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# ARCHIVIUM

**Blundell's School Archive Newsletter**



Windsor Park Review, 1911

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## WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S EDITION



Thank you for all the positive feedback from the first issue of *Archivium* – I have been made to feel extremely welcome within the role and look forward to getting to know some of you when you are next visiting the School. I received lots of interested emails regarding the Bisley Team Photograph on the front cover of the last issue. It's a particular favourite of mine, least of all because the chap third from the left in the back row, J.H.D. Acland, is the spitting image of my friend, Tom, from Cambridge, who is a relative of his. It is also a very poignant image in many ways as several of the young men pictured perished in the Great War. It serves as an abject reminder of the futility of such conflicts, whilst commemorating the continuing service and sense of duty instilled in our pupils here, both past and present. There is talk (see below) of getting this set of early Officer Training Corps and Bisley Team photographs digitised for you all to enjoy, but for now I attach another from the same series, of King George V surveying the Blundell's OTC at Windsor Park – rather apt with the upcoming celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee.

I hope you enjoy this issue and if you have any questions don't hesitate to be in touch – contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

CELF

## ARCHIVE NEWS

### DIGITAL ARCHIVES

It's been a busy month here in the Archive. There has been a lot of admin to be sorted – policy documents and proposals for projects that should hopefully come unto fruition in the next few terms.

A key theme in the world of school archives at present is Digital Archiving. This can take two forms – both digitising materials and allowing them to be accessible to members of the public; but also, digital preservation – how we chose to preserve our digital files for posterity to allow key moments in the School's History and decision-making processes to be kept safe for future generations. It was the topic for the recent symposium for the Southwest branch of SARA (School Archive and Records Association) and having done some recent training with the International Council on Archives, I am now working with the archivists at Dean Close, Cheltenham Ladies' College and Bromsgrove School to form a Digital Preservation Working Group to develop and share good practice in this area. We are hoping to meet in July so I will keep you updated! As for digitising parts of our collection to go online, I have begun putting together a list of materials to share with you: from Peter Blundell's Will; Victorian and Edwardian Photograph Albums; and of course, copies of the Blundellian. If there is anything else, you would really like to see (provided it meets our access policy!) please drop me a line.



# SARA

School Archives & Records Association

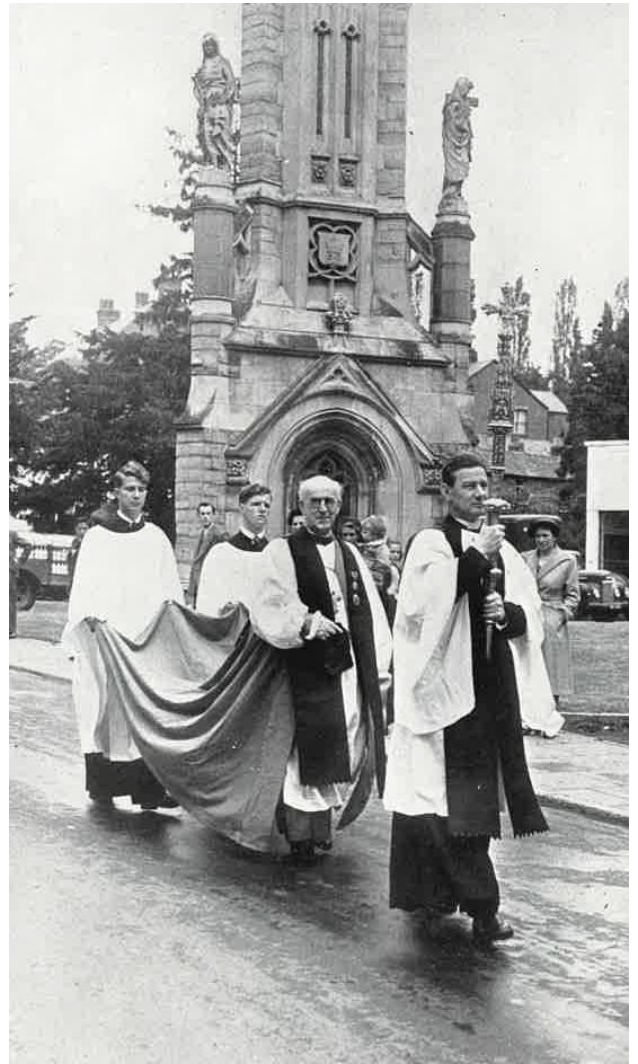
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## VISITORS

A couple of weeks ago I welcomed the family of the late Tom Holden (W 1949-54), who wished to find out a bit more about his time at Blundell's. Tom was an avid rugby player and later Head of School during the visit of the Queen Mother in 1954, completing his National Service (with Idi Amin as his commanding officer!); before reading Geography at Brasenose, then embarking on an illustrious career setting up the Geography Department at Eton College. He kept in touch with his housemaster, Ronnie Seldon, for many years, so I was able to share with his wife, daughter and granddaughter, his letters and photographs of him, during his time here. He always said that Blundell's was the making of him, and I must say it was an absolute joy to welcome the Holden-Banks clan to the School and share their memories of his time here and allowing me to scan some hitherto unseen photographs of Blundell's in the 1950s.

*Right: The Archbishop of Canterbury processes through Tiverton to mark the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the School in 1954. Tom Holden is behind him on the right.*



## ARCHIVE CLUB

Elsie and Bella, my Archive Club duo, have continued to be a brilliant help on a Thursday lunch time. They have done a great job of helping me inventory a set of rediscovered Victorian award cups; sort through a collection of donated photographs and put together a display board for the Ladies' Lunch. They are working on a write up for you, as we speak so hopefully you should hear from them by the next issue.



*Left: The girls hard at work doing a display on long standing member of staff, Ted Chanter, for the Ladies Lunch*

## Can you help?

To help enhance our Archive Collection as part of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Year Celebrations, I am seeking out OB memories of the Queen Mother's two visits to the School.

The first in 1954 was to attend a concert in the Chapel as part of the School's 350 centenary year celebrations; the second was in 1967 to open the new Big School building.

Were you there for one of those visits? I'd love to hear what you remember! I am happy to accept written accounts by post or email or if you prefer, happy to accept recordings (mp3 files only). My contact details are at the bottom of the newsletter.



## CURIOSITY OF THE MONTH

I am guilty of taking my work home with me and I have been reading a scanned copy of this curious little document entitled '*A New and Accurate History Of the Rebellion carried against Thomas Wood commonly called Usurper By an Honorable party of Young Men students of Blundell's School In the Glorious year 1787*' which gives a supposed account of an uprising by the student body against their allegedly overbearing undermaster, Thomas Wood, following a wooden spoon being broken. I don't want to give too much away as I'm hoping to include some blown up images from this for the OB Exhibition in June but safe to say, that there were various shenanigans from smoking pipes in the room where prayers were said to smashing all the crockery. And before you judge the boys too harshly, research suggests they were all at it during this period – from destroying all the windows at Eton; to Lord Byron and friends dragging all the furniture out of the Headmaster's study at Harrow and burning it in the Courtyard there. Its no wonder the Age of Revolutions is one of my favourite periods of history – and I leave you with a sneak peek here of one of the illustrations.



## A NEW ACQUISITION

I just have to share with you this amazing LP that I kindly received during the Half Term break from the family of Dr Eldred Williams (NC 1947-51), with a recording of Blundell's School Choir during his time here! As soon as the new stylus arrives in our Music Department, I will get that digitised so you can all have a listen! I'm very excited!

As always, if you are interested in leaving any material to the Archive, please be in touch first with either myself or the Development Office so we can check that we are able to accommodate the material.

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