



Newsletter of the Old Tiffinians' Association No. 231 March 2007

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From the Head's Study

Dear Friends,

This letter will be shorter than usual, as this comes at a very busy time.

We are currently engaged in conducting our Annual Survey. Last year's survey was a great success and gave the School an invaluable insight into what we were doing well and what could be improved. This year's survey will be particularly important, as we are gathering views, thoughts and comments on some of the changes recently introduced. Once the surveys are returned to the School, they are then submitted to an independent analyst.

The Spring Term has begun brightly. Our Upper Sixth have broken a school record, holding 24 offers from



Oxbridge colleges and several offers from non-Oxbridge medical schools. Russell Group universities are also very well represented, and I should like to congratulate students, Staff and parents on this fantastic achievement.

We have been gaining great support for our Healthy Eating initiative. As part of this we have introduced a new water dispenser in the canteen, and we plan to place more units around the School. We have also launched a huge drive to raise awareness about our environment and recycling through becoming part of the Eco-School programme.

I look forward to seeing some of you at forthcoming events mentioned in this newsletter and those detailed on the School's website.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Heslop

OTA Skiff Marathon

The 94th Skiff Marathon will take place on
Sunday 20th 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.

GRISTS: THE FUTURE

A PRESENTATION BY THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE OTA
HOWARD MALLINSON

DEAN PAVILION: 7.30 PM, MONDAY
26 MARCH, 2007

ALL OTA MEMBERS WELCOME

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 22nd March

- Lodge Open Evening

Monday 26th March

- Chairman's presentation to Members re the Future of Grist's (7.30pm Dean Pavilion)

Thursday 29th March

- OTA Social Lunch

Friday 30th March

- OT Golf & AGM at Surbiton
Spring Term ends

Tuesday 17th April

- Summer Term begins

Thursday 19th April

- Woodwind & Brass Competition

24th - 26th April

- School Concert

Saturday 28th April

- Tiffin Old Girls' Reunion Lunch

Thursday 3rd May

- OT Golf at Tyrrells Wood

Saturday 12th May

- Oxbridge Student Dinner (Exeter College)

Wednesday 16th May

- House Singing Final

Sunday 20th May

- OT Skiff Marathon

Monday 28th May

- School Half Term week

Friday 22nd June

- OT Golf at The Drift

Thursday 28th June

- Choir Concert (Parish Church)

Thursday 5th July

- OTA Social Lunch

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

Chairman

Dear Old Tiffinian,

Recently your Vice-Chairman, Ravi Kamineni, and I met informally over a few beers the Chairmen of the Old Kingstonian and Old Hamptonians' Associations. Our purpose was to exchange experiences and problems in our respective associations in an informal setting: the occasion was both enjoyable and illuminating; it is something we intend to repeat. All three associations have the same ethos, raison d'être and objectives, and face similar difficulties. I was surprised, however, by some of our differences, rather than by our similarities. Although our own Association has its own difficulties, there is an aspect of which we should take note with some pride: from a financial point of view, the OTA survives entirely by the efforts of its members and has no subvention or free resource from our School. We survive, because our members want it that way: we have over seven hundred members by whose subscriptions (and the efforts of previous generations) this survival is possible. In contrast both of our fellow associations benefit from automatic recruitment of school leavers, whose subscriptions are funded out of the fees their parents have paid for their attendance at their schools.



The OHA benefits greatly from its strong rugby club, whose enthusiasm infects the whole association. The OHA and its School benefit also from the fact that all the estate and other resources are on one site, which means that the Old Boy activities are always physically connected with their School: this benefit is something to which we can only aspire in relation to our resources at Grist's.

The OKA, unlike either the OTA or OHA, is different, not just because the School is dual sex, but also because it does not concern itself with sport. They have no sports playing sections, their hockey and cricket functions being run independently, rather like our own (and their) golf society. OKA takes positive steps to engage with its School by funding travel bursaries for its students - an interesting and active way of achieving recognition from students. The OKA also seems to be leading in their approach to an alumni database - an activity in which their School's resources are actively used. If our own development of this activity is still not honed, there is one thing which the OTA has which the others don't - something we would not have, if a particular generation of Old Tiffinians had not bent their backs - 25 acres of freehold land in East Molesey.

This leads me to my usual theme of Grist's. We had a bolt from the blue in December, when evidently a member of the public complained to Elmbridge Borough Council about the use of a small parcel of our land as storage for a landscape business. Enquiry revealed that this use had been going on since 1998 and that it provided a monthly income, which in our circumstances we are pleased to have. We had never applied for planning permission for this change of use, so we are rectifying the situation by making an application now, the costs of which will be met by the tenant. The progress of the application (EBC reference 2007/0186) can be monitored on-line by going to the Elmbridge Borough Council website.

Much more significantly, we are applying for planning permission to remove the conditions on occupancy of our two houses at Grist's. Now that we no longer have a groundsman in direct employment, and the use of the Dean Pavilion is much reduced, the conditions, which are somewhat onerous, are no longer appropriate. The reference for this application is: 2007/0212.

I will be making a presentation on Monday 26th March to the Council of the OTA on the subject of Grist's; I will give my analysis of the issues; options for the future and where we are with current discussions. The Council meeting will be open and all office holders and members are invited to attend, to ask questions and put their points of view.

Finally, may I remind you that the Skiff Marathon will be held on 20th May; please put the date in your diary and come along.

Yours in fellowship,

HOWARD MALLINSON

Letters

Brian,

As you know, I have been working my way through the list of Tiffinians on the Friends Reunited website and writing to those who do not appear on the OTA Mailing List. Among the responses I have received is one from Michael Ward (1971), currently living in America. He is the son of Reg Ward (1931) and has provided interesting information about his father and his two brothers, Arthur (1933) and Dick (1927), which I am sure would interest their surviving contemporaries.

He says of Arthur that his Uncle was a colourful character, and certainly a drinker. His account of being sunk on the Lancastria is both dramatic and humorous, and a copy of it is in the Imperial War Museum. He had a different perspective on the world. When the Lancastria was sinking, he managed to get to the main deck, but realised no-one had told him how to jump off a ship, or when to do it. So he took off his clothes and sat smoking his pipe and awaited instructions. Something slid across the deck, as it heaved over, and knocked him in, so I suppose he let fate decide. He had spotted a French trawler and, clinging to something that floated, he kicked out for it. On the way he met an officer who was trying to keep a man from drowning. He gave them his 'float', swam the rest of the way and was transferred to a British destroyer. He stated afterwards that his only concern during the whole affair was that, if the destroyer had then got hit and it all happened again, he didn't think he had the strength left to make the swim a second time !

Michael says their older brother Dick (or 'Trib' as he was known) also went to Tiffins, and they used to walk in from Lime Grove in New Malden. He used to write letters to the brothers in India, passing on harmless but illegal war news, just to see if the censors were doing their job. He wrote Michael's father a letter which, when the first letters of each word were taken and then reversed, said 'French destroyer sunk in the channel last night' - but in French. He was the real brains of the outfit. Anyway Dick related some things that Arthur got up to in India, dragging Michael's Dad along for the ride, which included, it seems, getting a horse stuck in the interior doorway of a house of ill-repute.

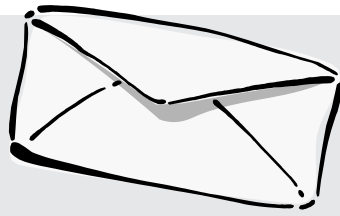
Michael has sent me a DVD copy of an 8mm cine film of a rugby tour, which shows his father scoring a try from about 60 yards out. The film is of a surprisingly good quality, and so we have identified EG (Ernie) Baker, SG (George) Dobby, Ray Hewitt-Taylor, Wyn Hughes, Tom Jukes, WA (Bill) Mahoney, Arthur Ward and Reg Ward. Michael is uncertain as to the date of the film. It could have been shot in the period 1935-1939. Both Reg and Arthur were in Burma by 1940 and did not return to the UK until 1946. If the film is post-war, then it would have been made between 1946 and 1953, when Reg stopped playing at age 39.

The original film was meant to be returned to the camera man, who Michael thinks was either a Steeper or a Field and who he thinks lived in the Isle of Man. It became mislaid in a house move and only recently resurfaced. If anyone knows of or has contact with the Isle of Man descendants, Michael would dearly love to return the film.

We plan to show the film clip at forthcoming social functions to see if we can identify the other members of the touring party. Also, I now have a copy of the film clip on my computer, and, if anyone is interested in having a copy of it, I would be only too pleased to let them have one.

Yours,

John Wright (1963)



Dear Brian,

Len Speller (plus wife Lesley) and I flew off to Australia just before Christmas, to lend our support to the cricketers, as they attempted to avoid a whitewash in the Ashes. Travelling via a stopover at Singapore, we sensed a disaster, as our arrival in Melbourne at the unearthly hour of 6am on Christmas morning was greeted by the coldest Christmas Day ever recorded !! England's performance at the MCG was highlighted by Warney's dismissal of Strauss to claim his 700th Test wicket so, after some extra sightseeing days to replace the cricket, it was off to Sydney on New Years Eve.

OT Peter Moore, now retired from the world of banking and living in Sydney, entertained us over New Year before we headed off to the SCG for the Fifth and final Test where the highlight again fell to the Aussies with the final Test appearances of Warne, McGrath and Langer. Not even the attendance of three Old Tiffs could inspire England, who slumped to defeat and left more time for sightseeing ! At least this photo taken at the SCG shows some smiling faces !!

Yours sincerely

Mike Taylor (1964)



Mike Taylor, Len Speller and Peter Moore

Additional letters, relating to scouting, are to be found on the Tiffin History pages.

Editor

We have recently updated the lists we keep of Tiffinians (including some non-Members) living abroad. Those in Europe have received an up-dated version by email, where possible. Others concerned will find a copy enclosed with this newsletter. All paid-up UK Members travelling to foreign parts are invited to request a copy of the latest list covering the area in question.

Do check the School website www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk from time to time for the latest news from the Tiffin front. To the OTA link from that site has recently been added a listing of all obituaries published since 1980 (both Staff and former pupils). By contacting me, Association Members can request a copy of any obituary that particularly interests them and which they may have missed.

Lastly, a plea to contributors who have bought themselves a shiny new computer, BUT, alas, equipped these days with Microsoft Works, instead of Microsoft Office. Please save any document as a WORD document before emailing it to me, otherwise I cannot read it !

BRIAN HOLDEN

OT Golf Society

We could hardly have wished for a better start to 2007. Our New Year meeting at West Byfleet on 3rd January attracted no fewer than 33 members and guests, and we were blessed with some reasonable weather (considering the time of year). Happily, because of the school holidays our numbers were boosted, as several Tiffin staff were able to join us, and they always seem to add something to our events (but I am not quite sure what!). The only problem with having a meeting so early in the year is that those of us who made resolutions not to swear on the golf course got an early test of our resolve - with predictable results, but I persevere.

At this meeting the rules for the Winter Cup are based on play with two clubs and a putter, so John Edney's winning score of 36 points was a praiseworthy effort. Second prize went to Steve Cathcart and third to Tim Whittaker, who also succeeded with the longest drive. The best front nine holes was by Cup-holder David Baron, so at the half-way hut he must have fancied his chances of retaining the trophy, and then Dillwyn Rosser won the prize for the second nine.

