



Blundell's

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DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

WINTER 2008

On the top of Africa

Kilimanjaro Expedition 2007

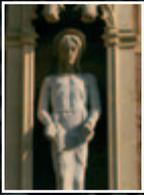


inside: TED CROWE



“remembered for his immense love of and loyalty to Blundell's”

CLASSIC VIEW



The main building on the Horsdon site was designed by Messrs Haywards and construction by Langdon and Poole began in 1879; the total cost was £13,137s.2s.8d. The 19th Century campus was collected around the main building with mature elm trees and hedges shielding the road. The hedges were removed in 1965 to incorporate the new Dining Hall and Big School.

The chapel was consecrated in 1883 and in 1892 the choir vestry room was built as a 'lean-to' against the west wing. This was to be closely followed by the spire; a memorial to T.U. Cross who died in 1897.

The 'Christ in blessing' sculpture by OB Alain John 1933-37, added in 1938, was a famous product of the Willi Soukop and Harry Phillips Workshop.



HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION



I am delighted that the first edition of the Blundell's Diary was so well received. The pupils took the lead, under the careful guidance of Mr Klinkenberg and the result was very impressive.

I felt tremendously sad when I heard that Ted Crowe had passed from us; no school had a more loyal supporter. The Diary contains a tribute to Ted written by Chad Murrin who as an Old Blundellian, a cricket fan and a Governor, knew him well. There will be a celebration of his life at St Peter's Church in Tiverton on April 12th.

In November the School was inspected. Every Independent School has an ISI inspection every six years and last year it was our turn. The Chairman of Governors has written a letter in response to the report which is reproduced herein.

I am very pleased with the findings of the Inspectors. They praised the school in many areas and offered us suggestions as to how to continue the progress which is already well under way. We will continue to seek exciting opportunities to engage the pupils both in and outside the classroom. The team felt strongly that Blundell's added "*considerable academic value*" to the pupils' performances. There are many more positive conclusions in the report and whilst I should not selectively quote, there are two with which I am particularly pleased.

"Friendship is nurtured within a caring pastoral community and the school is particularly successful in developing in pupils the personal qualities of tolerance, kindness and courtesy."

I am fond of quotations and one of my favourites is from W B Yeats, "*Think where man's glory most begins and ends, and say my glory was I had such friends*". This is important to me because life at school without a friendly environment would be a pretty miserable experience; therefore to read the above conclusion is very heartening. The second quotation is perhaps even more significant:

"The staff make great efforts to provide extra help and support when and where it is needed, with the aim of enabling all pupils to have the same access to opportunities both in and out of the classroom."

Nothing will happen in any school without committed and caring staff, and therefore, although it came as no surprise to me, it was lovely to see this commitment recognised in a public forum. The report will be available through the School's webpage in the near future.

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

Ian Davenport
Head Master

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BRITISH MATHS OLYMPIAD SUCCESS



Eva Zhang came to Blundell's for the Sixth Form from Shenzhen Experimental School in China, where she had already won regional and national medals for Maths and Physics. In the last eighteen months she has been awarded two Gold medals in the national Maths Challenge competition and a Gold in the British Maths Olympiad - making her 17th in the country at Mathematics. She has also gained a Bronze award in the national Physics competition, while her team came third in the national Chemistry Analysis competition. With A grades in Maths, Chemistry, Biology Physics and Further Maths at AS level, it was no surprise to hear that she has been given a place to study Maths at Trinity College, Cambridge.

We must not forget, of course, that Eva is also a grade 8 pianist and performed a beautiful Chopin Nocturne at the Summer Concert!

BLUNDELL'S WEATHER STATION

The 25th of January saw the installation of an automatic weather station on the clock tower at school. The remote sensing equipment was installed by Ed Cumberlege, Elliot Prior and Alistair Strong under the guidance of Mr Dyer. This equipment collects temperature, humidity, pressure, wind speed and wind direction data which it transmits to a data logging computer in the clock chamber. This data is then transferred to one of our servers from where it can be viewed from a variety of web pages. As well as analysing the environmental data that is collected, students will be able to see firsthand the role that remote sensing and data logging plays in our modern life. Public access to the weather information can be gained from the Parents section of the school website.

END OF TERM CONCERT



Music at Blundell's is undoubtedly a very strong feature, and since the extension of the music school the already large assortment of groups and individual musicians has been allowed to flourish.

This variety of talent was revealed to parents, teachers and students alike at the end of term concert on Friday 7th December. The orchestra, conducted by Mr Wynell-Mayow, opened the proceedings with renditions of *Troika*, by Prokofiev, and *Pink Panther*, by Mancini. This was followed by saxophone, clarinet, flute, string and brass groups, which played a wide repertoire, from Mozart, to a more modern, jazzy Karen Street. Also the first performance of the Soul Band, another of Mr Wynell-Mayow's contributions, which contained solos by Alice Walpole and Siobhan O'Kelly in *Son of a Preacher Man*, and Edward Pocock in *Soul Man*.

After the interval, during which the Brass Group played carols, came the only solo in the concert - Ellen Fernando singing *If I Loved You* - and Chamber choir, the whole concert was brought to a close with a few Big Band classics, directed, as ever, by Mr Barlow. **Rosamund Harpur Year 11**

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Theo Weedon's comedy gig



Over the summer holidays Theo Weedon had his first official stand up comedy gig in the 'Pear shaped Comedy Club' in London. This is quite a small venue in Charlotte Street, Central London, where the audience is largely made up of other comedians. Theo is known well as a comedian around Blundell's, after having taken on lead roles in OH plays such as 'Fawlty Towers' and 'Blackadder'; however, even for an experienced performer "it was definitely a nerve wracking experience".

It is hardly surprising that Theo has such talent in the art of performing when you

take a look at his family. His grandfather, Bert Weedon is an outstanding guitar player, who wrote the very well known guitar book, "Play in a day"; this is in fact the book the Beatles themselves used to learn guitar. In addition to this Theo's great grandfather, also called Bert Weedon, was in a very successful comedy double act called "Wal and Bert".

Comedy is an area in which Theo is very interested; he has a few more upcoming comedy gigs. This includes a large one on the 10th December at the "Tiverton Comedy Club", where he is opening for Reginald D Hunter, "one of the most sought after headline comics in the UK." After school he wishes to pursue a career in comedy, writing and performing.

Ele Breitmeyer L6

PIANO MASTERCLASS

Two Piano Concert and Masterclass by Geoffrey Pratley and Anne Aplin

The piano masterclass, hosted by Geoffrey Pratley and Anne Aplin, was a fine example of the enthusiasm students show towards music. On Friday 28th September they visited at the invitation of their ex-pupil, now pianist and teacher Elizabeth Hayley, and held a duet masterclass for pianists of all ages and abilities throughout the school.



The concert they later gave was well received by a large and appreciative audience. It was wonderful to see the rapport between two artists who have been playing together for seventeen years (since 1990). We were privileged to have them with us. **Rosamund Harpur Year 11**

MEDIEVAL MONITORS

This year the School Monitors' training was an unexpected challenge; they arrived at 1:30pm on Sunday 30th September at Pool Anthony Farm expecting to go walking across the moors. However, when they arrived they were informed of their actual task; to create a 'Robin Hood styled medieval feast' - from scratch. They had to create a shelter, table, and a three course meal not only for themselves but also Mr. and Mrs. Davenport, Mr. and Mrs. Thane, Mr. Folland and his partner and Mr. Guy and his partner.



The menu consisted of vegetable soup, prepared on site, spit roasted chicken with baked potatoes followed by fruits of the forest for pudding. This was accompanied by Mr. Guy's selection of fine wines from around the world.

The monitors were supplied with saws, knives, simple ingredients and hedgerows. Anything else they needed they had to scavenge the area for, such as trees and logs suitable for building a shelter and scraps of tarpaulin with which to waterproof and windproof it. For the finishing touches they made a sturdy table out of straw bales and scaffolding planks.

The day was a brilliant success highlighting the amazing qualities of the group and their hitherto unrealized skills at survival. Mr. Guy, who organized the day, expressed that "The team showed superb spirit and teamwork - despite the pressure they remained good humored and a brilliant night was had by all."

Mr Thane thought that "the Monitors did tremendously well producing a real feast in Tolkein-style surroundings and, as ever, they were great company. It was a truly memorable evening."

Ele Breitmeyer L6



JUMP TO IT!

National Schools Equestrian Association Championships - 25th October, South of England Showground



Having qualified to represent the South West at the Clayesmore School competition in June, the show jumping team of Sophie Birchmore, Emma Selby, Emily Wardle and Rupert Batting travelled to The south of England Show Ground at Ardingly, Sussex, to represent Blundell's at the Championships.

The event consisted of a show jumping course, followed by a timed cross country section. The cumulative penalties were then added to a score for style to produce the final placings.



The whole team went clear in the show jumping section, but the technical cross country phase, with an optimum time, proved much more challenging with only Emily Wardle going clear.

However, the cross country phase proved influential for all competitors enabling the team to gain an impressive 7th place overall. It was a wonderful achievement as they were competing against the best in the UK. Many thanks to the parents for taking the time to travel horses so far to enable Blundell's to fly the flag at such a

prestigious event, and to their instructor Sarah Harrison whose guidance is invaluable. It is indeed an experience they will remember for some time.

