



Blundell's

www.blundells.org

DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

SUMMER 2007

New buildings

The unveiling of the new academic building,
The Popham Centre, and also the Music
School extension



INSIDE: FOUNDATION NEWS | THE RUSSELL | A GAP YEAR WITH A DIFFERENCE | THE DIARY INTERVIEW

A photograph of a church and a large building on a green lawn. The church, on the left, has a tall tower with a cross on top and a large arched window. A stone cross stands in the middle of the lawn. To the right is a large, multi-story building with many windows. The scene is set in a grassy area with some flowers in the foreground.

CLASSIC VIEW

The Memorial Cross, a replica of the Cross of Eyam, dedicated on November 2nd 1920, stands testament to the many Blundellians who fell during the 1st World War. The annual Remembrance Service in Chapel and the ceremony around the cross still represent a seminal day in the Blundell's calendar. The western extension of the chapel was completed in 1926 and the carved stone shield and motto above the door is currently used as the school's logo. The exact date that the chapel tower replaced the original spire is uncertain but was undoubtedly during the 1920s.

Seen through the gap is Old House, built by Arithmetic and Writing Master, T.U. Cross. OH first took boys in 1882 and recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. Also visible in the Chapel Quad is the quatercentennial sculpture by OB Gabriel Hummerstone (FH 1980-85). The four tons of Delabole slate has Latin Prayer engraved on one side and I AM on the other, and almost all of the extended Blundell's community had a go at chiselling the inscriptions.

Submissions are welcome from the Blundell's community for the next issue's 'Classic View'.

HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the first edition of the new Blundell's Diary, which will be written twice a year and sent to all parents, past pupils, Governors and friends of the school. It is designed to replace the Newsletter, the Broadsheet and the Foundation Pictorial.

The aim is to provide readers with a snapshot of life at Blundell's over the previous six months, together with news from Old Blundellians. It will not be exhaustive in its content, rather more an eclectic collection of events which typify the amazing diversity of experience encountered by our pupils. The format will include some regular items as well as recent news. One of the main conceptual factors underpinning this exciting new magazine is to provide a common forum for the whole Blundell's family, both past and present.

There will increasingly be pupil involvement in the production of the Blundell's Diary both from the planning, writing, photographic and design aspects. There will gradually be a greater educational value as the Diary Team gain experience both, from external professionals running workshops and internal instruction. The excellent Graphic Design Rooms and Printing facilities within the new Popham Centre will greatly enhance this learning experience. In addition the Diary will go with the Prospectus and the Blundell's Current Information brochure to all prospective parents and feeder schools.

Blundell's Diary complements the Blundellian and the Old Blundellian Newsletter. If you would like to contribute to the Diary or have comments on its format or content, please pass them on to Peter Klinkenberg (Registrar) or Paddy Armstrong (Foundation).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Davenport". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized script.

Ian Davenport

Head Master

OXBRIDGE SUCCESSES - CONGRATULATIONS

Oxford

Max Byng - Law at Exeter
Harry McDowell - History at St Hugh's
Will Seamer - Biological Sciences at Keble

Cambridge

Arcadie Cotruta - Law at Trinity
Xandi Rose - Philosophy at Sidney Sussex
Michael Smith - Oriental Studies at Churchill

Several academic Clubs and Societies have been reintroduced this year. The Business Club & Economics Society had a very productive year, performing strongly at a National competition. Physics were not to be left out and four Bronze Awards were gained by Tim Archibald, James Milnes, Eva Zhang and Johnny Li.

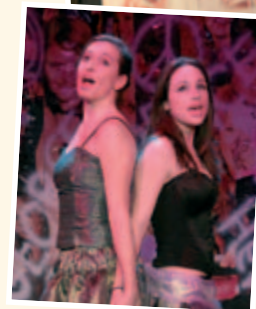
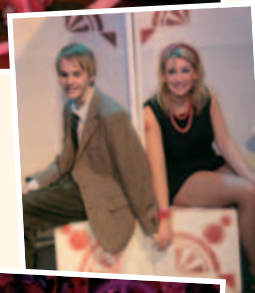


The Economics Society Team, Joe Smith, Arcadie Cotruta, Amy Wang and James Gibson.

SWEET CHARITY



The Ondaatje Theatre Company under the direction of Miss Baddeley managed to achieve a performance of Sweet Charity that in turn thrilled, amused and moved its audiences. New York was captured in a wonderful backdrop designed by Malcolm Thackwray and the tallscope was transformed into a fairground ride that twinkled with fairy lights. The orchestra and musical director, James Taylor, cosily ensconced underneath the bleachers, brought the memorable score to life and the actors rose to the challenge: The chorus mastered a range of dances, adapted from Bob Fosse's original choreography, and even those with two left feet at the beginning of the rehearsal period discovered that they could find their way through some slick dance routines by the end.



WIMBLEDON



On Saturday 30th June a group of twelve excited tennis fans from the Blundell's first and second teams set off to Wimbledon, accompanied by Mr Wheatley, Mrs Wright and Mr Pilbeam. The school was very fortunate to obtain centre court and number one court tickets.

1ST TEAM CRICKET

Played 14, Won 11

Under the new regime of ex-Somerset stalwart, Rob Turner, the 1st Squad had one of their most successful seasons in recent years. Superbly led from the front by captain, Joe Smith, they showed a determined and spirited approach to both practices and matches. Joe averaged over 50 and showed great maturity and tactical awareness in leading quite a young side. Working very much with a squad system, they played cricket of the highest quality, particularly in defeating a Millfield A/B side by 11 runs and also in the wins over the MCC, Exeter School and King's Taunton.



Joe Smith on his way to an unbeaten 138 against the MCC

The senior cricketers have benefited greatly from the two recent tours to India (Goa '05 and Kerala '07), where they experienced differing conditions and very strong opponents.

CARVED IN STONE

Gabriel Hummerstone delivered an excellent letter stone-carving workshop on 3 July to the Lower Sixth and members of the newly formed SAS (Special Art Status) Group. A noisy but constructive day was had by all in the production of carved tablets displaying quotes from Shakespeare to David Beckham.



