



Blundell's

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DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

AUTUMN 2008

ISSUE NUMBER:3

CANADA

2008

Blundell's 1st XV Rugby Tour to Canada, 2008

Also

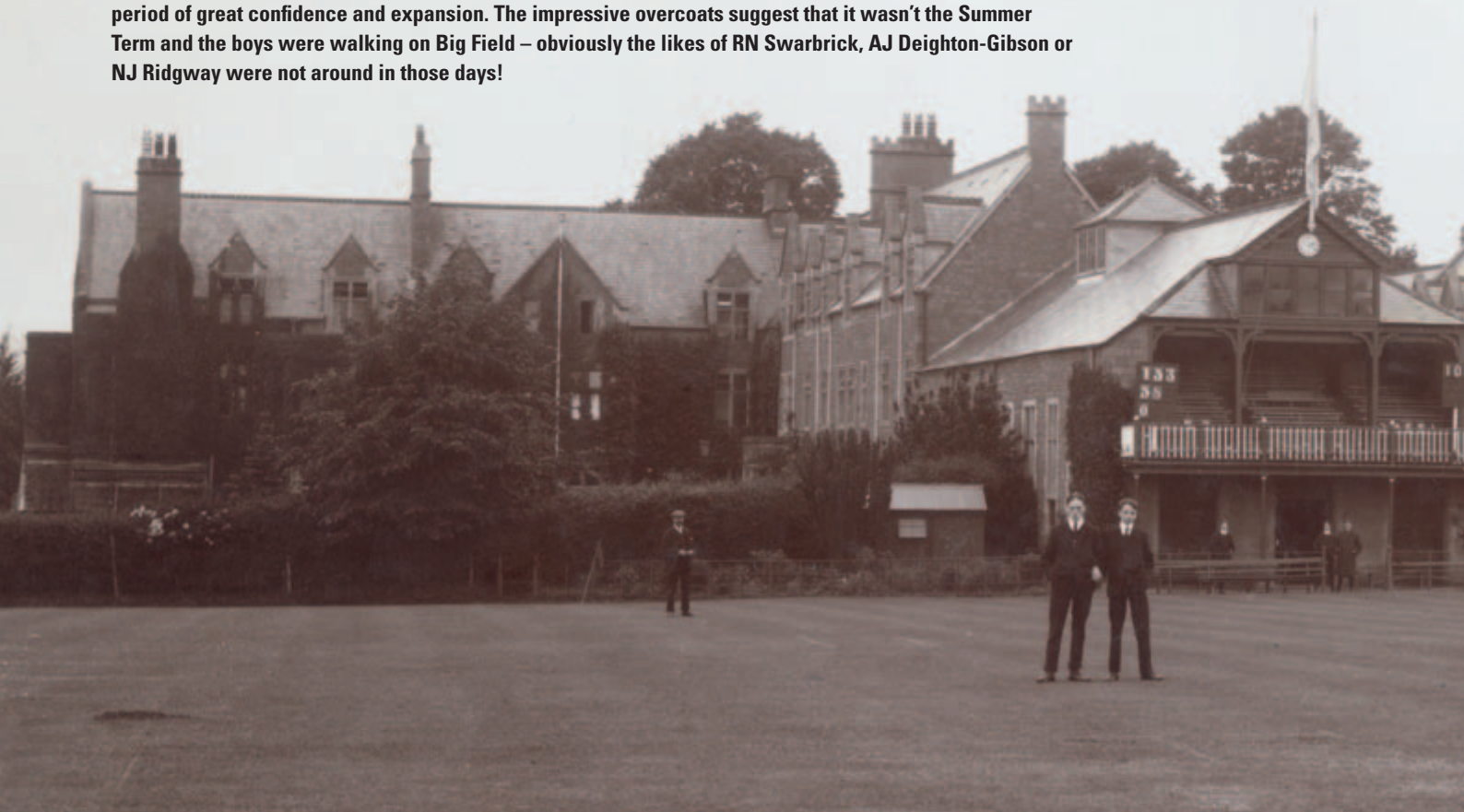
- * Academic Enrichment
- * Retiring House Parents
- * Rock Art! - photography at Kilve
- * A summer of music



The most notable addition in the view across Big Field in the early 1900s is the existence of the Billyard Workshops on the green where Gabriel Hummerstone's sculpture now stands. These were built in 1890 by Charles Billyard, OB 1873-1874 and they contained a carpentry work area and two smaller rooms for lathes and a forge. It ceased to be workshops in 1929 when they moved across the road to the present Bursary site and became the Tuck Shop until its demolishment in 1965. The progression of School House towards the Old Pavilion is apparent with the roof-light over the 'covered playground' – now the Mathematics Block. The Old Pavilion is now the Staff Clubroom but the clock presented by North Devon Cricket Club still keeps good time. Also in view is the Cross Memorial Spire which was replaced by the tower in the 1920s.

Behind the Tuck Shop can be seen the Library, now the Staff Common Room, which was completed in 1897. The funding came from the Governors (£300) and the rest was guaranteed and paid for by the Staff to the tune of £1,000 – how times have changed!

In the foreground can be seen Sergeant Ayres (known as 'the Czar'), who ran the Corps 1909-29; he then ran the Tuck Shop until 1937. The pupil numbers were around 280 at this time and the school had undergone a period of great confidence and expansion. The impressive overcoats suggest that it wasn't the Summer Term and the boys were walking on Big Field – obviously the likes of RN Swarbrick, AJ Deighton-Gibson or NJ Ridgway were not around in those days!



HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION



I am entering my fifth year now here at Blundell's; never has time passed so quickly for me. The summer brought excellent A level results for us as a school; indeed depending upon the measure they were the best we have yet recorded. For the fourth year in a row the pupils recorded over 70%

A, B grades; therefore as a consequence there were very few problems associated with university entrance. All of the Oxbridge candidates and medics met their offers and virtually all the other pupils will start at their preferred choice of university.

At the heart of my first development plan was a desire to continue to focus on academic standards and a significant part of this process was the building of the Popham Centre, which



has certainly been a terrific success. The music at Blundell's is also of a very high standard and putting it bluntly I felt the old music school did not enhance this success. The new music school has added considerable impetus to the music making in the school. Many other slightly less high profile initiatives are also well under way, for instance we have invested extensively in Information Technology in order to ensure that the teachers have what they require.

What does the next year bring? The Governors have appointed for the first time a full time Development Director. Mrs Amber Oliver has written an article for this edition of the Diary, I will not steal her thunder excepting to say we have made an excellent appointment. The Governors are committed to building a new Astroturf, to providing all year round swimming, to extending

and renovating the sports hall, to building a pavilion on Amory and to renovating all the boarding houses. This is the plan for the next few years or so. I am very much looking forward to the coming year. The school numbers are very healthy indeed and registrations look buoyant. A recent article on Blundell's in a national magazine stated "Blundell's is an exceptional school," we are determined to ensure it remains so.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Davenport".

Ian Davenport
Head Master



DEVON CHAMPION

Personally, I know Mr.Wheatley as Head of DT, live-in OH tutor, tennis coach and driver of a very throaty sounding home-made kit car. However, he clearly hides his light under a bushel as he has just been crowned the Men's Devon Tennis Champion after beating many talented local players; young county protégées like Mathew West and Tom Vallance were beaten in the early stages, the 2007 champion Dominic Stones 6-3, 7-6 in the semis and lastly preventing the No.1 seed, Stephen Knowles, from achieving his third Devon championship by comprehensively beating him 6-4, 6-4 in what was described as a 'wonderful match' by the tournament referee Peter Bayliss. Last year he also won the National stage of the Save the Children mixed doubles tennis tournament partnered by Miss Norman, the Careers Advisor here at Blundell's School. **Louise Youngman Year 12**

DIVING IN EGYPT



A group of 20 Blundellians, OBs and friends went to Egypt this summer on a SCUBA diving expedition to the northern Red Sea. Based on board the motor

yacht, Whirlwind, we toured the waters around the spectacular Sinai peninsula. Most of the trip was spent in exploring the many wrecks which festoon the beautiful reefs. Most notable was the wreck of the SS Thistlegorm which sank after being hit by a bomber during the Second World War and is still full of the cargo she carried for the 8th Army in Africa; this includes Bedford Trucks, BSA motorcycles and aircraft parts. A final day was spent in Sharm el Sheikh enjoying the sunshine and catching up on a little retail therapy. **JEA**

ON YOUR MARKS



Yasmin Bannellick NC Yr10 enters in style

There is possibly no single activity that epitomises the friendly spirit of Blundell's better than the willingness of the pupils to take part in charity events. The Lincoln College swim is one such annual event showcasing the energy and enthusiasm of Blundellians. The Lincoln College Vacation Project is run by Lincoln College, Oxford and is dedicated to giving the most disadvantaged children of Oxford a break. Now in its 38th year, the project takes children to various activity centres for, as promised, a vacation from their underprivileged lives. Such existence is alien to so many fortunate Blundellians who realise the disparity between their lives and so many of their peers and are therefore willing to give up their time to raise money for such a worthy cause. The project is reliant on charitable donations and thus the sponsorship money raised during the swim is hugely appreciated.

This year the participation was particularly impressive and there was one swimmer who stood out, namely Alex Williams who displayed remarkable determination and stamina swimming a total of six miles.

Meanwhile, Mrs Menheneott's barbecuing skills were appreciated by all and as ever Mr Brigden generously sponsored each swimmer two pounds contributing to the amount raised which totalled a notable £1,300 making the event a real concerted effort by staff and pupils alike. All in all the day was a huge success, fun but with an underlying sense of it all being for a good cause. **Henrietta Mills Yr11**

NC WIN HOUSE MUSIC

The house music competition remains one of the seminal days within the Blundell's community's year. 2008 saw yet another wonderful display of all that is great about Blundellians. What was not quite so normal was the result – NC finally won and their victory was thoroughly deserved. As usual, abundant talent appeared from nowhere, notably in the form of Sherry Tang and Alena Schultheiss on piano and Kimi Hedtke on clarinet. Tory Margesson and Ellie Howe brought lumps to many a throat with their version of White Horses and Kiki Blythe was supreme in her energetic choreography of the Spice Girls' Stop Right Now in the house shout. Special mention must go to Siobhan O'Kelly who skilfully transposed much of the music.