GLMB



THE ISI INSPECTION REPORT

by Chairman of the Governors: David Fursdon

As Governors of Blundell's we are naturally proud of the School but we are also determined to keep it at the forefront of educational provision in the widest sense. The occasion of an ISI Inspection is therefore important not only for the Head Master and his staff but also for us as Governors. It provides us with objective judgement from experts as to how the School is performing in the various different fields of education. This helps us to assess the priorities for the future. I feel that it is important to share the results of this inspection with you as parents so that you too can feel fully informed as to how the School is progressing.

The full report will soon be available on the School's website. In my view it makes extremely encouraging reading. The report contains many positive statements and conclusions about the School and the wider community. It is impossible to succinctly summarise a process which examines every element of the School so thoroughly; however there are some extremely important findings. As you will know we believe that at the heart of the School is the desire to provide a "whole" education and, very pleasingly, the Inspectors believe that Blundell's does this with considerable success. The Inspectors praised the pupils, their attainment and their personal qualities of friendship, tolerance, kindness and courtesy. They were also fully aware of the strong commitment of Common Room. The School was rated as "outstanding" in many areas including leadership: social, spiritual, moral and cultural aspects: communication with parents: and in relations between staff and pupils.

Prior to the inspection team arriving, the Lead Inspector visited the School twice to make some initial assessments, one of which was that given the broad academic profile of the pupils entering Blundell's, the School should aspire to achieve academic success close to that of grammar schools. We were delighted that in the analysis we were found to be their academic equal: the report states "the School adds considerable academic value.

The inspecting team took the time to understand Blundell's. The report therefore reflects their strongly felt belief that it is a rather special school, which draws out the best from its pupils. The pastoral system was found to be very strong; the spiritual, moral, social and cultural emphasis was highlighted by the team and they felt it was evident in all the pupils and staff do. They believe it greatly enriches the pupils' experiences and enhances their development. It was especially gratifying that they spoke so highly of the excellent relationships between staff and pupils, which undoubtedly strengthen and support the learning both in and outside the classroom. The academic initiatives begun since the last report are developing momentum, and this will continue to be a focus over the coming years.



David Fursdon and Ian Davenport

There are aspects, of course which might be considered "work-in-progress": for example programmes to stretch the academically gifted, developing greater use of ICT and setting benchmarks for pupil attainment. In all these areas as the report recognises considerable progress has been made. Since the last inspection six years ago, both Mr Rivett and his successor Miss Jardine-Young as Directors of Studies have been pushing ahead with specific academic programmes across the School. We have invested heavily in many areas which benefit the pupils' academic progression here and we will continue to do so. Eve Jardine-Young continues to develop and implement strategies to stretch and inspire those pupils who are intellectually curious.

The state of the boarding houses has been brought to our attention. Over the past four years three of them have had a good facelift, but clearly we need to invest more heavily in these areas. The rise in boarding numbers has necessitated a full review of the accommodation in the school. The Head Master is exploring the various possibilities with the Governors. The necessary investment will be made in the near future.

Finally I want to re-iterate the very positive comments made about the leadership of the School. This successful report is a tribute to the senior leadership team but in particular it is a tribute to the Head Master himself whose excellent work in driving the school forward, which we as Governors have seen at first hand, has now been recognised by the team of Inspectors as well.

RANDALL THANE

Second Master

interviewed by
Grace Gabbitass U6



THE DIARY INTERVIEW / RANDALL THANE

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO WORK AT BLUNDELL'S WITH YOUR WIFE?

It is quite nice that my wife and I can understand more about one another's jobs than most can. As we are both quite busy people, it is also good that we can go to plays and lectures together at school.

WHAT WORK DID YOU DO AS A STUDENT?

I had three jobs as a student; the first of which was working in a solicitor's office in Birmingham, dealing with problems involving immigrants. This was quite a grim experience, but it was useful in that it made me realise that I did not want to pursue law as a career. The second, cleaning the roof of a steelworks, was very financially profitable, but also dangerous. We received 'danger and dirt money', for the work concerned both of these; the roof was rusting away which was quite scary! The third was working in a mailroom of a bank, opening envelopes all morning, and sealing them all afternoon - this was quite tedious!

HAVE YOU READ THE HARRY POTTER BOOKS?

Yes, I have read five of the seven and I would like to read them all. My wife tells me the final book in the series is great.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?

Yes, I have a chocolate Labrador Collie cross called Sophie. She is two and a half and mad! When my wife and I were Houseparents, we had three cats - we used to get one every time a student got homesick!

MR THANE, WHAT IS IT THAT INTERESTS YOU ABOUT GEOGRAPHY?

The topical nature is what interests me. I always tell my pupils 'Geography is all around us'. The breadth of the subject is also something which appeals to me.

DO YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

I have done some travelling in Europe, but I do a lot of walking; for example I have walked the South West Coast Path of about 600 miles. When I am looking at going travelling I do consider the impact I am having; I am aware of the environmental concerns of travel.

IF YOU DIDN'T DO YOUR CURRENT JOB, WHAT COULD YOU SEE YOURSELF DOING?

I am very interested in architecture and historic buildings, so I would like to do something related to that field.

What are your favourite films?

My favourite film would be 'Field of Dreams', which is very moving and inspirational. I also enjoy the Jane Austen adaptations, such as 'Pride and Prejudice'.

CLASSIC, ROCK OR POP?

I'm quite eclectic in my music taste; I listen to pop, rock and even jazz. I listen to Classic FM, but I like all sorts of music.

WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

I don't really like heights, or confined spaces underground.

WHAT NEWSPAPER DO YOU READ?

The Times. I like to read the newspaper everyday; it is a real luxury.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO TEXT?

No. I do have a mobile phone that sits in the car but it only gets used about four times a year. I do email a lot though; I quite like the fact that without a mobile I am less easy to contact.

IF YOU WERE AT BLUNDELL'S, WHAT ACTIVITY WOULD YOU DO?

There are lots of activities to do here; the activities programme would be something I would really enjoy if I were a pupil. I like the look of the Archery and Fives' activity and also Mr Guy's 'Model Building' activity in which they are building a plane at the moment.

DO YOU SUPPORT ANY SPORTS TEAMS OR HAVE A FAVOURITE SPORT?

To be honest, I'm not really a huge sports fan; I have been to a few One-day Cricket Internationals in the past, and I enjoy watching the tennis during Wimbledon week.

CAN YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

No I can't. I have tried to learn to play the recorder, but have always found it difficult to read music. I would love to be able to play an instrument though.

WHAT IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE ITEM YOU HAVE EVER PURCHASED, APART FROM YOUR HOUSE AND CAR?

Probably some antique furniture.

IF MONEY WERE NO OBJECT, WOULD YOU STILL WORK?

No, I would love to travel more.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE SHOP IN TIVERTON?

The bookshop. My wife has trouble keeping me away from it! I love to read and get through a stack of books during my spare time in the holiday.

WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK OF THE BOYS' BROWN BLAZERS?

I like traditions and think the blazers are unique to Blundell's.

WOULD YOU PREFER TO SIT YOUR EXAMS NOW OR WHEN YOU DID?

I suspect A Levels are harder work now, although I may have benefited from coursework and modules, as I wasn't the best at sitting exams.

ON THE TOP OF AFRICA

by James Waddington U6



Sunrise on the summit at Lenana, Mt Kenya 4985M

“Over the next few days the enormity of the challenge ahead started to set in as the persistent walking and the gradual effects of altitude started to take their toll.”

Kilimanjaro Expedition 2007

By joining the Blundell’s expedition team I was hoping for a life-changing experience and an immense challenge. These wishes were far surpassed, leading to new friendships and cherished memories. This is a collection of the defining moments of the trip and the challenges that we faced, and all I hope is that they inspire you to try something adventurous in the forthcoming years.

On arriving in Kenya the expedition’s first challenge was to climb Mt Kenya by reaching Point Lenana 4985m, its highest climbable peak.

From Nairobi we travelled to the Nanyuki District to stay at the delightful Naro Moru River Lodge. Our transport was a spacious Medicated Camel Cheese lorry (luxurious by African standards apparently). On arriving we were all keen to see African wildlife. We were not disappointed, as within the hour we witnessed a close-knit family of baboons walking 50 metres ahead of our party. Later that evening I witnessed my first African sunset, something that I will never forget and will struggle to describe. This filled our party with a sense of optimism for the forthcoming weeks.

Over the next few days the enormity of the challenge ahead started to set in as the persistent walking and the gradual effects of altitude started to take their toll. In spite of this we were surrounded by immense beauty and I was becoming ever more excited about our ascent to the summit. Initially we moved through dense forests reverberating with sounds of Colubus monkeys, dodging the piles of steaming elephant dung. We then entered a moorland phase to reach Liki North Hut 3,900m. This was a simple wooden box on stilts surrounded by laughing hyrax. Gradually the scenery changed to a lunar landscape littered with stumpy groundsels and phallic looking lobelia. Marmots and multifarious birds were ever present on our approach to Shiptons hut, the last stop which we would make on our journey to the summit.

