



Blundell's

www.blundells.org

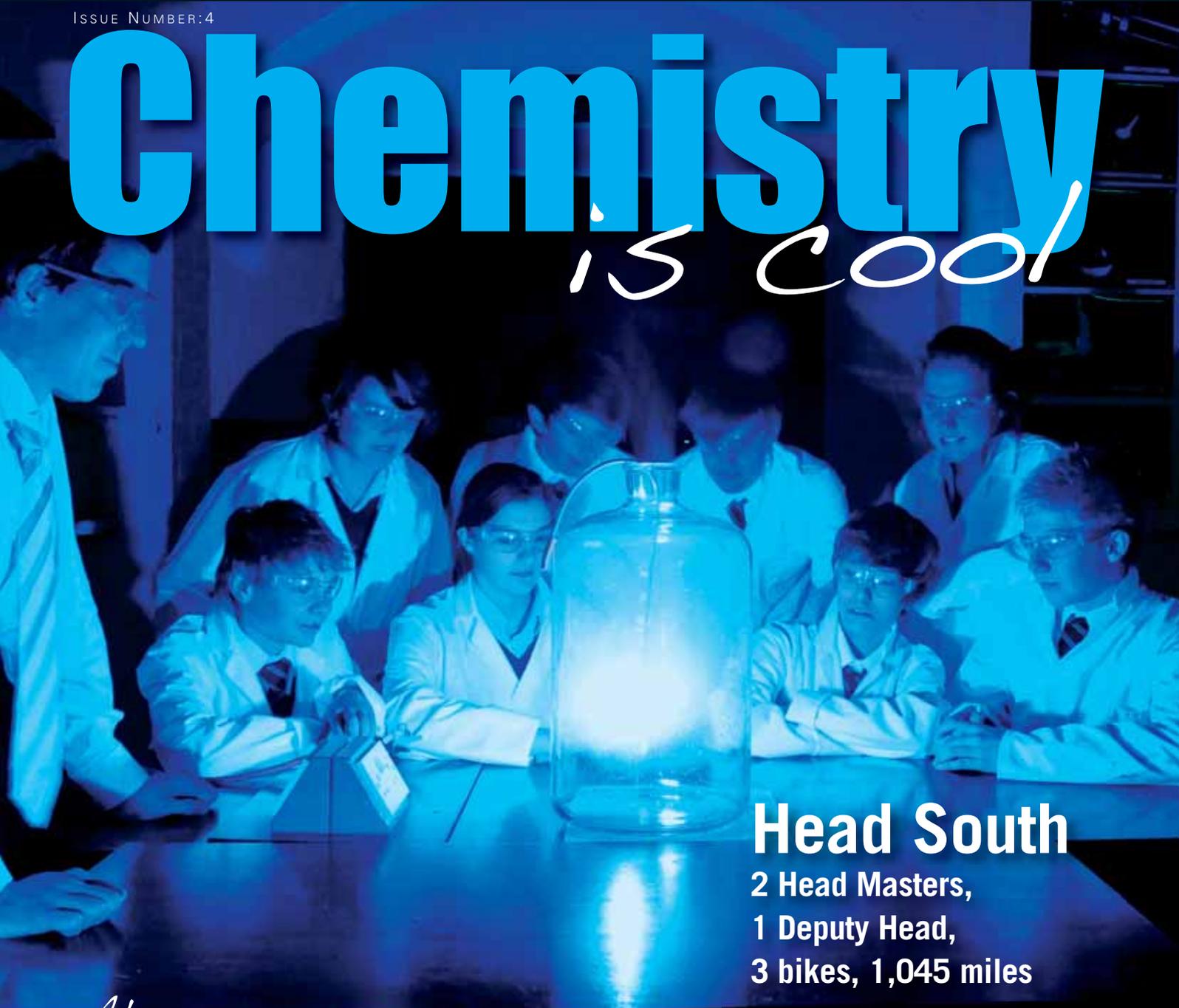
# DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

SPRING 2009

ISSUE NUMBER:4

# Chemistry *is cool*



## Head South

2 Head Masters,  
1 Deputy Head,  
3 bikes, 1,045 miles

## House Plays

Batman and Hard Candy

*Also*

- \* Full circle - Charlie Hamilton OB
- \* Blundell's - Bahrain OB Martin Whitaker
- \* The Old Blundellian Cricket Club

Ondaatje Hall is still the single most munificent Foundation contribution to life at Blundell's. Opened in September 1989, the Hall houses the 160 seat Theatre, the Drama teaching and costume rooms and most of the Art Department. The Theatre has a full time manager, Mr Winwood, and runs its own professional box office. Drama plays a major part in the lives of many Blundellians with up to twenty plays and musicals being performed each year.

The hall was a gift from Old Blundellian Sir (Philip) Christopher Ondaatje OC CBE who was in Petergate from 1947-51. Sir Christopher was born in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and on leaving Blundell's settled in Canada. He became a highly successful businessman, mainly in the publishing industry, and sold out his interests in 1995 to become a highly regarded author (a family talent as his brother Michael wrote 'The English Patient'). He is a philanthropist and adventurer, and has fostered the development of international understanding both at Blundell's and through The Ondaatje Foundation. In the year 2000 he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's birthday honours list and awarded a Knighthood in the Queen's honours list in June 2003. He remains an Honorary Governor Emeritus of Blundell's and he takes an on-going interest in the life of his Alma Mater.



## HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION



It is slightly disconcerting working in a school because time passes very quickly indeed. Welcome to the fourth edition of The Diary; the editorial team have produced another excellent magazine which draws out the rather special flavour of the School. Much has happened since the last edition; we were delighted for instance, for those who

achieved Oxbridge success; provided they achieve their predicted grades Blundellians will be taking up places to read Law, Medicine, Biological Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics with Computer Science in September at Trinity (Cambridge) and Balliol (Oxford) amongst others. The competition is fiendishly tough and although half the candidates were unsuccessful I am hopeful they will have found the process a rewarding one. I am a firm believer in

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setting ambitions and aspirations high and really pursuing a dream; although the bar might on occasion have been slightly too high the pupil is immeasurably richer because of the journey, this of course applies to every pupil here whatever the dream. Mickey Rooney put it succinctly when he said *"You always pass failure on the way to success."*

On another note, I am deep (ish) in preparation for my sponsored cycle ride with Nick Folland and Richard Cross, respectively the Head Master and Deputy from the Prep School; we are cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End in the summer. The training comprises a weekly cycle ride through, and generally up, the beautiful country lanes of mid Devon; I know they will become more beautiful when I see them without the red mist of pain. I am in pain when I cycle and also when I stop, because invariably I forget that my feet are

attached to the bicycle, thus I find myself lying in the ditch or indeed on the drive at home; it certainly amuses others. I am hoping to raise a substantial amount of money for the Devon Air Ambulance; therefore if you would like to sponsor me you will find more details on Pgs 24-5 or on our website [www.blundells.org](http://www.blundells.org) under the title of Head South.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Diary.