TIME *please*



Most pupils, staff and visitors to the Blundell's dining hall will have noticed Charles Simmon's clock when eating their lunch. Everyone has an opinion about it but it is undeniably made in a Blundell's theme. The frame is constructed with MDF and has then been sprayed using car body paints. The clock face and hands used CAD/CAM technology and were made in acrylic and aluminium respectively. In darker light the LED lights reflect off the stainless steel tubes and the interactive LED display is programmed daily with the latest changes to the Blundell's calendar - so watch out if your fixture is cancelled or changed.

SIR GARFIELD SOBERS

Cricketing legend Sir Garfield Sobers entertained a packed audience in Big School on Friday evening. Sobers was visiting the school as an ambassador for his international cricket tournament held in Barbados each year. The evening was hosted by master i/c cricket and former Somerset keeper Rob Turner. He introduced ex Glamorgan keeper Tony Cottee who chaired a discussion with Sobers for over an hour before a question and answer session.

The audience gave Sobers a standing ovation before they were entertained by stories of his past, special events in his life and, as always, the six sixes he hit at St Helens in Swansea. He also stated that on that occasion Roger Davies, who almost caught one of the sixes was an old boy of Blundell's. Sobers talked with great composure and wisdom and commented on the future of cricket and his concern for Test match cricket with the emergence of 20/20. He commented on the major difference in cricket in his day and now, and was worried that players were more interested in financial gain than pure enjoyment. However, he was realistic enough to recognise their need to make a living. He dismissed the myth concerning the effect of basketball on West Indies cricket by saying that the youngsters were simply not prepared to commit themselves to the hours of play demanded. He told of how he played many sports in his time and had even been offered a trial as goalkeeper with Everton, which he declined as he said he struggled with British summers let alone our winters! He felt that comparisons with former and current cricketers were simply unrealistic due to the number of variables involved. So much has changed and the speed at which the game was now played suggested, to him, that his former world record score surpassed by Brian Lara would probably never be beaten.



At the end of a fascinating discussion he was able to give some of his time to the younger audience to sign autographs. Without any doubt this had been a very special evening for all. Blundell's kindly donated the proceeds of ticket sales to the Wooden Spoon Charity who were represented by Mr Bruce Priday. **AJDG**



WELCOME

James Postle – New Head of School House

James has spent 13 years teaching at Epsom College in Surrey, having been educated at Brighton College and the University of Reading. A member of the History and Politics Department, he has taught across all year groups including leading 12 department trips to the First World War battlefields and tours to Russia. During his time at Epsom he has been Head of Young Enterprise, a Careers Advisor, Editor of the school magazine and latterly six years in the Senior Management Team as Director of Admissions, responsible for the recruitment and marketing of the College.

James has a strong interest in pastoral care dating back to time spent during university holidays working at summer camp in America and for PGL in France. At Epsom he was senior resident tutor in a large boys' boarding house for seven years and for the last six years has been tutor in a girls' boarding house. He has an interest in coaching rugby, cricket and team sports in general. He is an officer in the Army Cadet Force, a competitive international rifle shot and has coached the Epsom Rifle Team to a record six National Titles at Bisley over the last 10 years. He has led Great Britain U19 Rifle Team Tours to Canada and South Africa and will be taking over as organiser of the GBU19 Team in 2010.

James also has an interest in outward bound expeditions and has led a World Challenge group to Mongolia in 2006. He was awarded a Winston Churchill Trust Travel Fellowship in 2005 and spent six weeks in Australia researching *Partnerships between Independent and State Schools*. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

SUMMER sounds

The music department continues to produce an astonishing diversity of concerts, whilst glorying in the excellent facilities within the new Music School. Mr Barlow's team have really surpassed themselves this summer with the range and excellence of their musical performances and Mr Wynell-Mayow's new Soul Band proved an instant hit with audiences. **By Rosamund Harpur Yr11.**

BIG BAND – SOUL BAND – SHOWSTOPPERS

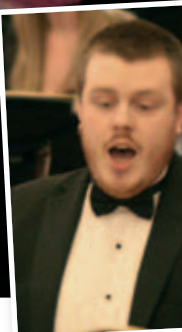
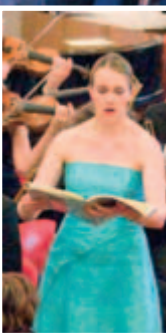
This now traditional concert at the end of the Spring Term began with many numbers from the Big Band, and featured solos from Ellen Fernando, Harriet Rix, Dido Graham, Briony Deuchar, as well as a sax quartet (James Evans, Ed Pocock, Rosamund Harpur and Frances Auger). The concert ended with the inaugural performance of the Soul Band directed by LWM. Three pieces were performed and the whole evening was much enjoyed by a lively audience.

SOUL BAND

The Soul Band gave a whole concert in the Summer Term in Ondaatje Hall where Roger Winwood was able to produce and balance a lot of mikes and lighting and billowing smoke. Since the end of the Spring Term they had worked very hard to learn and perform some 20+ songs, with Ed Pocock, Alice Walpole, Lizzy Clark, Briony Deuchar taking turns to take on the solo roles.

CHORAL CONCERT

The Spring Term was dominated by rehearsals for the choral concert which took place at the beginning of the Summer Term. Carmina Burana by Orff was the piece and the choir was absolutely magnificent throughout in this masterpiece of rhythmic drive. The soloists were OBs Siona Stockel (soprano) and Rupert Charlesworth (tenor). They were joined by Siona's husband, Stephen Harvey who sang the counter tenor role. All were absolutely wonderful and gave a great fillip to a very enthusiastic choir, who for this performance had increased in number to almost 120. The requiem started with the famous "O Fortuna" and the frantic flailing of Mr B's arms and his steadily reddening face kept both choir and orchestra in the same time. The first part of the concert was a performance by the orchestra of Wagner's Rienzi Overture, which was absolutely superb.



INSTRUMENTAL CONCERTS

A Woodwind and Brass concert was held in the week of the School's Inspection in November. This was very much at the request of the visiting teachers and it was an evening of much variety. Altogether there were 27 items all of which were played by groups of instrumentalists. The music ranged in style from a Canzona by Gabrieli for brass to the Beatles ('Lady Madonna') via Mozart, Sousa and Mancini ('Pink Panther'). There was also a range of ages from pupils in SH to those who make up the Big Band – the outfit that finished the concert with a selection of pieces. A good audience enjoyed this lively evening.

The Piano concert in March was the last one to feature Liz Hayley. She has dedicated a lot of her time to Blundell's and has been active in organising these events. The final item featured the piano teachers – Mrs Tosh, Mrs Berry, Mrs Tucker and Miss Hayley in a performance of 'Module 5' by Conick. Other staff who contributed were Chris Hedley-Dent who has a very laid back jazz style, the envy

of many of us, and Peter Chapman who (being spared for a while from the Chemistry Department) played some Debussy. There were many duets and solos and as always a great mix of music. It was an opportunity for the U6th to perform for one of the last times at School – Ben Weaver-Hincks played Albeniz, Harriet Rix some Diabelli, and James Milnes some Ravel, while he and Dominic MacBean played a duet.

The String concert took place in the Summer term and here too there was a range of musical style and pupil ages. The juniors played 'Making Whoopee', while the senior strings played the dance suite from the 'Faery Queen' by Purcell. There were a couple of quartets, one of which was Peacherine Rag by Joplin, the other a Scherzo by Beethoven. The programme began with the cello group, and there were duets and trios. The solo performances were played by pupils ranging from year 7 to year 13 (James Milnes playing an 'Allegro brillante' in his final term at School).



BIG BAND TO BRITTANY

Twenty four members of the Big Band went to Brittany this year. Leaving for the overnight ferry to Roscoff the Band was greeted by a Brittany Ferry rep as we boarded welcoming 'les musiciens', and we went to play on the dance floor before the ship left. In Brittany we played at Morlaix on two occasions – once at the Café de la Terrasse, and then on the Bandstand outside the Mairie. A favourite place was revisited, at Locquirec, and the concert here was followed by an enjoyable time swimming off the quay. Further concerts were in Guerlesquin and again on the ship on the way back to Plymouth. Many compliments were paid to the musicians who enjoyed a relaxing and worthwhile time in France.





Although Examination results will never tell the whole story about the wonderful all-round education enjoyed by so many Blundellians, nonetheless we take the first part of 'work-hard, play-hard' very seriously indeed. Whilst the intake at 11+ is virtually comprehensive the fact that the average GCSE grades of A-C has been around the 94% mark over the last five years is quite outstanding. The Sixth Form academic rigour has seen consistent successes at A Level with over 70% of all results being A-B grades for the last four years in a row. Within the twenty two pupils who secured three A grades or better this year, all the Oxbridge candidates, Economists and Medics secured their first choice university place.

The programme of Academic Enrichment now runs throughout the age ranges, starting with National Young, Gifted and Talented programme in School House, through the MidYIS tests and the regular Scholars' Reviews. The identified gifted and talented pupils in each year group have regular meetings with their supervisor in order to stimulate wider reading and interest in current affairs. Pupils are encouraged to think outside the box and the constraints of the examination process and to relish the pleasure gained from self-motivated discovery and research.