Rising at one in the morning, we began our final ascent. Using only head torches, we trudged slowly upwards, following the cold feet of the walker in front. Marching on scree slopes with empty stomachs was draining, however knowing that to reach our breakfast we had to summit Mt Kenya first, kept our legs moving. This was one of the hardest parts of the trip as the cold was unbearable, but with the knowledge of what we were about to achieve our resolve remained strong. >>



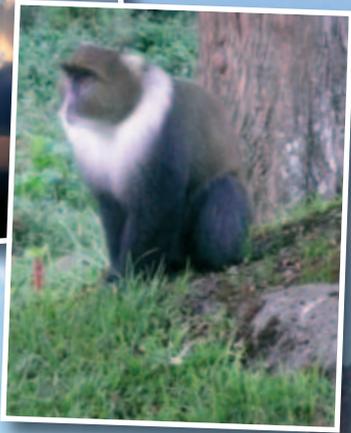
Shiptons Camp on Mt Kenya 4200m



Liki North Hut, Mt Kenya 3900m



Tom Mahon, James Waddington, Richard Longstreet & Alex Clarke



Mt Kenya is thought to have been named by the Akamba people, who called it 'Kiinyaa' or 'Mountain of the Ostrich' because the dark rock and speckled ice fields reminded them of the tail feathers of a male ostrich. It is, in fact, the remains of a 'stratovolcano' which once stood over 6,000m. The jagged peaks of Bastian and Nelion are the remains of the plug of molten rock which cooled in the volcano's vent. The mountain area was designated a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site in 1997.

Batian (5,199m), the summit, was named by Sir Halford Mackinder after Mbatian, the most famous of the Maasai medicine-men who died in 1890 when an outbreak of rinderpest swept through E Africa. He named the peaks of Lenana and Sendeyo after Mbatian's sons.

When he was about to die, Mbatian called together the elders of the Matapato tribe and declared "I wish my successor to be the son to whom I give the medicine-man's insignia. Obey him." He called for his eldest son Sendeyo to come by in the morning. However, his younger son Lenana had hidden in the calf shed and overheard the conversation. Next morning he arose early and went to his father's hut and said "Father I have come." Now Mbatian was very old and had only one eye, so he could not see which of his sons was before him. Consequently Lenana cheated Sendeyo out of his rightful position and the brothers waged war until 1902, when Sendeyo declared himself finally beaten.

"The view was spectacular, as the African sun slowly rose over the horizon to reveal the breathtaking mountainous scenery from the highest point around."

Dawn shadow of Kilimanjaro from the summit, Uhuru Peak 5896m

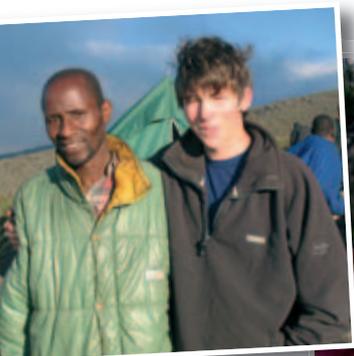


As the first rays of sunlight began to creep over the horizon, we approached the top of the mountain. The view was spectacular, as the African sun slowly rose over the horizon to reveal the breathtaking mountainous scenery from the highest point around. After a three-hour descent we were finally rewarded with a cooked breakfast. It was only nine in the morning and we had walked for seven hours, yet we faced at least the same again before we could camp for the night.

Having navigated vertical bogs we reached our huts ten hours later. We were thrilled at what we had accomplished, and excited by the promises of African animals on our last day. We were not disappointed. Woken up by monkeys with long bushy tails climbing on the roof of our hut, no one wanted to leave our new furry friends when the final descent was to begin. As soon as we started the trail though, we were filled with renewed enthusiasm when Isaac, our lead guide, showed us where an

elephant had collapsed the dirt walls of the track and was descending a few hours ahead of us. Despite increasing our pace we never caught up, however before disappointment had managed to set in, we came across a wild buffalo. This was apparently a bad sign, as it meant he would be aggressive having become separated from the herd. Our two guides told us to climb a bank and move slowly alongside the track. Convincing us that the utmost caution was required around these colossal beasts, they preceded to hurl rocks and stones at the creature! It was an incredible surprise, however he plodded off into the undergrowth where he came from, marking a dramatic end to our time on Mount Kenya.

Two nights in hotels separated one journey from the next. A night in the Sarova Stanley in Nairobi was bliss. The luxury hotel gave us the chance to wash off one mountain in preparation for the application of another, but also to swim, eat and watch T.V!



Left: Ed Jones with a porter Below: Kenyan transport



Approaching Mt Kenya



Head to Head - Head Boy, Tom Mahon on duty at Kilaremo School

“The gratitude shown to our group made all the charity work so worthwhile. The trip ended on a massive high, playing the local primary school in an epic 3-2 extra time victory (not so impressive when you consider they were all barefooted ten year olds!).”

With clean clothes and a content appetite, we set off with renewed vigour on the Marangu trail, to try to achieve our ultimate goal, summiting Mt Kilimanjaro.

Mt Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania, contrasted drastically with Mt Kenya, adding an extra 1,000m to our climb. Whilst the temperature would be much lower, the air would contain only half of the oxygen present at sea level. There was much less wildlife present on Mt Kilimanjaro, which is actually three extinct volcanoes, Kibo, Mawenzi and Meru, with open landscapes and breathtaking scenery the principle focus of our attention. The ascent was slow to aid acclimatisation but thankfully due to our hike up Mt Kenya we were prepared. Reaching Kibo hut via the Rongai Route by lunchtime on the fourth day, we rested early as our summit attempt would begin at midnight. The slow journey to the crater edge was completed by 6.00am, and it was exhausting. The freezing cold, thin air and the pitch black scenery combined meant that the decision to continue upwards around the crater rim to the summit was a difficult one for some. Leaving a few of the group behind as victims of acute mountain sickness, only willpower drove the last of us to the summit. Reaching Uhuru peak 5685m was one of the greatest feelings that I have experienced in my life so far and gave us all an immense sense of achievement. When we finally descended to Horombo campsite 3720m, we had been walking for fifteen hours and the porters said

they rarely got so many from one group to the top.

Having reached the top of both of the Mountains, our thoughts turned to Kilaremo School that we would soon be visiting. The first day was spent painting the classrooms that had recently been built, and the second day distributing second-hand clothes, cricket kit and gifts that we had collected before our journey out there. The gratitude shown to our group made all the charity work so worthwhile. The trip ended on a massive high, playing the local primary school in an epic 3-2 extra time victory (not so impressive when you consider they were all barefooted ten year olds!). They were so excited by our gift of fifteen new footballs.

The trip surpassed my expectations by far and has inspired me to plan a gap year involving trekking in Africa. It is an incredible continent with fantastic people and I would urge anyone who is considering making the trip to just go for it. I will only live once, but if I had my time over again this is one decision that would remain the same. The children I met, the friends I made and the sense of achievement that I had completed all my goals, go together to make a truly unforgettable trip.

Right: Painting crew
Below: Sophie Foan playing catch with 500



Richard Longstreet coaching cricket



OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD

Seth Richards Year 12



In November the Ondaatje Theatre Company put on a production of *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker, a challenging play set in the newly established convict colony of New South Wales. As the school's major production for the year there were high standards to be met

Robin Hill led the cast of officers attempting to discipline and civilise the convicts, many of whom had committed tiny thefts. Brutalised by the harsh treatment of the officers and an eight month journey in intolerable conditions on a convict ship, the last thing one would have expected of the convicts was to put on a play, yet this is precisely what they did. Under the auspices of an enlightened governor, Captain Arthur Phillip (William Pettit), the convicts put on the first production to be performed on Australian soil, George Farquhar's "Recruiting Officer".



The play is based on fact and one of the convicts was Devonian heroine, Mary Bryant (played by Lizzy Clark), who escaped the colony and sailed all the way to the East Indies. She was eventually returned to England where she was given a reprieve and allowed to return to her beloved Bigbury Bay.

This was a challenging play for a young cast, but all excelled themselves and in turn moved, amused and even shocked their audience. The production was visually stunning. Set, designed by Malcolm Thackwray, and lighting by Roger Winwood set the mood of the claustrophobic hold of a convict ship, the barren landscape of Australia and the plush interior of the officers' mess. It will be a long time before the audience forgets the harrowing scenes of a convict being flogged by the sadistic Major Ross (Theo Weedon) or Harry Brewer's (Jack Eadie) descent into madness. Thankfully, the play ends on a positive note with the convicts staging their production and with Lieutenant Ralph Clark falling in love with one of the convicts Mary Brenham (Louise Gillespie).

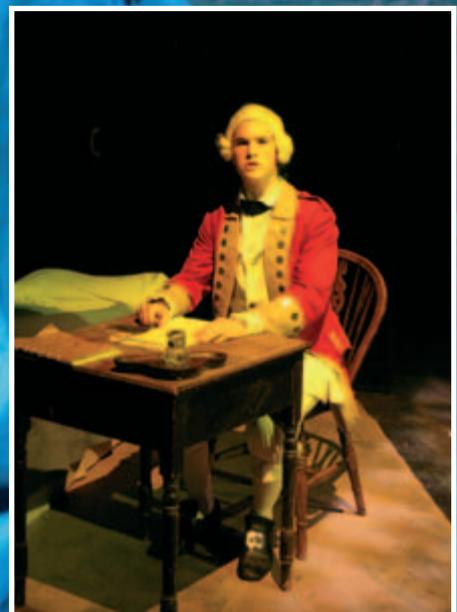


Just as the convicts needed an inspirational director in the form of Ralph Clark so too did the Blundell's cast. Fiona Baddeley managed to inspire and cajole the young cast to great heights and after months of rehearsals managed to pull off a very complex show which left the audience in no doubt of the value and power of theatre.