**Ian Davenport**  
Head Master



## Snow Patrol

Over 300 boarding pupils enjoyed some extended snowballing recently whilst the Senior Leadership Team convened an emergency meeting, Blundell's style, in the Head Master's study!



# Bangers and Mash



Old team mates Marcus Trescothick and Rob Turner in Big school

On Friday 10th of October we were very fortunate to host an evening with Marcus Trescothick as part of his benefit year. The evening was a thoroughly enjoyable event and raised a good deal of money for Marcus, School cricket and his chosen charity, Children's Hospice South West. It is no secret that Marcus is a big fan of sausages, hence the format and after sampling the excellent 'Westaways' Sausages, kindly donated by Mr Baughan and made by Marcus himself earlier in the week, we moved on to a small auction. Lots included a signed England cricket shirt, a signed Ashes winning squad print and the opportunity to bowl at Marcus during the dinner, an opportunity taken by most of the 1st XI boys on the evening. The main attraction of the evening however, proved to be an interview of Marcus by OB Vic Marks and an open question and answer session. Marcus spoke openly and in detail about many aspects of his career and we are very grateful to him as a result for entertaining us throughout the evening.



## WOODEN SPOON CHARITY PRESENTATION

Pictured are boys from Blundell's School wearing their Canadian rugby tour shirts, sponsored by Cushman's and Wakefield retail services. As part of their fund-raising efforts they agreed to donate 20% of the total fund to charity. This time they chose the Wooden Spoon charity which is for underprivileged children. The charity was started by International rugby players after England had been beaten and were offered the wooden spoon by their Irish counterparts. This event triggered the idea of starting the charity which has blossomed ever since. Receiving the cheque for £4176.97 on behalf of the charity is former Blundellian and Tivertonian, Ryan Hopkins. Ryan, who played for England U18s whilst at Blundell's, is currently playing for Plymouth Albion was recently selected to play for the Barbarians against Combined Services. The fundraising committee were delighted to have been able to donate a large cheque to the Wooden Spoon and would like to thank the parents and staff of Blundell's for their time and generosity in raising this money.

## A2 DRAMA PERFORMANCES

This year Blundell's witnessed its first ever promenade performance. This involved close interaction between the cast and audience whilst moving to different locations around Ondaatje and the drama rooms. The devised piece "Childhood Gone Wrong" studied the issues involved with the current penal systems.

The second A2 performance, "Love Me, Love Me Not" explored loneliness and its effects on modern Western cultures.



## GIRLS' DEVON TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS



The Girls' U18, U16 and U14 hockey teams were all crowned Devon County champions this season. It is believed to be the first time a single school has lifted all three titles. To add to this impressive season the U18s and U16s also added the Indoor County Championships to their trophy cabinet (there is no U14 Indoor!). The teams all had to win their preliminary rounds against local teams before progressing to



the county rounds. Here they took on the best of the Devon schools where the competition was more demanding. Having won the County section they all went on to represent Devon at the West of England Finals with the U18's finishing a close 4th, the U16s 3rd, just two points off winning, and the U14s also a creditable 4th. Head of Hockey, Nicky Klinkenberg, said that all the girls and their coaches had all worked very hard and that these results were even more gratifying as they were achieved with virtually all home-grown talent.



## An international welcome



Once again the TESOL and Modern Languages Department organised a social event at the beginning of the Autumn Term for all our International friends. It is really to help the new overseas pupils to settle in and there is a ready supply of free advice from the old lags. Blundell's has a small but happy international community, who come from about ten different countries. We very much appreciate the cultural diversity they bring to the school. Everything possible is done to help them to integrate fully into life here and the friendly social gathering in the first few days certainly reassures them that they will enjoy their time with us here in Devon.

## Petergate row across La Manche

Petergate's charity event recently saw the boys tackle the gruelling task of rowing across the English Channel and back again without going near any water or France! Two rowing machines were set up in the foyer of Big School and linked to a screen showing the progress of the two competing boats. The hand-picked rival teams were led by those two pinnacles of physical fitness, Hugh McDowell and Will

McBarnet. The event began with an entertaining introduction in Chapel, which saw the two muscular teams carry their respective vessels up the aisle seemingly oblivious to the ripples of laughter from all quarters. Having rowed all day both teams managed to get to Dunkirk and back in time for supper and in doing so raised the impressive and princely sum of £850 towards Children In Need.



## OXBRIDGE SUCCESS



Five pupils have been made conditional offers at either Cambridge or Oxford Universities, to begin their studies next October. Matt Cole has been offered a place to read Natural Sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge, Seb Zubov will read Mathematics and Computer Science at Keble College Oxford, Alice Woolley has been offered a place to read Medicine at Balliol and Louise Youngman has an offer to read Law from Oxford University. Harriet Rix, who left school last year has an unconditional place to read Biochemistry at St Edmunds' Hall, Oxford.



The Blundell's Chemistry department has undergone a revolution under the wise and watchful eye of Mrs Batting. It is now a very popular and successful Department and the impressive results bear testament to that. The excellent facilities are housed in a grand old red sandstone building completed in 1911 with the help of a donation from Mr Coles of Washfield. It includes a 70 seater lecture theatre with all the electronic gizmos and mod-cons needed for top teaching, even automatic blinds on the windows! The department has recently obtained its own set of laptops which the students can use for coursework or processing data.

Great Balls of

# FIRE!

*It's Chemistry*

Article by Matt Cole U6



fun with dry ice

*“...Mrs Batting just smiles when yet another explosion rocks the campus”.*

The Head of Department is Mrs Batting, whose varied roles include overseeing the school's Activity Programme, being Head of Science and organising the equestrian teams (she is an accomplished rider herself). Mr Chapman was the first of the younger brigade to sign up when coming out of the Forces. He is a man of many parts as he is the Commanding Officer of the CCF, a keen surfer and skier, an accomplished pianist and also an author. His first novel is about a maverick regiment in the British Army and should be published sometime this year.

Two new additions arrived this year in the shape of Mr Smart and Miss Wilson, who have already contributed much to the department and the school. As with many science departments, behind the scenes the invaluable technician, Eve Entwistle, organises the large number of practical sessions.

Every great Chemistry Department needs a Mr Guy! He unsurprisingly gained a National Teacher of the Year Award in 2003. His infectious enthusiasm is legendary and can be seen from the impressive photos in his room of the many explosions he has undertaken. There is never a dull moment when he is around and the long-suffering Mrs Batting just smiles when yet another explosion rocks the campus. Mr Guy also wears many hats as he is in charge of the Ten Tors training, coaches some rugby, cricket and hockey, runs many activities including building model cars and the often calamitous aeroplanes. He has now taken over the running of The Russell and we are all fearful of just where he is going to make us run! Everyone was inspired by his recent humorous chapel service where we found out that his motto was “the reason for doing anything is to have fun” whilst holding a pineapple. This definitely shines through in his lessons and activities.