I have been informed by Old Surbitonians (who are the match hosts this year) that the date for our meeting with them at The Drift GC has been changed to Friday 22nd June. I hope that very few (if any) of our members will be upset by the change - obviously I am sorry if anyone is adversely affected.

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

Friday 30th March at Surbiton followed by the AGM

Thursday 3rd May at Tyrrells Wood against Old Kingstonians

Friday 22nd June at The Drift against Old Surbitonians

For further information, I can be contacted on 01372 274441 or at alan.daunt@lineone.net.

ALAN (GUS) DAUNT

Tiffinian Lodge

We are still proceeding successfully through our 95th year as a School Lodge, and we continue to look forward to our centenary year, which we shall celebrate with all due ceremony and in great style. Of course, we are in the meantime enjoying our masonry enormously. At our last meeting, in January, the only one we have had since the last edition of this publication, Richard Feltham was raised to the third degree, and is now a Master Mason. It was a splendid ceremony, conducted with great skill by David Jagger, our present Master.

On **March 22nd** we shall be having 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, the last of the Masonic Year, we shall be initiating a new member of the Lodge. This will be a very special evening, as are all initiations, and one to which we look forward greatly, as we really value new members, and we always look forward to welcoming yet more.

We are now looking forward to a further successful year of interest and pleasure, and would urge any Old Tiffinian, any member or ex-member of Staff or any governor or past governor of the School who may have an interest in masonry to contact me, the Lodge Secretary, on 020 8979 0107, or at mikebeckerman@talktalk.net, when I shall be happy to answer any questions and give further information.

MICHAEL BECKERMAN

Old Tiffinian Social Lunch

Our forty-ninth Lunch was held on Thursday 7th December at our usual venue, viz. the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Road., Tolworth, Surrey - meeting at 12.30, for lunch at 1.00, departure usually at 3pm.

The 24 present were :-

Alan Bain, Dennis Barnard, David Chaffey, David Evans, Graham Fitchett, Jack Foster, Dave French, Brian Gosling, Brian Holden, Chris Hunt, Ken Jenkins, Ted Key, John King, Greer Kirkwood, Howard Mallinson, Gordon Mylchreest, Bob Neville, Terry Noble, Chris Shires, Stan Slinger, Ron Truin, Colin Waterfield, Howard Watson & John Wright.

Our Christmas Lunch was splendidly supported, with five new members; in particular Terry Noble, who contacted John Wright through Friends Reunited on the Web. While 24 is a record, two others turned round on their way owing to an M25 blockage. An excellent lunch, with only a few having the turkey, was enjoyed by all.

The Spring date will be **Thursday 29th March**. The Summer date is **Thursday 5th July**, which clashes with Henley.

All are welcome, and, if you wish to attend and bring guests, please let me know on 01483-850705.

GREER KIRKWOOD

OT Rugby Club

It is with great regret that I have to report that the Rugby Club is currently going through some very difficult times. Despite our current 8th position (out of 11 teams) in Surrey League One, with 6 wins and 7 defeats from 13 matches played to date, and hopefully with enough points in the bag to retain our place in Surrey League One for next season, it doesn't truly highlight the difficulties faced this season throughout the whole Club, in particular since mid-December. There is no doubt that if we were able to put out our strongest team in every Surrey League One fixture, then we would be right near the top, pushing for promotion. However, in the real world, when you take into account the usual problems of injuries, work commitments, holidays, retirements etc., we just don't have the quality - and more recently the quantity - of back-up players required to be able to compete with most of the top teams at this level, or even take part in a league where 18-20 games in a season have to be played. Most of the players in the team change from game to game; thus the problem of a different team playing each week is not likely to help team morale or the way we would like to play. That said, we are incredibly grateful to those guys who continue to make themselves available and played for the 1st team and have given so much effort in those games. It is extremely important that we try to put out as strong a team as we can for our remaining league fixtures, so that we can at least approach those games with a certain amount of belief and actually enjoy taking part in them, rather than it becoming such an ordeal. For next season, it only highlights the importance of major recruitment over the summer months (both in quantity and quality) and also trying to give more Tiffin School leavers the opportunity to play some rugby for the Club - I know that initial work in this latter area has begun, but we still need to do more. For the record, our results in Surrey League One to date are as follows:

v London Exiles	(Away)	Won 12-5
v Croydon	(Home)	Lost 6-66
v Old Alleynians	(Away)	Won 21-18
v Law Society	(Home)	Won 20-12
v Battersea Ironsides	(Away)	Won 44-17
v Kingston	(Away)	Lost 0-55
v Old Wellingtonians	(Away)	Lost 8-20
v Cranleigh	(Home)	Won 9-7
v Old Emanuel	(Away)	Won 46-31

v London South Africa	(Home)	Lost 5-24
v Cranleigh	(Away)	Lost 0-8
v Old Wellingtonians	(Home)	Lost 6-29
v Kingston	(Home)	Lost 0-52

As a consequence of so many of the problems detailed above, the 2nd team have been very much restricted in how many games they have been able to play. Up until Saturday 9th December, although not playing every Saturday, the 2nd team did at least get the opportunity to play 7 'friendly' fixtures, winning 4 of them, although not always starting those matches with a full complement of 15 players! They were also mostly on those Saturdays when the 1st team did not have a league fixture and some '1st team players were able to take part in those games to increase numbers. However, since then just one 2nd team match has been played. Unfortunately for some it's a case of too inexperienced to play for the 1st team but unable to gain any experience by playing in a 2nd team regularly. For any new players to the Club, we have no 2nd team to blood them in and no real pressure on '1st team players' to make themselves available more often by not having enough strength in depth.

For the record, the 2nd team results have been as follows:

v Chobham 5th	(Away)	Lost 5-10
v Law Society A	(Home)	Won 31-5
v Old Emanuel 3rd	(Away)	Won 19-12
v Old Paulines 5th	(Home)	Lost 0-36
v Old Freemans 3rd	(Away)	Won 38-0
v Chobham 5th	(Home)	Won 83-12
v Effingham & L'head 3rd	(Away)	Lost 12-32
v Old Caterhamians 2nd	(Home)	Lost 7-45

We obviously have some important decisions to take over the next few months, to try to turn this difficult situation around. I apologise, if this report has left some of you feeling rather depressed, but I think it is best to provide an honest picture of the difficulties faced, so that nobody is under any illusions about what we have to do to remedy things. I hope we will be able to make some steady progress over the next couple of months.

ANDY GREEN

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 this month or next their copy of 'The Tiffinian'. 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 useful 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

OTA 100 Club

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

				Previous win
Dec '06	£50	Ian Lindsay	West Byfleet	'03
Dec '06	£1000	David Evans	Betchworth	
Jan '07	£50	Greer Kirkwood	Guildford	'95

The above draws, for a change, were held at Dennis Barnard's abode, with myself & Brian Holden present.

The grand win by David Evans was very popular as he is well known as a regular attendee of the Social Lunch. In his letter of thanks & surprise he says the sum may go towards a car rally & visit to the Grand Canyon, USA.

Congratulations to the winners and thanking others for their support.

The 100 Club makes a major donation towards the Association's income, so do please consider becoming a member. The cost is £60 per annum (or £5 per month) by standing order. The prizes are £50 each month plus half-yearly major prizes of £1000. Further information can be obtained from me at 28 Raiton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9LX (Tel: 01483-850705).

GREER KIRKWOOD

Internet Corner

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

If you happen to be one of the thousands of Concessionary Shareholders with P & O Ferries, don't make the assumption that you are always getting the best deal, just because you are offered a massive discount on the standard fare. Check out their website first and key in your travel requirements, to check what is on offer at the time. You could be pleasantly surprised (particularly if applying early)!

BRIAN HOLDEN

The Dean Pavilion

We record our thanks to D Edney and S Kirkwood for adding to this Appeal since our last issue.

T O G A Reunion

Tiffin Old Girls are holding their Spring Reunion Lunch on Saturday 28th April (ticket only). Details from tiffinoldgirls@virgin.net or from Paula Ghinn at 16 North View Crescent, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UR.

Where are they now?

We have no contact details for the following OTs. Please help us trace them (even the area of the country they are living in would help).

Cornford S B (1966)	Lyon P M (1969)
Edwards M D G (1966)	McNamara I M (1990)
Fells E J (1985)	Pearson E C (1936)
Jones D W (1957)	Wheeler D P (1985)
Kerr A W (1968)	Wybrow M L (1949)

OT Football Club

The wet weather has meant that many of our fixtures in the run-up to Christmas and in the New Year have been postponed. In some respects this has brought a welcome respite to teams struggling for numbers each week, as players recover from injuries, but in other respects it has been frustrating not to be playing week in week out.

The Firsts continue to hold their own in the League and were pleased to welcome back Danny Leach into the team after his recovery from a broken leg. However, injury has now ruled out key player Andy Nutt from recent fixtures. Injuries and absences continue to plague the Seconds and a constantly changing team has found results hard to come by. However on 27th January the 2s were pleased to welcome Simon Keane back from his knee injury sustained in pre-season, and for once the 2s were able to field a representative side. The team were delighted to record a second victory of the season over Witan (4-1), with a tremendous performance by all players, showing what might have been !!! Unfortunately only five of that team were available the next week, and a heavy defeat at the hands of Old Wokinians was the subsequent outcome.

On the playing front the Thirds are the most consistent and are the only side not to have lost more than they have won. This, despite having been promoted by four divisions (having swapped from being the 4th team). The team, although often outplayed, are rarely out of a contest owing to the tenacious fighting spirit and hard work of the whole team, and hence have collected a good few wins and draws in the season so far, resulting in a 4th position in the League and realistically challenging for a top two spot. Goalkeeper Alex Kaminski has added a lot of confidence to the back four, allowing the midfielders to get forward often enough and contribute in the opposition's penalty area, where the likes of Scott Tricker and Matt Power have been very productive from the wide midfield positions. The blend of young and old has never been more obvious than in the golden seasons that Warren Arlow (14 goals) and Nigel Dominy are both having, alongside the possible player of the season

performances from the young players such as Alex in goal, and the superb Matt Power in midfield. If the 3s continue to play as they have been playing, then the team will definitely be able to be proud of its achievements at the end of the season.

The new 4ths are achieving some success in the League, with 5 wins out of 12 and playing at the right levels. The 5s have registered another victory but are still struggling at the foot of the table. The Vets are enjoying their football.

Results to 17th Feb 2007

1sts - AFC Division - Senior One. Captain - John Atkinson

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
13	5	1	7	21	31	-10	16

2nds - AFC Division - Three South. Captain - Steve Johnson

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
11	2	12	7	15	34	-19	8

3rds - AFC Division - Four South. Captain - Julius Miller

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
11	5	1	5	18	20	-2	16

4ths - AFC Division - Seven South. Captain - Paul Cotterell

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
12	5	0	7	19	33	-14	15

5ths - AFC Division - Eleven South. Captain - John Dickinson

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
9	2	0	7	20	31	-11	6

You can follow all our fixtures and results on the League website www.amateurfootballcombination.com

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

STEVE JOHNSON

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Old Tiffinians' Association was held on Wednesday 22nd November 2006. An error in the Finance section of the Annual Report which had been circulated in September Tiffnews was corrected to read 'The Association made a donation of £4,000 to the Ground Company, repeating last year's increase of £1,000 over the £3,000 in 2004, reflecting the continuing strain on their finances'.