TOP A LEVEL PERFORMERS 2008

Johnny Li	AAAAA a & Merit (AEA Economics)
Victor Lio	AAAAA a & Merit (AEA History)
Eva Zhang	AAAAB a & STEP paper Grade 1 – top 10 for Chemistry in the country
Ben Weaver-Hincks	AAAA b & Merit (AEA English)
Harriet Rix	AAAA
Michelle Tsang	AAAA
Tim Archibald	AAAB c
Grace Gabbitass	AAA a & Merit (AEA History)
Dido Graham	AAA a & Merit (AEA History)
Lucy Smeddle	AAA c & Merit (AEA English)
Ed Bretherton	AAA a
Rory Findlay	AAA a
Louise Gillespie	AAA a
Dominic MacBean	AAA a
Andrew Pardy	AAA a
Tom Tait	AAA a
Alex Clark	AAA b
Nicholas Huntley	AAA b
Max Seymour	AAA b
Henry Trevelyan Thomas	AAA b
James Waddington	AAA b
Laura Weston	AAA c

(AS grade in lower case)



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HOME GROWN *talent*



When Matt Cole first arrived from Thorverton Primary School into School House, following in the footsteps of his two older brothers, he showed early promise in the world of academia. However, his AS results this summer, after spending six years moving through the Blundell's Academic Scholars Programme, were amongst the best ever. Mathematics A Level consists of six modules and Matt has already taken five of them at the end of the L6. He scored 100% in four modules and 98% in the fifth meaning he already has an A grade at A2 before he enters the U6. This is exceptional enough but he also scored a perfect 100% in his Chemistry AS examinations. Not that he is likely to relax in the U6, as he joins a Further Maths group of ten, many of whom can still give him a run for his money at mathematical sparring.

THE HEAD MASTER'S LECTURE REVIEW



Claire Marshall

ONE of the real pleasures of being Head Master of Blundell's is being able to attend pretty much everything on offer. Over the past year I have been lucky enough to listen to some stimulating lectures and seminars.

I have always been very clear to anybody who will listen that I believe our pupils must make the very most of their immediate environment; Devon is a very beautiful place and we have the luxury of some stunning countryside and facilities on our door step. The school itself is aesthetically very pleasing and as the inspectors said there is a real appreciation amongst the pupils of this. But it is also important that we do not become "Devoncentric" and therefore as part of this programme we have encouraged many speakers to visit us. I am also keen that the pupils experience a real sense of academic enrichment there is a responsibility on us to provide an opportunity for them all to develop intellectual curiosity. All of the speakers last year provided us with such an opportunity. I will not discuss all the visiting speakers as there were well over thirty of them during the year, each of whom tackled different topics. But perhaps there were two or three in particular who really challenged our understanding of the nature of human relations. **Freddie Knoller** is one of the few remaining Auschwitz survivors. Freddie Knoller has made it his lifetime mission to discuss, explore and explain the issues related to the Holocaust and man's capacity for quite astonishing behaviour towards each other. A calm, gentle and serene man, he held us captivated. **Emma Cole** has HIV and each year that she returns to us to raise important educational issues about behaviour and relationships. In both cases the world will be a poorer place without them.

We persuaded **Dr Vince Smith** from Cardiff University to come and talk to the Years 9 and 10 about what would happen should a meteor or a comet pass relatively close to the earth. It was an extraordinary description of what the future might hold. It is no exaggeration to say that he held us entranced for a considerable period of time with some wonderful graphics but also with some very vivid descriptions of space and flying objects.

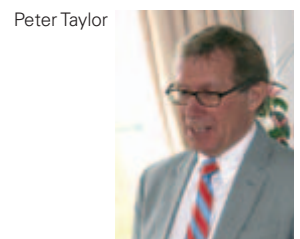
Of particular interest to me were two talks; one given by **Peter Taylor**, the eminent television journalist, who is a friend of mine. He was able to talk to us directly about his four television programmes which had just been aired on BBC 2 called "The Age of Terror". Having interviewed most of the world's leading terrorists in some form or other, his insight was even more compelling. **Brigadier James Chiswell** came to talk to the School Monitors about leadership. He is one of the youngest brigadiers in the British Army and he came fresh from his recent experiences of having commanded one of the Parachute Regiments. He spoke in a thoughtful, reflective and personal way about leadership, which was very well received indeed by the Monitors and the leading CCF Cadets. He also gave us some insight into the complexities

of the relationship between politics and the army. A real treat for me, given my unhealthy obsession with Mount Everest was to have **Tom Clowes** visit the school and talk about his recent experience of climbing Everest complete with demonstration tents and equipment.

Without exploring every single speaker, three or four acclaimed authors visited the school, **Claire Marshall** an Old Blundellian who is currently a BBC News journalist electrified the Sixth Form, **Baroness Miller** came to talk about life in the House of Lords and there were talks on Human Rights, alcohol awareness, the Kashmir earthquake, world trade and development and critical thinking. A number of eminent speakers spoke about the environment and so on. This year's lecture programme is going to be equally exciting.



Baroness Miller and pupils



Peter Taylor



Tom Clowes



Freddie Knoller



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Newly appointed Director of Development, Amber Oliver, explains her role and the new opportunities for present and future Blundellians.

Although only in my first few weeks, I have been very impressed indeed by the atmosphere here at Blundell's. I am looking forward to working in such a positive environment. My initial impression of this successful school is that the pupils take an obvious delight and pride in their environment. They appear to thoroughly appreciate the breadth of education offered. It also seems to me they take much pleasure in their beautiful surroundings. It is evident that the school has a long and distinguished history and many have, in the past, been deeply influenced by the traditions and by the qualities engendered in them here. Part of my challenge is to ensure that the school has a vibrant, energetic and purposeful future. As with all institutions it is the relationships in their widest sense which are the fundamental building block. The school is nothing without its pupils both past and present and it is essential to develop and maintain these relationships; this will be my primary focus.

The school has had a very successful past and we are now well placed to build on these strong foundations, develop additional structures and an exciting approach to relations with the Blundell's community in its widest sense, from both a senior and prep school perspective. It is clear that there is tremendous loyalty and indeed passion for the School.

I am very much looking forward to working with many of you in order to establish support towards a varied portfolio of projects, activities and events. We here have always offered Foundation Awards which allow those who may not ordinarily be able to afford a Blundell's education to benefit from the Blundell's experience. I know it is the Governors' intention to build upon this essential and worthwhile award system. For many years this has been at the heart of the school; it is as our founder Peter Blundell would have wished. But my role will be far wider than fund raising. I would also hope that we would be able to introduce a system of establishing and exchanging career opportunities, building networking and social platforms and indeed anything else that would help former pupils and the wider Blundell's community.

I have been based in the West Country for quite a few years now. Before moving to Blundell's I had thirteen happy and successful years with the National Trust, working in a development capacity across Devon and Cornwall. I live in the Blackdown Hills, and I am married with two boys who have been at the Blundell's Prep School since nursery.

I would very much welcome the opportunity to meet Old Blundellians who have an interest in the school and of course anyone else. Please do feel free to contact me, I can be located in the Bursary on the school campus or call me. My telephone number is **01884 232324**; I am of course on email at **a.oliver@blundells.org**.

New Director of Development, Amber Oliver, outside the Popham Centre.



This year has seen the most successful turn out for Mr Brigden's **Polar Bear Club** since its foundation many years ago. The 'Great Polar Bear' himself has been running the activity for twelve years, and over the course of time its popularity within the school has not once wavered.

Mr Brigden proudly asserts that he can regularly expect anything from 1 to 48 swimmers, the latter of which is the largest figure the club has ever managed to attract. Although the great number of teenage attendants may seem a purely raucous prospect, Mr Brigden remains adamant that the early morning poolside activity can be anything the students want it to be,

"a serious swim, a quick dip or maybe just an opportunity to chat with friends before breakfast, it is a relaxing and refreshing start to the day, particularly before exams."

Hardy enough students take to the water every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday morning at 7 o'clock with a mind to make breakfast half an hour later. Ever the enthusiast, Mr Brigden endeavours to rise at 6:15 and swim 1 mile every morning, doubling the next day's undertaking if ever he misses a session. As many of you may know, Mr Brigden swam 10 miles in the Blundell's annual charity swim this year; a herculean task which demanded no less than 530 lengths of our luxuriously heated 30 metre outdoor swimming pool. He was absolutely delighted with the money raised for the Lincoln College Vacation Project and hopes that similar events in the coming academic year attract the same success. **Will McBarnet Yr11**



IRELAND

U14 Hockey Tour

by Hannah Watts NC Yr9

Miss Hosking and Miss Symonds were brave enough to take the U14 hockey squad on another fantastic tour to Ireland. On the Friday, after an extremely long but exciting journey we arrived in Cork where we stayed at the Trabolgan Guest Houses. The first game was against Church of Ireland HC. It was a close one but we ended up on the losing side due to a lucky goal. Goalkeeper Catherine Ayres was named 'player of the match' after making some stunning saves to keep us in the game. The second game was against Harlequins HC which resulted in a much better performance and a 3-0 win. The goalscorers were Tessa Ryder, Hannah Watts and Sophie Scott, with Hannah being named 'player of the match'. Then it was off to kiss the Blarney Stone for good luck. The evening was an eventful one (especially on the dance floor), but *'what happens on tour, stays on tour'*.

We scored first but the opposition managed an equalizer later on so the game ended in a draw; probably a fair result. Mia West scored the only goal with a stunning individual effort and received the 'player of the match' award.



Highlights off the pitch included, Emily Turner's many blonde moments, and our tour song 'Living on a prayer,' by Bon Jovi, which could be heard over the waves on our journey back across the Irish Sea. The 'entertainment' award went to Ciara O'Kelly who dressed up as a leprechaun and entertained all the other passengers on the ferry. Thank you to Miss Hosking and Miss Symonds for giving up some of their holiday to take us on an amazing experience. The team captain, Hannah Watts, was named 'player of the tour'.

Our final match was against Waterford HC so we travelled to our new hotel, The Tower. As our match was not until the evening we had plenty of time to shop and relax. This game was very tight, and we played well despite some very Irish weather.





Mr and Mrs Barlow photographed by Andrew Nadolski

RETIRING HOUSE PARENTS

PROFILES BY **ELE BREITMEYER Yr12**
& **MATTHEW COLE Yr12**

September 2008 sees a monumental change in the boarding picture at Blundell's with three stalwarts retiring from their houses. Between them they take away forty years of service and experience and the gratitude of literally thousands of OBs. They have all seen the numbers in their houses more than double as the popularity of more flexible boarding has seen Blundell's going from strength to strength.