The lighting and sound aspects of the play were simply magnificent. Seth Richards (lighting) and Russell Fleming (sound) under the expert guidance of the Theatre Manager, Roger Winwood, worked tirelessly to make this show the best it could possibly be. The play's technical aspects were the key to making the performance as powerful and moving as possible. All in all it was a triumph for everyone involved in the production and it was extremely enjoyable to be part of it. The BehindThe Scenes article on Pg 33 explains more about the professionalism and all-round excellence of the Ondaatje Hall theatre crew. Alex Miles Year 12



THE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Feasts celebrating Christmas were not common in Blundell's before the 19th century because Oliver Cromwell had made all celebrations illegal in 1650: he believed they were not written about in the Bible and therefore should not exist. Obviously Oliver was not a natural Blundellian!

However, in 1940 the Christmas feasts became an annual event. Apart from celebration the main reasons the feast existed was to give the boarders something to do and look forward to, as they were the only people other than House Masters who were likely to be around. In addition Peter Blundell's will still provided more money than was necessary for the school's annual costs. I do not think that Mr Chambers (the Bursar) views things in quite the same way.

In the 1940s the menus weren't quite as indulgent; the average overall cost was approximately 18 shillings, which is equivalent to about £9. At the time there was rationing so the menus were more restricted, however, one thing they did keep flowing was the alcohol to make sure the benefactors were kept amused. The feasts took place in what was known as the 'feeding centre', which nowadays is the Mathematics Department. **Ele Breitmeyer L6**

The Feast goes back to the earliest days in Blundell's history and clearly was a jolly for the good and the great involved with the school. The general idea seemed to be to use up the excess funds each year; possibly not what Peter Blundell would have envisaged when signing his immensely generous will and testament. A bill from 1664 shows that there were two types of diners, 28 'ordinarys', who were the Feoffees (Governors), the Master and the Usher and 18 'lessers', presumably the Senior boys. The refreshments seem a useful amount for the assembled party; 28 bottles of sack (probably 40 pints), 25 quarts of cider (50 pints), 4 quarts of claret and 20 gallons of beer. That would have made the famous Porterhouse Blue seem a veritable tea party. The listed hire of 13 horses must presumably have been to get the assembled company home afterwards.

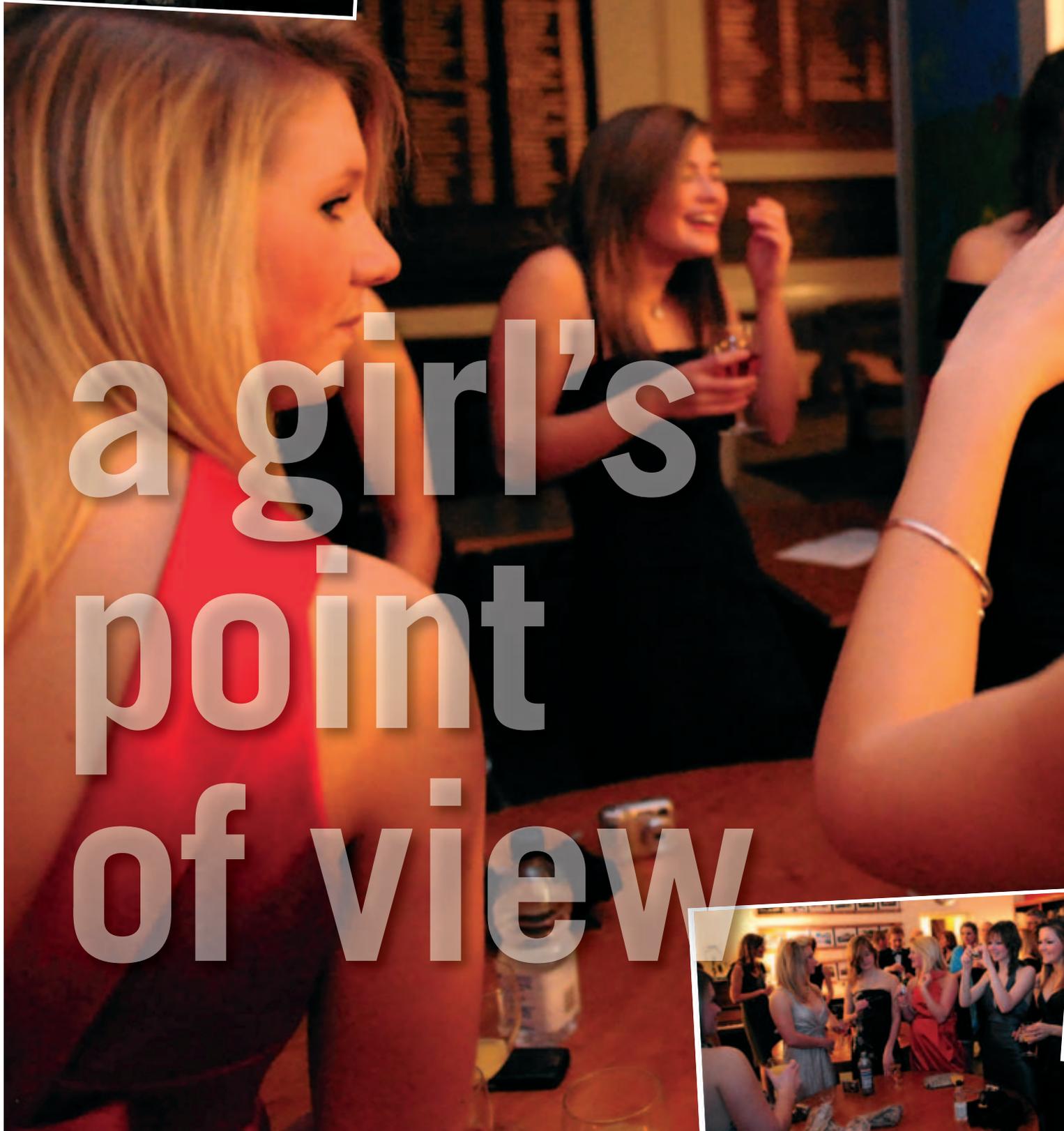
The bill for 1678 lists raw materials as 'two pieces of beef, butter, eggs, apples, pears, poultry, woodcocks and partridges, bacon, oranges, lemons, sausages, a loin of veal, a shoulder of mutton, 5 pounds of suet, 5 pounds of sugar, fruit and spice, tobacco and pipes'. Oh how we miss Mr Atkinson telling us, at length, how many Brussel sprouts and eggs were used in the kitchen over the last term.





THE 'GUT'

AKA THE CHRISTMAS DINNER



a girl's point of view





In more modern days, The 'Gut'- from a girl's point of view

After a hectic afternoon of winning the house hockey again and the gruelling 'General Knowledge Quiz', the North Close girls rush back to house to battle it out for the first showers, the ones where warm water is still present. A shower rota is drawn out to try and give priority to the older girls, however, these rarely last. At this point the tension starts to rise, there is the stress of how to style your hair, what colour eye make up to wear and of course, whether "your bum looks big" in the all important dress. Walking around the dorms is a hilarious sight; there are tights and games kit strewn all over the floor, make up covering all surfaces and large groups of girls with half their hair straightened and the rest tightly curled.

Although the first few hours are stressful the end result is definitely worth it, as year groups gather in the common rooms. There are beautiful dresses in all styles and colours, toweringly high heeled shoes and extravagant pashminas. Spirits are high with excitement for the forthcoming evening; especially as everyone waits to see what Mr. Edwards has in store for us. This year was in fact a fabulous Tina Turner impersonation, complete with wig and dinner ladies as backing singers.

After the thousands of pictures and the separate pre-meal entertainment everyone heads over to the dining hall, ever mindful of Mrs K's wise words on the standards of behaviour expected of NC young ladies! The Matron and pupils in each house have decorated their tables with candles and crackers and the Dining Hall looks fabulous. The menu is a festive course of Christmas turkey with all the trimmings and extras followed by Christmas pudding, which is a pretty extraordinary achievement for the Blundell's catering staff. Feeding over 500 people all at the same time is just unbelievable. The only year group not overly spruced up for the occasion is Year 9 as they have to take all the food to the tables; some traditions will never change and we all did it once!

Once the meal ends it is time to return to your respective houses in time for the house entertainment to begin. Being in North Close this runs in a specific order, starting with year 9. The tradition in North Close is that the Year 9s do a nativity play and Lower Sixth make a video, usually with hilarious outcomes. Mrs K gives out numerous prizes for things like 'blonde of the term', 'girl trying hardest to be FHOH' or 'drama queen' accompanied by Mr K lobbing chocolates everywhere.

After this we relax in front of some films, with Mr K treating us to his world famous pizza and chips, before finally falling into bed in the early hours. This years' 'Gut', as always, brought the whole of the Blundell's community together into one tight-knit fun-filled family; it was the perfect way to relax and celebrate the end of term and the beginning of the Christmas holidays. **Ele Breitmeyer L6**





DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Thank you for all your positive and encouraging comments about the Diary. We are adding future events to the back page and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the summer. We will again be having a Blundell's drinks and canapés evening at the school tent on Thursday 5th June at the Royal Cornwall Show. We are also attending the Bath and West Show this year and there will be drinks and canapés on Thursday 29th May, again in the school tent.

Blundell's began this academic year with 575 pupils in School House and the Senior School. This is a record for recent times and it is particularly pleasing that the number of boarders went up by twenty over the previous year. The school really is now full to overflowing.

A Level and GCSE results continue to be very good and the Inspectors found very little to criticise during the November Ofsted and Independent Schools Inspectorate visit. Six Blundellians gained places at Oxford or Cambridge and other applicants were successful at a wide range of Universities and Higher Education establishments.