Dido Graham Yr 12 and Caroline Clapp Yr12



L6 Art group + SAS (Special Art Status) pupils

THE SOUND OF SUMMER



The Summer Concert, once again, showed the plethora of talent within the Blundell's music department. Delighting the large audience were various ensembles such as string quartets, the Chamber choir, choral groups, numerous soloists and the ever popular Big Band (in their natty waistcoats).

Main picture: *left* Frances Auger Yr 10 *middle* Rebecca Ley Yr 11 *right* Rosamund Harpur Yr 10



Alice Westley Yr 11

Guy Durant

OH ANNIVERSARY



OH 125th Anniversary Party

OH staged a wonderful celebratory evening to commemorate its 125th Anniversary. Both past and present House Masters, House Staff, OBs and parents as well as the current extended family partied the night away in true OH fashion.

House Masters of OH from 1882-2007
T.U. Cross, J.M. Thornton, H.H. Batterbee, P.J. McElwee, G.A. Lucas, E.R. Crow, P.J. Salter, N.A. Folland and L. Menheneott



Mr Menheneott, the incumbent House Master, telling one of his painful jokes, when everyone would rather listen to OH's boy band 'The Tuckshop Boys'; who, incidentally, were fronted on guitar by Matt Weedon - and, yes, it does run in the family!

THE WHITE JACKET

William Banbury was awarded 'The White Jacket'. This is rarely earned and may only be worn by the Captain of Athletics, who must also have been awarded his or her full colours for one other major sport; for Will this was Captain of Rugby. The last to attain this honour was Rhys Griffiths in 2003.



NEW BU



Pupils enjoying enhanced IT facilities and the electronic recording and editing studio. The new Music School adjoins the original one, with access inside the buildings from one to the other.



BUILDINGS



After extensive consultation with the Head Master and potential users of the buildings the Governors approved a start on the Popham Centre and an extension to the Music School in January 2007.

The Popham Centre is situated between Ondaatje Hall and the Amory Memorial Workshops, extending north into the arboretum. It houses the Economic and Business Studies Department, the IT server providing the Blundell's Intranet, as well as dedicated IT teaching areas and a maintenance area for the three IT technicians and the Head of Information Technology. Extra space for Art, Design and Technology is also provided including a display area for pupils' work. It has made a considerable difference already, not least because it is such an aesthetically pleasing design.

The New Music School is extended to the north of the existing music facilities and opens out onto the grass quadrangle behind the Dining Hall and includes extra practice and teaching areas, plus an electronic recording studio. It is a pleasure to give the staff and pupils the facility they deserve. But schools are not about buildings, they are about pupils. The statement opposite summarises the Head Master's reasons for believing Blundell's is a super school. >>

‘THINK WHERE MAN’S
GLORY MOST BEGINS
AND ENDS, AND SAY
MY GLORY WAS I HAD
SUCH FRIENDS.’

W B Yeats

It has made a considerable difference already, not least because it is such an aesthetically pleasing design.



« The photographs show the various stages during the building of the Popham Centre and Music School. Foundations were poured in January and were quickly followed by the erection of steel frames. Concrete block was built up from the floor slabs and slate roofs ensure both buildings are in sympathy with their surroundings. The Popham Centre is clad in a white render with the arboretum to the rear and a bricked piazza in front. The Music School is faced with stone to match Big School and has its main entrance leading off a grassed quadrangle. The interior fittings are to a very high standard and both buildings have bright, light interiors. Landscaping was finished in September and pupils were able to enjoy the buildings from the beginning of term.

The official opening of the Popham Centre by Professor Richard Bowring (W 1960-64) and the Music School by Peter Hurford (SH 1944-48) is on 6th October and photographs of this event will appear in the next issue.



Concrete blocks being laid, floor slabs lowered into place by crane, topping out champagne frozen in time by the camera, only three weeks to go activity in the Music School and the site back in March.

NEW BUILDINGS



The completed steel framework, tiling over the under-floor heating system and furniture awaiting assembly in the Popham Centre.



Foundations being poured via an articulated crane, scaffolding allowing roofing and block laying, final preparation of the interior and the entrance piazza of the Popham Centre.



A view of the Popham Centre from the top of North Close showing the entrance piazza and rolling Devonshire countryside beyond.



A GAP YEAR WITH A DIFFERENCE

Charlie Fursdon (P 1998-2005)



Charlie Fursdon, pictured third from left

After leaving school in July I chose to take a Gap Year before going to University. I decided to take part in a Raleigh International Expedition to Sabah, which is in Malaysian Borneo. This involved raising £3,000 for the charity which I did through sponsored events such as a three-legged run; designing, printing and selling Christmas cards and getting a job. The fundraising was quite hard work but I was indebted to various friends and family who generously supported me. The expedition was to last for 10 weeks, after which I planned to meet up with some friends from school and travel through Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia for a couple of months. >>

CL

ABOVE THE

by Charlie Fursdon



OUNDS

“From the summit you could see the curvature of the earth and I think I just about spotted the green fields of Devon but that might have been something to do with a lack of oxygen to the brain!”

Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in South East Asia (4,096m)

A GAP YEAR WITH A DIFFERENCE

« Having left Heathrow on a dark and bitter February morning, arriving in Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, Borneo was a huge culture and climate shock! We were in the jungle within two hours of landing and we spent four days in basic training, learning how to live and work effectively in such a harsh environment and getting used to the fact that lunch for the foreseeable future was going to consist of sardines and cream crackers! There were a total of about 100 Raleigh volunteers aged between 18 and 25, including about 15 native Malaysians and about 15 volunteer staff in the 25-45 age bracket. We were split into smaller groups for the projects, of which we did three over the ten weeks.

My first project was the adventure phase. This involved a 12-day trek through the Crocker Range—a treacherous combination of mountains and jungle. Here we undertook some trail maintenance—a necessary task in order to keep remote villages accessible and to encourage responsible eco-tourism. This involved clearing jungle, building steps and making and repairing bridges. It also unexpectedly involved building a makeshift bamboo stretcher and carrying a badly injured venturer over a rickety rope bridge and 5km to a clearing so she could be helicoptered out.