Changing times

Mr. and Mrs. Barlow

When Mr. and Mrs. Barlow first arrived at Blundell's in 1984 as newly-weds (both having taught and met at Bryanston), Mr B took over as Director of Music and Mrs B became an art supply teacher. After working at Blundell's for nine years they leapt at the chance to take over Gorton House, having previously turned down boys' houses; they moved in with their five year old daughter, Annabel, a dog and a cat.

Thus, they became the new house parents of Gorton House, taking over from the chemistry teacher and first house master, Mr Barry Wood. Prior to their arrival there had only been Sixth Form girls in Blundell's, however, when they took over in 1993 Blundell's became fully co-educational. In their first year they had 53 girls in the house – 37 Sixth Formers, 12 Year 9s, 3 Year 10s and only 1 in Year 11. In their last year there have been 79 girls, although some of these have been day girls.

The first year was very tough with no residential help for the first term – due to there being no tutor flats and therefore no room for anyone. The Upper Sixth girls resented the younger years for coming in as it meant more boundaries had to be put in place; this was a shock for them as they had been living in a very relaxed manner.

They made it through that year however, with much help from Florence Holmes, Head of House at the time; she explained all about the routine, roll calls and lock-ups. It was very different back then compared with these days when everyone now is given house handbooks, pupils' handbooks and even parents' handbooks explaining the routines.

In that first year Mrs. Barlow became pregnant with her second child, Timothy (Annabel being seven years older). This made Mrs. Barlow the first ever member of staff at Blundell's to take maternity leave, although apparently it didn't really seem to count when you live on campus. Luckily the Matron then, Mrs Pat Haskins, covered a lot of the hours with the help of Mr Barlow. Mrs Jenny Seaward, the latest Matron has been with them for 9 years now, "my current matron has been fantastic and over the years has been the greatest support. I will miss our chats together about all aspects of the house."

The thought of having a young baby in a school boarding house could be very daunting, although apparently it is in fact far easier than one would assume, largely because the girls all fell in love with the small baby and were therefore more than willing to babysit.

Some of their best memories have been small things, such as seeing students achieve things you never thought were possible, watching them do performances in plays or concerts, especially if they have been with you since Year 9 and you see them change and grow as an individual. Another thing that will be missed is the girly chats; sitting down with an individual or group of young people and just talking; it is particularly fun when you have really enthusiastic Year 9s, who although exhausting, are also so enriching. One of the oddest moments has got to be when one of the students in recent years became stuck in one

of the second floor bathrooms at midnight. What with the room being too high up to get out through the window and the door being truly stuck there was no way out, resulting in a saw having to be taken to the door by Mr. Barlow and a large hole made for a safe escape.

The Barlows remember many House Music Competitions and House plays with a sense of pride but one of the best moments was probably after last year's performance of 'Peter Pan'; everyone in the house became involved and so much hard work was put in and the outcome was truly amazing and just so much fun seeing the girls playing Lost Boys, Pirates and Indians!

Throughout their time in GH there have been so many changes to the building itself; some dorms were made bigger and named after famous artists. There have been two extensions – one just before they arrived and another in 2002. A workroom and another kitchen and common room were added and the overall appearance of the house has changed. Bright coloured walls have appeared to replace the ubiquitous magnolia, sometimes involving Mrs. Barlow staying up all night to finish decorating before term started. Pictures were put up everywhere – many of which are of house events such as parties or plays and new furniture, such as comfy sofas was bought to relax in.

After fifteen happy and eventful years Mrs. Barlow is now moving on to pursue her dream of painting landscapes. Mr. Barlow will be continuing as Director of Music. Miss. Hoskins has been the GH Assistant House Mistress for two years will be taking over as the new house parent, "We wish Debbie Hoskins lots of luck; we are thrilled it is her who will be taking over from us."

Ele Breitmeyer Yr12

Mr. and Mrs. Brigden

In 1996 the Brigdens were appointed from Bristol Cathedral School to start the exciting all-new School House as an 11-13 Junior Department, and they have looked after over 700 hundred pupils since then. SH had originally become a boys' boarding house when the dormitory wings were added to the Head Master's house in 1890. Mr Leigh, our previous Head Master, sold them the idea of a house with about 30 to 40 pupils in each year group but such was the immediate success of the new enterprise under the Brigdens that it soon rose to the 60 that we see today. Over this period they have had a "collective warmth" of matrons but only two cleaners, Vera and Sandra, who retired at the end of the Summer Term after 50 years' service between them!

Although SH is in some ways separate from the senior school, this is not seen as a problem: "it gives the children two years to integrate and understand how the school works." As it is also a mixed gender house it gives the pupils a more homely environment in which they can learn mutual respect for one another and to celebrate their differences before moving up into the senior school.



Mr and Mrs Brigden photographed by Andrew Nadolski

The Brigdens have managed to keep SH busy and eventful at all times including the weekends by organising adventure and leadership activities, Yr 8 camps, BBQs and multifarious trips out to beaches, adventure parks etc.; this is vital as "Blundellians don't have a great deal of 'free' time and they should learn how to enjoy it." These trips are great fun and have given rise to some of their best moments, along with art trips, exhibitions, plays and concerts. However, it is the enthusiasm and good humour of the boys and girls that will be missed most, while the smell of the boot room will not be any great loss.

There have been hilarious moments such as Ella, their dog, being smuggled into Chapel by the pupils and someone locking herself in the toilet, but there have also been proud moments such as awarding colours, seeing fine public examination results and organizing the charity fundraising, which has resulted in twelve fantastic years, of which the Brigdens would change none. The

Brigdens' dedication to charitable causes will undoubtedly have been instilled in all SH consciences.

Mr Brigden teaches English and his great love of literature has inspired many, although his fascination with filling SH with a variety of antiquities may not always have had the same result; not everyone knows of him as Lovejoy, but 'Briggers' and 'Bombers' are familiar terms of affection. Other familiar sights, such as JWB, resplendent in his wellies, coaching the delicate arts of forward play to the 1st XV pack and leading the early morning Polar Bears swimming club, will hopefully continue for the foreseeable future.

Mrs Brigden has been a member of the Biology Department, but most importantly she has had the more taxing task of developing and running the boarding community in SH and of trying to control Mr Brigden's mischievousness; it's questionable as to

which is the more onerous because once those gargantuan shoulders start to shake up and down, SH pupils have always known that something funny is afoot! The Brigdens wish Mr Postle, their successor, as much enjoyment and fulfilment as they have enjoyed over their twelve years of being House Parents in SH.

Ele Breitmeyer Yr12

Mr. and Mrs. Ridgway

Mr and Mrs Ridgway arrived at Francis House in 1993 when there were 24 boys in the house, including only one in Year 9! Since then it has grown year by year into a house that contains nearly three times this amount. Mr Ridgway has not only maintained the excellent high standard of sporting achievements in FH, winning The Russell Cup every year since he began as housemaster and a huge number of victories in the rugby, football, hockey, sports day, Duckworth relays and swimming galas, but he has also coaxed the intellectuals he is given to occasional success in the debating and public speaking. He encourages participation in all these events as well as the house music competition, where we have always taken the name 'house shout' rather literally – it is a closely guarded FH secret that NJR can play the piano really rather well! The FH house spirit that he has engendered through collective responsibility in his own inimitable style is second to none.

My favourite quote from Mr Ridgway has to be "I did not know is not an excuse", which came out regularly at the start of each year. By the amount given out I feel that Mr Ridgway rather enjoyed handing out punishment cards; gating cards, breakfast cards and right-time-right-place cards to all those miscreants who miss chapel and FH are often well represented in Detention. NJR has always enjoyed attending chapel as he felt it was a chance for FH to prove that they are the most musically talented house in the school during the hymn, while he worked frantically factorising the hymn numbers in his head and then humming the rest of the hymn.

Looking after a house of teenage boys cannot be easy but Mr Ridgway managed it over the years with help from a team of



NJR Ridgway photographed by Andrew Nadolski

tutors and of course matrons. Mr Ridgway said that he couldn't have done it without the current matron and her team of cleaners, who do so well in keeping a house full of boys clean (let alone the boys themselves!) as he certainly couldn't do it by himself. The matrons have also changed under Mr Ridgway's reign and the boys have some imaginative theories as to the reasons for the departure of the first matron. The only person who has been ever-present and has seen it all through side by side is Mrs Ridgway. Mrs Ridgway has done phenomenally well just to survive 15 years in a house full of boys and she deserves a special thank you from everyone who has been through FH, as she has always there behind the scenes to go to if in need of help. They both thoroughly deserve a well-earned rest and I'm sure that their villa in Spain, the odd bottle of Oz red and Mr Ridgway's keen interest on the golf course will satisfy their needs for this.

Mr Ridgway has been Director of Sport, Head of Boys' Games, i/c Rugby, i/c Athletics as well as being responsible for turning The Russell into the great house competition that it is today. But it is probably as one of the most respected 1st XV rugby coaches in the country that NJR will be most remembered, having taken over from Mr Barwell in 1990. Mr Ridgway will be retiring from the school in December after the rugby season and his 'tiggerish' bounce and energy will be sorely missed in so many areas, not least in the Maths Department, where his inspirational and challenging teaching of A-level mechanics to the apparently talented mathematicians is legendary; as is his ability to say 'good morning' every day in at least six languages! However, one thing that may not be missed by many is his imaginative mini-bus driving and no doubt all the estimated times to reach away matches will have to be revised upwards from now on!

I wish Mr and Mrs Ridgway luck in whatever they plan to do after Blundell's and on behalf of all the boys who have been through FH under them, a huge thank you.

Matthew Cole Yr12



Mr and Mrs Ridgway photographed by TD



**“OTHER HIGHLIGHTS
INCLUDE... BECOMING
THE DEVON
CHAMPIONS IN A
TWENTY OVER CUP
COMPETITION.”**

There were numerous highlights during a successful season for the U15 XI. The team coped well with losing important players to the 1st XI, and lost only four of the 16 games played.

