shooting had ceased by then; certainly the premises were fitted out as a classroom, with desks and a teacher's desk. Our form master was new to the school, George Worth, who I don't think enjoyed having to wander out there twice a day to take registration.

My next acquaintance with the rifle range was in Form 4B, when it had become the home of George Spriggs, who took us for Maths there. He had made a real home there with facilities for making tea and toast, so

quite often he stayed with his T & T and left us to our devices for the whole period. He was far too clever for me and many of the rest of the form, and our exam results were dreadful; I got 9% for arithmetic, 6% for algebra and 3% for geometry, an exam in which there were 18 noughts. Rumours abounded: was he going to cane the whole class, as he might well have done pre-war ? Luckily for our behinds, George thought the whole business to be funny. Apparently he went round telling other staff about it and all he said to me as he returned my papers was: "Well Bunker, at least you have produced a mathematical progression". I can even recall that we had Maths last period on Thursday afternoons, because after a school doctor decided I had a curved spine I had that period off to go to Kingston Hospital for physiotherapy. Prior to that, I went for a second opinion to a School Clinic within the old Kingstonian football ground. I called that the freeze box, as it was still as built for the ARP. If any reader went there, I should love to hear from him.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Bunker (1955)

Dear Brian,

I was very interested to read the articles & letters about GWS, who was affectionately known to those of us in the band as 'George'. I too recall band performances at the Kingston Empire, in the Tilt Yard at Hampton Court, at Cambridge, and even on 'Workers Playtime' during the war years. I do remember we were once on the bill with the Luton Girls' Choir!

The Rifle Range was used on Friday Evenings by the band as a canteen, and for several years (say, 1944-48) it was run by my mother with the assistance of several other mothers, including Mrs Closier, Mrs Bingham & Mrs Spratt. Those of us in the ATC would use the Range for the purpose for which it was designed between 4 and 5pm, when the actual Range doors would be locked, and from 5 till 8pm, the rest of the building as a canteen. Band practice would begin at 7.00pm in the School Hall, and we would have a ten minute break for a cup of tea at about 8.00pm. Band practice was usually over by about 9-9.30.

Having left School in 1950 and gone on to other things, I retained a strong interest in classical and brass band music, but did not play the euphonium for well over 50 years. However, when my second grandson started learning the trumpet, I decided to have a go too ! I now play the euphonium with great gusto, much to my grandchildren's amusement. My wife, who is a professional musician, is quite convinced that I have now entered my second childhood !

I was very sorry to read in 'Tiffnews' of the death of Trevor Sugar, whom I remember as a fresh-faced young chap, not much older than those of us who were in the Sixth Form. I should also like to mention John Bradshaw, who, although not at the School for very long (1945-49), made a great impression on me. He was my Form Master during my third, fourth and fifth years. He was the only teacher to arrive at the School on a shiny Triumph motorbike ! He introduced Form 3B and 4B to Youth Hostelling, and practically the whole of 3B and 4B went on a cycle trip of the Wye Valley during the summer holidays in either 1946 or 1947. He taught Maths and certainly made the subject come alive. I recall dropping stones off Clifton suspension bridge and timing them, in order to calculate its height, using the formula  $s = ut + \frac{1}{2}ft^2$  ! I understand that, after leaving Tiffins, he went off to India as a missionary.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Powell (1950)

**Talking of George Spriggs (the alternative view), we have the following (final) contributions on the subject:**

Dear Brian,

I entirely endorse John Carder's recollection of George Spriggs. Although I came to respect him as a Maths teacher in later years,

having suffered under Meshenberg, and after I joined the Band, in my early years he was indeed a fearsome figure and often behaved accordingly! Cruelty was not too strong a word in some cases, although there were other bullies on the Staff at that time. On the plus side of GWS, he introduced me and many others to the pleasure of popular classical music with a record at the end of each morning assembly, introduced in a way that I still recall. This was after 'Piffle' Leonhardt had played the mighty Wurlitzer for hymns led with gusto by Tuddenham and Atkins, the organ sustained by a senior boy working the bellows! In addition, GWS led the band during the last period on Friday afternoons, when the whole School assembled in the Hall for community singing ('Tipperary' etc.) as a morale booster for the weekend.

Yours sincerely,

John Glasscock (1946)

Dear Brian,

Thank you for having the courage to publish an alternative view of George Spriggs in the December issue. John Carder's measured appreciation of the old tyrant was a timely and important check on the rose-tinted writing of others.

Unlike John, I WAS a member of Spriggs's school band, being brought up in a Salvation Army family and having played the trombone since the age of eight — long before I found myself at Tiffins. As a result, it was possible I was spared the foulest treatment, when I failed to perform in his maths lessons. Nonetheless, I have carried a passionate dislike of the man into my sixties, thanking him for nothing. He was good at reducing young boys to tears, but not so good at teaching them anything. Though I went on to play in some of the best brass bands in the South of England, the fact owes nothing to Spriggs and the overrated school band of the 1950s.

Like John Carder, I have never forgotten Spriggs's vicious tongue, nor his supercilious and unprofessional mocking of other members of the teaching staff — decent men like Eric Griffiths, Ernie Enion and Harry Taylor — for the private, sniggering enjoyment of his band favourites.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Peagam (1956)

Dear Brian,

Before the correspondence is closed, may I offer my contribution to the memories of George W. Spriggs? Uniquely, I knew him both as his pupil (he was my form master and Maths teacher for five years, 1933 to 1937) and as his colleague in the Staff Room (1949 to 1954).

I mainly remember Spriggs as the man who taught me to value reasoning, through deductive Geometry; who insisted that Mathematics was to be understood, not learned parrot fashion. When, as a third-former, I asked him how I could find out about Einstein's Theory, he lent me his personal copy of Einstein's own book (very readable — at least on Special Relativity).

I was never one of his bandmen, but his illustrated music talks after Assembly gave me my first introduction to Handel's 'Water Music'; to Schubert's 'Unfinished' (in tonic sol-fa); to 'Scheherazade'; to Beethoven's Fifth; and the 'Monks' Chorus' from Verdi's 'Il Trovatore'.

I joined the Staff on the same day as Ted Key, in June 1949. Ted and I had met on the post-graduate education year at Cambridge. In the Maths Department, Spriggs was second under M. P. Meshenberg. They now shared the Sixth Form teaching, whereas in my time as a pupil Spriggs had taken no part in teaching the (smaller) Sixth.

Naively, I was surprised how distant, even hostile to me he seemed. I suppose now that he must have seen me as a rival, coming fresh from Cambridge and very close to Mesh, who had taught me in the Sixth Form eight years before. I had warm friendships with others of my former teachers, including Bob Atkins, "Dusty" Rhodes and Mesh.

Life is full of regrets for things left undone. I never spoke with Spriggs about my time as his pupil, never told him how much I had valued his teaching of deductive reasoning or his musical appreciation sessions. I was constrained, of course, by the generation gap and also by the

memory of how he maintained the class control he thought necessary for his teaching — terrorising, victimising, speaking with contempt of our homes and parents. Looking back these 70 years and more, I see his attitudes as an extreme, but not entirely atypical, example of the teaching styles of his day. We boys took it all in our stride, perhaps we 'knew our place'! *Autre temps, autre mœurs.*

In September 1933 I had arrived, a rather frightened ten-year-old Scholarship boy, in Form IA; Form-master Mr G.W.Spriggs, Room J. My old Record Books remind me that I was always a year younger than the average age of the class. I well remember how, when coming to Room J for a maths lesson, we would enquire of the class piling out from the previous lesson: "What's he like?" We knew he had his moods. Spriggs was not alone, in those days, in maintaining discipline by a rule of terror. His special technique was, on occasion, to single out a boy for humiliation, ridicule and punishment. This could take up the whole lesson. One day in 1935, I was that boy! As we sat at our bureaux, with our backs to the centre of the room, we turned to watch the blackboard. For idly twisting my satchel as it hung on the back of my chair, I was made to hold it up at arm's length, demonstrating its oscillations to the class. This earned me a detention for 'Wasting Time'. (Unfair, thought I, since he was the one wasting time! I didn't know enough to claim I was following the example of Galileo, who studied the oscillation of candelabras in Pisa Cathedral.) Mr Spriggs then produced what I suppose was his real reason for picking on me: my maths homework! As I recall, I had copied it, during a French lesson under 'Ceci' Sumner, from a boy whose maths was perhaps not as good as mine. This brought a (deserved) detention for 'Dishonest Work', and six strokes of the cane.

We thought him sadistic. He certainly kept order through terror, but then so did many teachers of his time. I choose to remember him as a brilliant teacher of the methods in mathematics that he had made his own, what he once called the Gospel according to St. Mathematics. And of course for the music.

*De mortuis . . . ?* As Hamlet says of his late father, "He was a man, take him for all in all." Certainly we shall not look upon his like again.

Yours,

Dan Godfrey

Dear Brian,

It has been very interesting to read the views published in the last few editions of 'Tiffnews' on George Spriggs, as I was one of his maths pupils during my first year at the School (1944–45). He taught us arithmetic & algebra, whereas geometry was taught by Mr Dean, the then Headmaster.

As an eleven year old boy (not involved with music, I hasten to add), I thought his behaviour towards his pupils was at times absolutely horrifying, although I personally did not have a 'run-in' with him. One of his sayings I particularly abhorred was "you stinking pieces of meat wrapped up in blue and red cloth"! To cap this, the way he used to brandish his cane before us all prior to administering punishment was nothing short of sadistic.

I admit he was a good teacher, but no better than John Bradshaw, who had far more patience with lesser mortals and who taught me maths from year 2 up to year 5, and who was as different from Mr Spriggs as chalk from cheese.

With best wishes,

David French (1949)

The above views of GWS are also strongly held by R F James (1942) who has taken the trouble to write on a number of matters from New Zealand, where he is living in retirement. Chris Day (1958) has emailed from Canada expressing similar views and supporting their publication. Peter Johnston (1942) and Gerald Collett (1949) have also written in. **Further letters from readers are included in the Tiffin History section on a later page. Please keep the letters coming !**

# OT Football Club

It has been a frustrating season for many teams this season as player shortages, injuries and absences have all influenced individual team progress.