Dennis Barnard reported that Tiffinian subscription membership had increased by 32 to 772, although 23 of these were due to some OT Section members who had not been counted individually in recent years. Members were encouraged to contact known Old Boys who are not OTA members and put them in touch with Dennis or Brian Holden, to join. Mark Darby reviewed the accounts for the year. A small loss in the General Account should be reversed next year, as the full effect of the recent subscription increase works through.

The following were elected as members of the Association Council:

President	Mr Sean Heslop
Chairman	Howard Mallinson
Vice Chairman	Ravi Kamineni
Hon. Secretary	Stuart Lester
Hon. Treasurer	Mark Darby
Hon. Membership Sec.	Dennis Barnard
Non-Playing Members	Brian Holden & John Wright
Hon. Auditors	Dicky Webb & Brian Holden

Stuart Lester advised that this would be his last year as Secretary, and

Howard thanked him for the time he had given to the OTA as Chairman and as Secretary, and for giving sufficient notice to allow for identification of a successor.

Tony Millard submitted the report of the Ground Company. For a second year running, he had to report a loss. The deficit of around £5,000 would have been higher, had not spending on repairs been strictly curtailed. The efforts of Peter Smith in raising over £10,000 though a private appeal in 'Tiffnews' had enabled the outside of the pavilion to be decorated, and Dennis Mardon had made a major contribution in enabling the new nursery contract to go ahead. Tony advised that he had not been able to fulfil his duties as Chairman recently and was resigning from the Board, and Vice-Chairman John Bradford intended to do the same shortly. Peter Osborne presented the accounts, advising that the bar had made another loss, but that action had been taken and it was expected to break even this year.

David Baron advised that the Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund remained healthy and investments had produced a good income. The fund supports cases of financial hardship and the giving of prizes at the School.

There was a vote of thanks to Tony Millard for his tremendous investment of time and effort over so many years, furthering the interests of sport at Gristis as a Director and Chairman of the Ground Company, and the excellent work of Brian Holden in editing Tiffnews was commended.

STUART LESTER
Hon Secretary

OTA Cricket Club

OTCC are looking for cricketers of all standards to join the Club for the forthcoming 2007 season.

We currently run 3 league sides on Saturdays and a Sunday side. Good pitches and ground facilities are always on offer. The cricket played is of good standard, competitive, fun and enjoyable. There is a full fixture list throughout the summer both on Saturdays & Sundays.

All are welcome to join, particularly Old Tiffinians, parents and friends.

The Club is embarking on an ambitious programme of expansion and needs your help now.

If sufficient demand is generated and good volunteers can be found, a colts section can also be initiated in the near future.

If you are thinking of playing regular cricket, want to get back to it again, enthusiastic about joining a fun & friendly club, or even want to get involved in helping the Club in some capacity, please get in touch straightaway.

Indoor nets have already started: Thursdays 8-9pm at the 'Tiffin Sports Centre'.

Outdoor nets will also be available in due course.

For all your queries, please contact:

Ravi - Mob: 07966 301851, Tel: 020 8946 6999,

Email: ravioshankar@aol.com

Oxbridge Students' Dinner

The next Oxbridge Dinner is being arranged by Xiao Cai in Exeter College, Oxford, and will take place on **Saturday 12th May**. This is the annual Reunion attended by Tiffin students in residence and a number of Tiffin Staff. (This is NOT the big Reunion Dinner, held every five years for all Oxbridge graduates. For that you have to wait till 2010!) Students involved will be contacted in due course. Meanwhile, please spread the word amongst those concerned.

OTA 200 Club

First of all, congratulations to **Nick Wright** (No.194) on winning the recent £500 Big Prize in our Winter Draw !

Recent £10 winners, since those reported in the last Tiffnews, are as follows:

165 S F Leahy	194 N C W Wright	117 J W Webb
68 E A H Key	13 M C Taylor	174 A H Mallinson
64 P D Smith	53 Mrs L Hainsby	127 B P Smith
172 H R Seymour	3 J Ebenezer	144 Mrs J P Dixon
105 C J Harwood		

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). 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

Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives:

a) From David Wood (1945), an original letter written to him by Mr Wyndham-Smith in 1941.

b) From Roger Keep (1961) further information on the famous School Bus acquired by Keith Southan. He recalls being a passenger on the bus, to go to Grist's on games afternoons. KS used to charge 3 old pence - the equivalent fare to the old 604 trolleybus, but saving the walk from the Hampton Court terminus.

TIFFIN SCOUT TROOP

Continuing our story of the development of scouting at Tiffins, the letters below all relate to this topic and are placed in chronological order.

Dear Brian,

I was most interested to read the article on Tiffin Scouts in the September 'Tiffnews'. I was at the School from September 1939 to July 1945 and was in the Troop during this time, except for the period September 1940 - July 1941, when I was evacuated. My older brother, Douglas, was in the Troop until he left School in 1940, and my younger brother, Roy, was in the Troop from 1945 to 1948, when the Scoutmaster was Keith Southan. We all have happy memories of our scouting days at Tiffins.

I remember well the joint meetings in the Lovekyn Chapel with the Scouts from Kingston Grammar School, but I am sure the combined Troop was back in the Tiffin Scout Hut by 1942/43, when the photo below was taken. The Scoutmaster (seated in the centre) was Eric Brown, Biology teacher. Standing on the right is Alfred Tuddenham (who

had a son involved at that time).

The nearby Rifle Range was 'out of bounds' to all except a privileged few in the Cadet Corps, but the Scouts used the surrounding copse for lighting fires and cooking our flour & water 'twists'.

In the Sixth Form I graduated to the Rover Scouts, and a few of us met in the brick lodge to the right of the London Road gate. I think by this time Eric Brown had moved to a post at Bedford School.

I shall always remember the Scouts as one of the highlights at School during the war years.

With kindest regards

Yours,

Eric Bryan (1945)

Continued on back page



Tiffin Scouts 1942/43

People



JIM ADDINGTON (1940) has recently joined the Association. We reported in the last issue of *'The Tiffinian'* (page 100) that he had left his carpet shop in Ewell Road, Tolworth, for semi-retirement. His wife continues to help some of their customers with curtains and blinds, and they are, in fact, both still active. Jim is currently Chairman of Action for UN Renewal, a campaign for United Nations reform. Amongst their points for discussion is the proposal

that the Security Council should be made more democratic by enlarging it to at least 30 members, of which 20 should be two-year short-term members chosen by their regions. Another suggestion is that the longer-term members should be on a rotating basis of 4-5 years, chosen by their regions among states able to give the UN financial and logistic support. Other proposals involve the position of the Secretary General and modifying the use of the veto. The website is: www.action-for-un-renewal.org.uk

JOHN BASSETT (1967) has been in touch again. Following a career with ICI and BP, he set up a company called Strats Technology. He has now left his full-time role as its managing director and, with his wife Sue, has joined his elder daughter and her husband to live near the Pyrenees in South West France, running a business called Allant, focused on family-friendly cycling holidays. Any OT with an interest in cycling (or who simply fancies a holiday in rural France) would be welcome.



DENIS BLOODWORTH, Head of the Tiffin Biology Department before his retirement in 1990, had a letter published in *'The Times'* in October, following the publication of an obituary for Sir Malcolm Arnold. Denis recalled that Sir Malcolm was living in Richmond in the 1960s, when he attended a concert in which the school orchestra was playing the *'Little Suite No 1'*. He was happy to be dragged out of the audience to conduct an encore

of the last movement. After that he kept a keen interest in Tiffin music and came to visit the orchestra, when his music was being played. His visits were much appreciated by the boys, and he had the right encouraging approach for young players. In 1963 the School performed his *'Little Suite No 2'*, commissioned for the then biennial Farnham Festival, in which Denis always played a key role.

ANDREW CARLESS (1985) took four years out of the banking world to pursue other activities: a cookery school with Valentina Harris (on www.villavalentina.com) and a games company (to be found on www.alzozero.it). What little time was left was spent as a professional translator, based in Milan but with a great deal of travelling involved too. He has recently started working in a bank again, as an offer came up in Milan. Andrew is keen to catch up with any old contacts.



ALAN CHESTERS, a former Chaplain & Head of RE at Tiffins (and later Bishop of Blackburn), is to be congratulated on being awarded the CBE in the New Year Honours List. This was "for services to the community in the North-West". Now living in retirement near Chester, Alan was formerly Chairman of the NW Rural Affairs Forum. He is currently a member of the Chapter of Chester Cathedral and is an honorary assistant bishop in the diocese. Both the current Labour government and the previous Conservative administration appointed him to their respective national countryside authorities, and he was part of the task force set up to deal with the foot & mouth epidemic in 2002. He is president of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, and he was the first chair of the House of Bishops' rural panel.

JOHN CHILVERS (1953) attended in May 2006 a reunion of more than 100 past and current employees of the Aveva Group, meeting at Cambridge Rugby Club. Founded in 1967 as a Government research laboratory, it traded originally as the MINTech Atlas Centre, and later as the CAD Centre and CADCentre Ltd. In the late 1970s and 1980s the company was the spawning ground for many Cambridge high-tech companies.

RICHARD COOKE, Choirmaster at Tiffins 1974-81, was seen more than once in the ITV series on Canterbury Cathedral. As conductor of the Choral Society there, he had volunteered to support the Lady Mayoress charity by abseiling down one of the west towers (about 120 feet), together with several other prominent local people. In a later programme he was interviewed before conducting the Canterbury Choral Society in Beethoven's *'Missa Solemnis'* as part of the Canterbury Festival.

JOHN COX (1948) has recently been in touch after many years. After leaving Tiffins, he served an apprenticeship in Mechanical Engineering and shortly thereafter emigrated to Canada, where he met his future wife and got married. In 1963 he accepted an offer to move to New York State to accept a challenging new career. He is now retired and living in Bellevue, Washington, USA. This is a nice city, located just across Lake Washington from Seattle. In some ways it reminds him of Kingston, as the University of Washington maintains a very healthy rowing club and often competes in England. As he has got older, he has had more time to reflect how things must be getting along at the 'Old School'.

CHRIS FRANKLIN (1965) has recently joined the Association. He is now a Consultant Histopathologist and Professor at Sheffield's School of Clinical Dentistry in the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology. He is also Postgraduate Dean.

MARK GALEOTTI (1984) has spent most of his academic career at the University of Keele as a Lecturer in International History. He is Director of their Organised Russian & Eurasian Crime Research Unit. Following the poisoning in London of Litvinenko, Mark was quoted in the national press on the subject of the Russian secret service, and in particular on their secret unit, Department V (also known as Vympel). Although its existence is clouded in secrecy, he expressed the view that Department V was now back in business and certainly had access to nuclear facilities where Polonium 210 is produced.