## Rocket Club



Recently a senior team from Blundell's own Rocketry Club entered the UK Aerospace Youth Rocketry Challenge

(UKAYROC), a national event for young model rocket enthusiasts. In order to qualify for the event the team has to demonstrate that they can design, build and fly a model rocket carrying two hen's eggs to an altitude of 750ft and return the eggs safely to the ground – all in a total of 45 seconds. The team was made up of James Evans, Jordan Curnow, Harry Edmanson, Alistair Strong and Andrew Bewsey.



from little acorns grow...!



Above: Home-made sparklers.  
Below: The reaction of bromine with aluminium foil

The Chemistry department has a lot of success over recent years in competitions outside of school. Two years ago the lower sixth team of Eva Zhang, Johnny Li and Michelle Tsang finished 3rd in the country in the RSC Schools' Analyst Competition. In April 2008 another team of lower sixth pupils: Rebecca Ley, James Evans and Matthew Cole were third best in the south west in the same competition held at Bristol University. In the same month Michael Brown, William Browne, Philippa Horne and Emily Nash from year 8 came 2nd in the Salter's Chemistry Competition held at Plymouth University. What's more all the successful applicants to Oxbridge in the last two years have been students of A level Chemistry. This shows the quality of teaching and resources in the department and the number of pupils taking Chemistry continues to increase. As an Oxbridge student myself I feel it is one of the strongest in the school; but then I am biased.



### Eve Entwistle - Chemistry Technician

Eve enjoys both aspects of her job, preparing the practical experiments and even the paperwork. There is no doubt that without Eve the successful Chemistry Department would not run smoothly at all.

"Mr Guy is mad" laughs Eve, "but it's great to have someone so enthusiastic and who has such a passion for his subject." Eve loves working surrounded by the general enthusiasm of the pupils and the staff and she says her prep-room is fantastically well resourced and equipped.

Eve plays an understated and quiet role behind the scenes, but without her we would have to stick to atomic structure and equations; personally I'd rather an explosion any day! **Lydia Ferris Yr 11**

## BLUNDELL'S FOUNDATION EVENTS 2009

### Wednesday 20th May – London Drinks and Canapés

– The Carlton Club, London – 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm

The invitation is to an informal social evening to meet Ian Davenport, Head Master, and it is extended to all members of the Blundell's community currently living and or working in London. We are grateful to James Bullock (P 1981-86) for his invaluable help in organising this event.

### Thursday 2nd July – Legacy Lunch – Beale Centre

– for those who have pledged legacy support to Blundell's School

– 12.00 Noon for Drinks, 12.45 pm Lunch, followed by the opportunity to watch the Old Blundellian Cricket Match.

### Friday 17th July – Drinks Reception at Bovey Castle

6.00 pm to 8.00 pm for all members of the Blundell's community to celebrate the 'Head South' Cycle Ride.



James Bullock OB



Bovey Castle

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER



I have just completed my first term with Blundell's and, although it has been a steep learning curve, for example getting to grips with the timetable after so many years out of school was an interesting exercise, it has been such a rewarding time for me. I have had to assimilate the complexities of how the Common Room works, as well as looking for ways in which the Development

Office can benefit the pupils around the campus. I have been very impressed by the united and collaborative approach between the pupils, not only in their own houses, but also across the year groups; it is a delight to see and it further fosters my affection for the school.

I am currently working on a whole host of initiatives, which will help support the school and its wider community. We are in the process of implementing a recycling programme across the School campus, an essential and vital activity in the modern world. We are also developing opportunities for the pupils to benefit from advice from parents, both current and past, and also OBs on matters to do with CVs, work experience placements and job exchanges amongst the Blundell's community.

I am very excited by the 'Head South' Cycle ride where we are working in partnership with Devon Air Ambulance; this is discussed in more detail later. Another small scale project we are working on is the 'Creative Arts' project in which identified members of our 6th form are working with a consortium of small local schools to support continuing professional development, thus engaging pupils in the practical delivery of elements of Drama, Art, Music and Dance. This is a wonderful demonstration of the Independent and Public school sectors working together for a collective aim. The outcomes of this project will culminate in a 'Celebration Event' at the Blundell's site in July this summer.



Rosie back to Primary School

One of the primary objectives for me will be the implementation and development of a bursarial provision. This fund will be called the Peter Blundell Foundation and we will be undertaking a variety of activities to engage support for the development of bursaries, thus producing an endowment to support and maintain a central tenet of our founder's will i.e. to help local pupils, whose parents may not ordinarily be able to afford such an education, to experience a Blundell's education. To this end I will be seeking donations to provide bursaries for able students, therefore maintaining the rich mixture of pupils here at School. With the combination of rising costs of education and a weak economic environment, the help which these awards provides to deserving beneficiaries is more urgently needed now than ever before. Blundell's has a tradition and history to be proud of, but in order to maintain its position amongst the top Independent schools in the country, it needs to plan for and to invest in the future.

There are a number of exciting initiatives on the horizon, which will hopefully encourage you to support the development of the School, one of which will be the introduction of an Annual Draw, which will have some fantastic prizes on offer including holidays in Cornwall, the Lake District. Also, look out for the special edition Surfboard: for each board sold, money will go towards the Peter Blundell Foundation Bursarial Award.

I intend to develop a comprehensive and current website, which will provide opportunities for our wider community of supporters to keep in touch with each other; however, this is only achievable if our information is correct, so please do log onto the School website and update via the Old Blundellian site and make sure we have your records up to date. We will shortly be circulating a questionnaire to assist this process and will be entering everyone who returns their questionnaire into a free draw to win a weekend at Bovey Castle.

I am delighted that Paddy Armstrong has been appointed as Honorary Secretary to the Old Blundellian Club, and very much welcome the opportunity we have to work in collaboration and to provide a wider service to our Blundellians, both old and new. If you have any queries in the meantime, or would like additional information about the work of the Development Office, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01884-232324 or email me on [a.oliver@blundells.org](mailto:a.oliver@blundells.org).



**Amber Oliver**

# TALKING THE TALK

**THE** ever-popular Inter-House Public Speaking contest saw some talented performances in front of a enthusiastic audiences. Each House produced a Speaker, a Chair and Questioner and the adjudicating panel awarded marks for their individual performances. Topics chosen in the Junior section were wide ranging indeed from FH's *Battery hens*, to SH's *Why girls should play rugby* and OH's surprisingly cerebral *Taking life for granted*; however, Petergate's trio of Will French, Oliver Tobey and Ed Wright won the day with their intelligent tackling of the Nuclear Power debate.

The Senior competition also threw up some challenging topics such as OH's *Public school fashion*, NC's *Child obesity* and GH's *Being young is over-rated*. At the final count, however, it was Petergate, once again, who triumphed. Sam Anderson, Jack Browne and Christian Gare's discussion of *The power of sport* was very impressive. A special mention should be made to the Westlake girls' brave and often amusing effort at tackling the topic of *Bog snorkelling*.