The 1st team, hampered by injuries to key players, have struggled for results against sides they could have been expected to beat. With the 2nds it soon became clear that starting the season with a second team comprising a mainly untried mix of new players was a mistake, and, after gaining just two points from their first five league games and being knocked out early in the cups, the Club took the important decision to swap the then 2nd team with the 3rd team, who were riding high and unbeaten in the league below. Both teams now have a chance of consolidating their positions in their respective leagues. The 4th team have established themselves in Division 6 South and hope to finish the season in a commendable 4th place. The 5ths unfortunately look to be staring at a relegation spot. The Vets are enjoying themselves. More detailed individual team reports are given below.

I am pleased to report that much progress has been made in addressing the financial shortfalls incurred in previous seasons, and with strict adherence to monitoring and reporting systems the Club is once more in the black. With the right procedures in place the Club has, for once, enforced its No Pay No Play rule and has suspended several players until fees are paid up. Many thanks are due to John Dickens for his diligence as our new Treasurer and to Captains for their application.

The Club was saddened to hear of the death of John Squire and was pleased to be able to show its respect to John by means of a one minute's silence before the home games on 4th February. An obituary for John was also posted on the AFC website.

## First Team

At the time of writing the 1s are just two games away from completing their league fixtures for 05/06 without yet being able to have guaranteed Senior 1 status for next season. We have frequently had the better of teams but have been punished, when we've not kept our guard up and conceded too many easy goals. In another year we would have won 9 and lost 4 at this stage, rather than the reverse being true. Strangely, we have played our best football against the teams at the top of the league. The games home and away against Enfield Old Grammarians and Old Salvatorians have shown that we are as good as any team in the league when on form, despite what the actual results might suggest.

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
16	4	3	9	20	30	-10	15	6th

ANDY NUTT

## Second Team

When the 3rd team took over as the 2s they inherited a bottom of the league position, with just two draws to show from five league outings. Unfortunately from a timing point of view the switch occurred just as we were to lose two important players (Damion Laing for the rest of the season, coaching in Brazil; and Neil McDermott starring in Aladdin at the Old Vic for the panto season). Nevertheless our first outing as the 2s produced a stunning victory as we fought back from 0-2 to win 3-2. Our next outing away to Dorking brought a reality check. Going two goals down early on, the side clawed its way back to 2-2, only to concede another simple goal immediately after they restarted. Deflated, the team limped to a 3-6 defeat, when we should really have done better. The next six games produced three defeats against top-of-the-table sides, a draw, and the two wins which took us off the bottom of the table. We have now acclimatised to standard and have concentrated on stopping giving away soft goals. With 7 games to play, many against teams in the lower half of the league, the team is looking for a mid-table finish. Frustratingly our games have been cancelled for the last three weeks running, but this

has helped ease the player shortage problem for the other sides. One very pleasing aspect has been how players not previously considered good enough for selection to a 2s side have acquitted themselves and shown that with effort and application they can hold their own at this level.

The team was consistently selected from: Mike Dash, Colin Waters, Dan Ward, Dave Collins, Ralph Stadie, Ian Lulham, Simon Keane, Steve Johnson, Ian McDermott, Neil McDermott, Kevan McDermott, Ernest Fowler, Peter Phipps & Jon Angell.

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Pos
13	3	3	7	29	45	-16	12	9th

STEVE JOHNSON

## Thirds

The new 3s have struggled for players all season, found opposition teams in their new league competitive and have struggled for success. In the last three weeks the team has benefited from 2s players being available for them and achieved their first league win of the season against BBC.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pts	Pos
11	3	5	3	24	25	-1	11	7th

## Fourths

The fourth team has made good progress under the captaincy of Julius Miller. The team has been in the top half of the division since the beginning of the season and, while not likely to be promoted, could finish as high as 4th in Div 6 South. Such a result would represent quite a degree of success for the 4s, who were formed as an amalgamation of last year's 4th, 5th and 6th team, plus some new players. The newly formed team has good camaraderie and there is a good spirit in the squad.

Since the Christmas break the team has been largely unchanged, and this has enabled us to put in some decent performances and, on the whole, become a better 'team' all round. We struggled with putting out a regular side in the last few weeks up to Christmas but managed to battle out a few results, with the exception of a loss to John Fisher, when we had only 10 players and no keeper. Presently we lie in 4th spot in the table and post a record of 6 wins, 5 losses and 3 draws, but unfortunately the top three places seem to be fairly well secured now. Notable performances have come from a very solid and often unchanged back four, and commanding goalkeeping from Rick Letheren. Goals have been relatively sparse from our usually prolific forwards, but luckily Brett Waugh has weighed in for a fair few from the midfield.

Hopefully we can maintain our position to the end of the season and will have built a solid base for the next campaign.

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Pos
15	7	3	5	32	26	6	24	4th

JULIUS MILLER & PETE MARKHAM

## Fifths

With two games to go, matters are slightly out of our hands as we battle to avoid relegation. The demands for personnel higher up the Club, has meant that we have usually been unable to field a side that looks remotely like the one from the previous week.

We are pleased to have secured two new strikers and filled the gaping hole that was alluded to in previous reports. Results have improved, but we lost too many games earlier in the year, when unable to score, which has proven costly. Consensus of all the team, however, is that, with the possible exception of the second placed team, Whitgift, there hasn't been anybody we've faced that has been that special. Somehow we have used 52 different players during this current campaign, and we can now regularly call upon 15/16 players with ease every week. Team spirit is good, and the frustration is that our search for strikers couldn't have been resolved a little earlier.



One of our remaining games is against the team that sits below us, Dorking, but with the team one above us now beating everybody (very strange!) our relegation may be already a done deal. But, strangely, we have now got a decent platform for next year's campaign.

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
16	3	2	11	30	53	-23	11	9th

*JOHN DICKENS*

Good luck to all players and teams for the rest of the season. New players of all standards are always welcome. If you would like to play Saturday afternoon football next season, then please contact Club Secretary Errol Walker in the first instance on 07984 473 074.

You can follow all our fixtures and results on the league website [www.amateurfootballcombination.com](http://www.amateurfootballcombination.com)

*STEVE JOHNSON, OTFC Chairman*

## OTA 100 Club

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

			Previous win	
Dec '05	£50	<b>Johnny Wyatt</b>	Redhill	'05
Dec '05	£1,000	<b>Willy Harper</b>	Tunbridge Wells	'00
Jan '06	£50	<b>Paul Timms</b>	Canterbury	'04

The above draws were held at a recent OTA Council meeting.

William, son of the 'Brigadier', was suitably staggered to receive his cheque, and this helped to ease his present worries on the work front. The other two are now regular winners, it would seem.

I wish to thank members 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 £1,000. Further information can be obtained from me at 28 Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9LX (Tel: 01483 850705).

*GREER KIRKWOOD*

## OT Golf Society

It must say something about Old Tiffinians – at least the golfing variety – that so many turn out for our New Year meeting and risk inclement weather to play with just three clubs (two clubs plus a putter, that is). This year's turnout at West Byfleet was slightly less than usual with twenty Old Tiffs and five guests, but the weather was kind (considering the time of year), and everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

I am pleased to say that the Winter Cup was won by David Baron, with Dillwyn Rosser a very close second. David presented the Society with the trophy for this competition some 22 years ago, and he has been trying to win it back ever since. So the result was a fitting reward for persistence, as well as for some good golf! Third place was also closely contested, with five players on the same score, the honour going to Nigel Angus on count-back. The catering (breakfast and lunch at this meeting) was as good as usual at West Byfleet, and lunch was considerably enhanced by the wine provided by Chris Towlson, our outgoing Captain.

For the record, I repeat this year's further meetings at which any OT golfer would be warmly welcomed:

**Friday 7th April at Surbiton, followed by the AGM**

**Thursday 4th May at Tyrrells Wood against Old Kingstonians**

**Tuesday 20th June at Guildford against Old Surbitonians**

We are always pleased to see new members. I can be contacted on 01372 274441.

*ALAN (GUS) DAUNT*

## OT Cricket Club

The AGM of the Cricket Club was held on Wednesday, 15th February at Grist. The following committee and officers have been elected for the forthcoming season:

President:	S. M. HESLOP
Chairman:	K. RAVI SHANKAR
Vice-Chairman:	M. BENNETT
Hon. Secretary:	S. CLEWS
Hon. Treasurer:	S. CLEWS
Hon. Match Secretary:	R. BATES
Hon. Team Secretary:	P. SMITH

### CAPTAINS:

1st XI Saturday:	K. RAVI SHANKAR
1st XI Sunday:	A. PITTS
2nd XI Saturday:	J. KINSTLER

### VICE-CAPTAINS:

1st XI Saturday:	F. KHAN
1st XI Sunday:	K. CRICK
2nd XI Saturday:	K. FAIREY
School Representative:	T.B.C.
Club Surrey Championship Rep:	K. FAIREY
Club Fullers League Rep:	K. RAVI SHANKAR

**New Vice-Presidents:** S. Kilvington, G. Dryden & R. Blicckett

Noted with deep regret was the recent passing of one of our Vice-Presidents, John Squire. All at the OTCC would wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family on their sad loss.

The season will kick off on Sunday 23rd April with a friendly match at Grist. An inter-league cup knockout is scheduled for Saturday 6th May, and the league matches start on 13th May, at home for the 1st XI against Roehampton CC.

A few pre-season nets will be arranged at the Tiffin Sports Centre in April. OTCC, in common with previous seasons, welcomes cricketers of all abilities to join the ranks and avail themselves of the good facilities and opportunities on offer. A full fixture list of both league and friendly matches is available once again.

It was very encouraging to see the Cricket Club make real progress during the 2005 season. The Sunday league side did particularly well, and the Saturday league sides more than held their own. It is truly hoped that the 2006 season will be even more enjoyable and successful for all concerned.