ARUN HARINATH (2006), Tiffins' outstanding cricketer of recent years, has earned a contract with Surrey Cricket Club for the coming season.

TREVOR HEATHORN (1976) has been living in the San Francisco Bay area since 1985, working for various high-tech companies in a variety of software development roles. He is currently Director of US Software Development for BlueArc (www.bluearc.com), delivering high performance network storage servers to the market. He married a Californian, Lori, in 1993 (two cats, no kids).

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS (1986), Conservative MEP for the East Midlands, continues to plead for rectitude and common sense in the operation and control of the European Union's finances. Auditors have found that just seven per cent of the EU Budget was spent legally and correctly ! Consequently they have been unable to sign off the accounts for twelve years in a row.

NEIL HUTCHINS (1985) is now Technical Director at Autocue, where he has been for some years. He is married with three children and lives in Reading.

GRAHAM ISON (1950) has recently published two more novels. November saw the publication of *'Drumfire'*, the sixth in the Brock & Poole series. In February appeared *'Hardcastle's Actress'*, the fifth novel in the Great War detective series. The USA review journal *'Booklist'* recently described Hardcastle as 'a copper who's as curmudgeonly as Inspector Morse, as intelligent as Sherlock Holmes, and as wily as Hercule Poirot'.

DAVID KEELING (1960) on leaving Tiffins went to St. John's College, Cambridge, on a Choral Scholarship. He read for the Music Tripos and graduated in 1963. He then went to Canterbury Cathedral in a double-position - resident master in the Cathedral Choir School (teaching Latin and sports) and member of the Cathedral Choir. In July 1967 he emigrated to Toronto Canada, where he began a career as an administrator at the University of Toronto. This is a large university with approx. 70,000 students (now), so the opportunities for advancement are considerable. He began on the registrar side of the University and then moved into divisional management - i.e. administrative management of (academic) faculties. He is now in his eighth (and final) position at the University. His longest position was as Chief Administrative Officer of the Faculty of Medicine from 1992 to 2004. Currently he is Bursar and Chief Administrative Officer of Victoria University, which is a small university federated with

the University of Toronto. In 1969 David met Julia Woodrow and they were married in August 1971. They have four children. David has thoroughly enjoyed his life in Canada and Toronto which he considers to be a fine city and country in which to live and raise a family. He was delighted to receive the list of Tiffinians in North America and to discover that there are a few others right there in southern Ontario.

ROGER KEEP (1961) recalls he left, when in the Lower Sixth, having achieved a position in the exams of 64= out of 71, and with a ringing endorsement from JJ: "He may possibly have reached his academic limit"! Following the family tradition, he went on to take a Civil Engineering Studentship with British Railways. He obtained an HNC with endorsements at Westminster Technical College, and spent forty years bridge-building, track-laying, planning major projects throughout the country and designing computer systems, finishing as the Project Manager of a team of signal engineers undertaking £20m of improvements per annum. He then went on to work with Atkins Rail for a few years to keep his hand in; completing over 150 years' combined railway service for his grandfather, his father, and himself. Roger's wife is a midwife, and continues to work at St Helier Hospital. He is a magistrate, and sits on the Sutton Bench, and was formerly Chairman of the Licensing Panel prior to handover to the Local Authority. It had been said that it was not dissimilar to putting Herod in charge of the crèche! Roger is looking forward to joining the OT Golf Society, Tyrrells Wood being his home track. His daughter, now 35, teaches French and Spanish at Winchester College, and his son (33) works in TV advertising.

JOHN KELLAND (1948) has joined the Association, following an approach resulting from his entry on Friends Reunited. John left Tiffin half-way through his first term in the Sixth Form; this was in order to take a position as a pupil with a firm of Chartered Surveyors, his chosen career. Subsequently he obtained a place on a three-year full-time course, leading to the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. National Service saw him in the Royal Engineers, serving in Egypt for eighteen months. After that, full-time employment, coupled with study by correspondence course, took him through the Finals of the RICS and qualification. A varied and generally enjoyable career followed, including work on anything, from power stations to private houses. However, in 1964 he took a post in Torquay. On his arrival for work, one of his new colleagues asked: "Do you know what moving to Torquay is?" John replied that he did not, and got the reply: "It is the death of ambition!" Well, whether or not that is true, John remains in Torquay, though he worked for three different employers until early retirement in 1991. Married to Lurline, he has two daughters, one of whom is a doctor, the other a tri-lingual secretary. Five grandchildren make up the family.

Always happy making things, he still makes models, now to a scale of 16mm to 12 inches, of live steam narrow gauge locomotives, operated by radio control. He has a house that might be the envy of many trying to get a house in the catchment area of a good school. Out of the front gate, turn left and left again for the primary school; out of the gate and turn right and right again for both of the Torquay Grammar Schools. Happily, both daughters went to the Grammar School. Leisure activities have included 14 years as a church warden, an overlapping 14 years editing and publishing a community magazine, writing a book on the history of his particular part of Torquay and serving as Chairman of the Parents' Association of the Torquay Girls' Grammar School.

CHRIS KREUZER (1995) played first board for England in the World Deaf Team Chess Championship held last September in Hungary. In the opening round Chris scored a fine win in only 19 moves against his Ukrainian opponent, whose rating was considerably higher than Chris's. The England team was seeded 10th in the event but in fact came 7th, partly thanks to the 2½ - 1½ win against the Ukraine. The Championship was won by the inevitably strong Russian team.

Chess enthusiasts may like to follow Chris's game: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 Be7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 b5 11.Qd2 f5 12.Nxe7 Nxe7 13.0-0-0 fxe4 14.Nxb5 axb5 15.Bxb5+ Bd7 16.Qxd6 Bxb5 17.Qxe5 Bd3 18.Qxh8+ Kd7 19.Qxd8+ 1-0.

The previous October, at the 33rd English Deaf Chess Association Congress and National Championship in Birmingham, Chris won the Premier Section and became the 2005 EDCA Champion with an unbeaten score of 4.5/5. It was his first EDCA title.



SEAN LANG (1979), Research Fellow in History at Anglia Ruskin University and Secretary of the Historical Association, is now chairing a team of history teachers advising the Conservatives on what to do about history and Britishness in schools. He has been mentioned in the national press several times since our last edition. He was commenting on the content of the History questions in the latest edition of Trivial Pursuits. He found it difficult to

see how some of the questions could be regarded as being in that category, when several of the answers could be found in 'Hello!' magazine, rather than in the history books. Sean also had a hand in compiling the published list of '12 great people who shaped our nation', which aroused some controversy because of the omission of Winston Churchill. More recently, he gave his reaction to the official figures revealing that almost 1,500 secondary schools did not enter any candidates for GCSE History. He feels that History should be made compulsory, if the government is serious about instilling Britishness in our young people. "Giving pupils options at 14 should not limit the areas they study, but it has had that effect. There seems to be a hostility towards the humanities, because school management has one eye on the league tables and the other on vocational qualifications."

JOHN MANUEL (1952), a retired Headmaster, is currently Chairman of the Valentines Mansion Trust. The Mansion was built around 1696 and is considered by English Heritage to be 'of outstanding architectural or historic interest or of great importance to the nation's heritage' (Grade II listed). It is located in a beautiful park near Gants Hill in the London Borough of Redbridge. With the help of grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from the Borough, the Trust aims to restore the Mansion to full use by 2009.

LAURIE MAYHEAD (1944), on leaving School, was recruited to join the RSS, an organisation involved in the interception of German wireless signals. These intercepts went to Bletchley Park for decoding. All this came about because he was good at Morse code, which he had learnt with his father, in order to get an amateur (ham) licence. His interest in radio was to become the basis of his career in electronics. After the war he left GCHQ and joined EMI, where he worked for some time on airborne radar. He tried to pick up his academic studies, but he had been away from them too long, and he failed maths in his BSc examination. He went back into industry, but the big company environment did not suit him, so he joined Solartron, a young, small and innovative company. He was given a great deal of responsibility and learnt a great deal, so after a few years he joined some others in a new venture that was quite successful. After they sold that company, he did some work in the venture capital field, and then started another electronic engineering business in television studio equipment. This became very successful and he was able to retire when he was 60. His life-long interests include amateur radio, sailing (hence his retirement to Chichester on the south coast), vintage cars (he still owns three), and flying. He learnt to fly at 60, when he retired, but cardiac problems brought this to an end. Now, at 80, he is not so active, he says!

JOHN MOORE-GILLON (1970) appeared on the BBC news in January in an interview concerning traffic pollution and its effect on lung growth. John, who is President of the British Lung Foundation, said that it was already well known that air pollution in the form of traffic fumes or cigarette smoke affected asthma sufferers. It had now been shown that this also had an effect on lung growth.

BILL NEATE (1956) enjoys keeping up with the news with the help of 'Tiffnews'. He recognises the names of some of the old (now very old) members to whom he was often introduced by his father Jack (1916), now regrettably referred to in the obituaries. He recognised a number of the faces in the recently published 1957 Choir photo. Bill lives a very active life in West Cork. His music interests embrace the tenor sax, Irish whistle and choir. He sails, digs his too plentiful acres and helps with the heavier work of keeping horses, for which Tiffin over qualifies him, he feels ! He writes too, but he has come to the conclusion that Tuddenham was right after all, though he was too young to accept it at the time.

CHRIS NOTT (1986) has been awarded Fellowship of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (formerly the IEE). This is in recognition of his leadership in increasing the adoption of standards of technical competence and professionalism within the IT industry. He is an active

Executive Board member of the British Computer Society's Professionalism in IT programme. He recently led and published a study into other established professions to help define the IT professionalism model, and set out the programme's next activities. Still working at IBM, Chris is a software architect, helping customers to overcome challenges and exploit new opportunities using IBM software. As a result of his work in IBM, he was recently elected to the prestigious technical group which recognises sustained, distinguished and substantial achievement by IBM UK and Ireland's best technical performers.

JOHN PALMER (1946) is now a retired Reverend and living in Cornwall. Apparently he still has his school cap and tie (though not wearing them, as far as we know). A few months ago he met his contemporary, David Wood, whom he had not seen for 40 years.



CLIVE PERRY (1954) is still Professor of Physics at Northeastern University, Boston. (We reported on his activities in the last edition of *'The Tiffinian'*.) He regrets he cannot attend the Annual Dinner, particularly as it is being held at Malden Golf Club, New Malden, familiar territory from his schooldays.

ANTONY PITTS (1986) and his choir *Tonus Peregrinus* had an unexpected result from the death of the Russian former spy, Alexander Litvinenko. Apparently Litvinenko had attended one of their concerts in London four years ago and had expressed his appreciation of their music in impassioned terms. Antony had no idea at the time, and he was as surprised as anyone to be asked at short notice to sing at a private ceremony one Thursday afternoon in December, following the burial in Highgate Cemetery. A moving sequence of speeches in English and Russian was interspersed with unaccompanied choral music - a mixture of traditional Russian settings by Rachmaninov, Stravinsky & Kalinnikov, and also Antony's settings of *'There is a green hill far away'*, *'Adoro Te'* and *'Libera me'* from the Requiem. Those assembled at the ceremony may have had different backgrounds and points of view, but - as one eyewitness put it - "they were a bewildered community in exile united in grief for the loss of a man who was clearly loved, seeking solace in music that can transcend cultural and national boundaries".