We carried all that we needed on our backs, and the trekking involved many hills and river crossings making it a particularly tiring and sweaty couple of weeks! Every evening we would set up our bashes and hammocks and attempt to fall asleep hoping that we weren't sharing a bed with any of Borneo's more poisonous wildlife! We would wake at dawn to the quite amazing sounds of the jungle, cook up some porridge and be on our way again. Never having been to the jungle before, I found it a fascinating if slightly claustrophobic place.

After finding our way out of the jungle we were whisked off to Pulau Mamutik, a tiny, virtually uninhabited tropical island off the Sabahan coast. Here we learnt to SCUBA dive before completing a reef-clearance scheme, collecting disturbing amounts of litter, which is killing the coral. I was pleased to leave behind the sea snake I had exchanged glances with on a number of occasions but sad to say goodbye to the paradise that had been our home for that week. The adventure phase finished once we had climbed Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in South East Asia (4096m). This was a breathtaking experience quite literally but provided a huge sense of achievement when we got to the top. From the summit you could see the curvature of the earth and I think I just about spotted the green fields of Devon

but that might have been something to do with a lack of oxygen to the brain!



We really did work



Job finished

The second project was an environmental one in the Imbak Canyon Conservation Area—a vast area of virgin rainforest in the heart of Sabah. Here we were helping to set up the Conservation Area, which is in its very early stages, mainly by building accommodation for the 40 or so rangers who are going to be living and working there. This involved carrying huge lengths of 'iron wood' to the clearing from the jungle and using traditional Malaysian building techniques with the guidance of the rangers. The mere presence of Raleigh International at the site also puts positive pressure on the Malaysian Government to reduce the effects of illegal logging and poaching, which are major problems.

The rainforest was an incredible place to live for 3 weeks and we saw many strange creepy-crawlies and other fascinating natural marvels. Unfortunately, due to poaching, the large mammals such as orang-utan, rhino and elephant are very scarce in the area although our camp was frequented by an egg-pinching civet, a huge deadly scorpion and stealthy cobra. The BBC were in fact filming when we were there and a programme called Expedition Borneo, in which the scientists discovered many new species in the area, was screened in November. The eventual aim is for Imbak to be united with Danum Valley and Maliau Basin, two existing conservation areas in Sabah, to become a World Heritage Site. This would help to ensure that this amazing part of the oldest rainforest in the world is not lost forever. It was a



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Misty jungle

great experience to be part of this project and to think that we had helped in getting it up and running.

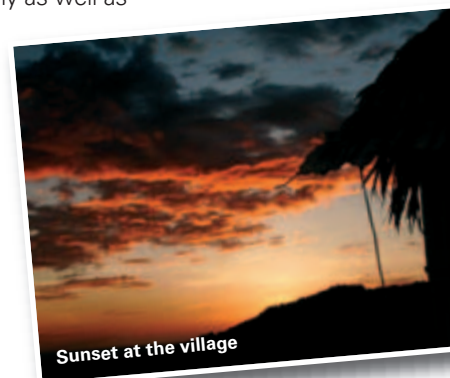
My third and final phase was the one I had been most looking forward to. It was a community project in Kampung Rita, a remote subsistence-farming village of 200 or so in northern Sabah, with a catchment population of about 1000. The community is of Rungus ethnic origin and lives together in the traditional communal longhouse (quite a sight with chickens, pigs, rice-bashing equipment and four generations of people all co-existing in a very small space!).

Our task was to build a library with the aim of easing the problem of illiteracy. It was a very large and ambitious building built in a drained paddy field in the centre of the kampung with a floor area of 50ft by 20ft with an enclosed area for the storage of books and an open area for reading and community use. One of the main challenges was the fact that the building had to be raised off the ground in the traditional Malaysian style to prevent it being flooded in the wet season. It is hoped the facility will be a proud addition to the community, as a recreational centre as well as encouraging education and engendering a sense of ambition.

We were fully immersed into community life over the three weeks and the people were fantastically welcoming and generous, despite their obvious poverty. We attended a wedding

and church services; ate in local homes; slept in the longhouse; played football against the locals; went rice-picking, tried bead-making and attempted a bit of traditional Rungus dancing! There was a huge sense of achievement when we finished the building just in time for the opening ceremony. Many tears were shed on both sides when we left the villagers behind after 3 weeks of hard work and great fun.

The ten weeks of expedition passed in a flash and by the end I was certainly ready for a long sleep and a hot bath! It was a fantastic experience and I would recommend it highly whether as a Gap Year project or just as a break between jobs. It was certainly a challenge, emotionally as well as physically but the sense of achievement at the end made that worthwhile. It may sound clichéd but the expedition gave me a chance to do things, see places and meet people I would not otherwise have been able to and afterwards I had a feeling that I had actually made a difference as well as having had a laugh along the way.





James Foan Yr 9

Blundell's CCF PENHALE

By PIC/JEA

A contingent of Major Chapman, 2/Lt A'Lee, WOII Yates and Junior Under Officer Henderson took 56 cadets on camp this July. Penhale is on the north coast of Cornwall. The first day saw training in Military skills which included patrolling, setting an ambush, and escape and evasion. It was a sunny day and under the leadership of the Cadet Training Team this was a lot of fun and everyone returned to camp that night exhausted.

One day was spent at Millpool range, near Bodmin. We took turns shooting, manning the butts where the targets were marked and doing background activities such as survival where we learned how to start a fire with wire and a battery. Sharp shooters of the day were William Sprague and Ryan Gaskin, who both achieved the highest possible scores.

Another day was spent at Stithians Lake where we took part in a variety of water activities including sailing, kayaking and raft building. Although the weather wasn't so good it didn't matter much as everyone was going to get wet anyway. Natalie Waddington, Sean Coleman and Elliot Prior qualified as radio operators and that evening Nat put her skills to the test when she linked up with cadet groups on the Isles of Scilly and in the Midlands by radio.

In the evenings there were competitions: an orienteering course had been set up and

twenty cadets took part in this, competing not only against each other but also against all the other schools at Penhale. James Foan took the gold medal, completing the course in under 15 minutes having located all the checkpoints. He beat his nearest rival by a huge margin and was even better than any cadet in the previous week.