The team played their best cricket at the Uppingham festival at the end of June, recording impressive wins over Uppingham and Malborough College before losing out to Eton on the final day. There were notable performances from Tommy Cole - who took four wickets in 6 balls in the defeat of Uppingham - and Archie Christie, who scored an important 50 under great pressure in the thrilling win over Malborough. These two players were integral to the team's success, and their performances were rewarded by selection for the 1st team. However, there were important contributions throughout the season from all members of the team, with Jack Lilly D'cruz, Barney Goss and Ned Menheneott proving particularly influential.

Other highlights include the comprehensive victories over local rivals Taunton School and Queen's College Taunton, and becoming the Devon champions in a twenty over cup competition. Victory in this tournament led to qualification for the regional finals in Exeter, which saw Blundell's lose narrowly in the final to Millfield School.

Although this was a disappointing climax to the season, the boys can take great credit for their performances. The future of cricket at Blundell's looks to be in safe hands. **BMM**



U15 CRICKET FESTIVAL AT UPPINGHAM

Blundell's v Eton v Marlborough v Uppingham

What a wonderful opportunity! The three days away at Uppingham have been fantastic. The cricket, the boys, the hospitality and the new friends made, have made this whole festival worthwhile and will hopefully lead on to many more festivals in the future.

Mark Williams from Eton was the Master i/c as it were and he was very grateful for our stepping in to the hole left by Shrewsbury's withdrawal. He has invited us to remain a part of the festival in the future on the back of some excellent performances and most importantly the manner in which the boys conducted themselves. The statement from both Mark and the Uppingham staff, that we had enhanced the festival with our presence was a really nice sentiment to receive. Many positive comments were made about the Blundellians' behaviour, manners and performances from an OB, other staff, caterers and opposition parents. The boys certainly did the school proud throughout the week, not just on the pitch, but off it as well.

From a cricket perspective,

Day 1 Uppingham beat Marlborough

Day 2 Blundell's v's Uppingham

We batted first, and without really doing ourselves justice, we managed to total 176. Many small contributions, but Tommy Cole top scored with 37.

We were however magnificent in the field and with the ball. We managed to restrict them to 63-2 from 24 overs when man of the match, Tommy Cole was thrown the ball. Uppingham then slumped to 64-7, with Tommy taking a remarkable four wickets in one over! Ned Menheneott was the foil with figures of 10 overs 3-23.

A comprehensive victory in the end by 63 runs.

Marlborough beat Eton

Day 3 Eton beat Uppingham

Blundell's v's Marlborough

Certainly one of the most amazing games of schoolboy cricket that I have witnessed. Marlborough batted very well totalling 228. Although we bowled well on a batting track, our fielding dipped slightly from the previous day.

With the bat, things started poorly, 21-3, 61-5 and we were struggling. At tea, we were 88-6 and out of the game. Then the fireworks began, Barney Goss entered the fray and

smashed 30 from 12 balls and gave us some momentum before a fantastic partnership between Archie Christie and Jack Lilly D'Cruz swung the game our way. At 202-7 with six overs to go we were in with a real chance of victory until the game swung back towards Marlborough. Both Jack and Archie were out in quick succession and that left us with Richard Paxton and Richard Sanders requiring 16 from 3 overs. A maiden was then bowled. Sixteen from two. Eight from 1. Boundary dot boundary - What a win with three balls to spare. Amazing!

Day 4 Blundell's v's Eton

With a great chance of winning the festival outright we struggled to reach the dizzy heights of the previous day. Eton had sent back for reinforcements from their county champion under fourteen side and we had waved Zak Bess and Archie off home early in the morning to play for our 1st X1 at home. Without two of the most influential players a slightly tired side lost comfortably, but certainly put up a fight.

We batted first totalling 188, man of the tour Cole scoring 44 and captain for the day Cameron Grainger got 40, with Barney Goss smashing another quick fire 28.

Eton always looked in control and despite a fine spell of two for 26 from 10 from

Harrison they won by seven wickets. We ended up tied top spot with Eton in the festival, but missed out on the trophy due to the result between the two sides.

Highlights of the trip were definitely the victory over Marlborough, Tommy's over v's Uppingham and Barney Goss with the bat in hand.

During the formal dinner on the Thursday night we were approached by the three schools with a view to us hosting the festival next year; evidently it was to have been Shrewsbury's turn. Mark Williams was at pains to say that our future involvement did not depend on us hosting next year as that it could be at Marlborough, but we are very interested in maintaining this sort of cricketing profile throughout the school.

In summary, a top trip!!

HGT

“CERTAINLY
ONE OF THE
MOST AMAZING
GAMES OF
SCHOOLBOY
CRICKET THAT
I HAVE
WITNESSED....”



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The last six months have seen more UK contact with OBs than I can remember since the quatercentenary in 2004. Ranging from the Ted Crowe Memorial Service through OB Day, an OB Dinner and all the County Shows, I have had the pleasure of updating OBs of all ages. Overseas OBs and parents have also been seen in California and Nigeria. Those of you in Australia and New Zealand please get in touch with the Foundation Office if you wish to attend the OB Melbourne Dinner on 8th November.

You will see on the school website mention of **buy.at/Blundells**. If you purchase a variety of items on the internet using this contact, companies such as Waterstone's, M&S, Tesco and John Lewis will contribute between 2 and 10% of the cost of each purchase to Blundell's. This is an excellent way of giving as it costs you nothing, but does benefit the school. Please remember to click through to this site before shopping and check the list of retailers.

Once again, the examination results have proved excellent. A and B grades at A level were achieved in 72% of subjects taken and, for the third year running no A level was failed. GCSE results were also excellent, with large numbers of A and A* grades providing an excellent platform for the future.

Blundell's continues to move forward and it is with great pleasure that I report the appointment of Amber Oliver as the full time Blundell's Director of

Development. Her brief includes directing the Blundell's Foundation as well as working with the Head Master and Governors on future planning and management. Amber comes after a successful spell with the National Trust and is the mother of two Preparatory School pupils. I very much look forward to working with Amber and will continue to be thoroughly involved with Blundell's.



Amber Oliver and Paddy Armstrong

Paddy Armstrong

Email: pa@blundells.org

Tel: 07799066966 (Mobile); 01884-255067 (Home)

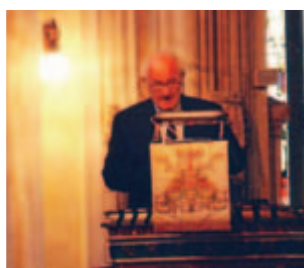
E.R.CROWE MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Ted Crowe was held on Saturday 12th April in St Peter's Church, Tiverton. About 700 Old Blundellians, past and present teaching staff and representatives of many sports clubs filled St Peter's. Eulogies were delivered by Brian Jenkins (1965-92) and John Hollands (OH 1946-51). Lessons were read by Sir Christopher Ondaatje (P 1947-51) and Richard Sharp (W 1952-57). The service was conducted by David Hamer (1973-2001) and James Patrick (M 1980-85).



Following the service, drinks and canapés were served to over 500 in Big School at Blundell's. The Chairman of the Old Blundellian Club, Paul Waterworth (NC 1958-62) announced the E.R.Crowe Memorial Appeal to set up a fund to provide income for E.R.Crowe scholars at Blundell's. The Appeal

is progressing well and should provide a decent sum to fund scholars. The Chairman of the Old Blundellian Club asks me to record his gratitude for contributions received. The service and reception were a fitting tribute to a man who gave a huge amount to the Old Blundellian Club, Blundell's and many other organisations for a very long period of time.



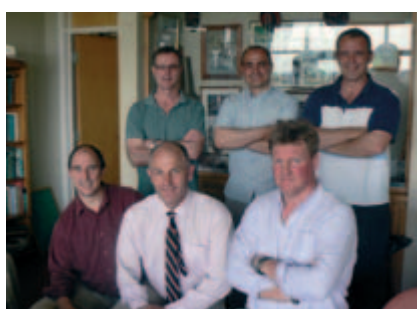
John Hollands and Sir Christopher Ondaatje deliver eulogies

TED CROWE ROOM LUNCH

Grant Dee Shapland (P 1976-81) gathered together 18 of his contemporaries on 7th May in the Ted Crowe Room at Taunton to have lunch and watch a day's cricket. Five of the winning Rosslyn Park VII from 1981 attended (see before and after photographs). Quality was provided by the presence of ex England cricketer and now Managing Director of England cricket, Hugh Morris (W 1976-82), together with ex England squash captain and champion, Philip Whitlock (FH 1976-81).



Enjoying the sun on the balcony



Five of the winning Rosslyn Park VII

ANYONE FOR STICKÉ?



What is the Chairman of Governors saying to the Head Master during the world stické championships at Knightshayes?

The County Shows

As usual, Blundell's was at the Devon County Show, Royal Cornwall Show, Mid Devon Show and, for the first time, the Bath and West Show – re-christened the Bath and West Show. These shows provide an excellent opportunity to see Old Blundellians, parents past and present, as well as giving prospective parents an informal opportunity to make contact with Blundell's.



There were good turnouts at the drinks and canapés parties at the Cornwall and Bath Shows. The Bath and West will not be forgotten, as a flash flood reduced the showground to a river and the Head Master was denied entry to the site on safety grounds.



Drinks and canapés despite the weather

OLD BLUNDELLIAN BRISTOL DINNER

Cedric Clapp (P 1960-65) organised an excellent dinner at Bristol Zoo on 6th June which was attended by a comparatively young 135 Old Blundellians and partners. Entertainment was provided by a magician and Will Randall (1994-99). Guests included Jon Coad (P1988-93) and Abigail Sessions-Hodge (GH 1994-98) who married the following week. Their wedding was attended by no less than 27 Old Blundellians.



27 OBs at the Jon Coad, Abigail Sessions-Hodge wedding

IT'S ONLY

20

YEARS

AGO

WE

AND

ROLL

ON

ROLL



Tim Steer aged 29 and
Pink Floyd sound system
at Cremona, Italy 1984



by Tim Steer

Old Westlake! 1969-73

Graffiti changed my life! I was touring with Meatloaf at the time and it was Brussels and the Foret National, a large concert hall in the Belgian capital. I had been touring with mostly rock & roll bands for nearly 7 years since leaving university and ended up in The Plaza Hotel in Brussels – again! I removed the picture in my room at about 2 o'clock in the morning and saw a message that I had written 6 weeks earlier. Same room, same feelings. Time to change my life, as touring had its attractions, but it was getting repetitive and I had reached a ceiling in my career as a sound engineer for a number of the biggest rock bands in the world at that time.