Top: Laura MacBean GH Above: Ed Wright P

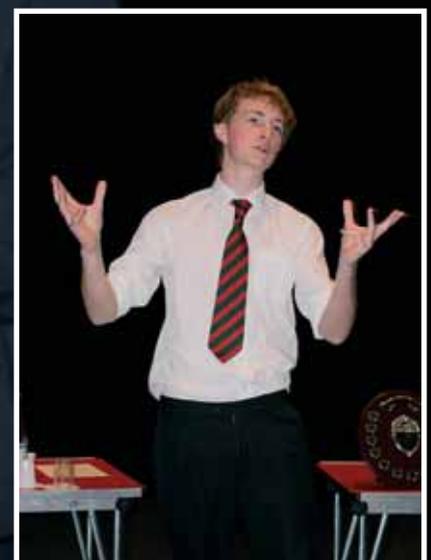
*A special mention should be made to the Westlake girls' brave and often amusing effort at tackling the topic of Bog snorkelling.*



Toby Lett OH



Jack Browne P speaking eloquently on *The purpose of sport*



Rob Clarke W on *Hunting Whales*

# FASHION *Aid*

by SB

Four members of the U6, Ele Frankpitt, Kristina Appleby, Rosie Le Page and Tamar Symons (as well as a little bit of staff help backstage) put on a wonderful display of fashion for the charity Save the Children.

The girls worked tirelessly in the couple of weeks at the start of term to put together programmes, arrange costumes, seating and lights and models as well as everything else. They had clothes from Jo Amor, 500 clothing, W.I.L.L.Ys, KIT, Romantica, Outdoor and Ski, and even some fashion on a budget for those with an eye for a bargain.

It was a fabulous event that was enjoyed by over 300 people – by far the largest crowd ever for such an event. Huge thanks must go to the Charity Committee, who put on a fabulous range of drinks and nibbles at the interval along with all the backstage help from Miss Burnett and Miss Symonds.

The girls raised over £2,100 for the charity, which will be donated along with the funds raised from the tennis tournament that Mr Wheatley and Mrs Wright are competing in on the 4th October.



Photographs by  
Alistair Strong U6, Harriet Bennet U6 and TD

# House Plays

The House Plays are always eagerly awaited by the whole school community and this term saw two excellent efforts by North Close and Westlake. In typical Blundell's fashion everyone in each house pulls together and gets involved in some way or another; it's not just about the cast. Behind the scenes there are costumes to be made, programmes to be printed, scenery to be painted and refreshments to be organised.

Interview with Julie Gordon,  
Director of Hard Candy



**What made you choose the play?**

"Actually I just looked up plays on the internet and read through a few scripts. I studied the characters and it seemed to be the perfect play for us. In NC we have found that plays containing scenes that can be rehearsed individually without needing the whole cast are much easier to pull off as everyone is always so busy."

**Who was your favourite character?**

"Um, it's got to be Linda (played by Diana). She was on stage the whole time and I couldn't stop laughing."

**People seem to think that directing a house play is difficult. Is that true?**

"Well, there was a lot of organisation needed and it was quite time consuming but we could rehearse some scenes within the house – it got easier once we got going and it was really fun working with everyone."

**Did you feel that the cast members responded well to your direction?**

"Yes, they were brill. Everyone got on really well and it actually came together quite quickly in the end."

**Did you find casting the play difficult?**

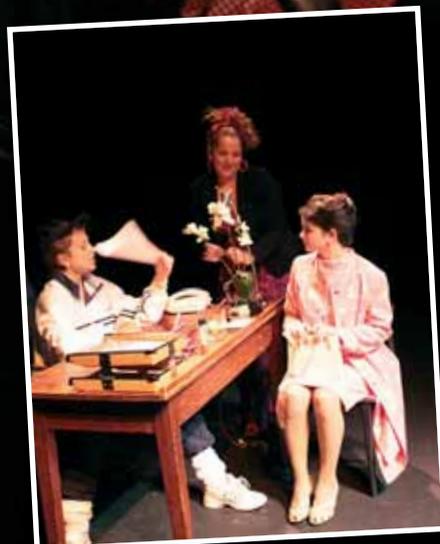
"At first I did, particularly trying to remain impartial – I kept changing my mind. But after reading the play through thoroughly, it became obvious who was going to play each character."

**Which do you prefer, performing or directing?**

"I like both. I love performing in the school plays, but it was so much fun to direct a house play. I have always loved performing, but directing was a good experience."

**Would you like to direct another play?**

"Yes definitely - it would be really fun."



# Hard Candy

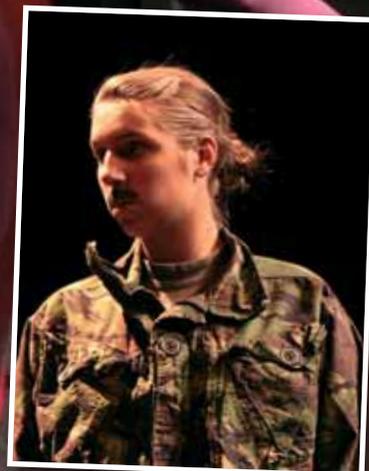
Review by Lydia Ferris, Yr 11

If you need advice on how to get a job, why not ask the NC girls? Their recent performance of *Hard Candy* (by Jonathan Rand) had the audience grinning from ear to ear as they observed a fast-paced series of hilarious interviews. Each interviewee tried just about every trick in the book in order to claw their way up the corporate ladder.

The Head of House, Natalie Waddington, demonstrated her strong leadership skills and her physical agility in her portrayal of the CCF Corporal. She also revealed to us her devotion to the secret love of her life, Fluffy!

Georgia Stone really got into character, making us laugh at her unusual lisp and, even more so, at her striking choice of underwear! Lottie Free also amused everyone with her slightly Bohemian characterisation.

But the star of the show had to be Diana Oliviera as the bored secretary. 'Basil' is never known to under-act and her presence on stage was always highly amusing and her explosion in the final scene was a triumphant ending to the performance.



The NC girls would like to dedicate this performance to Mrs A' Lee, who was a very special member of North Close; she is already greatly missed by all and we know it would have made her laugh.

# Holy Westlake Batman

'Bat' review by  
Ele Breitmeyer  
Yr 13



“Westlake’s debut performance caused great anticipation around Blundell’s, with tickets selling out in record time...”



## Westlake's first play since 2004, when the U6 house was created, was a fantastic adaptation of the 1960s 'Batman' television series and movie which originally starred Adam West and Burt Ward.