Anyone interested in joining the OT Cricket Club, please call one of the following with your enquiries: Ravi (07966 301 851), Matthew (07801 462 008), Andy (07764 758 365), Faisal (07984 321 926), Peter (020 8398 4748), or email [ravi Shankar@aol.com](mailto:ravi Shankar@aol.com)

*K RAVI SHANKAR*

## OTA 200 Club

First of all, congratulations to our hard-working Hon Memb Sec Dennis Barnard (No.132) on winning the recent £500 Big Prize in our Winter Draw! This was drawn at a Council Meeting in January. Recent £10 winners, since those reported in the last Tiffnews, are as follows:

<b>35 D.K.Baron</b>	<b>139 S. J. Dixon</b>	<b>45 K.R.Steep</b>
<b>88 J.Wright</b>	<b>40 R.G.Kirkwood</b>	<b>87 J.L.Glasscock</b>
<b>110 R.G.Hamper</b>	<b>17 E.Holbrook</b>	<b>155 M.Pengilly</b>
<b>99 D.K.A.Mason</b>	<b>138 D.Jagger</b>	<b>48 Mrs S.Whittaker</b>
<b>54 D.Jagger</b>		

If you are not already a member of the 200 Club and would like some more information about it, please get in touch with me on 020 8393 3293 (e-mail: [bholden93@hotmail.com](mailto:bholden93@hotmail.com)). The subscription is so small you won't really miss it — and you could easily find yourself on our next list of winners!

*BRIAN HOLDEN*

# People

**DAVID BARKER (1953)** has now retired as Dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Technology, Sidney — but not as Professor, as he is still working as a full-time member of the Faculty. So, he has been attending in 2005 Law Conferences in San Francisco, Queensland's Gold Coast, Hamilton (NZ), London and Prague. He also reviewed the University of South Pacific's Law Degree in Port Vila, Vanuatu, where he arrived just in time for the 25th Independence Day Celebrations. David now has a 12 month sabbatical, and he is taking up a Visiting Fellowship at Wolfson College, Cambridge for three months from March. His wife, Catherine, will be joining him in Cambridge in May. In December they had a visit from **Michael Webb (1954)** and his wife Enyde, who have been making an extensive tour of foreign parts.

The Second Edition of '*Essential Australian Law*' was published in August 2005 in the Essential Law Series. Published by Cavendish, this was established by David as General Editor in 1996 and now has 16 titles. He also edits the Australian Student Law Register, published on an annual basis, which is distributed to over 28,000 law students. No wonder he cannot retire!

The photo is of the first Australian OTA Reunion Lunch, which took place at the New South Wales Law Society Restaurant on Wednesday 10th August 2005. This was attended by (left to right) **Mike Burrage (1960)**, **Mike Depledge (1958)**, **David Barker (1953)** (inaugural Chairman), **Mike Tyler (1954)** & **Tony Taylor (1961)**. Details of the



next similar event will be sent to all OTA Members on the Australia/NZ mailing list in mid-2006.

**STEPHEN BATTERSBY (1986)**, who writes articles for the New Scientist, took part last year in an edition of the BBC programme '*University Challenge – the Professionals*'.

**ALEX BRYSON (2005)**, former member of the School's cross-country team, is now running for Nottingham University.



**GEORGE BUTLER**, School Caretaker for 17 years (1962–79), is keeping on the whole pretty fit and cheerful, despite his 86 years. He continues to live in retirement in Grimsby but has unfortunately been plagued by a number of health problems during the past year. He is, however, well supported by his family and plans, with their help, to revisit Malta on holiday this month. George spent most of his time at Tiffins living in the former caretaker accommodation at the top of Elmfield (prior to the construction of the Caretaker's house near the Queen Elizabeth Road entrance), so he has a unique knowledge of the layout of the rooms on that top floor, before they were transformed in the mid-1970s. He served the School cheerfully and efficiently, but did not dwell on the past. We discovered, however, that he had in his younger days played First Division football and had received a serious head wound in the war. George regards his years at Tiffins as a very happy time of his life, and he sends his warm regards to those who remember him.

**DAVID DENYER (1987)** is getting married this month in Sydney, Australia, where he now lives, and he made elaborate preparations for celebrating in style. He planned a complete round-the-world trip in

seven days in order to pick up his OT brother and best man, **Steve Denyer (1990)** in Calgary, Canada, before heading to London to meet their Kingston-based friends, and then heading back to Australia. Along the way the brothers intended to get up to the usual japes and high jinks associated with traditional stag celebrations, but will intersperse them with skiing in Banff, watching the Australian Tennis Open in Melbourne and taking in a Premiership football match in London. David moved out to Sydney four years ago and is currently a manager for Hays Recruitment. Steve qualified as an architect in Canada in 2004, after living there since 2000. The action-packed time kicked off on 19th January with Calgary and an ice-hockey match.

**JOHN FORD (1995)** is now at Roehampton Institute, lecturing students who need to improve their mathematical skills.

**CHRIS FRANKLIN (1965)** originally had difficulty gaining entry to a Medical faculty, but eventually made Dental School at Sheffield and because of his own immense determination he transferred to the Medical Faculty. He has been a very successful medic at Sheffield, proving to any other boy at Tiffin that they should never give in. He reports he has had another busy year. His role as Postgraduate Dean takes him all over the country, as well as the thirteen hospitals on his patch. He has been chairing a national committee of all the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England, Scotland and Ireland. One of them awarded him an Honorary Fellowship to add to those he earned by exam. He has been invited to speak in Australia this year — an excuse for a family holiday. In 2005 Chris received an NHS distinction award, so from proving a challenging UCCA Tiffin boy he became a very successful surgeon and teacher at Sheffield.

**SANDEEP JAITLY (1998)** is now an analyst with the Hedge Fund of Ruby Capital Partners of London.



**TED KEY**, Deputy Head before retiring in 1983, had a full-length article published in the 2005 magazine of St Catharine's College Society entitled '*A Cats Boy and a Cats Man*'. Ted spent his childhood in Cambridge, where he attended the Cambridgeshire High School (now Hills Road Sixth Form College). His father, Arthur, was College Butler and his mother was a Cambridge landlady, but only for Cats men. His close friend was the son of the College Groundsman, and he spent many hours at the ground, becoming immersed in

the sporting life of the College. At the same time as acquiring a love of various sports he learned the rudiments of looking after playing surfaces, knowledge which served as a basis for his major contribution to Tiffins in developing the School's sports facilities after the war. Following his war service, culminating in his time with the combined USA/British Fleet in the Pacific in the final stages of the war against Japan, Ted studied Geography at Jesus College, Oxford, and then after graduation took up a place in the Department of Education in Cambridge, thus becoming a Cats man in his own right.



**JAMES KIBBLE** joined the Tiffin Maths Department first as a Student Teacher and then as a permanent member of Staff in September 1999. He rose to be Head of the Department the following year. He left the School, however, in 2002 to become Head of Sixth Form and later Deputy-Head at St John the Baptist RC School in Woking. He is now to be congratulated on his recent appointment as Headteacher at Salesian School, Chertsey, at the age of 34. During his time at Tiffins James was also involved with coaching rugby

and with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme. We wish him every success in his new post.

**BEN KING (2001)** graduated from Bristol last summer with a degree in Immunology, winning the British Society for Immunology's prize for the best student going on to further research in the field. The prize included £100, and he goes on to do a PhD in Cancer Immunotherapy at Southampton.



**LAURENCE KING (2001)**, brother of Ben (above), obtains his Master's degree in Physics at Warwick this year. In summer 2005 he spent some time at the Swedish Institute of Space Science in Kiruna in the Arctic Circle, studying rocket science with other international students. This was organised by Umeå University and Luleå University of Technology, which is closely associated with the European Space Agency.

**BERNARD LAMB (1960)**, a Reader in Genetics at Imperial College, London, was recently quoted in a press article on the poor spelling & grammar of otherwise highly qualified undergraduates from this country, compared with overseas students. He carried out a study on the work of 650 students as part of a campaign to improve the clarity of their language. Many complained at his corrections, saying that their English had not been corrected at school. Let's hope that things are different at Tiffins !

Bernard has been mentioned in the press many times before. Six years ago he was named as one of the 500 people most likely to shape the 21st century, because of his work in Genetics. He has written well over a hundred scientific papers and made a large number of radio & TV broadcasts. He also chairs the Queen's English Society (London Branch).

**SEAN LANG (1980)**, Secretary of the Historical Association, was heard on the BBC 'Today' programme in December, speaking about the narrowing of the history curriculum in schools, now concentrating mainly on the Nazi period and the Tudors.

**IAN MACLEOD (2002)** graduated at St John's College, Cambridge, in the summer and is now working for a PhD in Genetics. Along the way he has been awarded a Blue in Karate !



**PERRY PARSONS (1964)** is a History teacher at Vyners School in Ickenham, where he has taught since 1968, but in January this year he was named 'Hero of Hillingdon' by his local paper, *The Uxbridge & West Drayton Gazette*. These Local Heroes awards are a chance for the spotlight to be shone on people who put others first or have triumphed over adversity. Perry has inspired young musicians to explore their talents in the popular Vyners Swing Band and has raised nearly £77,000 for charity. Since he formed the Swing Band he

has conducted more than 430 concerts. Charities that have benefited over the years include Michael Sobell House in Northwood, Age Concern Hillingdon, Uxbridge Samaritans, the Cheshire Homes and the Heart of Harefield, the campaign group for Harefield Hospital. A second group run by Perry, called The Perry Parsons Big Band was formed after pupils refused to stop playing despite leaving school. It was originally called the Red Hot Swinging Mullets, but members voted to change the name in honour of their respected teacher. We are happy to add our congratulations to those of his local community.

**ANTONY PITTS (1986)**, reported in the national press last year as having resigned as a staff-member from BBC Radio 3 over the Jerry Springer controversy, has recently been appointed Senior Lecturer in Creative Technology at the Royal Academy of Music. Tonus Peregrinus with its Léonin/Pérotin CD *'Sacred Music from Notre-Dame Cathedral'* (mentioned in our September 2005 edition) has been short listed for the first-ever BBC Magazine Awards. From over 1,500 CDs the jury selected for the short list just 18 (three from each category). A member of the Awards Jury pays the following tribute to the recording: *"Tonus Peregrinus movingly capture the austere beauty of this repertoire from the 12th and early 13th century Notre-Dame. Moving from plainchant to four-part polyphony, the thoughtfully built programme suggests the cumulative effect of a Gothic cathedral in progress. The supple, lucid singing captivates."* As we go to press, Antony is involved in a historic 'first' for Tiffins. On Monday 27th February in Kingston Parish Church a total of 270 performers, conducted by **Ralph Allwood (1968)**, launch Festival of the Voice with the world première of a new cantata, **'A Still Small Voice'**, specially commissioned from Antony. The Tiffin Boys' Choir join with the Tiffin Children's Chorus of boys & girls aged 7-13, Kingston Parish Church Choir, Riverside Opera, baritone soloist

Andrew Perry-McAlpine, Timothy Burke (organ), Simon Ferris (piano), and five local primary school choirs. This was an unusual commission for unusual forces: multiple choirs, soloists and keyboards, and performers from very different age groups. Ralph Allwood is Precentor and Director of Music at Eton College, and founder of the Eton Choral Courses.