The openings of the Popham Centre and Music School were almost immediately followed by the start of the Preparatory School extensions. Details of the work to be done can be obtained from the Preparatory School. It is anticipated that work will be complete in time for the Autumn Term 2008. The death of Ted Crowe on 28th January leaves Blundell's a much poorer place.

Paddy Armstrong

PREPARATORY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT



Builder John Smith and Quantity Surveyor Chris Bates watch the first pile driven in the Preparatory School Development Programme

Forthcoming events

Lecture	February 29
Peter Blundell-Jones(OB) William Lyons-Wilson and the Pursuit of Abstraction in Ondaatje Hall at 7.30 pm.	
Germany dinner	May 3
Devon County Show	May 15-17
Bath & West Show	May 28-31
Royal Cornwall Show	June 5-7
OB Dinner, Bristol Zoo	June 6
OB Day	June 21
Speech Day - Blundell's	July 4
Mid Devon Show	July 26



Above: William Lyons-Wilson

OLD BLUNDELLIANS ABROAD

During October and November I visited OBs in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Perth WA and Bangkok. We are holding 'Blundell's events' rather than restricting gatherings to OBs and find the mixture of parents, past parents, agents and other friends of Blundell's plus OBs makes for a very good mix.

The Tokyo meeting was the first in Japan, and it was gratifying, after a large number of emails, to get 24 attending a lunch in a private room in the Keio Plaza Hotel. We were pleased to welcome **Kazuko Watanabe** and **Itsumi Yamagishi**, who have provided many Japanese students over the years.

Guy Nowell again kindly arranged drinks and canapés in the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. This is a marvellous venue for any event, with fantastic night time views over Causeway Bay.

Simon Carrel had worked fantastically hard in Perth and found a lovely restaurant overlooking the bay. He had also produced a commemorative beer mug for each guest and we drank, amongst other wines, a Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon labelled for Blundell's with a photograph of the clock tower. We very much look forward to Simon's daughter, Sophie, joining Blundell's and keeping up the long Carrel tradition.

Finally, I visited Bangkok and was very well looked after by **Anucha Techanitisawad (FH 1979-81)** and his family. Anucha's son, Poon, has followed in his father's footsteps at Blundell's.



Top: OBs and parents enjoy drinks in the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club

Above left: Jonathan Hollands and Dan Parr in Hong Kong.

Above right: Hong Kong drinks and canapés



Above: Anucha Techanitisawad (FH 1979-81) and family with Paddy and Dagmar in Bangkok

Above and inset: Both sides of the table in Perth

Below: Simon Carrel holding and apparently enjoying the commemorative Blundell's beer mug

Below: Senior OB, John Hollingshead, in Perth



Top: Paddy, Julien De Salaberry and Tina, Dominic Roughton in Tokyo

Above: Parents and OBs lunching in Tokyo

Above: Back - Shin Okabe, Hiro Azuma, Paddy Armstrong, Eiji Ikeda, Dagmar Armstrong, Jonbun Kang, Akihiro Kanamori



TED CROWE

Ted Crowe died peacefully at home in Sampford Peverell on 28th January at the age of 79 whilst sitting in his armchair, wearing the trademark jumper, looking out over his garden and the Devon countryside. Surrounded as usual by his vast correspondence, chaotic paperwork and sporting memorabilia; not a bad way to go.



Edward Robert Crowe was born on 18th July 1928 and brought up in South Nutfield near Reigate. His father Douglas Crowe was a coffee broker. His mother was Dutch - yes, Ted was half Dutch. Ted occasionally spoke about his happy childhood with brother Bob and sister, Mary. Douglas introduced him to cricket at South Nutfield CC and, notably, for 'The Crows'. A covenant on the cricket ground prevented South Nutfield from playing matches on Sundays, so Douglas formed his own team which was not subject to any restrictions. Ted took a starring role in The Crows and terrorised local villages with his hitting.

Ted was a pupil in Francis House at Blundell's School from 1943-46. He excelled at all sports but rugby and cricket most of all. He went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge to read mathematics but spent the ensuing three years playing a vast amount of sport, notably rugby for the XL Club and cricket for the Crusaders. If he had been at all selfish, he would probably have won Blues at both sports. The friendships that Ted made at Pembroke and Cambridge lasted all his life.

A little known fact is that Ted actually took his degree in geography. At a terrifying interview with his tutor at the start of his final year, Ted was told that for him rugby, cricket and mathematics were just not compatible; something had to give. To Ted's relief, the tutor decided it would be the maths.

National Service followed and included time - not recalled with affection - in Egypt at an observation post by the Suez Canal. He was no internationalist. He did not travel abroad again until 1987, when he led the Old Blundellian cricketers to Paris to re-enact the Olympic Cricket Match of 1900 where they won the gold medal. The only international non-sporting topic on which I heard him express an opinion over the years was - bizarrely - Archbishop Desmond Tutu, of whom he strongly disapproved.

Ted returned to Blundell's in 1953 and spent the remainder of his teaching career there until retiring in 1989. He was the archetypal dedicated schoolmaster, whose life was Blundell's. He taught mathematics. In due course, he ran the rugger and cricket and instilled his passion for them in generations of schoolboys. He was a much loved housemaster of Old House from 1965-80.

An outstanding second row forward on the rugby field, he helped to develop rugby at Blundell's to a very high level. When Ted joined the staff, Graham Parker was running the 1st XV and his great protégé was Richard Sharp (W 1952-57), who duly became the outstanding player of his generation. Ted coached Richard and many, many others. Amongst his many fine teams as master in charge of rugby, Ted's unbeaten side in 1969 stood out, featuring the late Charles Kent (NC 1967-72), who went on to win five England caps.

On the cricket field, Ted was a wicket-keeper and hard hitting batsman. He played minor counties cricket for Devon in 1955. He was a great supporter of Devon cricket, later serving on the Committee from 1981 until his death and as President. He played club cricket for Tiverton, Sidmouth and the Old Blundellians. He started the Old Blundellian Cricket Club's

cricket week in Devon and tour to the Midlands (the latter continuing for more than forty years). He played for the OBs in the Final of The Cricketer Cup in 1976; the team included Roger and John Davis, Jeremy Lloyds and Richard Sharp.

On the sports field, Ted's ethos was that taking part and enjoyment were everything and far more important than winning. The amusement factor was never far away, never more so than if it involved an unexpected and victorious ambush of the likes of the Nondescripts, Sherborne or Coventry & North Warwick!

It was the Old Blundellian Club that was Ted's life work. He served as Hon. Secretary for more than fifty years, building a huge network of friendships with OBs young and old. He sent at least 500 Christmas cards each year, all with a personal message - and many hand-delivered. He maintained an extraordinary correspondence with OBs worldwide. He was immensely proud of the Colin Beale Centre at Blundell's, and played a leading role in completing that project. Does any other former pupils' association enjoy such a wonderful facility in which to display its memorabilia welcome and entertain visitors?

Another wonderful facility is the Old Blundellian Box at the County Cricket Ground at Taunton. When Chris Ondaatje helped Somerset CCC to build an indoor cricket school and stand, a term of his gift was that the superb corporate box on the top of the building be reserved for the OBs. For the last fifteen years of his life, Ted was the genial host in the Box, presiding daily when cricket was on, looking after countless OBs and other visitors. He was a huge supporter of Somerset cricket.

There is a wonderful portrait of Ted, commissioned by Sir Christopher Ondaatje, which hangs in the Ondaatje Hall at Blundell's. However, amongst the many pictures of distinguished OBs in the Colin Beale Centre, he allowed no picture of himself until he was overruled last Autumn. A talented OB designer, Martin Surgey (M 1967-72), was instructed to produce a photographic montage of the principal aspects of Ted's life - including South Nutfield, Pembroke College, Blundell's, rugger, OB cricket and Somerset CCC. This was presented to Ted at a Blundell's rugby reunion last November and is now proudly displayed in the Beale Centre. Ted was quietly pleased and admitted that he enjoyed it greatly.

So, this gargantuan figure is departed. Remembered with huge affection for his immense love of and loyalty to Blundell's, his unselfishness and for doing so much for so many people; Ted will be missed but never forgotten by those of us privileged to know him.

Chad Murrin (FH 1969-73)

The Memorial Service for Ted Crowe will be on Saturday 12th April at 11.00 am at St Peter's, Tiverton. Please contact the Beale Centre (01884-232010, email: admin@obclub.co.uk) so that we have numbers for catering. Parking will be at Blundell's and buses will run to the church from there. There will be refreshments at Blundell's after the Service.



Addis Ababa street scene

Jafar Mahda walked out of his office with an all-knowing air; his light turquoise uniform looked very out of place in the dusty surroundings. Clutching my passport, his face shrivelled in a vain attempt to look apologetic.

“Sorry Mr Charles, you have a single entry visa.”

The Ethiopian Incident

by **Charlie Leigh**

author of 52,000 word manuscript
'Educating an Englistanee.....Inshallah'
an 18 year olds travels through the Middle East



Ethiopian Highlands



Lake Tana

I felt my body swelling up in anger. He knew, as I did, that those words meant I would have to return on a two day bus ride to Addis Ababa, when he could quite easily have allowed me safe passage back into Sudan with my ambiguous multi-entry visa.