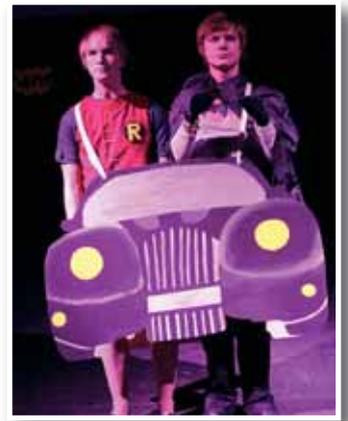
Westlake's debut performance caused great anticipation around Blundell's, with tickets selling out in record time creating a huge demand for a third performance. This was obviously due to the talent within this year's Upper Sixth, but also because it was the first ever mixed gender senior house play - even though most of the male characters still ended up in tights!

This rather bizarre and camp homage to the dynamic duo Batman and Robin was written and directed by Robin Hill with the help of Theo Weedon. The villains of the United Underworld were led by the psychotic Joker played by Alex Miles along with Zia Ferris as 'Poison Ivy', Kiki Blyth as 'Catwoman', Archie Browne as 'The Penguin' and Rob Clarke as 'The Riddler'. This cast of super villainous villains were intent on destroying not only Gotham City but also the world using their "awesome cool robot technology"; which took the form of Project X - better known around Blundell's as our own Horus Hung.

A live band consisting of Daniel Pert, Calum Moran, Bess Menheneott, Russell Fleming, Rob Sanders and Dylan Mitchell-Funk performed the soundtrack - the latter also starred as The Narrator.

However, it was not only the cast who performed spectacularly, but with the help of Mrs. Cordon and Mr. Winwood, Russell Fleming, Seth Richards and Ele Breitmeyer were able to produce some fantastic lighting states, sound effects and costumes.

The play helped to raise money for the charity *One*, an organisation which use all their profits to build roundabout powered PlayPumps in Africa. These roundabouts pump water out of the ground and up into large storage tanks harnessing the energy of the children at play. This means people in the villages don't have to travel for hours to get fresh water allowing children to get an education, while adults can tend to their crops and families.



Photographs by TD

# À LA CARTE

*(dans la 'tent')*



— *Menu* —

*Starter*

Roasted pine nuts, crispy bacon bits and a blueberry sauce served on fresh mixed salad

*Main*

Spit roasted beef with sautéed potatoes and seasonal veg

*Dessert*

Local cheeses

As is usual at Blundell's, the Autumn Term began at a terrific pace. Early one dewy Sunday morning in September the twelve School Monitors gathered outside Westlake, eager in anticipation as to what the infamous Mr. Guy was going to throw at us for our Leadership Training day. There had been a rumour that we were going to be marooned in the middle of Dartmoor with a champagne flute and a rusty teaspoon for twenty four hours, so we were pleasantly relieved when Mr. Chapman headed up the road towards Uplowman and the Battings' farm!

After an uncomfortable but mercifully brief trip across country in Mr. Guy's and Mr. Bowden's Land Rovers, we arrived in a far flung corner of Devon in which we were set to turn into our own little corner of paradise. A brief meeting to explain the plan, including the concept of the 'shovel-recce,' and we split up into groups to convert a few bits of wood, a WW2 parachute, a ball of string and a roll of hessian sacking into the camp.

We toiled tirelessly all day in the blazing September sunshine to create a veritable palace, complete with table and benches sunk into the ground, an archway entrance with garlands of flowers and Snow White canopy. We even found time to concoct a throne for Mrs. Batting (built in honour of her birthday from materials liberated by Mr. Guy!). Without the skilled feminine touch to make the decorations for the table, or the manly judgement and maximum torque to make the tables and benches, the evening would never have been as great!

As it happened to be Mrs. Batting's birthday, and somehow she had been persuaded to lend us a corner of their farm, it would have been rude to not invite her. So, the birthday girl and her party (Mr. Batting, Mr. and Mrs. Davenport and Mr. and Mrs. Thane) arrived about 7pm. An impressive carcass had been spit roasting nicely for a while, so we left this cooking to have champagne and a warm starter of lardons with a reduced blueberry and balsamic vinegar sauce, topped with roasted pine nuts and salad leaves. By candlelight we served the beef with seasoned potatoes and haricots verts, washed down with a few bottles of Lafite Rothschild and Rieussec. This was later followed by a drop or two of Port with the cheese.

After much lively badinage, the Head Master decided it was well past his bedtime, so he left with his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Thane, leaving us to fend for ourselves with the Battings for company. All in all, we had a fantastic 24 hours camping out in makeshift shelters, and were back in school in time for breakfast and a welcome shower! As always we only really appreciated the underlying team building and co-operation that we had learned when we thought about it later in the warmth and comfort of Westlake but it was undoubtedly a top start to our last year at Blundell's.

**James Evans U6 (Head Boy)**



# ED SAUNDERS

## New Director of Sport (September 2009)

### WHO HAS BEEN THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON IN YOUR LIFE?

My father.

### HOW WOULD YOUR TEACHERS DESCRIBE YOU WHEN YOU WERE AT PRIMARY/PREP SCHOOL?

Hyper active

### AFTER SCHOOL AT SEDBERGH AND WORKING IN SCOTLAND WILL YOU MISS THE COLD WEATHER?

About as much as I'll miss the long, dark nights...

### DID YOU KNOW WHERE TIVERTON WAS BEFORE YOUR INTERVIEW?

Having studied at St Luke's and taken many holidays in North Devon I'm familiar with Tiverton territory!

### WHAT KIND OF CAR DO YOU DRIVE? WHAT CAR WOULD YOU HAVE IF MONEY WERE NO OBJECT?

A very messy and old Mercedes estate – replete with Labrador hairs and crumbled breadsticks and sultanas courtesy of my son.

A clean one – I could afford to have someone valet it every week.

### RUGBY IS CLEARLY YOUR PASSION BUT DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR OTHER INTERESTS?

Fly fishing, gardening, surfing badly, skiing and snowboarding and indulging my wife, son and two dogs.

### IF YOU WERE 18 AGAIN NOW, DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE PURSUED A PROFESSIONAL RUGBY CAREER?

Yes, but I would have been disappointed in the outcome.

### CAN YOU COOK?

My wife would say that there is little evidence of this since we've been married but I can cook up a mean chilli and roast dinner. My speciality is sardines on toast...

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

A fishing rod and a boat.

### IF YOU COULD ONLY WATCH SKY GOLD, WHICH OLD PROGRAMMES WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Banana Splits, Cold Feet, and Extras

### HAVE YOU EVER WORKED ABROAD?

Yes...many different jobs while travelling including circus work in Australia.

### WHAT WOULD YOUR FAMILY SAY IS YOUR MOST ANNOYING HABIT?

Doing DIY... at random times.

### WINE OR BEER?

Either would be great.

### WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL HOLIDAY?

Following an Ashes or Lions Tour– with my wife and son in tow of course!

### WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SIT NEXT TO ON A LONG-HAUL FLIGHT?

Nelson Mandela for the conversation, Kylie Minogue for the aesthetics and elbow room.

### FAVOURITE MUSIC?

The Jam, Rolf Harris, AC/DC - all very different and also some of the 'modern' stuff my wife subjects me to.