LINDSAY PRASHER (School Staff 1946-1949) is now 92 and living in retirement in Brighton. Brought up in Matlock, Derbyshire, he graduated from Goldsmith's College, London, in 1935 and studied for his Teacher's Diploma. During the war he was registered as a Conscientious Objector and did road transport work. He came to Tiffins in 1946 to teach mainly Maths, though he also taught PE. He left Tiffins three years later and went to Berkhamstead Teacher Training College until 1951. This was one of the emergency training colleges set up at this time. 1952-53 he was appointed to a post at the Towers School, Rainhill, Lancs, mainly to set up a new Chemistry lab. He took a second degree in chemical engineering and worked for North Thames Gas Board for short while, before moving to Babcock and Wilcox, where he stayed until he retired in 1979.

In 1987 he wrote a technical book (published by John Wiley) entitled *'Crushing and Grinding Process'*, and the first edition was a sell-out. After retirement he became an accomplished water-colourist and taught at an art school.

VIV SHARP (1947), writing from his home in Girona Province, Spain, has vivid memories of his time at Tiffins during the war. He remembers the time when the School paraded 600 boys in uniform (khaki and air force blue) - and also the Bofors gun in the middle of the field that necessitated a change in football tactics. He finds the rate of inflation in Spain is far more than the quoted 4%, but manages to enjoy life out there amongst the hills and wonders of nature in Catalunya, maintaining his interest in journalism and photography.

TIM SHEPHERD (1980) has now moved to Dawlish in Devon. He has become very well known for his time-lapse photography, and his name appeared in the credits during the wonderful BBC series *Planet Earth* this winter. He hopes now to branch out into painting, for which he has always had a talent (like his father before him).

MICHAEL TANNER (1952) on leaving School went immediately into the RAF, serving for three years. He then joined the staff of a Lloyd's motor underwriting syndicate and was with them for the rest of his

working life, ending up as a Director and an Underwriting Name at Lloyd's. In the well-known troubles suffered by Lloyd's in the late 1980s and the 1990s he was forced to take an early retirement in 1991. Since then he has become virtually a full-time student again! He went to Sussex University for three years to get his BA in English, then to King's College, London, for an MA in the History of Christianity, and he is just starting another post-graduate degree at King's for a DPhil. If he lasts the course, it will take him six years! So, at least he can say he has kept his mind active, and the involvement with these colleges and with the students there he has enjoyed immensely. He reckons he is trying to make up for his tendency towards laziness whilst at Tiffins!

MICHAEL TATE (1961) became a financial journalist, writing for various newspapers, including the *Observer*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Times*, where he was City Editor in the early '90s. In 1996 he joined Ludgate Communications, a financial PR consultancy, as a director, and in 2000 he was appointed Director of Corporate Communications by one of his clients, Jarvis plc. He left Jarvis at the turn of 2004/05 when they re-located to York, since when he has been freelancing as a corporate writer and communications consultant. His sporting activities (rugby, soccer and squash) have been curtailed by back surgery, but he still swings a golf club occasionally (and throws one, too!) and has done the London Marathon! He has been married and divorced twice. He has two sons by the first marriage and a stepson from his second marriage. His leisure interests are reading, history and watching sport (being an avid Spurs fan).



FRANK WEBB (1966) left Family Health International about a year ago to 'do something different', and that is certainly a good way to describe a year in which work has been divided equally among three things. One third is consulting work, which has included assembling and managing an outside team (broadcast journalist, photojournalist, designer, with himself, the strategist and writer) to raise FHI's profile and highlight its work with children orphaned by AIDS. Their team now offers services in strategic communications for non-profit organisations engaged in work of social importance. He was in China in May and again for two weeks in December as a consultant to the Government office that coordinates the national AIDS response program. It was his first time in China for five years, but word got around quickly, and many old friends sought him out to say hello. He found especially touching lunch with four old women professors, with whom he had worked during his first visits almost thirty years ago. Their combined ages are now 348! The second third, teaching - at the Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University - has turned out to be really enjoyable. He gives a course on public policy leadership in a four-month executive training program for mid-career Chinese Government officials and another on capacity development in two master's degree programs. The students in the Masters Program in International Development Policy are in their early 30s, from some twenty countries, and are committed to using their considerable talents to improve the world. The final third of his time has been unpaid and is about art: He is on the boards of the Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh and the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission, both of which are very active and soak up a lot of time, especially the museum for which he has created the marketing communications plan and helped with implementation, while they recruit a new director. Francesca's catering business has been a huge success, but means a lot of hard work, including weekends. He has no idea how things will develop, but they are hoping that the various business ventures will carry them through, so that Frank can avoid seeking a conventional job!

RODERICK WILLIAMS, Tiffin Choirmaster 1988-91, has been described as an 'Opera North favourite'. He has recently been singing Papageno in their production of *'The Magic Flute'*, performed in English, at Leeds Grand Theatre (further performances in May). His previous roles include Don Giovanni and also Ned Keene in *'Peter Grimes'*, in which he had to wear a sling for a broken wrist. Unusually for an opera, *'The Magic Flute'* was not written for the court but for the local townfolk, and Roddy feels that there are no airs & graces about the piece. It was written as a sort of musical, so there is dialogue to move the action on, and the fairytale plot is easy to grasp.

De Mortuis

GEORGE DOUGLAS BUTLER 1919 - 2006



Born just after the First World War in Crook, Co Durham, George saw many changes in his life time. He grew up in a mining village, where his father was first a quarryman and then a butcher. The 1930s Depression made a great impression on him. Living in a predominantly mining area, not far from Jarrow in the North-East, he experienced the hardship caused to families when work was hard to find.

When war broke out in 1939, he joined up and left for France to serve with the Durham Light Infantry. At first, life in France was quiet, but Hitler's Blitzkrieg swept the British forces onto the beaches of Dunkirk. The Durham Light Infantry was told to hold back the enemy as long as it could. The memory of Dunkirk stayed with him for ever, as at the last moment the older soldiers and commanding officers ordered the youngsters to move to the beaches. They reluctantly obeyed, but never saw again any of those giving the orders. While serving at Dunkirk, George received a wound which gave him trouble for the rest of his life. He also suffered for some time from headaches, after a bullet grazed his helmet. George was not only brave — he was a man of honour. He was once put on a charge for assaulting a superior officer. He and a fellow-soldier had taken prisoner some German soldiers and had brought them to their commanding officer to be registered as POWs. They were ordered to empty out their pockets, and one of them had a picture of his wife and child. The British officer picked up the photo and was about the tear it up, so George hit out. He was of course put on a charge, but for him the main thing was the photo was not ripped up.

Later in the war he moved on to handling explosives, and this is what probably caused some deafness later in life.

At the end of the war he left the army and, like so many men at the time, found it difficult to get a job. He tried a variety of things - from house painter to selling insurance. At that time he married Renee Barlow. Together they set up a small-holding, and it was doing very nicely, until a bad fire destroyed their dream.

In desperation a job had to be found, and he became the school caretaker of the local junior school, a house going with the job. Over the years he moved up the scale to become in 1962 supervisor caretaker at Tiffins and had a large staff working under him. He spent many happy years working at the School and always looked back fondly on his time there. He valued his colleagues and they valued him.

At the time of his appointment, the then Headmaster (JJ) despaired of finding suitable candidates in the 'soft South' and had decided to advertise in various journals in the North. George and his wife won the day amongst a large and very strong field of applicants. Once appointed, he demonstrated very quickly that he could turn his hand to almost anything. He helped with catering for events, when necessary, and had to contend with such problems as a shortage of fuel supplies and power cuts, but he always seemed to manage to keep things going. Who can forget the sight of George in his bow-tie welcoming visitors to concerts and other evening functions! He always gave valuable service to the Tiffin Fair, and could be relied upon to solve problems. The story is told of the occasion when a camel was needed for the Fair. "Don't worry," said George, "I'll arrange it" - and of course he did! No problem was too small or too large for George to sort out. At one time the sad procession of poor groundsmen caused him much heartache, and frequently he mowed the grass, dug and pruned, to keep things in order.

In his younger days he had played football for his native village, Crook, in the First Division of the Miners' League. He left a reminder of this, when he presented the 'Butler Cup' to the School for the Inter-House Soccer Competition.

In 1967 he was asked to be a Justice of the Peace, and was proud to accept the position. He enjoyed the variety and responsibility it entailed. In the 1970s the IRA were bombing mainland Britain, and times were very uncertain. Before the police could search a property where they suspected the IRA was making bombs or other devices, they needed a search warrant. Some JPs were unwilling to sign such warrants for fear of reprisals. George signed them, wanting the IRA to be brought to

justice. As a result he got two death threats, and in consequence he had a police bodyguard for a while.

When he retired, he decided to move to Lincolnshire, so he and Renee bought a house in Mablethorpe. Moving to Grimsby in the later 1980s, he and his wife enjoyed retirement there, until Renee died in 1997. It was a matter of pride that he was able to maintain his independence to the end.

Sadly a fall in August 2006 led to his decline and death. He will be sadly missed by family and friends. We offer our sincere condolences to daughter Brenda and to sons Malcolm & Stephen.

(Footnote: Since the above tribute was prepared, we have had news of the sad death of George's son, Malcolm, after a very short illness.)

BERNARD THOMAS HARRISON 1938 - 2005



Bernard, a member of the Tiffin English Department 1962-68, died in Perth, Australia, in August 2005 after a long illness. Coming from Leicester Boys' Grammar School, he gained at a very young age an Exhibition at Downing College, Cambridge. Before going up, he served his National Service in naval intelligence in the Royal Navy. Once at Cambridge, he studied under F R Leavis, whose influence, though later becoming deeply unfashionable, inspired a

whole generation of dedicated English teachers. After graduating he did his DipEd at London University and he applied for one of several English posts advertised at the School in the early 1960s and started at Tiffins in 1962. As well as his contribution to his own department, he built up tennis into a highly successful activity. He left six years later to move to be Head of the English Department at Greenshaw High School, a new comprehensive school in Sutton. He then spent a number of years at Sheffield University's School of Education from 1974, where he became Professor and Dean. During this period he obtained his PhD from the University of Exeter. In 1996 he decided to move to Perth, Western Australia, when he was invited to be Dean and Professor (and Director of Research) of a new education facility at Edith Cowan University. Bernard gave generously of his energies to those he taught, drawing out from them their special qualities and encouraging them to be experimental in their teaching and, in many cases, to develop themselves as both critical and creative readers and writers.

Once in Australia, he and his wife, Marina, fully immersed themselves in the local community. One of his roles was as Fellow of Council for Guildford Grammar School (the oldest boys' independent school in WA), where he said he found his Tiffin experiences valuable. He was very much concerned with the disadvantaged, and much of his later research was in the fields of aboriginal education and minority students, especially in remote communities.