On my return to the UK I drew up a CV and sent it off to all the major accountancy firms in London, to apply to be a trainee chartered accountant. I got a contract as, to their credit, Ernst & Young took one or two more mature graduates with different backgrounds - Lord Bilimoria (the owner of Cobra Beer) was the other one. After a final 5 month tour of Europe looking after the Pink Floyd sound and lighting system I started a new career. The culture shock was severe, but I worked like I never had done before and qualified. Accountancy for many may seem boring but it was most definitely not for me. It gave me an opportunity to gain a valuable qualification; an insight into many large multinational businesses; access to company management from chief executive to purchase ledger clerk and; some interesting corporate finance and fraud work. Accountancy, the forensic variety in particular, is still playing a large part in my career.

I left accountancy and got a job with HSBC James Capel as a young analyst covering a variety of companies, many of which were at the time seen as green. I can lay claim to have written the first investment banking research on environmental companies which we had published, not on recycled paper but recycled furniture – I think from problem company MFI - nothing changes!

HSBC James Capel was a fabulously entrepreneurial company, which dominated in the trading of European equities. It had the finest independent research of all investment banks in Europe, which allowed it to maintain its market share in equities and it was awarded the highest accolade in many surveys of its clients in the late 1980s and 1990s. HSBC never really knew the gem that they had in James Capel and they failed to develop the business in the right direction by strengthening capital markets, market making in equities, corporate finance and advisory business. If they had, then the UK would have had its own investment banking champion to take on the so-called bulge bracket giants on Wall Street such as Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley. Not only my view, but also the view of many in the City even today!

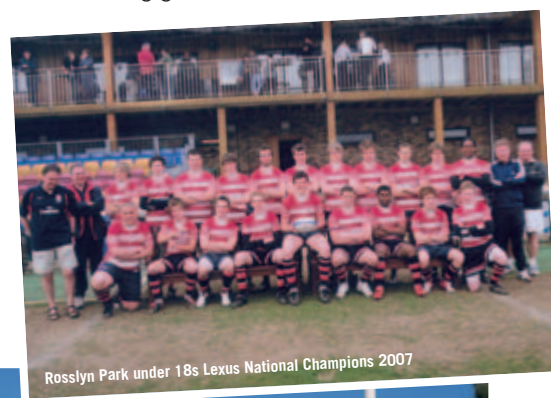
If HSBC would not let us beat them it was time to join them. I left to join Smith New Court, which shortly afterwards was purchased by Merrill Lynch. I had 9 happy years there, where I had new experiences in a very large US investment bank. I travelled the world and became Head of Research of Pan European Small and Mid Cap Companies, with a large team of salesmen, market-makers and dealers as part of our team.

New challenge required! Whilst writing research and doing business in shares provided terrific satisfaction, it was the forensic analysis of the accounts of companies that turned me on and it was not always possible to capitalise on the obvious flaws I had found. I decided to be a fund manager at New Star – a new company set up by the swashbuckling John Duffield, the founder of Jupiter Asset Management. I work there now and I run both long funds and hedge funds that have a combined exposure to the market of US \$3.5 billion. The job allowed me to write for The Sunday Times where I had my own column for about two years until recently, and I regularly do the market analyst section on the Today Programme on Radio 4 at 6.15 in the morning which often means I wake at 4.00 in the morning as I am fearful that I might miss the alarm clock! Not a good idea to let John Humphrys down!

Sport always played a big part in my life at Blundell's School and although, much to my regret, I never really took it much further having left, I gain a great deal of satisfaction from coaching the Rosslyn Park Under 18 side where my son, Tom, reminds me of the side step and dummy I used to try out on Charles Kent (to varying degrees of success) on Big Field. By the time you read this I will have returned from a rugby tour with Rosslyn Park Under 18s to South America. This club side is made up of players from a wide variety of schools and indeed boys who are no longer at school. We have many players at the London Wasps Academy and others who have represented their country. Danny Cipriani is a product of the youth system at the club. We will have played Uruguay and Chile Under 19 National sides and some of the top clubs in Argentina.

My life since leaving Blundell's School began with touring, and it seems as I write this, it is another tour I am embarking on, but this time there will be no writing graffiti behind pictures in hotel rooms – just writing the match report when we defeat Uruguay Under 19s in Montevideo!!

Tim Steer





ROCK ART!

Photography at Kilve

'Cleavage' the winning picture by Sophie Anderson

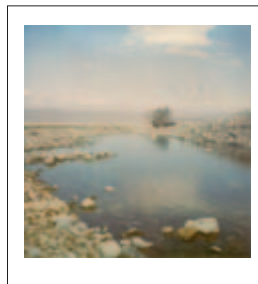
During the summer term, on field day the L6th photographers had a workshop with Andrew Nadolski, a professional landscape photographer. He talked to us about his work and how he approached taking photos of landscape, showing us examples of what he had done. After an inspiring morning we spent the afternoon at the beach in Kilve, North Somerset. The sun was out and bright, great for taking Black and White shots but making it a challenge to retain the colour values and resist the opportunity to sunbathe. We were given the task of simply to take images of whatever we thought would work, knowing that when we got back to school there would an exhibition where all the top photos would be judged by Andrew himself, giving away a signed copy of his book as the prize. We were given over two hours on the beach to explore and photograph. The day was very productive, everyone learnt a lot and as you can see the results are spectacular. **Sophie Anderson Yr12**



Pauline Von Waldersee



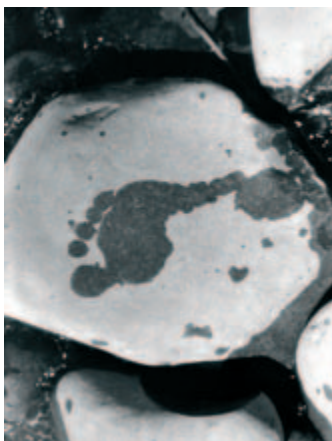
Alistair Strong



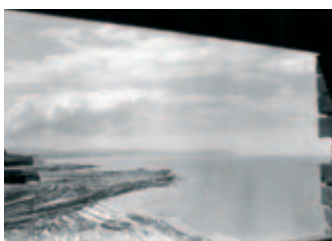
Polaroid by Maggie Wong



Harry Edmanson



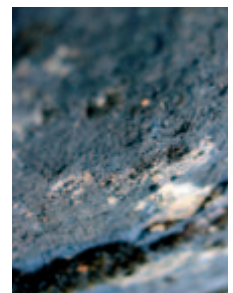
Julia Mckelvey



Julia Mckelvey



Hatty Hosegood (runner up)



Dylan Mitchell-Funk



Zia Ferris

Rising STARS

The diversity of opportunities at Blundell's plays a key role in developing an interesting, happy and tolerant community.

ROBIN HILL

Robin's most memorable performance for many of the staff and students of Blundell's would most likely be his year 10 appearance as Basil Fawlty in OH's version of "Fawlty Towers". However, in April Robin was accepted into the 'National Youth Theatre' – better known as NYT - after auditioning with a monologue taken from Eugène Ionesco's "Rhinoceros". This is a large organisation run by professional actors and directors who hold auditions for approximately 5000 people every year and select the best 100 to attend intensive two week courses held in London, allowing the attendees to later audition for any NYT performance they wish. The National Youth Theatre has helped kick start the careers of some of the best known stars today, such as Orlando Bloom, Daniel Craig and Simon Pegg.

Robin first acted at St Aubyn's, however, it became more serious when he was twelve and joined the Northcott Young Company and performed in "Mathew Miller". After working with the Northcott for four years Robin decided to audition for the prestigious NYT to gain more experience in his area of interest and for a chance to work with those at the top of the industry.

Robin is keen to continue with his acting, auditioning for as many plays as possible to gain experience, especially with the help of Miss Baddeley who has helped him to develop his natural abilities in school plays such as "Sweet Charity" and "Our Country's Good", as well as in his GCSE and A level performances; the most recent of which was an interpretation of Luigi Pirandello's "Six Characters in search of an Author". After Blundell's he is hoping to gain entry into a performing arts school and to see where that leads him.

Ele Breitmeyer L6



NIC HUNTLEY AND LIZZIE WESSELY



Nic Huntley OH/W and Lizzie Wessely NC were selected to compete in the English Schools Athletic Association National championships in Gateshead in July. Lizzie, normally a sprint hurdler has performed at this level for the last two years, however, she has stepped up to compete in the 300m hurdles this year. Running for only the third time at this distance she gained a place at the Nationals by winning her event at the South West Championships representing Devon. Her winning time was 45.3 seconds. Nic Huntley also competed for Devon at the South West Finals, finishing second in both the Shot and Discus. He will now move forward to compete in the Shot.

Lizzie was unable to compete at the ESAA National Championships last July owing to injury. However, she was selected to represent the South-West region at the UK School Games in Bath on her qualifying times. This competition is for selected under 17 athletes throughout the UK.

Competing in the 300m Hurdles, she qualified for the final in a personal best time of 44.19s (previous PB 45.3s). In the final, running in lane 8, she came 3rd in a time of 43.25s, just 0.16sec behind the winner (from Wales) and 2 hundredths of a second behind the silver medallist from Northern Ireland. All the more remarkable was the fact that the race was held in foggy/misty conditions where the athletes could not see all the hurdle flights when they started their race! In the process, Lizzie defeated the England Schools champion as well as the girls who came 2nd and 3rd at the Nationals. The standard of competition in these Games is obviously extremely high – and this performance from Lizzie places her as the 3rd best 300m hurdles for her age in the United Kingdom.