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

There have been many which I can't share... . Most recently I dressed up as Iggle Piggle for a friend's daughters' party and instead of entertaining I managed to terrify a bunch of 3 years olds not amusing their mothers.



"...the ball is this shape"

# TEAM SUCCESS

## National Schools Equestrian Association JAS Intermediate Championships 2008

### by Emma Selby Yr 11 & Emily Wardle Yr 11

On the weekend of 29th and 30th of November 2008 the Blundell's equestrian team of Alexa Batting, Rupert Batting, Emily Wardle and Emma Selby travelled together, with dedicated parental support teams, to the far flung reaches of Eastern UK (Keysoe, Bedfordshire) to compete at the National Schools Equestrian Association Championships. The horses coped well with the 5 hour journey, and settled quickly into the stabling complex for the night. The entourage then relocated to plush lodgings in a Premier Inn. Fortunately, to everyone's relief, these lodgings were slightly more comfortable than those provided for the horses.

Next morning came very quickly after a convivial evening, and soon we were back at the stables, plaiting horses when our fingers weren't too numb from the minus 10 chill factor sweeping across the flat landscape. Mrs Batting inspected our (or our parents') attempts at plaiting and grooming and made alterations where necessary; not much gets past her. Alexa's horse was so keen to get started, she pushed her way out the stable and went for a quick warm up around the stabling area unaccompanied. Other competitors saw this rider-less horse with Blundell's emblazoned on the numnah careering past them (they probably thought we wouldn't be much competition – how wrong they were!). Once Cadi had finished her premature lap of honour, we all relocated to the main arenas to warm up the horses, or in Alexa's case calm hers down.

To begin with there was a 3ft warm up class consisting of just show jumps. In this, all the team rode well, with Emma, Emily & Rupert producing clear rounds. Our times weren't fast enough to be in the prizes, but Rupert came 10th and Emma 12th overall.

In the main indoor arena, the championship competition was designed to make sure the best team won. The team penalty scores were based on jumping faults, time over the cross country section and style of riding. It was an 'up to height' technical course of show jumping and cross country. There were narrow fences (just wide enough for a horse) situated off tight turns, filled in bounce fences, parallel oxers and of course all this technicality, mixed with the inevitable nervous adrenalin, forced errors for many competitors.

Throughout the competition many teams were eliminated. In fact, out of 17 teams that took part in the final, only 6 teams completed the competition. The Blundell's team finished on 12 jumping faults with time and style penalties to add. This was a consistent team performance by all, with only Emma Selby going clear. We knew we would be placed, but as no scores were published, we had to listen to the results as they were announced in reverse order. To hear "...in 1st place Blundell's School!" booming out over the loud speaker system was a moment we will remember for a very long time. The final scores demonstrated that we had won convincingly, with a 11 penalties lead over the 2nd placed team.



*To hear "...in 1st place Blundell's School" booming out over the loud speaker system was a moment we will remember for a very long time.*

In the prizegiving ceremony, we were awarded rosettes, medals, rugs for our horses and also the prize for best turned out team - we swept the board! Emma also came 2nd individually and so qualified for the individual Championships joining Rupert who had already qualified at the Millfield regionals. The team results were:

- 1st Blundell's (65 penalties)
- 2nd Farlington (76 penalties)
- 3rd Kings of Wessex (95 penalties)
- 4th Godolphin (99 penalties)
- 5th Kent College (106 penalties)
- 6th Cranleigh (111 penalties)

In the Individual Championship competition that followed, Rupert and Emma had to tackle another challenging course which tested accuracy, balance and speed for both horse

and rider. Both Rupert and Emma produced good rounds, with Emma gaining a superb clear. Rupert pushed for a faster round than in the team event but it cost him dear as he tipped a pole off a tight turn. Emma secured the much deserved impressive 3rd place overall, with Rupert in a creditable 10th place.

We went to this competition thrilled to have qualified at the regionals ahead of Millfield, Bryanston, Stonar and other impressive equestrian schools. We never thought we would return home as National Schools Equestrian Champions. We would like to thank all those involved in preparing us for this event; our brilliant Team Trainer Sarah Harrison, who is always very quick to put us right, but fortunately quicker to praise, Mrs B for organising it all, the Blundell's ODE committee for funding the entry fees, but most of all, our parents for supporting us and getting us there so we could do the rest!

## Inter-Schools One Day Event Championships

*Stonar School, Wiltshire Sat 27th Sept 2008*

Rupert Batting, Sophie Birchmore, Emily Mayes and Emma Selby put on a true team performance at Championship Intermediate Level, with all four completing the challenging three phases of the One Day Event without difficulty.

The day started well with impressive Dressage performances from Rupert and Emma, even though the fog was so thick it was difficult to see! Sophie's horse wasn't particularly obliging when asked to remain calm during the dressage as he much prefers jumping. To add to the pressure, this was Emily's first ODE on her new horse, putting on a solid performance in the Dressage also.

The show jumping proved straightforward, with Rupert, Emma and Sophie gaining 3 clear rounds over a track that caused difficulty for many others. The most challenging phase was the Cross-Country, but as brave riding is the Blundellians forte, all 4 team members went clear, this was wonderful to see and a testament to their riding skills.

Rupert and Emma finished on their dressage score with no penalties to add. This is unusual at such a high level of competition.

A consistent performance by the team as a whole, with Rupert 1st and Emma gaining 11th place, secured an impressive 5th place out of 21 teams that started including Eton, Stonar, Millfield, Cheltenham, Marlborough to name a few. Blundell's flew the flag for the Westcountry, securing the highest position of schools in the region; it was a very proud moment indeed. They competed against the best schools in the country to secure 5th place, whilst Rupert, the youngest member of the team, lead the way by winning his section.

The Blundell's team would like to thank their team instructor, Sarah Harrison for all her guidance and commitment.

It goes without saying that they took Stonar by storm!

**Intermediate Team results:** 1st Cheltenham, 2nd Cranleigh, 3rd Stonar, 4th Haberdashers', 5th Blundell's, 6th St Mary's Shaftesbury.



After an agonising wait for the final few section scores, it became clear that Rupert had won individually, the first Blundellian ever to win the ODE UK Championships.





*The school fireworks display this year, organised by SH as usual, raised money for Pudsey Bear's Children In Need charity.*

# Bonfire night

In perfect bonfire weather the whole boarding community gathered above the ten-acre field for our annual fireworks display. Our old friend Mr Keane, still with that mischievous glint in his eye, had organised the pyrotechnic entertainment and it was as spectacular as ever; most of Tiverton must have enjoyed the show as well. There was the usual interest in seeing just how long SH's Guy Fawkes would survive the conflagration with this year's effort showing a decent level of fortitude.

Thanks must go to Mrs Brigden and Mr Deighton-Gibson for slaving away behind the BBQ to keep both pupils and parents alike well fed and watered – a good evening was had by all and it was most unfortunate that much of the daily prep-time had been lost !