When Bernard discovered the School website and contacted us just a year before his death, he was still publishing (poetry now, not educational material), when golf and beach activities allowed. He had written during his career a number of academic books and countless articles, but it was one of the joys of his brief four years of retirement that he was once again able to be creative in his own right, giving free reign to a poetic voice, whose worth was then acknowledged through publication. His first collection, 'True North', published in 2004, was praised for its power and suppleness, also subtle, handling of language and metaphor. Many of the poems had won literary prizes. His second volume, 'Bread for the Seven Sleepers', is due for publication at the end of 2006 (Five Islands Press, Melbourne).

Bernard was a teacher in the finest sense of the word. His life-long commitment to developing the literate imagination of so many students and teachers remains his legacy.

He enjoyed gardening and frequently spent time running or swimming at the nearby Trigg beach. He and his wife, Marina, travelled a good deal - they had recently been to Borneo and were planning a trip to Europe the following year. They have two children, Joanna and Lawrence, who are at present working in the UK. We offer them all our condolences.

PAUL ANTONY TOM WINSLEY FLETCHER 1924 - 2006



Paul Fletcher will be remembered by pupils and colleagues from the 1950s as a young member of the English Department (1949-1958).

He was born and spent his early childhood in a village near Reading. At the age of eight he went to boarding school for 18 months, which he hated. He loved to tell a story about being punished by a school master, who ran all the way across the room

to hit them on the bare bottom with a slipper. He escaped when the family moved out to Sydney for a couple of years, returning to build a house for themselves in the Devon countryside. He attended Hele's School, Exeter, taking his Higher Schools Certificate in 1942. He was offered a place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge to study English, but he was there for only a year when he was called up towards the end of World War II. He obtained a commission in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and, like so many at that time, was drafted out to Germany to replace officers who had been killed in action. Accompanied by his batman and a sergeant, he was patrolling near the front line, when an enemy mine was triggered, wounding both him and his batman. Paul had a leg artery severed, but luckily was saved by his sergeant, who applied a tourniquet. The leg eventually healed, but he had also cut a tendon, and a skillful operation was required some time later back in the UK, to enable him to walk normally again. His injuries were a worry at the time, but may of course have been a blessing in disguise, as they kept him away from the battlefield, where he might well have been killed.

Following demob, he returned to his studies in Cambridge and took his BA (English Honours) in 1947. He then took his Certificate of Education before embarking on a teaching career. For the Autumn Term 1948 he taught at City of Bath Boys' School, and was appointed to Tiffins in January 1949, teaching successfully at all levels. On the extra-curricular side, he took action to revive the Debating Society (taking the role of Chairman) and assisted with the Drama. His first major production was Henry IV Part 1 in 1951.

He also got involved in organising school trips to Germany, and it was on one of these that he met Stella, a teacher at Tiffin Girls'. Not long after, they decided to get married and spent 53 happy years together. After trips to visit Stella's family in Scotland he thought it was so lovely that they moved up there, where he thought they would be out of the rat race and his daughters (Carol born 1962 and Heather born 1965) would grow up with nice Scottish accents. He was very proud of his daughters and their achievements, and later also took great interest in the activities and progress of his four grandchildren.

After moving to Scotland in 1958 he lectured in English Literature at Langside College, Glasgow for a long time and really enjoyed his career. He was a very clever man but in no way pompous or self-important, and quite a private person in some ways. He stayed sharp-minded right until the end, read extensively, and was always up-to-date on what was going on in the world. After he retired twenty years ago, he spent a great deal of time and effort putting together a book on Shakespeare which would make the works understandable and accessible to a wide range of readers. He was absolutely delighted when it was published four years ago. (*Shakespeare's Themes* published 2002 by Centaur Press, an imprint of Open Gate Press).

Eventually, he spent almost exactly half his life in Scotland. He particularly liked the scenery and being out in the open air, the sea, hills, lochs and rushing streams, and used to do a lot of touring all round Scotland and holidaying on the West coast, where he loved to swim in the sea and watch the sunsets.

The people who knew him appreciated him as an extremely straightforward, honest and principled man, who didn't like falseness or airs and graces. He had a very strong sense of fairness and doing the right thing, and hated any sort of cruelty or suffering. Many people have commented on his kindness and generous spirit. He never liked to disappoint, and his children and grandchildren will

remember asking for bedtime story after story! He also had a terrific sense of humour which could be rude, a bit wicked and extremely politically incorrect. He easily saw the funny side of things and laughed and laughed till tears rolled down his face - often at his own jokes, but it was impossible not to laugh with him. He was full of funny stories which were sometimes elaborated for better effect!

He was known as a great animal lover. He and Stella always had a much-loved family dog, and he didn't feel the day was right without walking the dog at the Beach Park. He also took a great interest in the wild birds visiting his garden and made sure they never went hungry and always had the odd treat.

He loved to listen to a wide range of music and we have put together some of his favourites for today. Although he never learned to read music, he had a really good ear and played the mouth organ and piano by ear, and he was often to be heard whistling tunefully. Apparently one of his earliest childhood memories was lying in bed listening to his parents and a friend playing piano, violin and cello downstairs.

Although fifty years is a long time, we are sure Paul will be remembered with affection by colleagues and pupils alike. We offer our condolences to his family and acknowledge their help in compiling this tribute.

PETER JOSEPH KERR 1936 - 1998

Peter Kerr (known in his early schooldays as Szenker) joined Tiffins (Churchill House) in May 1949 from Tower House School, Sheen Lane. Joining late in the school year, he spent the Summer Term in Form IA, before moving on to Form IIA at the end of that term. In the Sixth Form he studied A-Level Physics, Botany & Zoology, plus Chemistry in his final year. He enjoyed his sport from quite early on. He represented the School at Rugby and Athletics, and in addition, at House level, he performed well in Cricket, Swimming, Soccer and Chess.

The accompanying photo (supplied by his friend, Mike Jarvis) shows Peter in 1952 with a number of friends (including Eddie Bruck) on one of their summer camping expeditions. The photo shows (clockwise from top left) : Mike Jarvis, Geoff Schaffer, Keith Boorman, William Bradford, Peter himself and Eddie Bruck.

On leaving School, he went on to study Dentistry at Guy's Hospital. He enjoyed his time there and represented the Hospital playing rugby.



After qualifying in 1960 he did his National Service with the Army in Cyprus and met his wife, Susie, there. They married in 1962 and had two children, Annette & Richard.

Peter set up his own dental practice in South Kensington. He maintained his link with Guy's as a part-time undergraduate teacher for almost thirty years. He remained a keen sportsman, playing golf and tennis until three weeks before his death. In 1998 he fell victim to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He is sorely missed by friends, patients and naturally his family, to whom we offer our belated condolences.

RICHARD HENRY VICARY 1918 - 2006



Richard was appointed to the Tiffin Staff to teach Art in September 1948 and remained until October 1950, when he started working part-time at Epsom & Ewell School of Art, before accepting an appointment as Head of Graphics at Shrewsbury School of Art. He was a distinguished artist and teacher, who moved from painting landscapes to concentrate on print-making, in which discipline he achieved considerable recognition.

He was born in 1918 in Sutton of the unlikely alliance of a suffragette/cook and a vicar/novelist. His early years were spent drawing or on the rugby field (he played for Richmond and Surrey), but it was art that became his life's work. He studied at Tunbridge Wells School of Art and then at Medway, Camberwell and Central Schools of Art. During the Blitz he was called up to help to generate smoke screens over the Thames. By 1946 he was exhibiting at the progressive AIA and Whitechapel Galleries in London. His move to Shrewsbury School of Art proved to be a turning point in his life. He grew to love the Shropshire countryside and made frequent visits to the quarries and chapels of mid- and west Wales. He also proved to be an inspirational teacher, and many students became lifelong friends. After the death of his first wife in 1961 he rarely painted, and turned increasingly to printmaking, particularly with the acquisition of a magnificent Victorian offset litho press, around which he built his workshop. His prints from the mid-1960s onwards were often concerned with the environment, then not such a prevalent concern as now.

Ill health forced him to retire early, in the early 1970s, after which he produced the majority of his work and wrote two successful books on the craft of lithography ('The Manual in Lithography' in 1976 and 'The Advanced Manual in Lithography' in 1977). He also created the linocut illustrations for the children's book 'The Ivy Garland' (1982). He continued to teach summer schools at Henllan Mill near Welshpool. Retirement enabled him and his second wife, Deirdre, to travel, fulfilling a long-held desire to visit Eastern Europe. Typically he befriended many artists, exhibited at a gallery in Leningrad and began to learn Russian. He continued to exhibit frequently throughout the 1970s and 1980s. In 1974 he was elected to the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers & Engravers (RE) and to the Royal West of England Academy (RWA) in 1989. His prints have been widely collected.

Always a champion of the underprivileged, he abandoned his earlier left-wing ideals, becoming disillusioned and cynical. Late in life, to the surprise of family and friends, he became a Jehovah's Witness. At the time of his last illness, he was represented in a show at the Bankside Gallery, London, of 'neglected' printmakers 1950-1980. The success of this exhibition gave him great pleasure.

Richard died peacefully in his beloved Shropshire. He is survived by Deirdre, the two sons by his first wife, a son and a daughter from his second marriage, and a blind border collie.

(The above is based on an obituary written by his son, Michael, and which appeared in 'The Guardian' and another article in 'The Times' in September.)

Below is the block designed by Richard Vicary to introduce the OT section of the school magazine, and used for several years.



We regret to announce also the following deaths: Leigh Banting (1974), Brian Gulson (1948), J M Jones (1940), J R Luxford (1943) & Dick Offer (1926). We expect to include several obituaries in our next edition.

WILLIAM CECIL HALL 1913 - 2003

W C Hall (Bill to his colleagues, but known inevitably to his pupils as 'Bogger' Hall) was born, we gather, in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. He joined the Tiffin Staff in 1936 as Physical Training and Geography Master, taking a special interest in Soccer (in those days played in the Spring Term) and later took charge of that game.

He was educated at Hucknall County School and Henry Mellish County School, Bulwell. He then obtained his BSc degree in Geography and Geology at University College London, before taking his Teaching Diploma and London Teaching Certificate at Westminster College. His first teaching experience was in schools in the Barking district, before applying for the Tiffin post. His interest in his subject led him to be elected Fellow to the Royal Geographical Society. During the war he spent six years in the Army, reaching the rank of Warrant Officer First Class, and he did some valuable work in the Army Educational Corps. He returned to the School after the war, but in 1948 decided to move on. Bill then joined the Staff of Richmond C of E School (where the London higher pay-scale was in operation). Soon afterwards he was appointed Headmaster of Outwood County Modern Secondary School near Wakefield in Yorkshire. It was in Yorkshire that he died in April 2003 at the age of 89.

At the time he moved from Tiffins, the magazine reported; 'At all times a cheerful and friendly colleague, he was always most conscientious in what he did. He said what he meant and meant what he said'. It has to be added, however, that to those of us then in the Lower School he was (even for those times) most intimidating.

BH

ALASTAIR DAVID RITCHIE 1931 - 2005

David entered Tiffins in 1943. After leaving School, he studied at the Royal Dental Hospital, Leicester Square and qualified as an LDS RDS in 1953. He then signed on a short-service commission in the Royal Navy as a Dental Surgeon, sometimes on shore stations, but also on HMS Newcastle, Tyne & Collingwood. He travelled to Hong Kong and Vancouver, and was also at Suez at the time of the war.