The March and Shoot competition involves a team of 8 cadets marching for 3 miles to the range and then shooting. Time penalties are given for each shot not fired in time and for the scores on the targets. Blundell's entered three teams: Junior boys, senior boys and girls. All did well but took no medals.

The final competition of the week was the Obstacle course. This involved a team of ten overcoming bars, water runs, walls, jumps and a crawl net. Again three teams were entered in the three categories - the Junior boys took Gold medals, the girls silver and the Senior boys, bronze.

There was a day spent in camp rotating a circus of cadet skills stands including training for the obstacle course, a mine clearance skills task, a command task of filling a tube with water when both the tube and the carrying vessel have holes in, an observation stand and a treasure hunt which used navigational skills.

Good humour and high standards characterised this camp and amongst the awards given were best cadet, most enthusiastic cadet, most improved cadet, and others that people tried to avoid - blindest moment, admin vortex, most stupid question of the week and biggest sense of humour failure when trying to set up their poncho in the rain.



...James Foan took the gold medal, completing the course in under 15 minutes having located all the checkpoints. He beat his nearest rival by a huge margin and was even better than any cadet in the previous week.

16/07/07



TIVERTON TO HOLLYWOOD!

Cassie Copperfield (1997-2004)

Whilst planning my gap year (which I didn't manage to take) I stumbled on the website of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. It happened to be holding auditions in London the following week, so I thought - why not?

I enjoyed the audition and was amazed to find that, not only had I been accepted, but I had been awarded a scholarship. This was just too big an opportunity to miss, so before I knew it I found myself living in Hollywood and attending the Los Angeles faculty of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. The LA campus is built on the former Charlie Chaplin studio lot between Sunset and Santa Monica boulevards in the heart of Los Angeles and is a state of the art facility.

I took classes in stage combat, musical theatre, movement, voice and speech, cold reading, professional acting, fencing and many other disciplines. I have had a fantastic three years in LA and made loads of friends. Much of the time was spent rehearsing for shows and the photos are of me as Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream, as Nell Gwynn in Dinner with Friends, as Lois in Dear Friends and as Meg in Crimes of the Heart.

I graduated this year and the final year students performed a showcase to an audience of industry professionals. As a result I signed up with RPM Talent, a Los Angeles based agency, and am waiting for my first part.

So what is my message to Blundellians - if a chance comes along, just take it!



A Midsummer Night's Dream



What did I put in that wine!



LEARNING TO

FLY

A woman in a black top with a blue and white paisley pattern and blue pants is holding a large, white, wing-like structure. In the background, another woman in a red dress and headscarf is looking on. The word "FLY" is written in large, grey, serif capital letters across the top of the image.

“SO WHAT IS MY MESSAGE
TO BLUNDELLIANS - IF A
CHANCE COMES ALONG,
JUST TAKE IT!!”

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

After 8 years of producing our magazine, The Pictorial, we have decided to join with the School and produce a combined magazine, The Blundell's Diary, to include Foundation and School activities.

I feel strongly that our database of Old Blundellians, current and past parents, current and past Governors and friends of the School will be interested in receiving a magazine twice a year which will cover news about development at Blundell's, with photographs of important OB events, together with up to date information about School activities.

This first issue contains three articles written by young OBs about their time immediately after leaving School. I hope that we will be able to maintain the accent on youth and if any reader would like to write about University life or their first job, please let me know.

This magazine will go out with the prospectus to give prospective parents an idea of what is on offer at Blundell's and beyond.

Blundell's looks forward to another year of improving facilities and looks back on some decent academic results highlighted by all six Oxbridge candidates achieving the required grades.

Paddy Armstrong



OBs ABROAD

South Africa

It was a pleasure to travel to South Africa in January to visit Old Blundellians in Johannesburg, Durban, the Garden Route and Cape Town.

We were given a warm reception throughout the country and look forward to being able to reciprocate.



Top: IRD enjoying the evening
Above: Barbara Glasmacher proposes a toast to Blundell's

Germany

On May 12th the fourth Blundell's Germany dinner was held in Hamburg. Forty parents, OBs and future pupils had an excellent dinner at the Hamburg Tennis Club, where a couple of hours earlier Federer and Nadal had played, with commentary from Boris Becker.

We were delighted to have Barbara Glasmacher, a great supporter of Blundell's, with us and she proposed the toast to the School, which was followed by an entertaining address from the Head Master.

Far right: Chris and Julia Emby
Right: Sheelagh and Nick Hippisley-Coxe.

Right: OB Dinner in Johannesburg.

Below: Durban OBs after dinner.

Below right: Paddy Armstrong with Michael Imbert (OB) and wife



California

We visited San Francisco and Los Angeles in June and were pleased to see several Old Blundellians, culminating in a very pleasant few days with John and Linda Mattingly in Los Angeles.

Right: Linda and John Mattingly



OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY

On a rather wet and murky June 30th, Old Blundellians and partners returned for the traditional Chapel Service at which the preacher was The Revd M B Whitaker (M 1974-79) and the lesson was read by David d'Arcy Hughes (FH 1958-62). The Chairman for the day, Moray Scott-Dagleish (SH 1956-61), spoke about his life after lunch. Mike Daniels (P 1945-50) has stepped down as OB Club Chairman and we thank him for his help and support over the last three years. The Foundation greatly looks forward to working with the new Chairman.



Cedric Clapp and David d'Arcy Hughes



OB Day 2007

THE COUNTY SHOWS

Devon County Show

Blundell's attended the Show, as usual, on all three days and saw a mixture of Old Blundellians, parents and, fortunately, not too many current Blundellians.

Royal Cornwall Show

Peter Klinkenberg and Paddy Armstrong manned the Blundell's tent at Wadebridge, with accommodation kindly being provided by Hazel and Gerald Frankpitt.

A drinks and canapés evening was held on the first day of the Show and thirty eight OBs and parents attended. There were many other visits during the three days, and a considerable number of parents interested in sending their children to Blundell's.



Devon County Show - IRD entertains important guests



Brian Wills-Pope (Governor) thanks guests for attending the Cornwall drinks party

OB DINNER



Chad Murrin at the OB Dinner

The annual Old Blundellian dinner was held at the East India Club, London, on March 16th. About sixty sat down to eat and were entertained by William Moberly (OH 1952-56) speaking on the subject of the Old Blundellian Golfing Society, and the Head Master, who updated the gathering on events at Blundell's.

