



ARCHIVIUM

Blundell's School Archive Newsletter

Ted Crowe in action from one of his many cricketing scrapbooks held by the Archive



WELCOME TO ARCHIVIUM

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CAN YOU HELP?

Sign up for Oral History Project



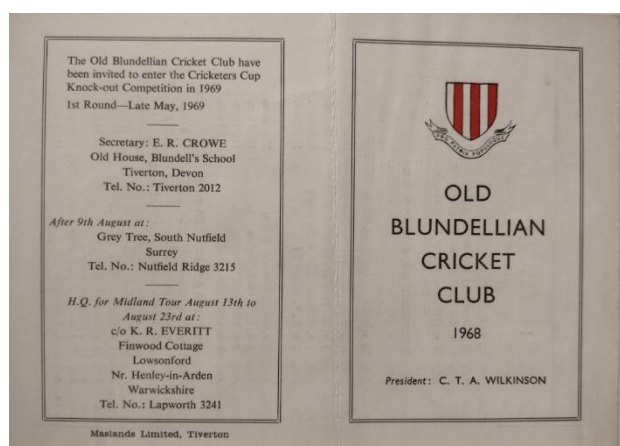
NEW ACQUISITIONS

With some amazement, I realise that I am coming up to the end of my first full year as the School Archivist. I can't believe how fast time has flown, and what an interesting and varied role it has been. With such a rich history, there is rarely a dull moment here in the Blundell's Archive, whether it be organising talks and exhibitions, ingesting and organising new and existing material; liaising with other archivists, curators and academics; supporting the work of the Development Office and of course, writing up *Archivium*. Thank you so much for all your support and good wishes on this particular venture. Lots of interesting weather here in Tiverton this month, so it has been good to be able to chip away at various research projects and enquiries. I wish you all a very restful Christmas and look forward to the next edition in the new year.

CELF

CRICKETER CLUB ARCHIVE

I have been very busy for a number of weeks doing some work for the new Nicholson Cricketer Cup Archive. Charles Fellows-Smith, Vice President of the Cup and his Cricket Archive Team have been busy building a full statistical record of over fifty years of Cricketer Cup games. For context that includes the records and statistics for over 1,600 matches. I spent several weeks sifting through the late Ted Crowe's cricketering memorabilia to help add our Old Blundellian material to this project along with over fifty other schools across the country. If you are interested in viewing this project, it can be accessed here - <https://www.thecricketercup.com/cricket-archive-intro>



PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY OF OLD BLUNDELL'S



Detail from the old seventeenth-century screen in Old Blundells – which is now part of a coat stand dating to the 1920s

Following a couple of excellent meetings with the manager of Old Blundell's, I was given permission to go back in on my own to produce a photographic inventory of the historic features of the original building to improve our knowledge of the original school. I was also lucky enough to be joined by my father, a chartered surveyor of forty plus years' experience, so I learned a little bit about the structure of the building as well! Despite a number of late nineteenth century alterations and some particularly garish 70s orange wall paper there are a number of original features in the Old School from doorways, to fireplaces. Perhaps one of the most fascinating items is the 1920s coat stand which is in the hallway, which was fashioned from parts of the old screen which split the original school room. This screen is now lost to us, so it is interesting to compare the parts of the coat stand against our earliest plans of the school; and the pictures in general will be useful to compare against the Victorian items we have in the collection.

REMEMBRANCE & THE ARCHIVE

With the centenary of the Great War a few years behind us now, it can be easy to perceive this momentous event as being distant and unrelatable. With that in mind, I felt (along with my Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers) that we wanted to mark Remembrance this year with something tangible that made people stop and think about the sacrifice made by so many young men when serving their country. Within the collection there are a number of pictures of the early Cadet Corps from between 1902 and 1915 in different places around the school. These students, of course, were the ones who then went on to fight in the war. What we decided to do then, was to create a trail of these images around the school, placing copies of these images in the spots where they were taken. To accompany this, we made a trail booklet with information about the soldiers in the photos who lost their lives to emphasise the point that these were real pupils who were once walking around the grounds in the same way that our current pupils do today.

In addition to this, the Archive was able to loan out our copy of Arthur Graeme West's "The Diary of a Dead Officer" to Senior Master, Andrew Berrow, along with some biographical information. With this, Berrow delivered a thought-provoking address in Chapel to students about Graeme's life and times. Having been at School House between 1905 and 1910, he enlisted in 1915, moving up the ranks to second lieutenant in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry 6th Battalion, before becoming Captain of that battalion in 1917. He was killed by a sniper bullet in Baupaume, and buried in the Honourable Artillery Company Cemetery in Pas-de-Calais, France. As was reported in the Blundell's Bulletin: "Pupils were enthralled and Mr Berrow's final reminder that someone was sitting in Captain West's seat when he last sat in chapel, was met with an appropriate murmur as the reality of the story dawned."



One of the ten images from the trail. This one was of the Cadet Corps Band in 1910 and taken outside what is now the FOB's Cafe



*Arthur Graeme West
(SH, 1905-10)*



CURIOSITY OF THE MONTH

I have, with my Blundellian Editor's hat on this week, been asked to give a staff inset to the Common Room on the importance of the Blundellian and how it is to be laid out. As part of that I had the pleasure of being able to go through our earliest copies of the Blundellian dating back to 1861. These were produced by hand on a fortnightly basis by students and cost a ha'penny. I share with you a couple of my favourite drawings from these early editions.



Can you help?

Another plea for interested people to sign up for my Oral History project starting in the New Year

Sign up here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/z9DxVmD7qw> or drop me an email please

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NEW ACQUISITIONS

We received this month an anonymously donated collection of books about the history of the school; from Cedric Clapp (P, 1960-65) a copy of the Petergate Magazine "The Beaver"; his new boys book from 1960 and "A guide for Boys new to Blundell's" written by John Rees among other items; and finally from the family of the Wong Brothers (Wong Sieuw Qui and Wong Sieuw Yuen; 1905-6) a copy of "Wong Ah Fook: Immigrant, Builder and Entrepreneur" by P. Lim Pui Huen. This is a book about their father who was a key figure in late 19th century Singapore – Blundell's is discussed on p. 132.