Bribing - I had never tried it before and hope not to again. Undoing the laces on my shoe I reached for the curled up, rather mouldy 100 dollar bill. Jafar lacked any interest, instead taking me forcefully by the arm as though I were an unwilling bride going down the aisle, and marching me across the small bridge that separates the Sudanese border post from Metema, a small, uninspiring Ethiopian village.

The anger had subsided into frustration. I sat by the bus shack, where a week previously a pickpocket had successfully stolen my passport before being beaten to a pulp by the unforgiving police. Frustration gave way to utter hopelessness as fatigue set in. It was ten in the morning and I had already been up for nine hours, thanks to a parasite riddled cocktail of bed bugs, lice and, worst of all, human fleas that pinged off my clothes and seethed around my body, biting indiscriminately.

The morning bus had departed, leaving little choice but to use the local service to hop from one village to another. However, I think "service" is misleading - rather, I had a four day trip of unscheduled, unorganised, untarmacked, unbearable African travel.

The twenty seater bus, now containing forty people and two goats, ground in first gear into the beautiful Ethiopian highlands, providing a moment's aesthetic relief and a chance to try and regain what might remain of a sense of humour. Luck had not been on my side though - over the ridge the grey skies confirmed just that.

Rain was for the Ethiopians a blessing, a promise of fertile soils and rich crops. I could not help knowing it also meant wet, muddy roads that would soon turn to a frictionless sludge. Within the hour we were well dug-in. Our driver preferred to stuff handfuls of narcotic Qat into his billowing cheeks than to avoid driving through the darker, therefore more saturated parts of the road. He also proved capable of rapidly lifting his foot from the clutch, inviting the treadless wheels to cut themselves a deep, inescapable bed.

He turned off the ignition and sank back into his seat. The bus was absolutely quiet, reflecting on the literal gravity of the situation. Twenty minutes of self pity passed until some voices indicated an approaching dump truck 400 metres up the hill.



The Blue Nile

The yellow monstrosity was heralded as the saviour and would, against its will, be drawn into the problem, as the bus obstinately lay across the entire width of the road.

It was pretty clear that the dump truck was going to prove of no use whatsoever. It had no means of rescuing us from the rut without ramming the bus and causing severe damage to our vehicle.

That was it; I had had enough and I really did not want to hang about in a parasitically victimised state in the middle of nowhere. I had discovered an English speaker on the bus, who acted as translator while I explained the plan to the driver. Firstly, get everyone off the bus and then line the tyre tracks with boulders, creating a bit of tread to escape our predicament. The first idea was not well received; there were many work shy faces who preferred not to get muddy. A brave few ventured out of the bus collecting ever enlarging clods of clayish mud that stuck to our feet. I showed my team of ten what to do. Very simple stuff - we would break into two groups, find medium sized rocks and lay a lot directly in front of each wheel and then build up a path of stones to our eventual freedom. Everyone nodded. We began.

A quarter of an hour later my side had made a sufficient attempt. However, on the other wheel the team of five lacked quite the same work ethic as my side, achieving half of the designated trail. This was considered unimportant (through an exchange of Amharic shouts) and we all piled back onto the bus. I caught the driver before the much anticipated event and my translator explained the benefits of a light clutch; he nodded in agreement; all awaited eagerly.

The engine started, we edged forward, dipped back. Frustrated, the driver was quick with the clutch, rapidly jerking forward. Time slowed, face screamed with anticipation. The bus lurched forward as the stone trail ended, and the driver opted to follow the sides of the road thereafter.

"Faranji, Faranji" (Amharic for Foreigner); the bus erupted in applause. Being a modest man, I performed Cheshire cat smiling nods of recognition, shaking hands with the inner circle of command, the driver, his No.2 and our translator. Within a quarter of an hour our translator relayed messages from the back of the bus asking how long I had been an engineer, where had I studied the subject. I took all questions as compliments, adopting a serious, academic face whilst trying hard not to discourage any assumptions.

Charlie Leigh (W 1998-2004)



talkin' off

Joe Murrell (FH 2000-6)

Joe Murrell

photography at A Level is proving very useful now...

I left Blundell's just over a year and half ago with plans to go to Uni but not really knowing what I wanted to do with myself. Now I'm a sponsored skier travelling around the world having the best time of my life. It's funny how your life can veer off in any direction but if there's one thing I've learnt it's to grab your opportunities when they come around.

After leaving Blundell's I decided to take gap year to Val d'Isère with some school friends. For anyone thinking of doing a gap year I think it's a great idea. It's one of the only times in life when you have a lot of freedom to do what you want. I had such a good time when I was away and I really started progressing as a freestyle skier and entering competitions.

In the summer after my season I went to Switzerland to ski on the Glacier. I went on a British freestyle camp with all the top English riders and coaches and this was really where I got noticed as a skier. They got to see my level of progression in a year and at the end of the camp Pat Sharples, one of the coaches, asked me to join the Oakley Team.

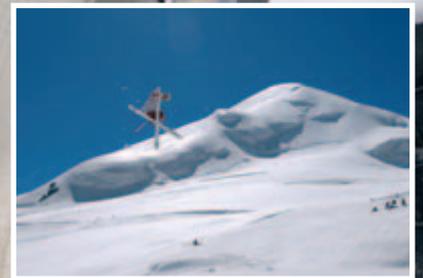
I was asked to stay an extra week out there so I could be filmed for the two big British ski films of this year "the Journal" by RJF and "Sticks + Stones" by Ellis Brigham. I also had a photo shoot so they could get shots for my article in Fall Line magazine. All of this was great fun and it felt like the commitment I'd put into the sport was paying off. After Switzerland I got other sponsorships from K2 skis and Ellis Brigham. My sponsors have been so helpful and they've opened lots of windows for me. My parents have also been really helpful and supported all the decisions I've made.

This season I'm going to Northstar in California for a few months and then back to Europe for the rest of the season. I'll be travelling to lots of events this year like the U.S. and European Open, where I'll be competing against the best skiers in the world. I'll also be doing more filming for the new ski movies, plus I'm keen to get into the editing side of it all as well. Studying photography at A level is proving very useful now as I'm always having to document my travels and build up portfolio shots for my sponsors. I'm also involved in editing films which all go up on You Tube if you type in my name.

I've got great memories of Blundell's and I feel I got a lot from being there. There's a lot of opportunity to try your hand at different things and the way I see it is that if nothing's ventured, nothing's gained. I really enjoyed my music and sport, but overall it was the friends I've made. I guess the one thing I really learnt is that if you put your mind to something and really work hard for it you'll reach your goals.

rell

“I guess the one thing I really learnt is that if you put your mind to something and really work hard for it you’ll reach your goals.”





“...THEY ARE STRONGLY BONDED AS A SIDE AND UNDOUBTEDLY THEY HAVE A FIERCE PRIDE IN PLAYING FOR THEIR SCHOOL.”



The Blundell's U14 A rugby team, aka the "Newtes" should be renamed the "Crocodiles" as their first season together has been a ferocious display. The Coach, Mr Thomas stated with pride, "They have played a dynamic game, which other teams could not live with". This claim is substantiated by their results: eight wins and two defeats. Out of the eight victories, they trounced six; the team's average score line was 40-6.

The highlight of their season was the colossal victory over the "much-vaunted" Sherborne U14's. The team followed the example of passion and power, set by their burly Captain, Ben Wonnacott and his side-kick Jamie Baughan. They were complemented by the mercurial talent of Tom Ricketts and the mid-season signing of the increasingly impressive Josh Seargent; the question is, will the six foot tall Will Mildren get back in the side after missing most of the season? There could be even more to come for this outfit.

However, their many successes did not result in complacency. Upon asking the coach about the humorous moments of the season, he replied, "there was no time for a laugh in my team". I assume he was joking, nevertheless his seriousness for the game has been reflected in his side's commitment.

The components of the team were only introduced to each other at the start of this season. Although some had been involved in the successful School House side, other team members had played against Blundell's for their respective prep school sides. In addition to this Blundell's obtained the Japanese rugby talent, Hajime Kasahara. He came with a Japan Under 13 cap under his belt; his combination of speed and strength in the centre mystified many opposition.

In the past few years, Blundell's 1st XV has had a few tough seasons on the top circuit in the South West. The Newtes A's seem to hold the key to Blundell's future success as a 1st XV. They have budding talent, they are strongly bonded as a side and undoubtedly they have a fierce pride in playing for their school.

Hugh McDowell Year 11

The girl's under 14 B hockey side have had a truly outstanding season; of the eight matches they have played five have resulted in wins, the other three culminating in draws. Coaching the team was one of this year's South African 'gappies' Jarryd Swanepool, whose wealth of sporting experience guided the team to what would ultimately be a season from the very top draw. Jarryd has been actively involved in hockey for as long as he can remember, his hard work paying off with captaincy of county teams, regular Premier League appearances, and surely the pinnacle of his career thus far, a call-up to play for his country against Zimbabwe.

The under 14s were in safe hands from the start; Jarryd had been involved with various other school teams throughout the year, but had not been entrusted with a side of his own as of yet, so he was very grateful to have the opportunity to pass on tricks and skills 'his way'. Training sessions focused on the development of these skills, in particular nurturing the team's ability to score, an ability that Jarryd feels is so often overlooked by many coaches who are keen to focus on defence. Scoring is what wins games, and that is certainly what the under 14s did, you only have to look at their record to realise the marked improvement they made over the term, the climax of which must be the 3-0 win over Millfield. Indeed, Jarryd's resounding memory of coaching the team will be the immense satisfaction he got from watching them learn. "Spending an entire training session teaching one skill and knowing that they will be able to use it in a match is very satisfying to know."