This dinner was the last of many organised by Chad Murrin (FH 1969-73). Grateful thanks go to Chad (from Blundell's) for all his hard work over the years. Chad's events always went well because of meticulous preparation and research.



The young OBs' table



Slightly older OBs

Jack Lilly D'Cruz Yr 9
winning the Junior
Russell



“...the sturdy virtues of 19th century Blundell’s, manliness, toughness and straightforward Christianity”

The Russell



THE ORIGINS

The ‘Hunting Parson’, Jack Russell (OB 1809-14), of terrier fame wrote fondly of the strict and rather rough old days at the Blundell’s of his time; as did Archbishop Temple. Russell opined that he never knew anyone who could flog harder than his Head Master, Revd Dr Richards (1797-1823), so he would probably have approved wholeheartedly of the way the school run developed under his name. He often championed the sturdy virtues of 19th century Blundell’s, manliness, toughness and straightforward Christianity. Just for the record, young Russell’s crime was putting ferrets into a cage of rabbits belonging to the monitors!

A lot more than just a race!

The first recorded running of ‘The Russell’ was in 1877, but the format has evolved over the years. “Purgatory”, “institutional bullying” and “only thing I was any good at” are all recent quotes by OBs, who have lived to tell the tale. Originally an event the boys entered themselves into voluntarily, it then became the compulsory tramping through muddy fields and across the raging Lowman River; the memory of which clearly did not enthrall many an OB. The Russell myths are legion, from the near drowning of a boy who stumbled and was then used as a bridge by following runners, to the FH ghost of an alleged fatality. The latter cuts little ice with today’s Harry Potter fuelled youth, who are generally unimpressed by the FH monitor, ritually running around the playing fields in the dark with a sheet over his head the night before the Russell. All possible ruses have been employed by reluctant participants; a particular favourite was the boy with a Doctor’s note to say he was allergic to grass, which fell apart when he committed the heinous crime of taking a short cut over Big Field one day.

The traditional format was for all to run and just the first twenty or so home scoring points for their house, leaving the vast majority to simply endure. As soon as NJR took charge, however, the philosophy was to change. Each course now has optimum times and the runners score points according to their personal times, thereby encouraging the ideal of trying one’s best for personal satisfaction and the greater good of others; namely your house. Further to this, the modern Russell enhances collective spirit and tolerance of others; the early fleet-footed finishers now jog back down the course to encourage and support the less aerodynamically blessed members of their house, urging them to strive for those one or two extra points. That everyone has their worth and that selfless effort is lauded, greatly underpins much of the spirit prevalent in the lives of the Blundellians of today.

Girls from NC -
tired, muddy but
happy



"THE RUSSELL IS NOW A VERY
SPECIAL DAY IN THE CALENDAR OF
BLUNDELLIANS"

Ian Davenport, Head Master



The Diary will be running Leading Edge competitions twice a year for pupils to submit their work for inclusion in ensuing editions. The categories will be Design & Technology (one for design and one for construction), Art, Photography and 3D/Sculpture. The adjudicators will be the Diary Team in conjunction with BW for Design, JGP for Construction, RDJM for Art, SJG for Photography and CHD for 3D/Sculpture. Pupils will be expected to write a short piece about their submission.

Chair by Charles Simmons Yr 12 as part of his A/S coursework project. Made of Laminated ash and is his own design and construction.

leading edge



Yr11 Pinhole photo



Make art not war Sam Smith Yr 11



Nano Aoshima Yr 13



Harriet Bunning Yr 11



IAN DAVENPORT

Head Master

interviewed by

Louise Youngman Year 11
and Ele Breitmeyer Year 11

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A HEAD MASTER ORIGINALLY?

The challenge

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A HEAD MASTER?

No, but at school I had always wanted to become a teacher and in the end the lure was too great; therefore I moved into teaching after a career in The City.

IF YOU HAVE THE CHOICE TO TAKE UP ANY PROFESSION NOW WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

Outside education I would love to be able to write screen plays and comedy programmes, or be the author of light hearted books or maybe a ski instructor.

LIKE LITTLE BRITAIN?

No, not quite like Little Britain, more along the lines of Fawlty Towers, but unfortunately I have no talent in this area.

DID YOU HOLD ANY POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER AT SCHOOL?

I was a school prefect, captain of Rugby and Fives and School Server (head boy of Chapel), having said that it was a small school.

WHAT WAS THE WORST PUNISHMENT YOU RECEIVED AT SCHOOL AND WHAT WAS IT FOR?

In my times at school the worst punishments were not handed out by teachers but by prefects, who had a very different role in the school than they have today. The worst aren't suitable to be published.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?

In the holidays I like to spend time with my family as this job does not always lend itself to family time during the term. I used to take part in Fell Running Challenges, which involved long mountain marathons of length 50-70 miles often in the Lake District and Snowdonia. Now, although less than I would like, I write articles for journals and still ski a lot. It is one of my passions. I am learning the classical guitar at the moment.

DO YOU SPEND LOTS OF TIME ABROAD?

I lived overseas when I was young and I have travelled a lot since. I spent some time in America where I taught for a short time, but now I travel less although I annually travel to Europe to ski. Next year we are visiting The Rockies and I would love to visit New Zealand. I am tempted to try the biggest bungee jump in the world (hoping I'm not one of the unfortunate people whose eye balls pop out of their heads during the descent).

“...at school I had always wanted to become a teacher and in the end the lure was too great; therefore I moved into teaching after a career in The City”

WHAT SORT OF MUSIC/ART ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN?

Led Zeppelin, although I do truly enjoy almost all music, including classical, trad jazz, country and music from the 70s. I am not sure I understand emo, garage and hip-hop. Opera is my favourite genre as you may probably know. I also enjoy musicals; I have 'Mamma Mia' in my sights. A recent worrying realisation of mine is that I liked the recent 'Take That' chart topper 'Patience'. I have a very close friend who is an artist but unfortunately his style is a little too contemporary for me. I am a traditionalist in some ways I suppose. My favourite artist, aside from those in the Art Department, is El Greco.