**MICHAEL SYMES (1981)** since leaving Tiffin School has worked in IT, mainly as a computer programmer. He took time out in the mid-1990s to study for a BSc in Computer Science. In July 2001, he married Tatiana, a journalist from Moscow. In their spare time they created a club called 'From Russia With Love!'. It provides Russian people in England (although they also have members in Ireland, Wales, Russia and several former Soviet states) and British people with an interest in Russia and its culture, with the opportunity to meet. The club provides Russian and English lessons, regular parties, theatre trips, cultural trips to Stratford upon Avon, Bath etc., and weekend trips to the coast. In such a relatively short period of time there have been five weddings as a result of people meeting through the club events. For many years Tatiana had a dream to publish her own magazine, and in the autumn of 2004 her dream started to become reality. Michael gave up his full-time job, and together they created a new magazine, also entitled *'From Russia With Love!'*. It is in two languages (Russian and English) and aimed at Russians living in the UK and British people who have an interest in Russian culture. The first issue was published in May 2005 and officially launched at a lavish party in London, attended by many VIPs, including several Ambassadors. Michael and Tatiana are currently working on the second issue and are looking for sponsorship. If you would like to receive a copy of the first issue and/or you would like to support Michael and Tatiana's venture by sponsoring them (advertising your business in their magazine, for example), please contact them by email at [EditorFRWL@aol.com](mailto:EditorFRWL@aol.com) Michael has also recently started up a new business, MJ Desktop Solutions, providing a range of services, predominantly computer related. If you would like to know more, please contact him by phone on 07762 873 412 or by email at [mj.symes@ic24.net](mailto:mj.symes@ic24.net) Michael and Tatiana are living in Chessington.



**FRANK WEBB (1966)** resigned in early October from Family Health International, effective from the end of December. Frank feels that FHI is a great organization doing wonderful work. For quite some time, however, he has been thinking about doing something entirely different, and this seems like the right time in his life to try. He has lots of very different ideas, and leaving FHI will free up the time, he says, to do the research and networking needed to distinguish the realistic ideas from the fantasy. Initially, he plans to do some consulting work, to buy the time to look around. He says there is no place on earth like the USA for offering options to change your life at 58! He will be helping both non-profit and private companies with their strategic marketing and communications efforts. He has committed himself to teach some classes in public policy leadership at Duke University, and he is off to China (again!) to work with the national AIDS program information clearing house. The Duke University job will be very interesting, he thinks. It results from a contract the Chinese Government has with Duke, Stanford, Harvard and Chicago to train government officials. His class has people from 31 Chinese Government ministries. It will be especially interesting for Frank, as he worked on several management workshops in China in the mid-1980s, when western management practices were very alien and initially resisted. Now China is altogether more sophisticated, and he is looking forward to understanding how modern management practices are faring in a socialist context. Frank & Francesca do not plan to leave Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where they are currently living. He can be contacted at: [frankwebb@nc.rr.com](mailto:frankwebb@nc.rr.com)

# De Mortuis

**BRIAN LEONARD GEORGE HAWKINS (1937)** died, we understand, ten years ago, but the information below has recently been uncovered by his old school-friend, Dick Mitchell, and we think it would be of interest to readers. Brian and Dick were in the same form at School and in the 1st XV together. On the outbreak of war Brian joined the RAF and was a member of No 245 RAF, which was a Fighter Squadron flying Hurricanes. In 1941 he survived a crash-landing in France, and we reprint below a transcription of his version of events, contained in the intelligence debriefing back in Gibraltar in September 1942. *(A copy of the original is now held in the School Archives, but the quality is too poor to reproduce here.)*

"I set out from Chilbolton aerodrome at 1200 hrs on 26 Oct 41 to undertake a sortie over the Cherbourg peninsula in a single-seater Hurricane. I was hit by light flak whilst attacking a radio station near St Pierre du Mont. The plane was hit in the tail, and I was obliged to make a forced landing at 1245 hrs near Carentan. I was unable to destroy my aircraft, although I was able to detonate the TFF. I made off quickly and hid in a wood until nightfall.

"At dusk I approached an isolated farmhouse between Carentan and Périers. The farmer gave me food, civilian clothes, and shelter till daylight. The next morning (27 Oct 41) I set out in a southerly direction, keeping to by-roads during the day, obtaining food from isolated farms, and sleeping at night in barns and farmhouses. My route went through Périers – Coutances – Cerisy-la-Salle – Persy – St Sever – Domfront – La Ferté-Macé. In the latter village a man gave me clothing, a case of food to take away, a bicycle, and some bread tickets. As there were many Germans about, I continued next day to Alençon.

"Just South of Alençon I was stopped by gendarmes, and papers were asked for, but on explaining my position I was released and escorted by the gendarmes out of the village towards Le Mans. I continued alone stopping at farmhouses for food and shelter, until I arrived at Chinon, where I was taken in by a family who were looking after a large château in the neighbourhood. Here I stayed for two days, and left my bicycle. This family put me in touch with a man who had formerly helped French P/W to get into Unoccupied France. This man arranged for me to be met by someone at the station of Port de Piles. I therefore went by train from Chinon to Port-de-Piles, and was accordingly met and put into the station hotel where I remained for one day. I was then told to walk on alone to La Haye-Descartes, where a garage man was to hide me. On the way I was met by a man with a dogcart who took me to a farmhouse. I was then passed from house to house in daylight, walking across the fields, until finally a small boy directed me across the Line of Demarcation, which at this point is a small road running from La Haye-Descartes to Ligueil.

"I walked a further mile and reached a farm where I stayed for the night. On the following morning I walked to Paulmy, and thinking I was now safe because I was in Unoccupied France, I openly approached the proprietress of the main hotel in the village, declaring my identity and asked for lodging. Though at first willing to help, the woman later demanded my papers, and when the position was explained she fetched a captain of the local Army detachment, who placed me under arrest, confining me to the guardroom of the local barracks.

"The soldiers of this detachment were very friendly and, for the most part, De Gaullists. The captain, however, was anti-British. On the next day the gendarmes came and took me to Locminé where I was imprisoned in a rather unpleasant cell. The following day I was taken to St Hippolyte du Fort arriving on 13 Nov.

"In Feb 42 I fell ill at the Fort and was sent to hospital in Nîmes. At this time I established contact with an organisation by means of which I was brought back to the UK."

## Membership Matters

I should first like to address those students at the School who are nearing the end of their school career. Naturally we in the Old Tiffinians' Association wish to keep in touch with you, when you leave, whether it be for Higher Education or the commercial world. We particularly like to have any news of your academic or career achievements that we can include as items in this publication. Please keep us informed by contacting Brian Holden or myself.

All Old Boys (except for Student Members paying their much-reduced rate) whose subscriptions are FULLY PAID-UP should be receiving shortly (if not already) their copy of 'The Tiffinian'. Apologies, by the way, for the lateness of the magazine again this year, due to circumstances beyond our control. OTA stocks of the magazine will dwindle fast, so we may not be able to supply Members who leave their payments any later in the subscription year. We shall do our best. If you find an arrears notice in this mailing, please send your cheque promptly, and we shall put your copy in the post, as soon as we can do so.

For the future, remember that subscriptions become due on 1st October, and that, if you pay promptly, you can allow for a discount. Finally, when checking the players' lists of the various sports sections, I invariably find that there are address changes. Please, whoever else you tell, let **ME** know when you move house. It is always helpful, if the previous address is also quoted, as we have many Old Tiffinians on our list with similar names and initials.

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

DENNIS BARNARD



Dick Mitchell

[Ed. Dick Mitchell himself had a distinguished and varied period of war service. During the Munich crisis he joined the Territorial Army as a Sapper in the London Divisional Royal Engineers and was called up for service on 1st September 1939. Being too young to go to France with the first Expeditionary Force, he was stationed in SE England, where he spent his time building machine-gun posts, mining bridges and laying beach mines. For a while, at the time of the Dunkirk evacuation, he and two sappers were the only troops in Margate, and they had to stand guard over the demolition charges they had placed on the pier, whilst the boys from Dunkirk were coming ashore. In July 1941 he transferred to the RAF for flying duties. After learning to fly at Hatfield, where Geoffrey de Havilland was testing Mosquitoes, he was sent to Canada for further training. He returned to England in May 1942 and flew tactical reconnaissance and photographic sorties over NW Europe with No.268 Squadron, following which Dick was awarded the DFC. In March 1945 he was promoted to Squadron Leader commanding No.2 Squadron RAF, a posting he held until April 1946, when he was sent to the Rhine Army Training Centre in Germany, as an instructor in the School of Air Support, where he remained until his demobilisation in January 1947. One of his pilots on No.2 Squadron was another Old Tiffinian, **Reg Hodge (1932)**, who we understand died last year.]



Reg Hodge

We regret to announce that **JOHN F R SQUIRE (1936)**, a former Chairman (1953) and stalwart of the Association, and notably of the OT Football Club, passed away last month. We expect to include a full obituary in our next edition.

# The Ground Company

The Ground Company as a business, in trying to fulfil its original objectives, has for some time now not been a viable operation. The transformation since I first became involved in the OTA and Grists some 35 years ago has been enormous. It used to be basically a very active sports club for Old Tiffinians and run by them. All sections were not only well supported on the playing front, but their committees were strong and active, and it was basically a time of self-help. Members at the time were more than prepared to lend a hand to offer their expertise, and so the Club / Ground was able to keep its standards high. If there was a problem or issue, it could be resolved.

We are now, I accept, faced with different times. The Playing Sections are not strong, and they, along with OTA committees, find it extremely difficult to attract new members to even play, yet alone help run their sections and in turn the Association and the Ground.