Apart from determined practice, Jarryd puts their success down to the team's spirit and unmovable resolve to succeed by working as a team, appreciating what each player has to bring to the game, these are truly unique qualities undoubtedly prevalent in all Blundell's school teams. Of course, behind the team's success were key individual efforts from Georgia Stone, the leading goal scorer, Olivia McBarnet, ably assisted by Rachael Clarke, who made up the captaincy, and Jess Summers, who had a truly impressive season in goal. Jarryd adds that he will always remember Katie Robbins and Jessica Lachlan for their vivacious personalities "which made training sessions in the cold and rain bearable!"

Jarryd's departure at the end of this term will be one tainted by an air of sadness; he has been an energetic presence on and around campus and will be sorely missed, by none more so than the under 14 Bs, who are truly grateful for all of the effort he has put in over the course of this term. Good-bye and good luck! **Will McBarnet Year 11**

**“SCORING IS
WHAT WINS
GAMES, AND THAT
IS CERTAINLY
WHAT THE UNDER
14s DID...”**



The diversity of opportunities at Blundell's plays a key role in developing an interesting, happy and tolerant community. Louise Youngman Yr 12 profiles two contrasting rising stars of tomorrow.

BRIONY DEUCHAR - 04/07/91

Briony Deuchar, GH year 12, is clearly an incredibly talented musician and actress and is definitely fully deserving of the title 'rising star'.

Briony has "always wanted to sing and act" and recalls from a very young age "putting on little shows for her parents", most clearly remembering 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.

Her debut on the stage was at just five years of age, when she played Dorothy in 'The Wizard of Oz'. From then on music and drama have continued to play a major part in Briony's life.

She plays the cello, the piano and is of course an exceptional singer, on grade 6. It is true to say that you cannot attend a music concert at Blundell's without observing Briony's obvious talents, whether it be

singly in any of her various disciplines or in the choir, chamber choir, string group or most recently in the soul band. She is also an avid actress, taking the lead in two school musicals and achieving a fantastic 100% in her GCSE performance as Helena in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

I know that she greatly appreciates all that Blundell's has done for her music and drama, in particular, Miss Baddeley for continually "teaching her new techniques" and Mr. Barlow, who "has always encouraged her and stretched her voice a great deal". Impressively, Briony still strives for more for her acting and singing, wanting to achieve grade 8 in singing, performing in what will be her last musical and school play, looking forward to the challenges of organising the GH entrance for the House Music Competition and co-directing the GH house play.

I'm sure we all have no doubt that Briony's musical talents will go far beyond Blundell's, as they have already begun to, as a member of The National Youth Music Theatre. Watch this space!



Photograph by TD

BEN HALL - 11/11/91

I have to admit that fives is not a sport that I know a huge amount about, but I do know that we have a very talented fives player in our midst at Blundell's. Ben Hall only began his fives career in year 8, when he took it up as an activity, but has rapidly become somewhat of a star, winning the Doubles Plate Competition for the West of England with Hugh McDowell. He was initially attracted to the sport by its similarities to a game he used to play while living in Hong Kong.

At the beginning he was mainly taught by a friend of his, but now he trains three times a week and is coached by Mr Matthew as well as occasionally by more experienced players including professionals. Wayne Enstone, who was Britain's number 1 player for fifteen consecutive years is a regular guest coach.

At the moment he only plays for Blundell's and occasionally the Exeter Fives Club, but I know that now that fives has become a part of his life it's here to stay. In the near future, he has the West of England competition in January and the Nationals in the summer. In fives, the nationals is as far as you can go, which Ben seems disappointed about so maybe he will be the guy to start up a national team for an international circuit.

For anyone interested in starting fives Ben says, "Make sure you get advice from existing players, as well as the masters in charge here at Blundell's."



Photograph by RDJM

BLUNDELL'S LECTURES

Henrietta Mills Y11

reviews a season of Blundell's lectures



As the programme shows, the range of lectures the Autumn Term has been most impressive. The calibre has been so high that it is difficult to highlight a mere handful but those individuals who really seemed to stand out were Tim Emmett, Dr Frederick Declerck and Will Randall.

Tim Emmett, the extreme sportsman who has recently featured in the BBC's 'Top Gear' and 'Ultimate Rock Climbs', was truly inspiring. The lecture even prompted a group of year eleven pupils, who had formerly been grumbling about the injustice of having been coerced into attending, to admit that the lecture was actually "pretty good" - praise indeed! Not only was the presentation itself notable but Tim's energy and enthusiasm was infectious, his achievements spoke for themselves and he left the audience with the valuable message that with perseverance and determination, anything is possible.

As part of the languages week initiative, Belgian born Dr Declerck captivated an audience of sixth form scientists and linguists as he reconciled medicine with culture and language, recounting his experiences of working as a doctor abroad in destinations ranging from Everest base camp to the Australian outback, where he was part of the elite group of flying doctors. The lecture proved that there is a world of opportunity beyond the classroom and motivated many to strive for such opportunities.

Will Randall, who taught at Blundell's "in a time when Mr Brigden could still look down and see his feet", delighted the audience with prolific tales of his extensive travels, telling of how an unlikely opportunity led to a career as a travel author. The comic anecdotes not only amused and inspired, but served to illustrate the underlying message of the lecture: we shouldn't let a good opportunity pass us by, as it won't come around again



The School Musical

By James Evans L6

The beginning of each year starts with two weeks of dedicated hard work; around thirty pupils from Year 9 to the Upper 6th hit the ground running after ten lazy weeks of summer holiday and put on a musical in two weeks - flat out.

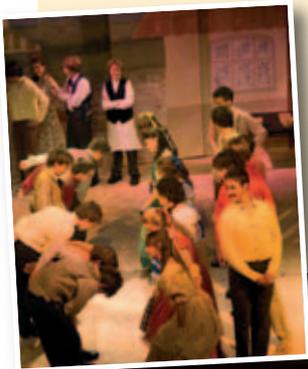
This year, a strong cast starring Briony Deuchar as "Milly" and Alex Miles as "Adam" put on an amusing and polished performance of Mercer and DePaul's "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers". Set in Oregon in 1850 it is the story of Adam, the eldest of seven brothers, who goes to town to get a wife. Amazingly, he succeeds, marries Milly and brings her home to the wilds, not telling her he lives with his six uncouth brothers! Desperate for their own wives, the brothers hear the story about the Roman capture of the Sabine women, so pull off their own version and kidnap their own wives.

choreographed by Miss Symonds and musically directed by Mr Barlow. The end result, combined with an excellent orchestra of peripatetic musicians and pupils; lighting, sound and special effects from the expert technical crew; and makeup and costumes from Mrs Steele and Mrs Corden, was, "really quite superb".

Having now performed in three such musicals, it will never cease to amaze me quite how everyone manages to pull it off, especially seeing the missed lines and ad-libbing in the dress rehearsal! The raw adrenaline and the buzz related to performing when a little unsure sure of your lines and lack of sleep is such a hugely sensual experience, made extra special with such an amazing group of people and friends. This year was just so, perhaps topping my past experience with unrivalled camaraderie and a unique feeling of satisfaction at the end of the last night.



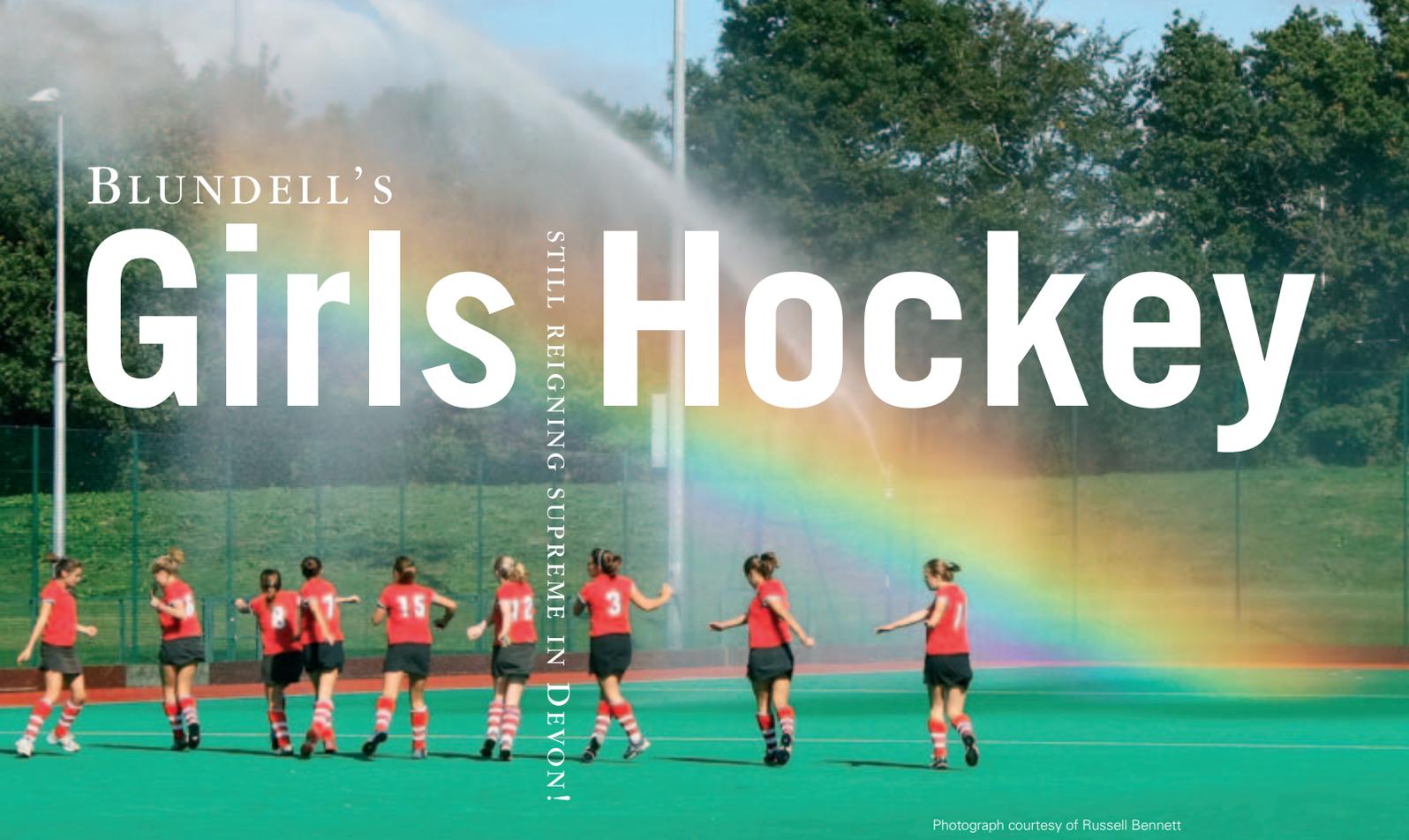
Rehearsals started with two intense days before the start of term, learning the chorus numbers; yes, that does mean us guys singing and dancing! In between normal school commitments, which are, at best, fairly taxing, we all managed to be expertly directed and