ARE YOU READING A BOOK AT THE MOMENT AND IF SO WHAT IS IT?

I am reading several books at the moment, 'Enigma' by Simon Seabag Montefiori, 'At The Centre' by George Tennant, who was the Director of the CIA during 9/11, a biography of Hillary Clinton by Carl Bernstein; I am dipping into Alastair Campbell's autobiography and I have recently finished 'A Short Walk in the Countryside' by Bill Bryson.

IN YOUR OPINION WHAT IS THE BEST BOOK YOU HAVE EVER READ?

Good question, let me think, probably 'The Hobbit' or Pere Goriot by Balzac and when I was younger, 'Stig of the Dump'.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SOAP?

Imperial Leather

OH, THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT I MEANT, WHAT ABOUT TELEVISION SOAPS?

No, I don't really watch soaps, I don't even listen to 'The Archers', despite a school friend of mine who is in it, he plays Adam.

RUGBY OR FOOTBALL?

Rugby

DO YOU SUPPORT A PARTICULAR RUGBY TEAM?

Blundell's

HOW ABOUT A PROFESSIONAL TEAM?

Gloucester I suppose if I had to say one team, as a former pupil of mine plays in the front row. Although I also support Wasps as I played for one of their teams a long time ago.

IS RUGBY YOUR FAVOURITE SPORT TO PLAY AND WATCH?

I definitely used to enjoy playing rugby but after a pretty grim injury I had to give up playing, that said it is my favourite sport to watch just, but my favourite sport to play at school was Fives, which I still enjoy, and of course there is skiing.

IF YOU WERE TO WIN THE LOTTERY WHAT WOULD YOU SPEND THE MONEY ON?

It depends on how much you win.

A LOT

OK, I'd give a lot of it to charity but spend the rest of it on a ski chalet perhaps; however whatever the size of the win I would definitely continue to work here at Blundell's.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS YOUR MOST ANNOYING HABIT?

Repeating the word 'very' at lot, or so I am told.

WHICH DO YOU PREFER CHINESE OR INDIAN FOOD?

Indian

WHY?

For me it is tastier but it is a close run thing. I suppose there is more variety and I like spicy foods.

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND WHAT THREE THINGS WOULD YOU TAKE WITH YOU?

A solar powered Ipod; music is very important to me. I have nearly eight hundred CDs and I still think it is amazing how I can fit my entire collection into the palm of my hand.

A guitar as I promised myself I will learn so that I can play something other than 'Smoke on the Water' which, I'm pretty sure, everyone can play.

The book 'Sole Survivor' by Bear Grylles, as it may come in useful in helping me to survive.

WHAT IS THE MOST EMBARRASSING THING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED TO YOU?

I probably have two most embarrassing moments. When I was a Disc Jockey (a little known fact) I inadvertently covered the dance floor and dancers with a 30 foot stream of industrial strength washing-up liquid in an attempt to produce rhythmical bubbles from my bubble machine.

The other was when I was a postman in Norwich, a temporary student holiday job. I was laden down with a large sack full of the Christmas post. I bent down to post a letter through a letterbox at the bottom of a glass door and toppled over into a flowerbed and became pinned down by the heavy sack. I lay there for quite some time until the surprised homeowner came to find me lying in her flowerbed and rescued me.

Sean Coleman Yr 11 peering through the gloom at Bovisand Harbour and Anna Boy Yr 11 just about to execute a 'great stride' entry.



Blundell's SUB

By JEA

“DIVING
DEVELOPS A
SENSE OF
WONDER, OF
RESPONSIBILITY
AND
COMRADESHIP.”

One of the most popular and fastest growing clubs in the school is Blundell's Sub Aqua Club. There are already 29 members who have achieved National Qualifications with the club and many others still in training. Since its start in 2004, numbers have increased and the list of places around the world where we have dived has expanded to include the Mediterranean (Malta), The Red Sea (Sharm-el-Sheikh, Dahab, Hurghada, & El Gouna) as well as places around the British isles as widely apart as Scapa in the Orkney Islands off Scotland to Porthkeris on the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall.

Diving develops a sense of wonder, of responsibility and comradeship. The club depends on its members to support each other and this year's newest recruits, Rebecca Ley, Catherine Swarbrick, Louis Roscoe, Natalie Waddington, Lorna Studholme, Vicky Cox and Ellie Cree, although overseen and ultimately awarded qualifications by GRY and JEA, are supported strongly in training by existing members, including Austin Squibbs, Elliot Prior, Sean Coleman, Anna Boy, Kathryn Henderson, Jamie Sawyer, Rory Findlay and by OB, Trevor Henderson. Having reached his third qualification level (Dive Leader), Trevor is now also instructing and supports pool training every Thursday.

Next year's trips are to the Red Sea on board a dive boat from Sharm, and to Scapa Flow again to dive the WW1 High Seas fleet scuttled there in 1919.

One of the most popular and fastest growing clubs in the school is Blundell's Sub Aqua Club. There are already 29 members who have achieved National Qualifications with the club and many others still in training.

AQUA



Trevor Henderson OB, now an Instructor, leading Jenny Williams onto dry land, whilst Mr Yates overseas training procedures in the water.

Blundell's has always had an excellent reputation for producing great sportsmen and women. Grace Gabbitass Year 12 profiles two of the rising stars of tomorrow.