Without outside lets the finances would be impossible, and even with the current levels the best we can do is to balance the books. We need to attract more lets and I have felt for some time one possibility is that we have the ideal facilities for a few Summer Corporate lets. However, the pavilion especially is in a sorry state and needs considerable money spent on it. Money is obviously one major criterion here, but the amounts required could be reduced maybe by members themselves. I'm not necessarily saying turning up with paint and brushes, as unfortunately the era of self-help is over, but maybe there is expertise out there prepared to help and assist in preparing project specifications / obtaining competitive quotations etc. Or maybe members with relevant companies or with good contacts who may be able to give us a good deal!!

I know the pressures of business today, and I am fully aware that I am now unable to put the time into the Company that I should as Chairman, but maybe there are some of you out there who are able to offer some areas of assistance, as previously mentioned.

Something perhaps closer to all the members who do play or come to the Ground is the Bar. The usage factor is currently so low it is not a viable proposition. The thought of a Sports Club like ours without a bar doesn't bear thinking of, but we cannot run it at the losses we are currently being faced with. If you are a player, please bear this in mind. I'm not suggesting / encouraging you to drink more than you should, but even soft drinks do play their part in overheads' recovery.

On a positive note I was delighted that Peter Osborne agreed at the recent AGM to return to the Board as Financial Director. He is already playing a vital role, getting on top of our finances, starting to produce some detailed forecasts and putting some new systems in place to ensure that we have greater control over our expenses.

We have outsourced the maintenance of our playing surfaces, which should help to reduce costs, and I hope those using the Ground will agree the surfaces are in pretty good shape. We try as much as possible to do more than the minimum requirement, and we have just agreed to verti-drain two of our winter pitches. Ideally we would have liked to do all, but with limited finances we have restricted ourselves at present to the two most in need. The training lights have been repaired, and, from what I can see (and advised by our Contractors), the cricket squares are looking in good shape for the coming summer.

Roof repairs, external repair / decoration, repair / replacement of the roof of the cricket viewing area, internal decoration, a complete re-fit of the kitchen and the creation of some hard-standing storage area with some containers are all items that we need to address.

This report hopefully will not totally depress you but at least show you that the Company is aware of most of the issues and is endeavouring, although struggling, to do its utmost to address them as best we can.

TONY MILLARD

# OT Rugby Club

It's been a difficult last couple of months for the OT Rugby Club. Injuries (mainly), but also holidays and work/family commitments, have had a major impact on the number of players available to play each week, especially in the forwards/front row. This has, therefore, not only affected the strength of the 1st team fielded, but several changes each week have meant a lack of consistency in how we have wanted to play. Unfortunately, and no doubt more of an issue, is the fact that the 2nd team have only been able to raise a side on non-league Saturdays (only two matches since the New Year), and even then it needs the help of some 1st team 'regulars'. It has now become even more obvious that we MUST recruit a lot more players next season, so that we can cope with such difficulties and put out two sides regularly most Saturdays.

In Surrey League One the 1st team have remained in 7th position (out of 10 teams), gaining important victories over Battersea Ironsides (21-10) and Old Emanuel (28-12). Those injuries etc., detailed above, have certainly given others (Damian Skelton, Tim Wolfenden and Tom Rice-Jones, to name but three) the opportunity to perform regularly at 1st team level, and they have certainly not let the side down in any way.

As mentioned previously, the 2nd team have only played two 'friendly' matches since the New Year, gaining victory over Hammersmith & Fulham 5ths 24-10 and going down 35-27 v Old Paulines 3rds/4ths/5ths.

ANDY GREEN  
Hon. Secretary

# Friends of Tiffin Music

Last term was packed full of musical delights – the Winter Instrumental Concert, the Choral Concert with the Tiffin Children's Chorus and the School Choir, and of course the inaugural concert of the Tiffin Youth Orchestra at Kingston Parish Church at the end of term. For those of you who are not aware of the changes, the School Orchestra has now become a Youth Orchestra under the aegis of the Performing Arts College status, and we have welcomed players of a very high standard from other schools in the area. The concert was wonderful, and I would urge you to attend the next one which will take place on **Thursday March 30th, at Kingston Parish Church**. It's a 7.30pm start, and tickets are available from the school music office or on the door. There will also be a bar, run by Friends of Tiffin Music (we know our place in life!). The programme will include a capella choral works, the 'Karelia Suite' by Sibelius and Borodin's 'Second Symphony'.

I'm afraid that you have just missed the latest Gig Night at School, where Tiffin's finest bands seemed hell-bent on making as much noise as possible and we oldies kept saying "Can't you turn it down a bit?!" Seriously, there were some very good acts, and the kids all had a great time, which is the main thing. We have also had a fantastically successful Musical Quiz Night which was a sell-out — we all had great fun, even though some of the rounds were fiendishly difficult! We plan to do another one at some stage, so polish up those LPs and 45s, not to mention the CDs, and come and join in.

Between now and the next issue of Tiffnews, there is a lot more happening! There is, of course, the concert at the KPC that I mentioned in my first paragraph, but as we go to press, Tiffin Boys' Choir and the Tiffin Children's Chorus are singing in the opening concert for the Kingston Festival of the Voice, which is taking place on Monday February 27th at Kingston Parish Church.

To keep up to date with all the concerts at school, why not take a look at the Tiffin website [www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk) Click on 'enter school site', then go to the tab marked 'the School'; open up the 'school diary' and scroll down to the upcoming events. Occasionally there are mistakes on here, so it is probably worth double-checking with the music office on 020 8546 4638, ext 133! If you would like any further information about the Friends of Tiffin Music, or would like to order more Swing Band CDs, then please email me at [miranda.fagandini@which.net](mailto:miranda.fagandini@which.net) or phone me on 020 8395 7146.

MIRANDA FAGANDINI

# Tiffin History

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives :

a) From Denis Bloodworth (former Tiffin Head of Biology) a number of useful photos, particularly of the South Building site before and during construction.

b) From Roger Adams (1956) a Band photo dated 1954 and a whole School photo taken in the summer of 1955.

c) Thanks to a non-Tiffinian well-wisher, Mr Philip Harper (no relation!), we have had sight of a book presented as a prize by Charles Grist in July of the first year of the existence of Tiffin School (1880). It was given to Henry C Duffell, who is shown as No.6 in the first Admission Register. The book is an 1862 edition of 'A Picturesque Tour of the River Thames in its Western Course' by John Fisher Murray. The leather-bound cover is embossed with a crest with the wording "Kingston on Thames: Tiffins endowed Schools".

d) We have recently obtained a copy of the original site plan (dated 1946, amended 1947) for the Dining Hall & Kitchen, which were planned to be parallel to the Queen Elizabeth Road, but were eventually constructed in 1948 at a strange angle to the road (possibly to avoid the nearby shelters). At this time the ground floor of Elmfield ceased to be used for school dinners, though the serving area (still with its hotplate surface) continued to be used for the School Tuckshop. An interesting feature of this site plan is that it shows clearly the position all the air-raid shelters (11 in all), which had not yet been removed or filled in at that time. We are surprised to note that there was one shelter between the Scout Hut and the Range. Does anyone remember that being there? So far this remains a mystery.

## THE RIFLE RANGE

Since our article on this subject in the December 'Tiffnews' we have acquired a site plan of the whole Tiffin site dated 1927, prior to the construction of the new Tiffin School. This shows clearly the Labour Exchange (later to become the Range) and numerous other features of the site. To the east of Elmfield, in the position later occupied by the Woodwork Shop / Art Room, there is marked a stable block. North of Elmfield the enclosed walled area is labelled as a Yard (to become the school cycle sheds and later still the junior playground). To the west of Elmfield lies an orchard and behind it the 'School Garden'. At the eastern end of the site, including the later wartime factory / Gym area, is a large nursery garden, apparently with direct access from the London Road. (See also the Letters page for further mention of the Range.)



**JOHN WALKER** arrived at Tiffins 50 years ago, to join Eric Griffiths, who was then Head of Music. John was the first of a succession of brilliant Choirmasters, who have brought Tiffin choral music to the present-day standard that we are all proud of. This small tribute is followed by contributions from some who remember him well.

John won a Choral Scholarship from Christ's Hospital to King's College, Cambridge, where he studied Music with Boris Ord. In 1956, on arriving at Tiffins, he immediately enriched the School's choral activities by forming choirs of all sizes. The Madrigal Choir, a small select group, began to make a reputation, both in the School at events like the Carol Service and Founders' Day Service, and outside, by recording for the BBC radio and television. The Oratorio Choir performed major works each year, and the Male Voice Group became particularly popular at many Tiffinian occasions.

The use of the Bunyan Baptist Chapel (on the site of the present-day Kaleidoscope Centre) for the morning assembly gave further opportunities for regular performances by the choir. Soon, parents and Old Boys were joining in under John Walker's baton in memorable performances of major choral works, Brahms' Requiem, the Fauré Requiem, Bach's St John Passion, and the Verdi Requiem, for all of which first-class soloists were engaged. These performances of increasingly high quality led eventually to an invitation from the Dean & Chapter of St Paul's to give a major choral work in the Cathedral. The work chosen was the 'Dream of Gerontius', and Ronald Down, fresh from his outstanding success in this role at the Festival Hall, was engaged as the principal soloist. The great Cathedral was filled by an audience in excess of two thousand, and this brave and unique Tiffinian musical venture was amply justified by a performance of high quality.

Thus new vistas of choral achievement were opened up, aided no doubt by the institution of the House Singing Competition, and systematic training of potential choral scholars was begun. Amongst these was Bruce Pullan, who, like John, became Senior Choral Scholar at King's College and was later appointed as successor, when John departed in 1965 to take charge of music at Eastbourne College. Bruce joined David Nield, newly appointed as Head of Music, and together they carried forward the great work. This fine tradition of choral excellence has been carried on by those who succeeded John and Bruce: Richard Cooke (1974–81), Neville Creed (1981–88), Roddy Williams (1988–91) and Simon Toyne (since 1991).



Neville Creed



Roddy Williams



Simon Toyne

(Further information on John Walker can be found in the Obituary sections of the 1995/96 and 1996/97 editions of the magazine.)