# VOLUNTEERING

by Henrietta Mills Yr 12

*-choosing to care*



As Blundellians, we lead highly privileged lives and have a wealth of opportunities available to us. Within the extensive Activities Programme we have a spectrum of relaxing, challenging, intellectually stimulating and indeed obscure options to choose from, ranging from archery and cookery to yoga and self-defence. One such option is 'Community Volunteering'.

This volunteering is a scheme organised by Mrs Griffiths through which Blundellians are encouraged to reflect on their advantaged lives and to try to give something back to the community. In opting to take part, pupils sign up to a programme of two halves; visiting the residents of St George's House nursing home in Tiverton every Monday for one half of the term and aiding the staff of Blundell's pre-prep for the other half. At St George's, the predominantly female residents are hugely appreciative of company and external conversation and are keen to chat about anything from the weather to ballet and politics. A particular character is Edith, an Oxford graduate and avid Scrabble fan; her only complaint is that none of the other ladies will play with her and so, week in week out, Blundellians try their luck but, as yet, to no avail - Edith remains unbeaten!

Meanwhile, at the pre-prep, children ranging in age from three to seven revel in the visits of 'the big girls and boys' and much as we may try to disguise it, the positive feeling is mutual. We secretly love having the opportunity to relive our infancy and play in the sandpit or make play-dough sculptures. After an hour, we leave feeling happily drained having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves with the sweet, albeit rather hyperactive children; were we really like that all those years ago? We also fully appreciate how the full-time staff must have the patience of saints.

Blundellians who take part in this activity, whether as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme or simply for that fulfilling feeling of having done something good, comment without exception that it is both a highly worthwhile and enjoyable experience.



Design Technology

Photography

Art

# leading edge

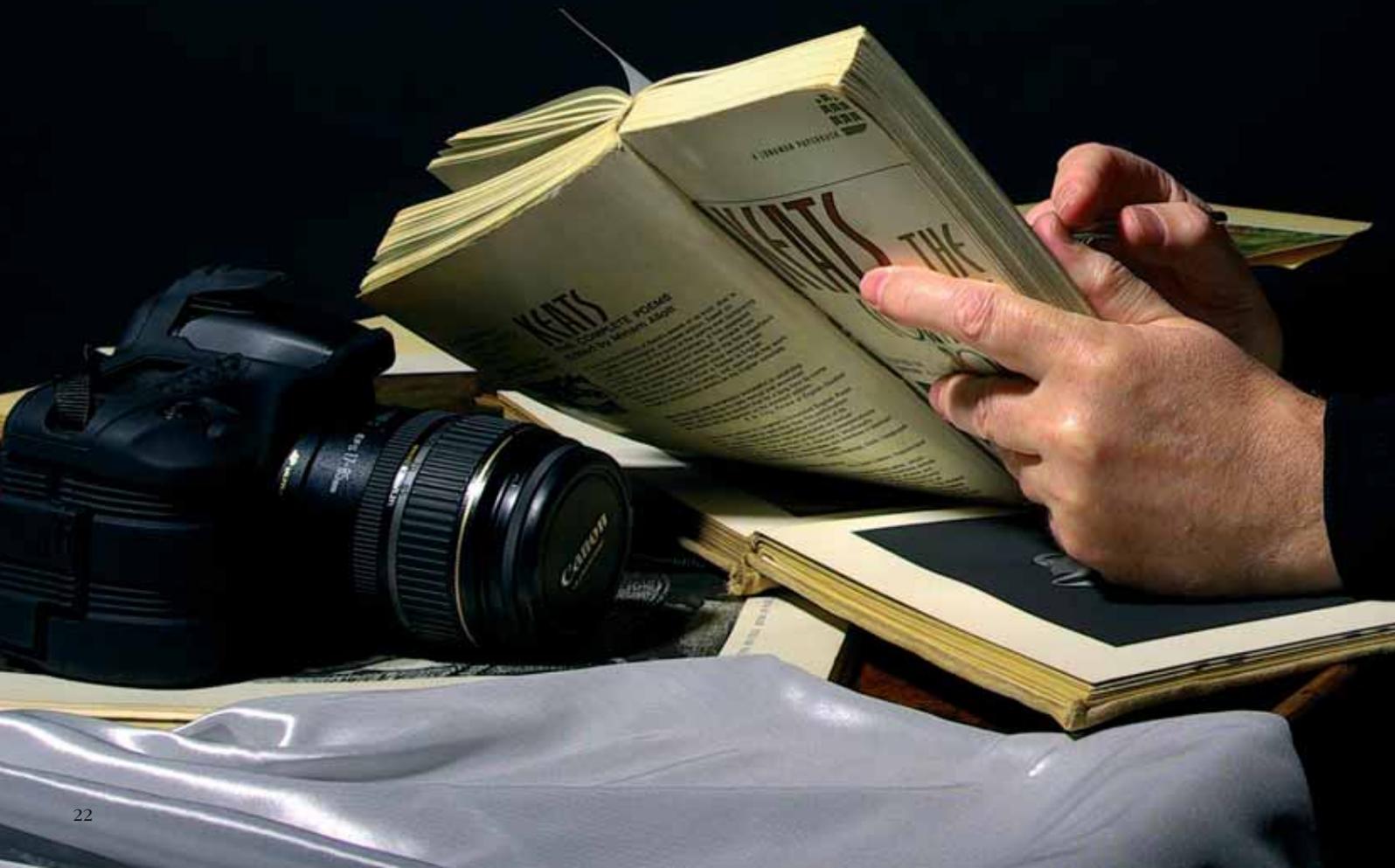


This term, we have been studying Jackson Pollock, an artist born in 1912, who died in 1956 whilst drink driving. His older brother was a painter, and Jackson constantly felt in the shadow of him. Jackson began to study painting in 1929 at the Art Students League in New York, where he was taught and inspired by Thomas Hart Benton, who at the time was under influence from Mexican muralist painters and certain aspects of surrealism. Between 1938 and 1942 he worked for the Federal Art Project. In the mid 40s he became an abstract-expressionist, he used no brushes, instead, he used knives, trowels and sticks to create his famous drip paintings.

Firstly, we looked at some of Jackson Pollock's earlier works, and we copied them out in water colour on A4. We then did a final copy of this on a large A2 canvas, which we did in acrylic. We also drew to music to try and use Pollock's techniques as much as possible.

All of this was working up to doing a big class canvas project, which was to make a big drip painting to hang behind the Head Master's table in the dining room. We used sticks instead of brushes as well. We had a lot of fun doing this project.

**Flora Zajicek Yr 9**



My photographs are part of a series of work inspired by the Italian painter Caravaggio (1571-1610). Caravaggio was considered the first great representative of the Baroque school of painting. His paintings typically feature dramatic lighting and tonal range as well as strong contrast.