After he left the Navy, he set up as a dentist in a partnership in Portsmouth, and he remained very involved with the Naval Reserve and the social life of ex-navy officers in that region. He then moved to another partnership in Cowplain, near Portsmouth, but unfortunately had dizzy spells and, after ineffective treatment by his GP, he had an examination at Haslar Naval Hospital at Gosport and was diagnosed with a brain tumour, for which he had an immediate operation at the National Hospital, Bloomsbury. After this he was obliged to retire. He took various small charitable jobs - driving handicapped or old people, and also as a guide at the Charles Dickens Museum and the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth.

He had always been a keen organist, both church and theatre, and he played for Masonic functions and the Catholic Church (though he himself was C of E), and entertained in a holiday camp and a seafront hotel on occasions.

Unfortunately he had a serious stroke in January 1991 and, despite valiant efforts to counter his physical disabilities, his mental faculties also deteriorated, and he entered a care home in Wittering in 2002. He caught pneumonia there and died in Chichester Hospital in May 2005.

(We are grateful to David's brother Colin for supplying this information.)

A Memorial Service to remember and celebrate the life of

LEIGH 'BILL' BANTING

(Tiffin School 1968 - 1974)

who died on 28 January 2007, will be held at St Mary's Church, Matham Road, East Molesey, at 11am on Thursday 5th April, and afterwards at Molesey Boat Club. For further details contact Peter Ashdown on 07774 229400. Anyone wishing to leave or read a message should visit www.legacy.com.

See also the report of the Ypres visit on Page 15.

KEITH SOUTHAN - RAF Officer



Keith was not one to talk to his pupils or colleagues about his wartime exploits, though some sensed that the war had left its mark on him. He in fact had a distinguished career in the RAF, serving mainly in 502 Squadron RAF Coastal Command and involved in hazardous missions, flying two-engine aircraft, to protect trans-Atlantic shipping from marauding U-boats. Keeping open the Atlantic shipping lanes was of course crucial for the survival of wartime Britain. The outstanding incident of

Keith's wartime service as a pilot was the ditching of his Armstrong Whitley in the Atlantic Ocean. Luckily, he and the crew of five all survived.

A few hours after midnight on 24th October 1941, Navigator Ian Currie and Pilot Keith Southan, together with crew, were briefed to begin the escort of a single ship, the 'Port Wyndham', which was proceeding independently to Liverpool from New Zealand. She was faster than any U-Boat, but the Squadron had orders to provide cover during daylight hours. As the crew struggled to overcome the oppressive weight of interrupted sleep, ground crews prepared their regular aircraft, 'D' for Donald, which was a rather ageing Armstrong Whitley of No.502 Squadron, RAF Coastal Command.

The following is an account of what happened on that day, kindly supplied, at our request, by navigator Ian Currie. In a report after the incident, contained in a 1943 Air Ministry publication 'Coastal Command', tribute was paid to the skill and accuracy of his plotting, which enabled the rescue aircraft to spot the ditched plane within five miles of its last reported position.

"As dawn broke, there was no sign of our merchant vessel and we began our search, when suddenly the engines went out of synchronisation, and I looked up to see a tell-tale streak of white vapour from the port engine. It had developed a glycol leak, and the precious cooling fluid was evaporating. At the same moment I saw Keith snatch at the jettison handle, and our load of depth charges and bombs plummeted into the sea.

"Our plight was an unhappy one. We were over 300 miles from land with one good engine, and, since we had been flying at 1500 feet, with no height to spare, we knew from the Squadron's experience that there was little chance of reaching the coast on the starboard engine. There was nothing for it but to turn for home and see how far we could get. The wireless operator had already sent out a distress signal, and I passed our position back to base.

"We began to lighten the aircraft. Every inessential item of equipment was tossed overboard: belts of ammunition, cameras and the radar screen were sent spinning into the sea. We slowly made our way towards the Irish coast. Our Rolls-Royce Merlin engines were not fitted with fully-feathering propellers, and the useless prop windmilled round, increasing the drag and putting further strain on the good starboard engine. We did not have enough power to maintain height and steadily dropped towards the sea, but Keith found it possible to open up the duff port engine for a few minutes every now and again, which allowed us to gain a few hundred feet. Then, as the engines started to overheat again, the aircraft shuddered violently and it was imperative to throttle back.

"Keith, however, was fighting a losing battle. The temperature gauge on the starboard engine rose higher and higher, and eventually the solder was running out of both engines and we were steadily losing height. Preparations for ditching were made; parachute harnesses were discarded, Mae Wests inflated, the rear door hacked away and the dinghies placed beside it.

"At last Keith told me to send a message that we would be ditching in ten minutes, and I hastily worked out the position in which I calculated we would be then, and passed it on for transmission. Then came the order "Ditching stations!". The wireless operator clamped down his key to give a continuous signal and went aft to take up his position by the rear hatch. According to the drill laid down, the five crew other than the pilot were supposed to lie down on the floor in the rear with their feet braced against the bulkhead of the bomb-bay. Keith asked me to stay up front with him, in case he needed help after the ditching. I had to improvise something, so I sat on the floor with one leg braced against a side strut, protecting my head with my hands against the navigation table.

"Since we all had to disconnect our intercoms, it was impossible to tell when the impact would come, and every muscle in my arms and legs ached with the tension. I knew that, when an aircraft hits the water, it does not skate along the surface of the sea to a gradual stop; it stops abruptly as if hitting a wall.

"Suddenly there was a resounding crash, silence and a rush of water up to my waist. As I scrambled to my feet, I saw the skipper's legs disappearing through the escape hatch above his head, and I clambered up after him, noticing in passing that the front gun was protruding through the windscreen. The aircraft had buried its nose in the crest of a swell and the front compartment had crumpled like a concertina.

"We climbed along the top of the fuselage to the rear, to find the dinghies already inflated and the rest of the crew ready to climb aboard. We discovered that the two dinghies were still secured by a rope to the fuselage of the aircraft, which was slowly sinking and threatening to take our dinghies with it. We had become quite attached to the old kite, for all her imperfections, and were sorry to see her go, but, when the attachment was only too literal, we severed the link between us without a qualm. Quietly 'D' for Donald sank beneath the waves to the bottom of the Atlantic, where she still lies.

"We now took stock of our position. We had all emerged relatively unscathed, although one crew member had a bump on his forehead, and the rear-gunner's hand was torn open by the rack that he had been clutching. The immensity of the Atlantic struck me for the first time, and I knew that we must be merely a speck on the ocean to searching aircraft. I began to feel the full weight of responsibility that lay on my shoulders. The lives of all six of us depended on the accuracy of the position I had sent.

"We chatted, but every ear was alert for the sound of aircraft engines. Suddenly someone gave a shout and pointed, and there about five miles away was one of our Whitleys, with its unmistakable nose-down position. Quickly we loosed off a Signal Distress Marine and twenty or thirty red pyrotechnics went soaring into the air. We confidently expected that the Whitley would alter course and head towards us, but it flew steadily on and disappeared from view. Our hearts sank. We now knew how difficult it would be to attract attention. Had that been our last chance ?

"Not long afterwards the aircraft reappeared, heading straight for us. It was clearly doing a line-ahead search with legs five miles apart, which had brought it directly over us. Before leaving the aircraft, I had emptied my nav bag and placed in it the Very pistol and cartridges, which we carried for recognition purposes with naval units. We held our fire until the aircraft was nearly overhead and then fired a red Very light. Instantly she began to lose height and was soon circling 50 feet above us. The Aldis lamp flashed from the front cockpit: 'Ship 30 miles. Will bring help.' We waved and cheered, to show we had got the message and also to indicate that we were all uninjured. Both Keith and the second pilot lived out in Limavady, and it was important that reassuring news should reach their wives as soon as possible. 'F' for Freddie had been the aircraft due to relieve us on the escort of the Port Wyndham and had broken off the escort to search for us. She flew off to guide the ship towards us.

"Shortly afterwards a Hudson appeared. This time, knowing how ineffective the Marine Distress Signal had been, we tried a different ploy. Robbie had a silver cigarette case with him and he flashed it in the sun. The Hudson immediately banked, turned towards us and circled overhead. It was able to home another aircraft onto our position, and soon it was joined by two more Whitleys and another Hudson. "One of the Whitleys dropped what was called a Thornaby bag - a parachute bag attached to a Mae West. We paddled across and retrieved it and found that it contained a water-bottle, with brandy, biscuits, chocolate, cigarettes and matches in a waterproof container.

"From then on we had quite a merry party beneath our air umbrella. Periodically 'F' returned to report to us on the progress of the ship, which it was guiding towards us by dropping smoke floats.

"Both Keith and I were sick, as soon as we swallowed a shot of brandy. The weather was good, although there was a heavy Atlantic swell, but Keith had had the stress of flying a crippled aircraft for two and a half hours, and I had had the anxiety about our position. The rest of the crew were only too happy to use our share of the brandy.

"Eventually 'F' remained within sight, and soon the masts of the ship were visible from the top of each swell. Soon the Port Wyndham hove to, lowered a boat and willing hands helped us on board. I remember Keith saying, in conformity with nautical tradition, that he would be the last to leave the dinghy, since he was still skipper.



"In the stern of the lifeboat sat the Port Wyndham's First Officer with a bottle of whisky in his hand, and he insisted we should all have a swig, while we were rowed back to the ship, where the ship's crew lined the rails, as we were hoisted up on the ship's davits.

"The Port Wyndham was returning to the UK from New Zealand and was carrying a number of New Zealand Air Force pilots coming to join squadrons in the UK. We were supplied with a variety of casual clothes by the crew and the pilots, while our uniforms dried out in the engine-room, and, after a delicious meal with the ship's officers, we settled down for the

night on the couches in the small saloon. We awoke next morning to find ourselves in the estuary of the Mersey, and we docked in Liverpool soon afterwards.

"When we disembarked, we were taken to Group Headquarters, to meet the Controllers who had coordinated the rescue, and we were able to thank them. They were justly proud of the extremely efficient way they had organised the whole operation. We learned afterwards that never before had a crew been picked up so far from land, well out of range of the Air Sea Rescue launches. Six aircraft and a destroyer had been directed to our position and a Catalina flying boat had been ordered to stand by should it have been necessary to rescue us by flying boat. (In retrospect that would have been a very dodgy business in view of the heavy swell that was running that day.)"

Ian Currie adds: "This account does less than justice to a superb piece of flying by Keith."

Queen Elizabeth Road News

School Cross-Country

The School has done well at cross-country, with a team of Jonathan Darby, Tim Sagar, Ralph Street, Henry Heath & Oliver Waring being placed 17th out of 40 teams in the national 6 stage relay at King Henry VIII School, Coventry. The team of three Year 11s and a Lower, Upper and Year 10 boy ran extremely well, even though against considerably older teams. In the Knowl run, injury carnage deprived us of some of our even better runners. Those that made it round the course placed us 26th out of 50 international and national teams present.

ROBIN SHAW

School Badminton

The U19 side continues to enjoy a spectacular season, having reached both the County League finals and the Surrey Knock-Out final, both to be played in March. The sole league defeat against RGS Guildford was avenged last week, with a stunning victory over them in the knock-out cup. U16, U14 and U12 teams are all still in the running for medals!