Dear Brian,

Having seen Roderick Williams in Leeds back in the Autumn of 2004 in Mozart's 'Casi', I was reminded again, on reading a review in the BBC Music Magazine of his solo CD, that it will be 50 years in September since John Walker's arrival at the School. Before that time the School seemed to be more involved in orchestral music (with Dennis Bloodworth conducting) and the brass band directed by George Spriggs. On the honours boards Geoff Pogson had won a choral scholarship; Nigel Palk sang in the choir at the Coronation. My own memories of choral singing up to then are pretty limited — to class singing sessions in 1C and 2A and choirs assembled for Speech Day and Founders' Day (the School Song and 'Let us now praise famous men'). I must admit, however, that I still have a photograph taken on the school stage of a choir (in my first year), with John Chilvers standing by the piano. While we were out of class for a practice Col. Asher ('Basher') told the remnant about his Gallipoli landings.

Early in 1953 Pat Magee visited the school to recruit for the All Saints' choir, and for some reason that I can still not make out, I volunteered, the only boy to do so; I found out that my father Harold had sung at St John's, Kingston. It was one of three decisions I made at about the same time as a very small and timid boy (4½ feet and 4½ stone in my first year, with a stammer): the others being to turn down pressure to take up a County scholarship at Charterhouse; and to insist on German rather than the expected Greek. All three had lasting and positive effects: a degree ten years later at Durham; and the opportunity, by staying in the area, to enjoy a minor, amateur career in singing.

Choral singing, as we now know it, did not begin until John Walker's arrival. Performances of the Brahms 'Requiem', Bach's 'St John Passion', Dvořák's 'Stabat Mater' (within the two years and a half I was still at school); a madrigal choir; and male-voice group, and then the house choir and solo competitions. We had lunch-time practices and a couple after school each week, which for me meant a hectic bike-ride along Villiers Road to pick up the family's daily order at the baker's before it closed at 5.30.

At the Church I became Head Boy (I was simply the eldest, to be followed by David Prince) and, on joining the tenors, learnt my 'trade' alongside Pat Magee, himself a choral scholar, and with the encouragement of Fergus O'Connor, the organist and choirmaster. Jim Aston and his father sang bass. This support, together with John's, led on to solos, a part in the TMDS (Roy Knight) 'Beggar's Opera' and the title part in the Church production of Mozart's 'The Impresario'. At Durham more solo work followed, with the late John Lewis (whose father ran the OT bar in Elmfield), for example, in light opera, for Anthony Payne, who went on, of course, to finish Elgar's 3rd Symphony, and for David Nield, a younger contemporary in college. Again, thanks to the start I was given at the Church, built on by John Walker, I sang for a year in Bamberg, gave solo recitals in Hampshire and in Norfolk, together with taking parts in oratorio and opera. Perhaps, at the finest level, in a small chamber choir at UEA in Norwich, which fed into the Aldeburgh Festival after auditions by Philip Ledger and Imogen Holst.

What began at 12 lasted until I was 38, when I found, on moving, that the Sheffield area could offer nothing comparable in standard or in sociability. A few weeks were enough to disappoint.

I do think that my experiences, as a non-musician, must have been repeated for many others, and that those of us who benefited from John Walker's initial impetus (well done, JJ !) should look back with intense gratitude over these 50 years.

With Best Wishes,

David Ingall (1959)

Dear Brian,

I was in the School Choir and the Madrigal Choir for a year or two, rehearsing under John Walker on many occasions. In addition, he taught Latin to my Class (2B) during 1962-63. The first indelible memory, though, is of his car: a dirty, battered Morris Minor, with a soft top, that lurched into the School car-park of a morning. It had, as I recall, permanent ventilation on one side — either because the door did not close properly, or because the window was broken or missing.

Choir rehearsals would usually be entertaining. I can see him now, sitting at the piano up on the stage in the hall of the Chapel building, smoke curling up from the rehearsal cigarette. When the Choir was failing to master some difficult passage fast enough, we might expect: "The trouble with you people is that you need your bottoms wiped for you!" This had everyone in stitches.

His scheme for class marking of Latin exercises was a bit different. You started with forty marks, and each error attracted a loss of five points. It wasn't long, of course, before those who did not shine in the subject were reduced to a negative score. The reward for that was an hour in what he called 'jankers'. Thinking back, some must have copped a detention most lessons for their inadequacies in the subject.

I regret that I only learned after his death that John Walker had been living his last days just up the road from me in the Chichester area. Had I known, I would have made the effort to renew my acquaintance with a memorable individual.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Knappitt (1964)

Dear Brian

I write with much affection for John Walker. The School Choir was good, but in a matter of twelve months after John's arrival it was transformed, in particular after an astonishing Nine Lessons and Carols in the style of King's College, Cambridge. After this event people were queuing to join.

The boys loved John Walker, as he was a great communicator, and they supported him in all his endeavours. Thursday after school was tenors and basses practice, and I shall always remember him crashing (piano was not his finest instrument) his way through whatever major oratorio we were working on, with a cigarette hanging from the corner of his mouth. There were some talented singers about at the time: Peter Jago (our first Choral Scholar, who went to St John's), Bruce Pullan (the first to King's), David Keeling and a number of others whose names I have forgotten. I also remember him singing the baritone solo in Vaughn Williams' *Songs of the Sea* at a school concert with the tenors and basses. He had the most wonderful voice and the VW was a joy to hear.

As John was an ex-King's man, and with the backing of 'JJ' and Pat Magee, Rector of Kingston Parish Church, and a King's Choral Scholar himself, the School started to provide a line of successful Choral Scholars to Oxbridge and beyond.

I myself was sent to try for Selwyn, but failed, though this has not stopped me singing. John's enthusiasm for music has always been with me, and this has led me to sing in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court and, since I moved to Salisbury, I have become a Vicar Choral in the Cathedral, and conduct my own choir here in the West Country. Amazingly, Pat Magee, now in his late eighties, is the senior Cannon at Salisbury and still reads the lessons with great spirit.

Why don't we put a John Walker concert together and get as many as possible of his singers together to perform — it would be a fine sound?

Yours,

Laurence Notley (1960)

## FUTURE PLANS

It would be a useful addition to the School Archives, if we had some details of the history of the Scout Hut from its construction to its demolition, together with any significant changes in the Scout organisation. If you are able to supply information, this might help us to produce an article in the future.

## SURPLUS COPIES OF 'THE TIFFINIAN'

The School still has numerous spare past copies of 'The Tiffinian'. If you are missing one or more from your collection, do contact me. A small donation will be requested to cover postage etc.

## PUBLISHED PHOTOS

### 'The Old Front Door'

Here, as promised, is the answer to the conundrum posed in our September 2005 edition. The title of this photo of the Old School on the Fairfield site is not our invention. It was chosen by the photographer — who was in fact our very first Headmaster, Charles Grist himself — when it was reproduced in the Summer 1934 edition of *'The Tiffinian'*. We quote his own words of explanation: "*It was the boys' front door till the girls departed to St James' Road (1899). The clematis I had planted and allowed to ramble over the roof, when we no longer used it as a front door, was with the intention of suggesting to callers that the entrance was by the door at the other end — the one the boys made use of. In flowering time it made a very pretty picture, and as passers-by frequently stopped to look at it, no doubt it was attractive. But like many pretty things, human as well as botanical, it had faults. In winter-time the dead leaves choked up the gutters and pipes, and so it had to be cut down.*"



The only reader to contact us with the correct answer was **Ralph Burrows (1927)**, one of our very senior Members. He joined Tiffins just two years after Charles Grist's retirement and remembers the entrance clearly. The then Head (Tommy Dean) used to come out of that door to address the morning assembly, held, weather permitting, in the playground, as there was no large hall in the building.

BRIAN HOLDEN

## Tiffinian Lodge

We are proceeding successfully through our 94th year, and, of course, preparations are beginning to be made to celebrate our centenary in great style, some of which were discussed at our last committee meeting in December. We have had one Lodge meeting since the last report, and this was held in January, when Richard Feltham, an Old Tiffinian who left School in 1999, was initiated into the Lodge by our Master, Geoff Brook, in a splendid ceremony, which was greatly enjoyed by all present.

We are looking forward to our next meeting, on 23rd March, which will incorporate an Open Evening, when friends and relatives of members of the Lodge, and, indeed, anyone who may be interested in freemasonry, will be invited as a guest into the temple to hear a talk and explanation of many aspects of masonry. This will be followed by a splendid dinner for all who wish to attend. Following this, at our meeting in April, Bro Richard Feltham will be passed to a higher degree in a ceremony to which we are all looking forward.

We warmly welcome our new member of the Lodge, and would love to extend such a welcome to any Old Tiffinian, any member or ex-member of staff, or any governor or past governor of the School who may be interested in becoming a freemason. Please do not hesitate to call me, the Lodge Secretary, on 020 8979 0107, if you would like any further information, or if you would like to attend our Open Evening on 23rd March.

MICHAEL BECKERMAN

# Queen Elizabeth Road News

## School Rugby

Tiffin entered the second half of the season full of hope and optimism. Despite difficult playing conditions and a hard-working Trinity side, Tiffin produced some moments of class and came away with a 20-0 victory. Reigate Grammar School was next up for the ever-improving side, and Tiffin knew that only a high level of performance would give them the win. However, a first half full of mistakes from both sides gave Tiffin a slender lead at half time. With some strong words from Mr Morris, the side came out with intent and produced a very good second half. The backs, in particular Cris Chin and Simon Keirle, proved to be a threat throughout the game, and this led to a comprehensive 27-0 victory.

After these two victories, Tiffin faced Esher College in the second round of the Daily Mail Vase. Our performance, in which forwards and backs combined, proved to be too much for Esher. Ultimately, a 50-0 score line reflected the one-sided nature of the game. With confidence high, Tiffin now encountered one of their hardest games. The match against St. Paul's proved to be one of the most exciting of the season. Despite a poor start, in which Tiffin gave away two early tries, the side fought back with tries from Keirle and Joe Hughes. A Chin penalty put the side ahead with five minutes to play. However, some strange refereeing decisions put Tiffin on the back foot, and pressure from the St. Paul's pack resulted in a try. A 20-16 defeat was not deserved and it was a disappointing way to finish the term.