Representations:

S W Champions	K Robbins, E Wessely
SW Development Squad	N Huntley
S W Championships & Devon County	K Blyth, J Frankpitt, N Huntley, B Menheneott, A Miller, K Robbins, S Scott, E Selby, S Sendell, M Seymour, L Wessely



Photographs by TD

CANADA

2008



Looking Smart

For many of us, the chance to go on tour was the opportunity of a lifetime; three and a half weeks away from home, the other side of the world and playing one of the greatest games ever played, all with a great group of friends. For the 21 boys who went, I expect that we will all associate our time in Canada as a highpoint of our Blundell's careers.

Training in the sunshine





Howdy NJR

Blundell's 1st XV Rugby Tour to Canada, 2008

by James Evans, Westlake

Preparation for the Tour began in earnest with two days of intensive fitness work, team building and organisation, ably led and guided by the Rugby Captain, James Pool, and the Tour Captain, James Woodcock. Also in our ranks was Ed Lock, and between the three of them, they brought the team around them, leading from the front with outstanding fitness and skill with the ball. So we departed with high spirits from school, leaving behind a whole cacophony of mothers, daughters, fathers, brothers, wives, long lost aunts and Bodkin's Girlfriend tearily seeing us off.

We spent the night in a hotel close to Gatwick (many of us sharing beds!), before being up and ready to leave at 0730 after a hasty breakfast. Check-in ran very smoothly, apart from when I managed to send a box of Tour Ties straight through the system without a label! Mercifully, it made it to Calgary eight and a half hours later with the rest of our luggage – 72 bags of team kit, personal belongings, physio, balls and water bottles!

As with every tour, there is a little 'monkey-business,' and so, we played a few games ourselves. The first being that whoever says "mine" has to do ten push-ups. Within a few days, many of the team were well on their way through triple digits! However, the greatest challenge was to catch the staff out: Mr. Menheneott was the first to go, doing his ten in the aisle of the plane!

We arrived in Calgary and Coach Ridgway decreed that we would have a gentle leg-stretch. Well, we all knew exactly what this meant, so having already been awake for about 20 hours, it was 0000 GMT, we then lined up for an NJR special! Half an hour later, and in the pouring rain (sounds just like home), we all dragged ourselves back to the hall to get showered and changed, before making our way out to Boston Pizza for our first Canadian meal. And oh, what a meal! Just imagine the look on all 21 of our faces when we ordered a large Pizza; 14 inches of base, cheese and meat! Needless to say, most of us learnt our lesson, being beaten only halfway through our meals. Like their country, vehicles and houses, the meal portions are just as tremendous; quite frequently coming with a whole side plate of curly fries and another of salad, dressed with bacon bits, croutons and a thick, greasy dressing! We soon realised that our opposition were likely to be correspondingly large! »

“And oh, what a meal! Just imagine the look on all 21 of our faces when we ordered a large Pizza...We soon realised that our opposition were likely to be correspondingly large!”



Match 1: Two days later was our first match, versus the Calgary Hornets. Kick off was at 6pm, still in the blisteringly dry heat, but with a stiff breeze. At first glance, the Hornets seemed to have a series of "fairly solid chaps" in the pack, but the first few sets of play showed that size was definitely not everything! Our lighter, but fitter and technically more able, set of forwards proceeded to do some serious damage, stealing scrum ball against the head and dominating lineouts, rucks and mauls. This gave the backs ample opportunity to run with the ball and with the vast majority of the possession, the team worked smoothly to produce an impressive result of 68 – 0.

Tries: Pool 4, Lock 3, Hawkins 2, House, Hunt, Wheatley.

Conversions: Loader 3, Woodcock.

The result aside, there were certainly a few creases to iron out over the tour and in the coming season.

Post-match, we were split up into groups to go and stay with billets for the first time. Throughout the whole tour, the billets proved to be the highlight for most, as the Canadian people are so very generous and accommodating, and showed all of the players a great time!

Up early (groan) to catch the coach to Lethbridge, via the Royal Canadian Air Force Museum and "Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump"! We saw the first wild animals on this journey, passing a large herd of Buffalo, maybe 2500 strong. James Woodcock's account of Head-Smashed-In:

"A very enthusiastic tour guide with LM-style humour! One team squeeze and 21 Dead ants to go with the hundreds of

buffalos that failed to realise they were heading towards the only cliff in the whole state!"

We arrived in the evening to the slightly surprising news that we would be camping at the club! However, with our fill of Pizza, we had a great evening... karaoke with some strapping lasses from the women's team!

The next day we trained in the morning, before the heat reached its peak of about 30 degrees, and then headed for lunch. The afternoon was spent playing crazy golf and karting. We were then billeted for the night pre-match.

Match 2: Watching much of the match from the blood-bin, I could see that this time, the opposing forwards were a bit more of a match in physicality, but our far superior fitness and the evening heat soon dragged them down. Tribute here must go to the backs for their confident and competent ball



Buffalo jump

handling and finishing skills. From this match, we realised that we still needed to improve on retaining and securing quick ball from the breakdown. This aside, the final score was a huge 88 – 0!

Tries: Hunt 3, Woodcock 3, Hawkins 2, Newson 2, House, Lock, Pettit, Pool

Conversions: Loader 9

Transfer to Regina took quite a while, even on the dead straight roads across pancake-flat plains! We all spent quite a while gazing open-mouthed through the window at the vast prairies. Sometimes the road would climb a slight incline, and if you looked down through the coach, you could see the two-lane road stretching for about 25 miles into the hazy distance, with hardly a vehicle in sight. What we did see however, were many huge grain trains crawling along the tracks past massive silos. Ed Lock counted the longest to be 126 carriages long, and it took about a 90 seconds to pass; about 1 ½ miles long!

Match 3: Certainly the most challenging match to date. We had spent an hour in the morning working hard on disciplined rucking and defence, in expectation of a much stronger opposition, and this certainly paid off. A greater contest was just what we needed at this point, because it gave us the chance to play real rugby, and the elation at the end really brought the team even closer together.

Much of our match was spent on the offence, rapidly turning over every ball we could, and working hard to get around the pitch in groups. The Regina side, consisting mainly of two combined school teams, was much better drilled and worked well together, and once again, they had a far heavier and stronger pack, but an early try and penalty brought the score to 10 – 0 at half time.



Nice shiner Will!



This put them on the back foot, and with a comfortable lead, we still managed to steal 4 scrums against the head and a succession of lineouts in the second half. The backs worked their magic, although had to work harder against a more organised team. Two more tries and a conversion brought the final score to 22 – 0.

Tries: Pool 2, Denford

Conversions: Loader 2

Penalty: Loader

Unfortunately in this match, Will Yard, the team's youngest player who had stepped up from the Junior Colts team last year to play First Team, was kicked in the face while at the bottom of a ruck, and suffered concussion and a small fracture to his cheekbone. This resulted in a black eye that Tyson would be proud of, but also ended his rugby for the tour. We were all sad, as he had made a great impact on the whole tour, not just with his fearless playing, but also his disregard for embarrassment and his 'interesting' sense of humour made him a great last-minute addition to the tour team.

That night, the Regina people were great hosts, and certainly were among the best billets of the tour.

The next day saw another transfer, this time to Saskatoon, one of the greatest cities of Saskatchewan Province. >>



No horses?

BLUNDELL'S 1ST XV RUGBY TOUR TO CANADA, SUMMER 2008

Match 4: Once again, a pack of forwards with an extra 100Kg to wield! Not a bad team, but inexperienced. This was the first match that we conceded points in, but the gap still showed considerably between the two backlines. Our savvy forwards continued to steal and turnover scrums, lineouts and rucks, and run the opposition ragged from side to side, across the pitch. It should be noted that nearly everyone in Canada only starts playing Rugby when they are about fourteen or fifteen years old, and subsequently do not have quite the same depth of thought or innate ability that many of our players have developed in the ten or so years of playing. Such as was their skill, that most of their games were dominated by the forwards, and therefore made our defending relatively simplistic.

Final Score: 72 – 7

Tries: Lock 4, Woodcock 3, Pool 2, Denford, Goss, Hawkins

Conversions: Loader 6

Match 5: This time we had two days between matches, but this did not put Coach Ridgway off the 400s, especially when there is a running track around the edge of the pitch! We played the Lloydminster Reapers in the heat of the day, although mercifully, it was not as hot as it had been!

We began the match a little half-heartedly if we are honest with ourselves, all being quite drained after playing four matches in seven days, and not mentally prepared. This, combined with the physicality of an opposition who really wanted to end our winning streak, came as quite a shock, and we ended the first half only 10 – 0 up.

Coach Ridgway, however, put paid to our lethargy at half time, and within 30 seconds, the forwards quickly took control of the game, and the backs then began to play with the game plan, passing the ball fleetingly from side to side. This quickly put paid to any chances they may have considered. We ran them down, forcing errors and them to resort to indiscipline, giving us nine points in penalties and another fourteen points in tries.

Final Score: 28 – 0

Tries: Hawkins 2, Pool

Conversions: Loader 2

Penalties: Loader 3

Unfortunately, we lost another two vital players in this match to injury; Ben Oddy suffered a concussion and Will Denford a fractured wrist. Both of these players made considerable impact throughout the tour; Will "Bad Boy" Denford for his impressive tackling and deft ball handling, and Ben Oddy for bringing his

strength and experience to the front row. Both these players and Will Yard were back in the 1st XV for the first match of the school season.

We then travelled to Edmonton, one of Canada's larger cities, for our last set of billets. Without exception, everyone had a great time here, spending much time in the West Edmonton Mall, the largest Mall in North America, costing \$3bn to build. It was an amazing building, with an ice rink, a water park complete with wave machine, two cinema complexes, theme park, farm animals, sea lions and, of course, Abercrombie and Fitch! Seeing Mr. Ridgway's face when we all boarded the bus laden down with American Eagle and Abercrombie bags will remain in all of our memories!

Match 6: We played the Nor'westers at the Ellerslie Rugby Park, an international ground which has recently hosted the majority of the women's international matches. Kick off for our final match was at the later time of 7pm, and we soon had 3 points on the board. However, once again, mental preparation left a little to be desired, and much of the first half saw unimpressive phases of play, interchanged with a lack of commitment in contact.

The whole team raised their standards in the second half, once again using our superior skill and fitness to our best advantage, and soon scored many points, to come out with a fantastic 100% win record. Unfortunately, we conceded 10 "soft" points to them, bringing the total points conceded throughout the tour to just 17.

