

Vol. 1, issue 4 –

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ARCHIVIUM

Blundell's School Archive Newsletter



OB Day, 1897

“In rising to propose the toast of “The Queen” the Chairman referred to the great national demonstrations in connection with the Diamond Jubilee. It was, he said, a toast that appealed to everyone, especially on such an occasion when they could not fail to be thankful that they bore the proud distinction of being Englishmen - (cheers)...”

- Extract from the Blundellian describing the 1897 OB Day speeches

ARCHIVE NEWS



- OB Day Exhibition
- SARA Conference

IN THIS ISSUE



CAN YOU HELP?



- Mystery detectorist's find and W.E.R. Trounson

CURIOSITY OF THE MONTH

- Sport's Day Programme, 1873

NEW ACQUISITION



- French books
- Mrs C. Jennings
- Print of the clock tower

WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S EDITION



Our beautiful chapel in the early evening light

ARCHIVE NEWS

Welcome to this month's edition of *Archivium*!

It really was an absolute pleasure to meet so many of you at OB Day recently. Putting names to faces and hearing your memories of your time here at Blundell's is always such a pleasure and really brings colour and life to individuals who I otherwise only see in written documents! For this month's cover photo, I thought you might like to see an OB day from times past – 125 years ago to be exact!

It has been a very busy few weeks in the Archive. I have had some interesting enquiries particularly about the Napoleonic War period which has allowed me to delve into some new materials for me such as the Book of Orders which dates between 1663 and 1847 which records the minutes of meetings held by the school feoffees during this period. Beyond the exhibition and ongoing enquiries. I have also been to London to the SARA Conference and continued investigating ways of getting some of the archive's material in a digital format to allow you to view some of the material remotely.

The Archive will be closed until September but I will be periodically picking up emails if you would like to be in touch (I just won't be as prompt in replying as usual!). Wishing you all a restful summer!

CELF

SARA Conference

St Paul's School, 15.06.2022

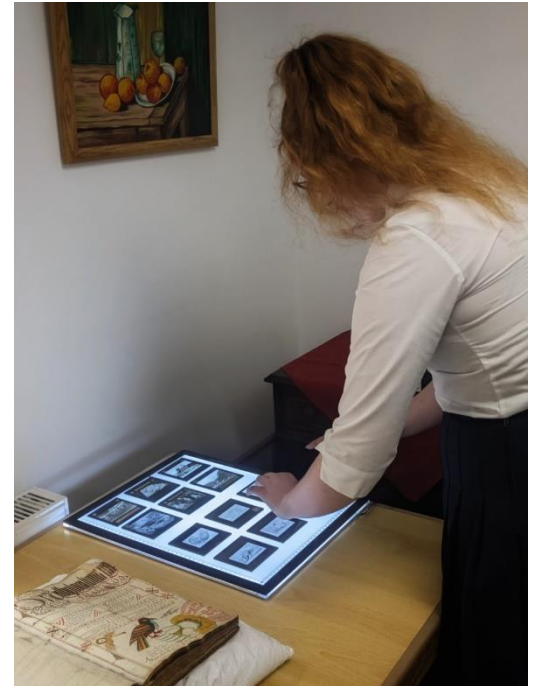
On the 15th June, I was lucky enough to represent Blundell's at the annual School Archive and Records Association Conference, held this year at St Paul's School. It was really interesting to hear all the latest developments in the world of school archiving – particularly the move to digitalising records for alumni and academics and how other schools have commemorated important anniversaries, of which there are a number here in the School over the next few years. A personal highlight for me during my visit, was that St Paul's have Field Marshal Montgomery's original map upon which he planned D-Day on display – Monty of course being an Old Pauline.