“BLUNDELL'S ATHLETICS IS TESTAMENT TO THE SCHOOL'S HARD-WORKING ATTITUDE AS A WHOLE, RELYING ON 'HOME GROWN TALENT' AND PERSEVERANCE.” Max Seymour

LIZZIE WESSELY - 05/09/91



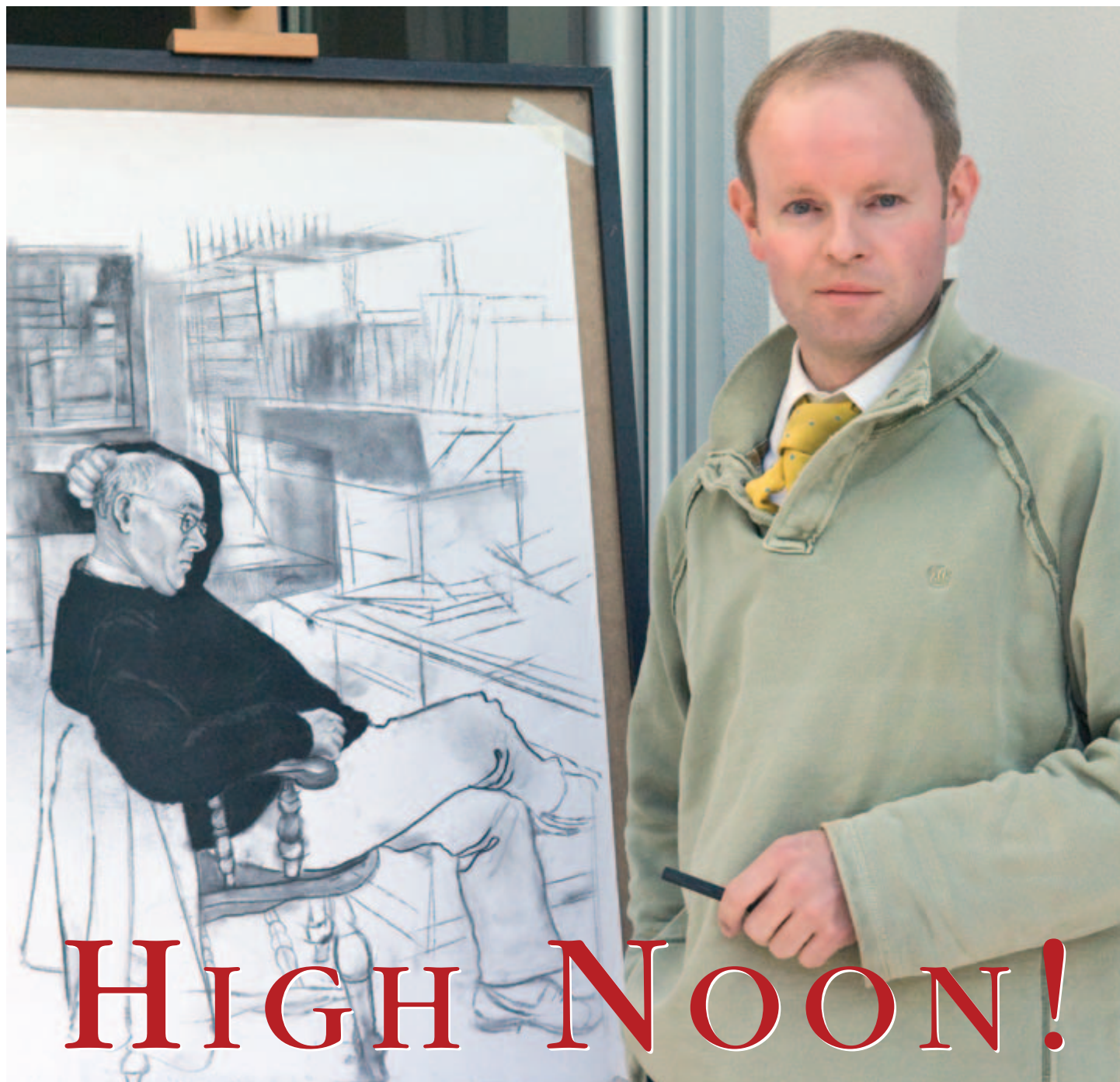
Photograph by Caroline Clapp Yr 12

Lizzie Wessely, Year 11, is undoubtedly Blundell's top female athlete. Her impressive 2nd place in the 75metre hurdles at the 2006 English Schools Athletics Championships is just an example of this young girl's talent. This summer, Lizzie repeated her success in the 80metre hurdles, reaching the final of the ESA Championships, and achieving a personal best of 12 seconds within the season. Lizzie has won the Blundell's Victrix Ludorum every year since 2004, despite often being a year young in the age group categories. Aside from hurdles, Lizzie has performed to a high standard in the Long Jump event, with a personal best of 5.39 metres. Lizzie's success is a tribute to the tireless input of Director of Sport Norman Ridgway; she trains five times weekly with school and only once at local athletics track Exeter Arena. Lizzie has said herself that the high calibre of Athletics at Blundell's is because 'Mr Ridgway makes us work hard!' Lizzie also agrees that he has helped her become a better hurdler. She hopes to continue athletics through to University and takes lots of her inspiration from Olympic Gold medallist, Daley Thompson, whom she has met. Lizzie has also played 1st XV hockey since Year 10, where her athleticism has proved to be a real asset and she looks to take a vital part in the 2007 season.

MAX SEYMOUR - 16/01/90

Max Seymour is a renowned Blundell's sprinter, but may also be tagged as the unsung hero of school athletics. Max has often missed out on the accolade of Victor Ludorum, despite always being a contender. He in fact won both 100 and 200metre events at Sports Day this year, but unfortunately events conspired against him which meant he missed out once again. Max has represented Blundell's at many athletics trials and his hard work and determined nature have all contributed to his ultimate success this year, winning the Devon Championships in the 100metres and coming 2nd in the 200metres. He then went on to come a respectable 4th place in the 100metres at the South West Championships. Personal bests of 11.6 and 23.6 respectively demonstrate how Max has grown as an athlete. Max has benefited hugely from the Blundell's athletics setup, performing endurance training of 6x 300 metres on Tuesdays and shorter sprints in a pyramid form on Wednesdays. Max proudly states that Blundell's athletics is testament to the school's hard-working attitude as a whole, relying on 'home grown talent' and perseverance. Max says 'this year we had eleven athletes representing Blundell's at the South West Championships, which is a fantastic accomplishment.' This fine athlete is also immensely grateful for Mr. Ridgway's help over the years, saying 'there is no-one more influential upon my athletics development.'





Just when Blundellians thought it was safe to enter the History department again, THCN loomed large again. "Did he ever really retire", does he sleep mork-like in a cupboard?" they were asking; actually 'Nippy' was just in to cover a maternity leave and to cause a little last mischief. We are assuming that the announcement of "The History Department is History", when all three members of staff left at the end of last year is just a coincidence!