Final score: 66 – 10

Tries: Woodcock 3, Loader, Lock, Newson, Pettit, Sandford, Wheatley

Conversions: Loader 9

Penalty: Loader

That evening brought the end of the rugby side of the tour, leaving us still with five days of sightseeing and frivolity to go:

We transferred to Banff, having spent the night in a brand new hotel just outside the National Park! For many of us this was by far the best night's sleep we had, especially in the knowledge that we were going to have a great time in the Rocky Mountains and Vancouver.

En route to Banff, we stopped briefly in Jasper to take in the local views, before heading on to a huge waterfall, with glorious



Refuelling again



Cake anyone?





Athabasca Glacier



mountains in the background. Just sitting gazing out of the windows of the coach at the absolute vastness of the whole region was breathtaking. It was on this day that the first black bear was spotted, and a little further on, two elk lying on the mudflats just a little way from the road.

However, the experience from which I certainly drew the most was visiting the Athabasca Glacier. It is one of the largest glaciers remaining in the world, being part of the vast Colombia Icefield – “the largest body of ice in the Rocky Mountains,” covering nearly 150 square miles. We took a custom made ice tractor-cum-coach across the moraine and up across a specially carved route on the ice. About halfway up, the coach stopped and we were able to leave the bus and walk about a hundred metres and take photos on the ice (topless!). This was quite a chilly experience, but experiencing the barren openness that is a glacier, and feeling the harshness of the freezing wind is something that everyone should do in their lifetime.

Having spent the night in Banff, for our next trip, we went White Water Rafting, and then stopped off at Lake Louise. The rafting was another great activity, especially given the swollen river, log jams and the peril of splashing Mr. Brigden, right Pooley?

For our final transfer before returning home, we undertook the mission that is the ten hour ride across the Rockies to Vancouver on the Pacific Coast. Even Ian, our fantastic driver since Lethbridge, who seemed to be immortal given his encyclopaedic knowledge of all the things to do in Canada and superb driving, said that it was “a bit of a long haul”!

Once again, the scenery was amazing all of the way to the University of British Columbia, where we spent our final few nights. The landscape merged from huge vistas across gaping valleys with mountains, partly adorned with trees, towering up on either side, through to Spanish style hills with yellow, dusty sand and small gnarled bushes strewn across the terrain, and then down from the hills, abruptly joining a traffic jam in the suburbs of Vancouver!

While in Vancouver, we spent a while looking around, going to the Island, browsing yet more malls and shopping multiplexes. A great time was our final Tour Team lunch, which we ate heartily at The Old Spaghetti Factory. This really marked the end of our tour, which came as some disappointment to us all. But before we left, we had just two more things to attend.

We rose early (again) to catch our ‘Eco-friendly’ tour boat, in which we raced off at 28 knots from

the mouth of the Hudson River and across the Strait of Georgia towards where a pod of killer whales had been spotted earlier that morning. Within a few moments, fins were spotted off to the side of our boat, and our guides identified them as a pod of rare transient killer whales. Apparently, these were the more aggressive species of killer whale, being far more efficient hunters in their rigorous pack techniques, and diving for up to three times longer than others, and far deeper. The large males are all recorded for scientific interest, and the leading male here was identified by its unique dorsal fin and grey saddle patch on its back as “T20”. We shadowed these for about an hour as they hunted shoals of salmon, before heading back across the Strait to the harbour.

That evening, we were taken to bear witness to a baseball match. Baseball is an odd game, seeming to be cricket’s inferior little sibling, and it took some of us quite a while to get our heads round the technicalities. I believe that the British stereotype is huge hits out of the park and lots of running. In practice, this is not quite the case, with much of the time being taken up by the hilarious game of cat and mouse between the pitcher and runners trying to steal inches! It could be said that the game took quite a while to get going, but the end was quite a climax, with the underdogs, the Canadians just winning by one run in the final innings, beating an American side, Salem-Kaiser.

The whole tour passed so quickly and it seemed quite impossible that we were all heading home the next day – we were all really looking forward to the ten hour flight! As far as I know, we all wanted to stay on tour in Canada, even though we had at the back of our minds the nagging feeling of wanting to just get home and enjoy our own beds! Over the three weeks, no one had been really homesick, nobody fell out, and not a single person embarrassed the tour party or Blundell’s. Obviously, everyone had their ups and downs; being in a foreign country, 6000 miles from home and stuck with the same 20 other people for three weeks would sound to some like a great recipe for disaster! However, special mention must go to the ‘wives’: Mrs. Ridgway, Mrs. Brigden and Mrs. Menheneott, who all mothered us through our bumps and bruises with great compassion.

In the final hours, Coach Ridgway commented that we were one of the best tour parties that he had ever taken from Blundell’s. This paid tribute to his masterful coaching, the other staff and the ‘oldies’ James Woodcock, James Pool and Ed Lock for bringing us all around them in such an inclusive fashion, not just on the pitch, but also off. We all had the time of our lives, so thank you, Sir.

James Evans Yr12 (now Head Boy!)



University?

not for everyone

David Wilcocks (W 1995-2000)

I left Blundell's in summer 2000 and left for a Gap year at Bishop's College School teaching Drama, English and P.E. Having got the Drama bug I then decided to stay out there at Bishop's University and study it for my major. It was about Spring break time when I had an epiphany and realized that I didn't want to spend four years at Uni and then another x amount of years waiting for a break. I left Canada and spent another few months doing a variety of jobs until having a go at the AIB to join the Navy.

**"IN FIVE YEARS
I'VE BEEN TO 27
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I joined BRNC Dartmouth on 1st July 2003 as a Warfare Officer. A year at Dartmouth learning the basics of Seamanship, Naval studies and Ship technology, as well as the odd leadership course, took me to my first ship, HMS Exeter, on Far East deployment. Four months in the Far East; Tokyo, Okinawa, Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, Penang and then back through the Suez, Cyprus, Gibraltar and home. What an introduction

to the real Navy. I then had to go through six months learning my trade as an Officer of the Watch, which saw me complete Operational Sea Training (OST) on HMS Ramsey in Faslane. OST is one of the hardest things I've ever done; the ship is put through its paces in a "Wartime" scenario, and you are sleep deprived and stressed out. However, I absolutely loved it; the buzz you get when you undertake something so hard and pull a good result out of the bag at the end is amazing. After that, it was a tour of the Baltic for four months, another eight countries ticked off.

Just over two years had passed and, on the second try, I managed to pass my final assessment to be allowed to drive one of Her Majesty's warships around on the High Seas. When you take that ship for the first time and, bar a couple of senior ranking people, you are in charge of getting that ship and her crew safely from A to B it is a spine tingling thrill.

I have just finished my first job, bringing HMS Clyde out of Build, taking her on sea trials, OST (again) and then deploying to the Falklands for four months via Rio de Janeiro and



Montevideo. I was the Gunnery Officer onboard and between me, the CO, and the guy driving the ship around at breakneck speed, we fought the ship – mostly against RAF Tornados playing the part of the bad guys in the rolling seas of the South Atlantic. For me it was a great deployment as my father had been on HMS Ambuscade as the Gunnery Officer during the Falklands war and seeing the same sights and, quite literally, walking in his shell holes was quite something. Now I am training to be a Fighter controller and that is a story that may well be told in the fullness of time.

I loved my time at Blundell's; the teachers and my friends made the experience one I will treasure forever. And I assure you, this article wasn't meant as a recruitment spiel. All I want to say is that if University isn't for you there are still a multitude of careers open to you after such a grounded education. In five years I've been to 27 countries, driven warships at maxi chat, got married and am having the time of my life – beat that with a stick.



Behind the scenes in the Maintenance Department
by David Malcolm Yr11

For a school of the size and scale of Blundell's, it is often a wonder that everything runs so smoothly and that we have come to take it for granted that everything works and is so well maintained.

To get a better understanding of who is responsible for the upkeep of all these buildings, I visited the maintenance team and their manager, Dick Clarke.

Perhaps the greatest testimony that can be offered to the team is that we largely fail to notice them and the work that they do. Yet when you look behind the scenes, you find a team of high quality tradesmen, consisting of 2 electricians, 3 carpenters, a plumber, a painter and a mason.

The maintenance work encompasses a huge variety of areas from swimming pool maintenance to redecorating.

Dick Clarke runs a complicated and efficient system which handles thousands of requests every year and has the key to every door in the school.

I asked Dick some questions to see how he viewed his work.

DM. Do you see your work changing much in the future with all the new buildings?

DC. Well, not really in the short term, we would hope that most of the new buildings would be largely maintenance free for the first few years but then after that, the workload will inevitably increase.



Dick Clarke, Maintenance Manager

DM. And is it mainly the older buildings that require the most work or is it more the boarding houses?

DC. The boys' houses need the most work. The girls tend to look after their dorms but the boys are from experience, far more destructive. SH are good because they are younger. FH is usually the worst with corridor cricket and rugby scrummaging often leading to accidental damage.

DM. Do you find you work well with the other members of staff and do you get a lot of job satisfaction seeing people using and enjoying the facilities you maintain?

DC. There is definitely a good relationship between all the teams and staff behind the scenes at Blundell's. It's very important as we have to work and sort out problems daily, whilst causing as little disruption to the everyday running of the school as is possible. We have a very happy Maintenance crew and we all take great pride and pleasure from seeing the young people enjoying their time so much at school.

OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY



There was a good turnout for Old Blundellian Day on 21st June. Old House was the theme and after lunch Michael Mates (OH 1947-51) unveiled a door in Old House leading to 'Crowe's Leap'. A session of reminiscing about Ted Crowe was led in the lunch marquee by John Hollands (OH 1946-51). A rather younger group of Old Blundellians, organised by Charlie Hamilton (OH 1977-82) enjoyed tennis with the School the following day. Best wishes to Charlie and his wife, Nicki, as he takes over the reins of Francis House – the first Old Blundellian Housemaster since Ted Crowe.



OBS gathering for lunch



Tennis - OBS v School