BLUNDELL'S

Girls Hockey

STILL REIGNING SUPREME IN DEVON!



Photograph courtesy of Russell Bennett

The girls 1st Team - continued their yearly domination of the U18 Devon Championships, both Indoor and Outdoor. For the sixth consecutive year Mrs K's girls proved to the rest of Devon that in the outdoor tournament, they are the team to beat and that it is just the way we like it! The Indoor Squad only slipped up in 2004, when they begrudgingly let someone else hold the trophy for a year.



Captain Jo Mardell

The 2007 team, led by the ever-competitive Jo Mardell, won all their games barring one (losing only to the mightily impressive Millfield side that glittered with Internationals). The other schools will be grateful that West of England player Grace Gabbitass unluckily missed the whole season, as did Sophie Anderson, otherwise their pain could have been even greater. Without Grace, the squad lacked an out and out goal scorer, so the team work ethic was absolutely vital to their success. In attack Lizzie Wessely began to make the most of her not inconsiderable talents by showing a more

consistent work rate, no doubt following the example of the indefatigable Louise Youngman and Bobby Frankpitt. At the other end Rosie Le Page had a superb season in goal, with the back line of Hatty Hosegood, Bess Meneheneott, Becky Blackmore, Nat Waddington and Jess Horne developing a positive, determined and very well organised defensive system. The two new German players (Alena Schultheiss and Kimi Hedtke) brought a different style of play and were impressive with their close skills ability - they even got used to the fitness regime!

As ever, Mrs K, ran a squad system with several younger players gaining invaluable experience. Whilst further down the school, both the U14s and U15s had very promising seasons, which augurs well for the future. The Blundell's girls are obviously keen to continue being Devon's leading hockey school for years to come.

It seems apposite at this time to make mention of Mrs K's unbelievable record as 1st team coach at Blundell's. Since 2002 the 1st Team have played 54 fixtures against the very best that the Westcountry has to offer, including Millfield, Canford, Clifton, Marlborough and Taunton and they have only been beaten 5 times!! Even Sir Alex Ferguson couldn't match that record!

“The Blundell's girls are obviously keen to continue being Devon's leading hockey school for years to come.”



Above: Alena Schultheiss
Below: Becky, Bobby & Jo - the U6 stalwarts



U18 GIRLS HOCKEY 2002 - 2007

Played 54 Won 42 Drawn 7 Lost 5

Design Technology

Photography

Art

Leading edge

This photo was taken as part of my AS level coursework. It started as a simple headshot with a wide space and the head on the right. It was then flipped and aligned digitally to get the mirrored effect and then converted to black and white to gain better contrast.

By Rosie Le Page Year 12



School House group work
8E torch drawings and Eric
Carle inspired collage.



Sam Smith Yr 11

**Multimedia unit by
Sam Smith Yr 12**

This is a multimedia unit for supporting a TV and holding a DVD player satellite receiver etc. The side units are for holding DVD's, CD's etc. It is made in Beech and Stainless Steel. The Beech is joined using finger joints. It is his own design and construction. He gained an A* at GCSE for this coursework.



WHAT IS

Ironman?

Sam Renouf (Westlake 2001-3)

Ironman Triathlon dates back to 1978 and was the result of a bet between a bunch of Hawaii based US Navy Seals over who was the fittest - a swimmer, cyclist or runner. The crazy outcome was a race involving all three - a 3.8km ocean swim, 180km bike ride across the island and concluding with a 42km marathon run. This became an annual event and rapidly gained in popularity - there are now 22 official Ironman events worldwide from Japan to Germany and Arizona to Australia. The British leg of the World Series takes place in the rolling grounds of Sherborne Castle, very close to Blundell's long time school adversary!

Ironman Sam

I took up Triathlon just before joining Blundell's in the sixth form. I competed recreationally throughout my time at the school and was often to be found on my exercise bike in the Westlake locker rooms! However, I really took to the sport whilst on a gap year in Australia where I joined 'Team TBB' the world's no.1 Ironman team, which included several World champions and Olympians. I was then awarded a sports scholarship to Loughborough University, which allowed me to spend much of my Uni-life on training camps in Brazil, Switzerland, Thailand and Australia. My gruelling training program soon paid off as I was selected as the youngest member of the Great Britain Elite team for the last two years and placed 3rd Briton at Ironman UK in 2007.



What does it take?

An average training week for a professional triathlete is in the 35-40 hour range - working out at 6.5hrs a day! This would involve a mixture of the disciplines averaging around 20km swimming, 500km biking and 100km running per week. Over the last four years that is enough for me to have swum the channel 50 times, ridden 2.5 times round the equator and run from Tiverton to Beijing - and back!





Behind the scenes in Ondaatje Hall by James Evans L6

There are many places in the school some of us may never venture in our time at Blundell's, one of these being backstage in Ondaatje Hall. Built in 1989 and named after OB Sir Christopher Ondaatje (P 1947-51), the theatre is still running strong today, hosting a wide variety of events each term from lectures and debates to plays and musicals.

Dramatic production at Blundell's runs non-stop throughout the year. In the Autumn Term the very first two weeks are devoted solely to the school musical: this year we saw "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers". This was followed by "Our Country's Good", the school play in the second half of term, and also the North Close play, "Cheque Please". The Spring Term is just as busy with an intense line-up of house plays, a school house production, GCSE and A-level performances.

Behind all of this lies a devoted group of hard-line staff and pupils, each interested in different elements of production - from technical aspects such as lighting, sound and scenery, set-building and scene changing; the Wardrobe with costume making, props and makeup; to the directing staff and front of house. Each of these aspects combine to form a fantastic group known as the Production Team.

On the technical side, Mr Winwood manages Ondaatje down to every last detail of dates for performances, hiring equipment and the colours of each light on the stage, unfailingly assisted by LVI Form pupils Seth Richards (lighting), Russell Fleming (sound), Andrew Bewsey and Michael Saupé with scenery. This has recently been taken to new heights with £11,000 being spent on new lighting and sound equipment.



The reins to the Wardrobe are held tightly by Mrs Corden, and her tireless battle to make sure each and every thespian 'looks the part' is widely admired. Alongside Mrs Corden, Miss Baddeley and Mrs Milne both hold huge positions of responsibility - Miss Baddeley directed the School Play "Our Country's Good" by Timberlake Werkenbarker last term, and Mrs Milne directed the Year 9 and 10 Play. As well as these extra productions, all of these teachers also teach Drama as GCSE and A-Level subjects, which culminates in assessed performances at the end of the Spring Term, which are often especially powerful and poignant.

Also voluntarily attached to Ondaatje at different times in the year are Mr Barlow and Miss Symonds who musically direct and choreograph the School Musical respectively; Mrs Steele who has a flair for make-up and huge fake beards; groups of interested Year 9s to help with scenery; and of course the motley assortment of LVI Form House Play directors! Backstage in Ondaatje is certainly a vital part of Blundell's, and has greatly inspired many Blundellians to take their expertise further in a field that they are interested in.



NEW BUILDINGS

Guests gather outside the Popham Centre

Openings of the Popham Centre and Music School

On Saturday 6th October 2007, the Popham Centre was opened by Professor Richard Bowring (W 1960-64) and the Music School by Peter Hurford (SH 1944-48). Between the two openings, 175 guests enjoyed an excellent lunch in Big School, which was preceded by short addresses from the Head Master, Ian Davenport, and the Chairman of Governors, David Fursdon. A short concert followed lunch.

Both buildings have been in use two terms now and have added greatly to the range and quality Blundell's offers academically, musically and in Information Technology. We are very grateful to both openers for giving up their time, and to those who made financial contributions to the buildings.



Peter Hurford opens the Music School



Ian Davenport introduces Professor Richard Bowring



Lunch in Big School