MARTIN WILLIAMS

School Rugby

The 2006–07 season was highly successful for Tiffin 1st XV, as they gained an impressive 17 wins, whilst suffering only five defeats. The combination of hard-hitting forwards and equally hard-tackling backs enabled victories to be recorded against Dartford, Wallington, Emanuel, St. George's, Haberdashers, Christ's Hospital, Windsor, Trinity, Reigate, Old Tiffs and Wimbledon College. Two exceptional victories that displayed great team spirit and commitment were against RGS Guildford and City of London Freemans, where Tiffin successfully closed out narrow victories. Away from the fortress that is Grists, these were much enjoyed wins.

The Daily Mail Tournament might have been a chance for a well-equipped Tiffin side to go a long way in getting to Twickenham. However, after being knocked out narrowly by Whitgift in the Cup, Tiffin were beaten by a point in the second round of the Vase by Langley. It was a very disappointing end to a potentially exciting Cup run.

As reported in the December 'Tiffnews', a squad of 40 players toured Veneto, Italy after the October half term. All who took part in the tour valued the week, and it went along well towards bonding the squad together, forming steady foundations on which the rest of the season could develop.

Special mention must go to all Staff who have taken the time to coach and guide the team to much success, and to all Upper Sixth boys who have put so much effort into Tiffin Rugby over the past seven years. Good luck to next year's 1st XV. We'll see you at the Old Boys match!

MATT TURNER

School Chess

The school teams have maintained a good standard, when able to field the strongest selection. The School has entered the National Chess Challenge with a large junior entry!

Recent wins against St Paul's and KCS Wimbledon helped to maintain morale in the A team whilst the B Team have done well too! Thanks to Jonathan Hancock for all his hard work.

PETER WILLIAMS

School Boat Club

I am pleased to report that we are back on the water; however, we have missed valuable time in the boat and are less advanced than many crews. We had 41 boys competing at Hampton Head on Saturday 10th February, and we recorded our first win of the new season. **Alex Thomas, George Nottidge, Eddie Rolls, Henry Heath** and cox **David Rochman** were victorious in the J15 coxed Quads.

The 1st Eight rowed well, with good length and cover, but were under-rating their opposition by 3 or 4 strokes per minute. If we are able to sustain the length and rhythm at the higher rates, I am confident that we will be competitive with many of the top rowing schools.

I must make special mention of the J14 squad, who competed in their first event. Boating two 'Octos' was a splendid effort, and I hope that all enjoyed the experience of racing.

PETER HOPE

Year 11 Ypres Visit

The last edition of 'Tiffnews' mentioned the Remembrance Day Service at the School. Shortly after that event the Year 11 Historians went on the annual visit to Ypres, which includes visits to the Cloth Hall and Menin Gate in Ypres, as well as to various cemeteries and sites such as Sanctuary Wood, Hill 62 and the farm where **OT Douglas Belcher** won his VC.

One of the visits to Cement House cemetery between Ypres and Langemarck brings home to the students the cost of WW1. In this cemetery is buried Charles **Eglington** (1898–1917), who was at Tiffin School 1906–1910. He joined the Royal Artillery underage in 1914 and was killed in action at Langemarck on the 15th October 1917, being on the point of taking up a commission, when he met his death. As on every visit, the oldest student in the group is called upon to lay a wreath on the grave, this year it was laid by Ralph Street.

JOHN KING

Youth Parliament



Congratulations to Paul Kenny, who has been a member of Kingston Youth Council for a year and has now been elected as Kingston Member of the national Youth Parliament for 2007. This Parliament has 300 members and meets annually every summer, with the aim of working on campaigns for better rights for young people.

Performing Arts

School Drama

Following the success of the Christmas production of 'The Changeling' there has been a huge uptake for audition classes for entry to the National Youth Theatre, with students from Years 10–13 taking part in auditions in central London in February and March. Plans are also in hand to take 'The Changeling' to the Edinburgh Festival and fundraising events will be announced shortly.

David Anson is to be congratulated on his success in a recent MA in Text and Performance at RADA. He brings his expertise as a director to a co-production with Tiffin Girls' of 'Our Country's Good'; the story of a hapless band of convicts and military personnel attempting to build a new community after transportation to Australia. The play runs from 6th–9th March in the Studio: tickets £5 from the Music Department office.

Later in the term there will be the annual House Drama competition, rehearsals for which are already under way.

CHARLIE STOREY

School Dance

Dance has really settled within the School this school year. Following an extremely successful project with the Royal Ballet School last year, involving students from Years 9 and 10, we have created a company called Boys Dance @ Tiffin. The company involves Year 10 GCSE dance students and selected boys from Year 9. Last term the company performed at the Paddington Youth Dance Platform, and this term we were invited to participate in a very prestigious Boys' Youth Dance Platform at The Laban Centre (Centre for Contemporary Dance) in South



London. The Company has received very positive feedback from the audience, with a possibility of future performances. On a performance day, boys participated in a range of different dance workshops: Physical theatre, Contemporary and Jazz with other boys' dance companies from around the country and under the leadership of well-known teachers.

We are also starting a collaborative dance and music project with Coombe Boys', with a final performance in Kingston Parish Church, which we very much looking forward to, so do come and support us.

KAROLINA CZERNIAK

Music Calendar

April

Thurs 19 7.00pm Woodwind and Brass Competition (Judge Lecture Theatre)

24-26 7.00pm The School Concert (Main Hall) featuring the premiere of Simon Ferris's Jazz cantata 'King Alfred and his Hot Cakes' (Year 7 and the Boys' Choir), the Swing Band and Close Harmony Group, and Upper Sixth Recitalists on different nights

May

Wed 16 7.00pm House Singing Final

June

Thurs 28 7.30pm Choir Concert (Parish Church)

July

Wed 11 7.00pm Gig Night

Fri 13 from 6.00pm 'Tiffin-in-the-Garden', including The Leavers' Concert at 8.00pm

Friends of Tiffin Music

Work continues apace on the Friends' Studio in the Music Block - the room is now being decorated, and then the equipment will be installed and the boys will be shown how to use it. We have subsidised this to the tune of £5,000. All this is happening under the aegis of Mr Ferris. We held a very successful Music Quiz Night in January, where great fun was had by all, and the best team won on the night! (Not the one I was in, unfortunately!) As this edition of 'Tiffnews' goes to press, we are gearing up to run the bar at the sell-out Gig Night at School - what started as an idea from the Chair to hold an event where we were not hostage to the British climate has taken on a life of its own, and has become an event featuring fierce competition from various bands across the School's students. I imagine that these bands will be some of the people benefiting from the new refit on the Studio and I hope that, when they are rich and famous, they will remember us and send us a hefty donation or two!!

I am delighted to say that the superb Swing Band now has two (paid!) bookings in the diary for later in the year - one is a wedding, the other a rugby club ball. If you would like to book them for an event that you are organising, then please contact Mr Ferris or me.

We have also agreed to donate £3,500 towards the cost of new computers for the Music Department (see my piece in the last edition), and that project is moving forward rapidly. The next target for fundraising is to help Simon Toyne finance the production of a CD to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Boys' Choir, so if you would like to contribute towards the cost of that, an easy way is to join us! Membership is just £15 a year for individuals, £25 for a family, and you are then entitled to discounted tickets for school concerts and a copy of the monthly newsletter, 'The Baton', amongst other things. If you would like to know more, then please either phone me on 020 8395 7146 or send an email to miranda.fagandini@which.net, and I will get some details to you.

MIRANDA FAGANDINI

Tiffin History *Continued from page 7*

Dear Brian,

I was interested in the various contributions in the last issue of 'Tiffnews' about the School Scout Troop. I joined the troop as a tenderfoot, when I entered the school in 1938, having been a cub in the 2nd Tolworth group and also having my elder brother John Higham in the troop. He later became a patrol leader. In August 1939, with Sam Brown the biology teacher as scoutmaster and an assistant scoutmaster (I think a Mr Burrows, who taught me Latin and French in the 1st form), we travelled by 'charabanc' to Betteshanger, near Sandwich, Kent, for the annual camp. We were camped in the corner of a grassy meadow in what appeared to be private parkland. Nearby there was a working windmill milling flour. On a visit to Dover, war preparations were already underway, with barrage balloons aloft and the town brimming with soldiers and sailors. Other visits made during the camp were to Richborough to see the Roman castle and to Canterbury Cathedral and Ramsgate. We returned from the very enjoyable camp on Tuesday, 8th August., and I vividly recollect seeing sandbags being filled in London parks en route and trenches being dug. A few weeks later, Sunday 3rd September, we listened to Mr Chamberlain on the radio declaring that a state of war existed with Germany, and then the air raid sirens sounded and the whole family went into the street in bright sunshine looking for enemy aircraft, only to have the 'all clear' sounded about half an hour later. The attached photo of me was taken in a photo booth at Ramsgate during one of the outings from the camp

Yours,

Derek Higham (1944)

Dear Brian,

Reading 'Tiffnews', I was saddened to read of the death of Keith Southan. He and the Scouts had a very strong influence on me! I can maybe fill in some of the details of the Scout Group, as I joined in 1957, when I came to Tiffs, and stayed in touch until the mid 1960s. In the last couple of years, I was helping to run the single Troop as an ASL. There

were no masters willing to take the troop on at that time, but 'Marcus' and I kept it running. In 1957 there were two troops, Woden (Wednesday night) & Freya (Friday night). 'Kim' Jeffery was SL of Woden, my troop, and there were Kestrel, Swift, Hawk & Puffin patrols. We still had a couple of 'Grammar Grubs' in the Troop at that time, but it didn't last long. My first camp was in Bassenthwaite, in the Lakes. We also camped in Ireland, Wales & Scotland in my time in the Troop, and had Easter camps at Polyapes Scout Camp, and 'Normanshurst' (as I remember it, Benjamin Britten's old home?). The uniform was dark blue, unlike the traditional khaki, and included shorts - I was still wearing them to school as a Prefect. There was indeed a major rebuilding project for the 'new' hut, with work-parties every weekend. My dad & I were regular attenders. I nearly won my handymans badge - spoilt only by sharpening a curve on the flat edge of Marcus's chisels! Keith was particularly remembered at camp for his love of strong cheese, kept in an oxo tin (reputedly from camp to camp) and also for his heavyhandedness with the salt in the porridge - so much so that one wide game I remember had us try to find sticks of highly toxic 'Marcusonium' (chemical symbol SAlt), heavily disguised as tent pegs! He was also very 'green', making sure we wasted nothing, and the store tent was often refurbished with 'finds'. Tent poles were secured by bands cut from car inner tyres! Marcus was also involved as a service team member at the 1963 Greek Jamboree at Mykonos, Greece, which I attended as a participant. As mentioned in your article on the hut, there was an air-raid shelter near the hut which we used to store our equipment during the rebuilding. I think it was flattened & filled in, once the new hut was built. As a Queen's Scout, I had the privilege of holding open the hut door when it was opened by (I think) the County Commissioner, who also planted a tree on the drive just outside the hut.

Best wishes

Peter Elliott (1964)