After Christmas, Tiffin faced the Old Boys' side. A good start from the boys saw Jonny Rowling go over for two tries. However, the quick flowing rugby by the Old Boys led to part-time coach Kapilan Balasubramaniam scoring just before half-time. A scratchy second half prevented both sides from playing well, but the School side held out for a 19-14 win.

With the prestigious RGS High Wycombe team waiting, Tiffin knew an increase in performance was essential. The boys produced a great first-half and took a surprising 20-5 lead at half time through the forwards' dominance at the line-out. However, Tiffin lacked composure and missed some crucial tackles and succumbed to an extremely disappointing 24-20 loss.

Despite the loss against RGS, Tiffin faced Christ's Hospital in the third round of the Vase. The side played consistently well throughout this match and came away with a conclusive 29-5 victory. The following Saturday, Tiffin came up against Wimbledon College, but complacency crept into the side's performance and we went down 21-15. The side then faced a huge Sussex Downs College team, but produced the best defensive effort all year. Through the boot of Chin, Tiffin were able to make Sussex pay for their indiscretions, and a man-of-the-match performance by Sam Grayer helped Tiffin to a well-deserved 17-5 victory.

Following this impressive win, Tiffin faced Portsmouth Grammar, who had beaten the 1st XV last year. Portsmouth applied most pressure in the first half, but, following good tackling in the forwards, Tiffin opened the scoring. For the rest of the game, Tiffin played extremely well and won easily 39-7. This raised intensity and cutting edge was particularly pleasing, as the side now travelled away to face the unknown London Leisure College in the 5th round of the Vase. Once again, Tiffin were up against a bigger side, and it was the home side who took the early lead with a penalty. A further try and conversion gave London Leisure a 10-0 lead. With half time approaching, Chin stroked over a penalty to give Tiffin hope. Throughout the second half Tiffin had most of the possession, but couldn't penetrate London's well-organised defence, and we eventually went down 17-3.

The loss to London Leisure College was extremely disappointing, but the boys wanted to finish the season on a high against local rivals Hampton. The side, with the Upper Sixth boys playing their last game, was highly motivated and produced their best game of the season. The forwards, in particular the front row, dominated their opponents, and this gave the backs room to weave their magic. A hat-trick from Simon Keirle and a late score for Stephen Hollinshead gave Tiffin a hugely impressive 27-0 victory.

The overall record for the season was Played 25 Won 17 Lost 8. Thanks must go to all the players in both the 1st and 2nd team squads, and to Mr

Morris and Mr Madigan for their tremendous effort and making this season such an enjoyable one.

### Tiffin Playing Record:

Trinity	20 - 0 W	Wimbledon College	15 - 21 L
Reigate	27 - 0 W	Sussex Downs Coll	17 - 5 W - CUP
Esher College	50 - 0 W - CUP	Portsmouth Gram	39 - 7 W
St. Paul's	16 - 20 L	John Fisher	Cancelled
Old Boys	19 - 14 W	London Leisure Coll	3 - 17 L - CUP
RGS High Wycombe	24 - 20 L	Hampton	27 - 0 W
Christ's Hospital	29 - 5 W - CUP		

JON ROWLING

## School Athletics

### Indoor Athletics (Year 7)

Thirty boys competed in the North of the Borough Championships for indoor sports hall athletics. All three matches took place at Tiffin School and featured teams from Hollyfield, Beverley, Coombe and Tiffin Girls' School. Events included sprinting, javelin, shot put, speed bounce, standing long jump and relays, to name a few.

Tiffin Yellow and Tiffin Green teams gained first and second place respectively over the three matches, owing to outstanding work from all team members. Tiffin Yellow Captain Thomas Latimer performed well in the speed bounce and Richard Clarke in the shot put. This was complemented by an outstanding performance from Edmund Figueiredo in the standing long jump and Tiffin Green Captain Callum Fraser in the sprint relays. Strong contributions also came from Kirk Willicombe and Gana Nwana throughout all three competitions. This dominance and team spirit has propelled Tiffin School into the Borough Championships in only their first year of competition. Tiffin School will be competing alongside Tiffin Girls' School and competing against teams from Tolworth School, Southborough School, Hollyfield School and championship hosts Chessington Community College. The winning school will progress to the semi-finals at Brunel University.

### Indoor Athletics (Year 8/9)

Tiffin featured a strong Year 8/9 team that is determined to win and go through to the semi-finals of the sports hall athletics championships in their first year of competition. In match one, pupils from Year 7 stepped forward to compete for the vacant Year 8 team who were competing in Rugby fixtures. Quick running from Year 8 Captain Adedeji Oyefeso, Daniel Ashenafi and Danoush Mohajeri helped keep Tiffin in contention going into the field events. Great determination and leadership from the Year 9 team helped spur on the Year 7s to achieve a Tiffin School 3rd place in a league featuring Wimbledon College, Hollyfield School and Ashburton College.

With the team at full strength for match two, superb performances from Peter Bray and reserve Jae-Won Jang gave Tiffin the confidence they needed before the start of the field events. Excellent throwing from Year 9 captain Jay Yasin in the shot put, plus controlled sprinting from Gurvir Grewal, Thomas Edwards and Richard Smeaton in the relays, helped the Year 8/9 team secure their first win over Wimbledon College away from home.

Match three was held at Tiffin School, and the Year 8 team put on an amazing display of teamwork. Debutant Erik Tate jumped superbly in the standing long jump, and the explosive Joe Cooper ran very quickly to help Tiffin gain an early lead going into the field events competition. Superb work in the vertical jump and javelin by Peter Bray, Matthew Cragg and Nicholas Matthews helped push Tiffin School up the leader board. Regular support from Year 9 athletes Jeremy Griffith and Henry Latham helped Tiffin secure their second win and tie the overall score at 26 points each with Wimbledon College. The winner of the final match will go through to the semi-finals at Brunel University.

All boys are to be commended for their efforts at the Sports Hall athletics competitions. The boys are now looking forward to potential indoor semi-finals and the outdoor season which starts in May.

WAYNE MARTIN



## School Chess

The team is having its best season for many years, and I hope I haven't cursed it by writing this sentence. With recent wins against Wilson's and Hampton, we are in a strong position in the Surrey League, and a win against St Paul's will see us in an unassailable lead.

We have already beaten St Paul's once this season, knocking them out of the National Schools Competition — and they won it last year! We followed that success by having to play Haberdasher's Aske's Prep School, a fixture made far more difficult by the necessity to win the fixture by 4\_ clear points as a result of the age handicap. An early scare — with Haberdasher's coaching evidenced by an opening trap that claimed the scalp of our board 4 — added unnecessary drama to the evening, which remained very tense until the last minute of the last game. We won 5–1 after a very cool display of composure under pressure. We now face Haberdasher's first team in the Zone Final of this competition.

MALCOLM DANCY

## School Boat Club

The year 2006 started in earnest, with the training programme including a trip to the London Docklands indoor regatta centre in preparation for the first race against Kingston Grammar School. This was the third year this has taken place in what is now an annual event and was also the first racing experience the J14 rowers had after spending a long winter of predominantly training. Having been comprehensively beaten in 2004, Tiffin's Year 9 rowers were able to turn the tables and return a devastating blow to Kingston Grammar School. Over 2500m Tiffin's crews demolished KGS by significant margins in all boat categories, as you can see from the results below.

BOAT	SCHOOL	TIME (mins)
8x+	Tiffin School A	8:39
8x+	Tiffin School B	8:47
8x+	Kingston Grammar School A	9:25
8x+	Kingston Grammar School B	9:23
4x+	Tiffin School A	10:03
4x+	Kingston Grammar School A	12:25

The pressure was now on to prove whether Kingston Grammar were slower this year or whether Tiffin School's J14s were fast. **Hampton Fours and Eights Head** provided the ideal opportunity. Tiffin fielded two eights, coxed by **Alex Barley** and **David Sheridan**, who spurred on the determination of the crews with great enthusiasm. Both octos steamed down the course, with the faster octo achieving fourth place out of fourteen, six seconds behind KCS Wimbledon and beating the likes of Latymer's, Westminster's and Hampton's A crews. Tiffin's B crew, hampered by some illnesses and last minute changes, came 12th. Tiffin's Year 9 squad were clearly competitive against some of the biggest names in rowing.

For the remainder of Tiffin's Boat Club, **Hampton Fours and Eights Head** was the first race of 2006; a chance to see if all the hours of training over the Winter months before Christmas had paid off. Tiffin's Year 10 J15 rowers forged down the course in a determined manner, though not quite in the style they had shown in their previous outing. Nevertheless, they achieved 10th place out of 22 competitors, two seconds behind King's College Wimbledon's eight and equalling Shiplake's J15 A eight.

Despite recent injury, the Year 11 J16 coxed four put on a spirited and very technical performance but lacked the full return of fitness to beat other crews in their category.

This year Tiffin raced two quads from the Sixth Form. The B quad, with last minute changes due to illnesses, raced down the course and came 6th, beating the American School. The A quad put on a solid performance, though a little short of what they had been showing in training, to come 3rd, 12 seconds behind the winners, Windsor Boys, and 6 seconds behind Walton.

Crew of the day however went to Tiffin's J16 eight who annihilated their opposition. With St George's eight ahead and Kingston Grammar's eight behind, Tiffin's eight of **Day Moran, Mark Nixon, Mathew Stevens, Kelvin Wong, Komsan Duke, Nick Edwards, Sam Hawkins & Freddie Seimers** attacked the course, spurred on by the excellent coxing of **Matthew Brice**. By the last 500m Tiffin had made up the 3 length gap between them and St George's and then proceeded to steam past them to win Junior 16 eights. Instead of the usual time differences of a few seconds, Tiffin's J16 eight beat St. George's by 26 seconds and Kingston Grammar by 30. Indeed, Tiffin's J16 eight were the 9th fastest eight of the day beating 41 other eights and 9 other school first eight crews made up of 6th form rowers, including the likes of Westminster, St George's, Kingston Grammar and Dulwich.