Mr Matthew took over as Head of Art in January 2007, having come up through the ranks since qualifying and lecturing at Edinburgh College of Art. His portrait of THCN has been widely acclaimed as really capturing his subject to perfection. One of THCN's parting reports alluded to a young miscreant's homework as 'looking as if it had previously been used as a Neanderthal's bedding'- they just don't write them like that any more.

Mr Matthew has already instigated the formation of an Art Society and an exacting programme for his SAS (Special Art Status) pupils, when combined with the new graphic design and printing rooms in the Popham Centre, the already popular Art Department is set to develop still greater excellence.



A RUGBY PLAYING MAN

George Dixon (FH 1997-2002)

I really enjoyed all the sport that I was able to play at Blundell's, but I do feel that, with such a strong sporting culture within the school, encouragement towards a career in sport should be increased. When leaving the school opportunities may arise through scouts, trials and clubs and it could become possible to continue a path in sport and become a professional.

During my gap year I played rugby for a premiership side (Bath), however I still chose to pursue a degree at university, a decision which I do not regret at all. Yet if I was in that position again I would have chosen to stay with professional sport. There is a very definite trend to go straight from school to university, but with regard to a career in sport this could be a mistake. With the average age of professional sportsmen dropping, the window of opportunity gets smaller. University will always be an option, including the possibility of attending as a mature student.

Pursuing a career in professional sport can be risky in terms of injury; however, in my experience it's very rewarding. My rugby career has taken me all over the world. Within the past two years I have visited amazing places including Rome, New York, Miami, North Carolina, Paris, Sardinia and Kenya. I have now extended my contract at Coventry and was lucky to be top try scorer and player of the season last year.

I have also been privileged enough to play with many great players which include Lee Mears (England), Olly Barkley (England), Matt Stevens (England & British Lions), Mike Catt (England & British Lions), Will Johnson (Leicester and brother of Martin Johnson) and played against many of the best; Tim Stimpson (England and British Lions), Dan Luger (England &



Classic hand off as taught by NJR

British Lions), Rob Henderson (Ireland and British Lions), Sean Perry (England), Mark Regan (England and British Lions), Andre Snyman (South Africa), Chris Rossouw (South Africa) and others. Also, whilst playing for Bath, Coventry, invitational sides and Major Stanley's XV, I have been mentored by some incredibly well respected coaches such as Brian Ashton (England Coach), Mike Umaga (Brother of New Zealand Captain Tana) and Zinzan Brooke.

I would be very pleased to see other Blundellians enjoying a similar experience. I feel that it is worth reassuring pupils that there are many opportunities within this sphere and that a degree path would still be a possibility later, even if it doesn't work out for them.



Above: Students' Sevens World Championships in Rome



Above right: The tunnel at Twickenham

Right: Playing for Oxford in the Melrose Sevens. Spot the ball

Far right: England Students v France at Twickenham





The School kitchens have just undergone a major renovation. **Ele Breitmeyer**, Year 11, went to talk to **Geoffrey Edwards**, Catering Manager

Barry Jones and Geoffrey Edwards (standing next to a fabulous 'self-cleaning oven' in the newly refurbished kitchens.

WHY WAS THE KITCHEN RENOVATED?

Regulations are changing so it was a good time to update everything. The kitchen was 50 years old and all of the machinery was starting to break down and was just no longer efficient. The new equipment is more 'green', using less fuel. It also means we can produce healthier food as we have steaming equipment and more room to bake food rather than fry.

It was also necessary to increase the efficiency as eventually we intend to be preparing the food for Blundell's preparatory school so it is important we can make more food easier. This will probably work by us preparing extra food for Blundell's prep and then chilling it and storing it over night, before taking it down and cooking it there.

As well as cooking for Blundell's Preparatory School, we will also be catering for occasions outside of school, such as weddings and balls.

WHAT WAS THE FINAL COST OF THE KITCHEN RENOVATION?

The final cost came to just under £300,000. This includes all of the equipment, the renovation of the building and the new tray carousel. The tray carousel alone came to £40,000.

ARE ALL THE MACHINES BRAND NEW OR ARE THEY MOSTLY JUST 'UPDATES' OF THE ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT?

Everything is brand new. We redid the walls, ceiling, floor, got new gutting and a new extractor. The extractor works by removing all of the hot air and replacing it with cool air to keep

everything fresh. As well as the building being completely redone all of the applications are also brand new. This includes a very impressive high pressure vegetable steamer which cooks the vegetables in 2 minutes.

IT MUST BE MUCH EASIER WITH ALL THESE NEW APPLIANCES, HAVE THEY BEEN SAVING YOU LOTS OF TIME?

We are still having a few initial teething problems whilst getting used to the new appliances, but once we learn how to use them more efficiently they will save us huge amounts of time. Not only do they cook everything much quicker they also have in-built cleaning systems.

We are going to centre parks for a few days to learn how to use the kitchen as they have a very similar system.

IT MUST BE A MUCH NICER ENVIRONMENT TO WORK IN NOW?

It is, due to the new extractor the air is cleaner and fresher. We also have more room and the kitchen is much brighter. All these things make it a much more pleasant environment to work in.

ARE THERE GOING TO BE ANY CHANGES TO THE MENU NOW THAT THE KITCHEN HAS BEEN RENOVATED?

At the moment we are still getting to grips with everything, but by the Spring Term we hope to be more in control and will be making changes to the menu. The appliance I am most excited about is the Bret pan, which is similar to a giant wok; also the combination ovens which can make anything at the push of a button.

SPEECH DAY

AND LEAVERS' BALL

A full house assembled in the marquee on Big Field to hear Old Blundellian, Professor Myles Wickstead (P 1964-69), former British Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibuti, then Head of the Secretariat to the Commission for Africa, give away the prizes. Another Old Blundellian with deep interests in Africa, Sir Christopher Ondaatje (P 1947-51) was present to hear a succinct address from Myles.



Chairman, Head Master and Speaker on the way to the marquee



On the way to meet the girls

Governors, three abreast on the way to Speeches



Following Speech Day, the marquee was quickly converted and became a ballroom for the popular and successful annual Leavers' Ball, organised by the Friends of Blundell's