OB Day Exhibition

18.06.2022

A new archivist, a new opportunity to share a tiny fraction of our magnificent collection of over 20,000 items dating back to 1456; this year's OB Day Exhibition theme was "Treasures of the Archive". I interpreted the theme quite liberally – in terms of pecuniary value I was able to share with the community items such as John Locke's *Of Humane Understanding* (1706) and the unusual Cooper 100 inch slide rule from the 1920s. In terms of rare survivals items such as Abraham Podger's school exercise book from 1715-17 with its intricate drawings and rote learning made an appearance, as well as our oldest document, a writ from 1456 pertaining to a patch of land in West-Exe (one of the many items inherited from Blundell's own personal archive); early copies of the *Blundellian* from the 1860s (handwritten of course!) and recently digitised footage from the 1936 Russell, among other items were on display. Thanks, should be given to Victoria Curgenvan, Year 12, for helping me set up and doing the research and curating of the antique teaching slides – many of you got to enjoy her dinosaur and geology slides. I'm very much looking forward to next year's exhibition already – thank you to all of you who came and were most supportive!



CURIOSITY OF THE MONTH

As I'm writing this edition, Senior Sport's Day is taking place over on Amory and so I thought it fitting that this month's curiosity should be sport's day themed. This programme for the 1873 Athletics day, is part of a scrapbook which belonged to Augustus Miller (1864-71). He continued to return to his old school for events even after taking up his place at Exeter College, Oxford.

Results included:

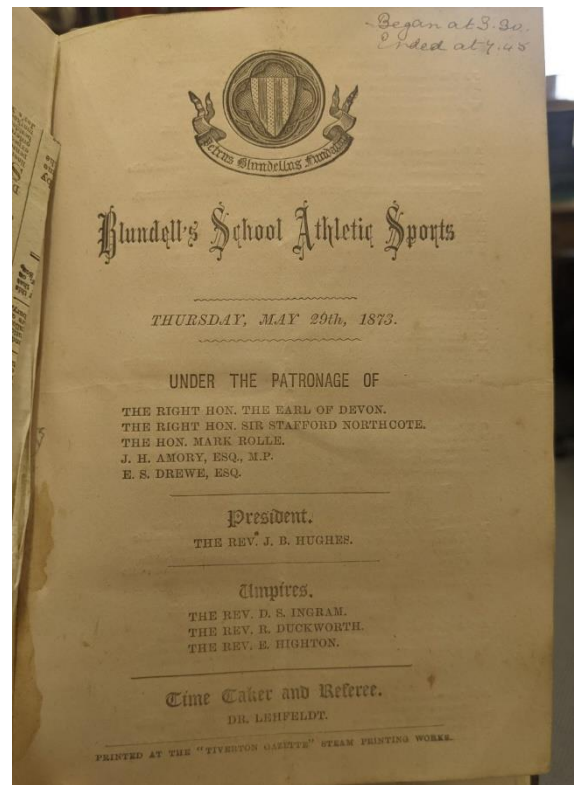
C.D. Gibbon – Over 15 cricket ball throwing (85 yard 1 ft 5 ½ inches)

A.L. Adey – 250 yard Hurdles (41 seconds) mile race (5 mins) and 70 yard flat race (8 seconds)

W. Gibbon – putting the weight (14 ½ lbs) – 29ft 5 inches

L.H. Miller – High Jump (4ft 6 inches)

C.H.H. Beley – Pole Jump (7 feet 1 ½ inches)



Can you help?

This week I received the most unusual enquiry I've had yet. A gentleman who is an amateur metal detectorist has uncovered a man's bracelet with a name and Blundell's School etched on it. How it got lost on a lonely stretch of Northwellian beach is anyone's guess, but it has been matched to W.E.R. Trounson, who was a pupil between 1910 and 1914. We would be interested to find out more about Trounson's life – so if anyone is related to him or is still in touch with the extended family please be in touch.



NEW ACQUISITIONS

Another quiet month for acquisitions, which is no bad thing given how hectic it has been here. Among items and information donated, has been a photo of Constance Jennings who was married to Tom Jennings, and ran the tuck shop, passed on by her granddaughter Pauline Rooks; a series of French language books (E.S. – if you're looking for your copy of Molière's *Le Tartuffe* from 1985, its safely in my care...); and a print of the clock tower that was kindly passed out of a car window by a member of the public this week. Whilst I'm always happy to take school memorabilia from strangers in the carpark, it's probably best to be in touch in advance if you have any items, you would be interested in leaving in the school's care to check we can accommodate it and to make a note of its provenance. My contact details can be found to the left.

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