BOAT		TIME	OVERALL	Place	Total entries
MJ16 8o	Tiffin	09:03.2	11	1	3
MSch/J 4x	Tiffin A	09:06.5	13	3	7
MSch/J 4x	Tiffin B	09:51.8	45	6	7
MJ15 8o	Tiffin	10:01.3	52=	10=	22
MJ14 8x	Tiffin A	10:38.0	80	4	14
MJ14 8x	Tiffin B	12:34.7	164	17	17
MJ16 4+	Tiffin	11:20.5	127	6	6

For the second weekend in a row Tiffin's crews raced, this time at **Henley Eights and Fours Head of the River**. It was time to see how Tiffin's J16 eight would fair against the heavyweights in the premiership of rowing. It was by no means going to be easy, as the competition was Eton, St Paul's, Abingdon and Westminster. However, with a race plan prepared, the crew stormed off the start with intent — so much so that within 500 metres of the 3000 metre course Tiffin demolished and over took Westminster in front. They completed the course in style, maintaining speed and determination. Was this enough, though, against the big public schools? In fact Tiffin beat St Paul's and Eton's A boats by 5 seconds and Abingdon's by 14 seconds. Eton's B eight trailed 34 seconds behind and Westminster's, 2 minutes and 11 seconds. Reliable sources have confirmed that Eton's crew were taken aback by this new force in the eights category. This is no mean achievement, and is a reflection of all the hard work Tiffin's J16 rowers are putting into their training. They now prepare for the National Schools Head of the River.

### J16 Eight results: Henley Fours and Eights HOR

SCHOOL	TIME	SCHOOL	TIME
TIFFIN	11:12	ETON A	11:17
ST PAULS	11:17	ABINGDON	11:26
ETON B	11:46	WESTMINSTER	12:23

Meanwhile the two senior quads, still subject to changes owing to further illnesses, came 3rd and 6th.

The J14 quad scullers, however, created further successes for Tiffin by comprehensively beating the opposition from Westminster and Pangbourne, to come first and second.

At the time of writing this all crews are preparing for the National Schools Head races which this year are divided into two events; sculling taking place over the Regatta course at Henley and sweep over the traditional course on the Tideway. With other events such as Kingston Head, Men's Eights Head and Teddington Sculls, the second Spring half term will be busy and, hopefully, as successful as the first. In anticipation of the Regatta season which follows after the Easter holidays Tiffin's Boat Club will be conducting its training camp in the second week of the holidays but this time on the international lake at Banyoles, Spain.

With the results that are already being produced and professional training camps, Tiffin continues to climb up the rankings both in its professionalism and as a consistent force to be reckoned with. Hopefully I shall be able to report on further successes in the next issue.

Tiffin Boat Club's 2005 Festive Extravaganza in December involved the usual racing and refreshments, with teams of Christmas Turkeys versus the Christmas Puddings. Turkeys claimed victory, to add their name to the painted blade prize. The day, however, was made more special and memorable by the naming of the new eight **'Tony Gibbs'**. Colin Gibbs, brother to the late Tony Gibbs, very kindly travelled to the boathouse to name the boat on behalf of Diana Gibbs, who had made a very generous donation in memory of Tony, who was a keen member of the Tiffin Boat Club while at Tiffin School. The photo below shows Chris Grimble (Head of Rowing), John King (Assistant Head) & Colin Gibbs (doing the honours).

CHRIS GRIMBLE





*'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Royal Opera House*

## School Music

A remarkably busy and successful Autumn Term, which saw over 350 students and adults in the Oratorio choir performing *'Messiah'*, the Boys' Choir excelling at the Royal Opera House and Radio 3 in *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'* ("the excellent Tiffin Boys' Choir" – *The Times and Evening Standard*; "the Tiffin Boys' Choir sang fabulously" – *Independent*; "Hats off to the Tiffin Boys' Choir" – *Mail on Sunday*), superb music-making in *'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers'*, and the triumphant first concert of the newly-formed Tiffin Youth Orchestra at the end of term, is followed by an equally exciting Spring Term!

Competitions for Woodwind and Brass players, adjudicated by Margaret Archibald and Mark Nightingale respectively, have already taken place this term, only leaving the Strings Competition, which will be on **Monday 27th March**, at 7 pm in the Judge Lecture Theatre. Admission is free, and it's always a great learning occasion – the adjudicator's comments are worth hearing, regardless of whether you play that particular instrument!

We are passionate about giving every boy in the School the opportunity to make music at the highest level, and recent fund-raising from the Friends of Tiffin Music is enabling us to purchase some more amps and guitars for bands to use. We held a packed Gig Night in February, which featured 13 bands, all with mature performing skills. The atmosphere was very special, with boys and girls mixing with parents and staff, and spectacular lighting and staging transforming the Hall into a believable 'club' environment. Two similar events are planned for May and June this year.

**Monday 27th February** saw the launch of Kingston Festival of the Voice. This took place in Kingston Parish Church and saw the premiere of a piece that we have commissioned from Old Tiffinian Antony Pitts, called *'A Still, Small Voice'*. It is a superb piece, written for Children's Chorus and Boys' Choir, Kingston Parish Church Choir, solo baritone, piano, organ and tuned percussion, and five primary school choirs (Fern Hill, Latchmere, The Mount, St Luke's and St Paul's). Tickets were sold out well before the day. (See also ANTONY PITTS in the *People* section.)

Riverside Opera, Tiffin's resident opera company, will be performing Verdi's *'Nabucco'* at Richmond Theatre from **Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th March**. Tickets are available only from Richmond Theatre Box Office (020 8940 0088), but do get them in advance: tickets sales at the moment are very fast, and the stalls and circle in particular tend to sell out before the day of the show. Directed by Rob Kearley, this is an innovative, challenging and exciting production featuring excellent professional singers and the Riverside Opera Chorus (in which are many members of staff, parents and students). Also watch out for six prefects as Babylonian heavies! The orchestra has professional principal players and members of the Tiffin Youth Orchestra, and I am conducting the opera. It should be a great night out.

The term's Instrumental Concert is on **Thursday 23rd March** at 7.30 pm in the School Hall, and features all the school's instrumental ensembles, plus solo and ensemble items. It's always astounding to see quite how many boys are involved in these ensembles, from Second Orchestra to Swing Band, and the level at which they all perform. This is always a good occasion.

On **Sunday 26th March** at 6.30 pm in Kingston Parish Church, the choir will perform a sequence of music and readings appropriate for Refreshment Sunday, to include Stanford's *'Magnificat'* for Double Choir, Holst's *'Nunc Dimittis'*, *'Laudibus in Sanctis'* (Byrd), Tippett Spirituals and much more

besides. The choir has been invited to perform at the Spoleto Festival in July, and much of the music at this service and on other occasions is a preparation for this exciting venture.

If you missed the Tiffin Youth Orchestra's inaugural concert in December, you really must come to hear them on **Thursday 30th March** at 7.30 pm in Kingston Parish Church. Drawing members from both Tiffin schools and beyond (anyone Grade 6 or above can audition for the orchestra), including boys and girls from St Paul's Boys School and Lady Eleanor Holles, Simon Ferris has created a highly promising ensemble sound. Their programme of Borodin's Second Symphony, Sibelius's *'Karelia'* Suite, Qiming Liu playing Mozart's Clarinet Concerto and a new piece specially composed for the orchestra by Tiffin Girls' School Director of Music Paul Mitchell, this is not to be missed. Tickets are £5 (students £1). Finally, the term concludes with the School Concert, on **Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th April**. All boys in Year 7 (spread out between the three nights), plus the Boys' Choir, will be performing in this, singing Colin Warnock's jazz cantata *'The Pied Piper'*, as well as the Swing Band and Youth Orchestra.

Coming up in the Summer Term are the performances of Britten's *'Rejoice in the Lamb'* with our boys and the Royal Ballet School on **Friday 5th May**, and the House Singing Competition on **Thursday 18th May**, followed immediately by another Gig Night on **Friday 19th May**. Put these dates in your diary!

Tickets for all of these events can be obtained by calling 020 8546 4638 ext 133 or emailing [awhite@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:awhite@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk)

SIMON TOYNE

## School Basketball

After a great start to the 2005 season, where Tiffin under-15 basketball team made the quarter-finals of the Surrey Cup, Tiffin under-16s continued to impress. The under-16s team has developed in skill and strength in the space of 18 months through captain Nomso Nwamadi, and has led to the Year 11 team winning their last four matches. Regular pre-school and lunch-time training sessions have helped the team grow strong in defence and attack, and possibly have gained them a place in the Surrey League play-offs, after beating Wimbledon College, Claremont, Heathside and Salesians School. MVPs (Most Valuable Players) include Nomso Nwamadi, Joseph Kim, Kulraj Panesar, Johnny Welch, Richard Hunt, Ben Gooding and Vincent Allibone.

The under-19 team, under skipper Matthew Biggs, has also progressed well, with a win over Carshalton and a narrow one point defeat by Richard Challoner School. The Year 7 team gained third place in a recent basketball tournament at Carshalton School, with impressive plays by Thomas Latimer, Harshan Karunakaran, Akil Patel and James Richardson. The Year 7 boys showed a taste of what Tiffin can achieve as a team next season, when they enter the League. The Year 8 team have played five games this season and have also grown in strength and skill through captain Pravin Selvaduri and Ilavinthan Gnaneswaran. The Year 10 team have also shown promise of future Cup success through skipper Vincent Allibone.

Overall Tiffin has had a great basketball season this year. They truly deserve the games they have won through their dedication and commitment since September.

WAYNE MARTIN

## School Cross Country

The School came second in the U20 Surrey AA Championships, with a team of Alex Thomas, Alex Bryson, Paarthiban Sriranjani, Bavan Sasikandarajah, Peter Zhao and Alex Gandy. The above team minus the first two Alexs and with addition of Tim Sagar, Jack Davies & James Ayres were 20th in the UK at the Knowl run in Sevenoaks. The relay team travelled to Coventry for the UK Six Man Championships. The team of Alex Gandy, Nick Edwards, Sean Renfer, Tim Sagar, Ralph Street and Jack Davies was placed 18th — a great team performance.

The U15 team won bronze in the Surrey AA Champs with Ralph Street, Jonathan Darby, Patrick Tebble, Jonny Miller, Henry Heath, Ciaran Costello, Ashley Henderson, Jonathan Raimondo and Greg Moore.

ROBIN SHAW