Mr. Dyke was posed in a period setting reminiscent of a painting of St Jerome. With him in the photograph are three of his personal possessions which I feel add a personal touch to the image.

Besides Mr. Dyke, Elliot Prior and Alex Miles also featured in the series of photographs.

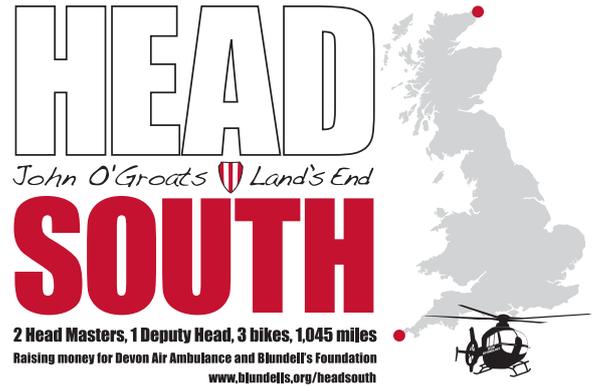
I feel I have accomplished my aim to take a photograph of my own interpretation of the work of Caravaggio, in particular St. Jerome. My work on Caravaggio is due to be exhibited in the near future.

**Alistair Strong U6**

## PRO CATCH

Sam Smith is aiming to catch himself an A level this summer with his innovative 'catching machine' that he has cleverly named 'PRO CATCH'. Sam, a keen cricketer, recognised the importance of practicing catching as much as batting and so has taken the bowling machine concept one stage further. To this end he has designed a modern 'catching cradle' that utilises the existing bowling machine head to provide a steady flow of deliveries to a field of players that is random and erratic. This simulates the exact situation that a fielder faces when a batsman strikes the ball and aids reaction time and consistency of catching which should make for a better performance in matches. His product is all but complete and early trials have been extremely successful with different heights, speeds and trajectories obtained from each delivery which is excellent. The welded and sprayed metal framework looks and feels very professional and represents a truly commercial product of the future. Sam is in contact with some very influential cricketers and clubs to promote his product so watch this space.





**Be Part of Something Special – Cycling the length of Great Britain is no doubt one of the most taxing cycle rides in Britain and probably one of the most fulfilling experiences someone can achieve. This coming July the Senior School Head, Ian Davenport, Nick Folland, the Blundell’s Prep Head Master and Richard Cross, the Deputy Head, will be undertaking this challenge in a unique partnership with Devon Air Ambulance.**

Cycling from Land’s End to John O’Groats, is the furthest possible distance on the British Isles. It is a challenge which takes in many beautiful parts of Britain, including many of the mountains and lochs of Scotland. The route then skims the Lake District, travels down through Wales and across Dartmoor, finishing on the tip of Cornwall; over 1000 miles in just 13 days. Although it is a demanding and tough challenge, is there a better way to raise money for Devon Air Ambulance and some key projects identified by the pupils themselves for the Junior and Senior Schools.

The Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) is the charity which raises the funds to keep Devon’s two Air Ambulances airborne. This costs in excess of £3.5 million each year. Being independent from government funding, and not eligible for Lottery funding, it means that each and every penny of this sum must be raised by the community, businesses and friends of Devon. The charity’s mission statement is ‘To relieve sickness and injury in the county of Devon by assisting in the provision of an Air Ambulance service.’

Caroline Creer, Fundraising Director at Devon Air Ambulance Trust said “We would like to thank Blundell’s for their support of the charity and for choosing us as co-beneficiary for all of their hard work in this event. Without the support of people like them we would not be able to continue to further develop this essential life saving service. We ask everyone to support this event as generously as they can.”

**What’s it for?**

All money raised will be split equally between DAAT and Blundell’s School. The funds will be used to support the newly acquired Devon Air Ambulance helicopter, and at the Blundell’s

senior school to support the restoration of the Fives court and the additional provision of laptops for the Science Department; at the Prep School we hope to provide a covered play area, together with playground recreational equipment.

**Our Participants said**

The Head Master Ian Davenport said “Bob Monkhouse once said “Growing old is compulsory, but growing up is optional”. I followed his advice when I agreed to cycle from John O’Groats to Land’s End because it allows me to support the Devon Air Ambulance Trust, and also raise some funds for a couple of additional projects such as the Fives Court restoration at school.”

Nick Folland Head Master of the Prep School said “One of my heroes was cricketing legend David Gower. I had the great pleasure of playing against him several times and I was always disappointed when he was out! When asked about his gift for batting he replied that it was actually “hard work making batting look effortless.” I already realise that John O’Groats to Lands End will be hard work and I also know that I will not be making it look effortless! I look forward to finishing, hopefully being able to enjoy some of it, and raising money for two great causes - Devon Air Ambulance and our School.”

Richard Cross, Prep School Deputy Head said “I have always been a keen cyclist and many years ago cycled from the English Channel across France to the Mediterranean. John O’Groats to Lands End is a greater challenge – 200 miles longer and I’m 15 years older! The greatest challenge though will be to raise a lot of money to support the Devon Air Ambulance and the pupils of Blundell’s School.”

“...WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE LIKE THEM WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO FURTHER DEVELOP THIS ESSENTIAL LIFE SAVING SERVICE....”



*The Devon Air Ambulance in action at Blundell's*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Make a donation

Your donations for Devon Air Ambulance and Blundell's School will go a long way towards enabling us to support the identified projects. Without your support much of the essential work of the Devon Air Ambulance and the additional projects at the School would not happen.

You can support our project in the following ways:

Ask your friends and family to help. If every family across Blundell's School was able to raise £10 we would raise over £8,000 towards the work of Devon Air Ambulance and additional projects that the children will benefit from next summer.

Make a cheque payable to Blundell's Foundation, write Head South Cycle Ride on the back and post it to Amber Oliver, Development Director, Development Office, Blundell's Road, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 4DT, or drop them into either the Prep or Senior School offices. All money collected will be divided equally between Devon Air Ambulance Trust and the Blundell's Foundation.

At the time of going to Press, we are very grateful for the support of the following sponsors:

Egret  
Flybe  
Island Sports  
Mediwest Ltd  
Merchant Inns  
Nadolski Ltd  
Robin Porch  
West Country Windows  
Westford Mechanical

### Giving by cheque - gift aid

Don't forget gift aid! If you make a donation we can increase it by 28%. Here is how it works: the Government does not want to tax you on money you are giving to a good cause, so for every £1 you give, providing you are a UK taxpayer, we get an extra 28p direct from the Treasury.

All you have to do is complete the declaration on the sponsor form, filling in your name and address, and ticking the Gift Aid box and attach it to your donation. Please, please help us maximise your support, it does make a huge difference.

**By Fax** – Using a donation form which can be downloaded from our website at both schools. Fill out this form, the form can then be printed and faxed to 01884 243262

**On line** - We have a link set up to Every Click Charity; select our charity. Credit cards are processed securely and quickly using Every Click. At no time are your details stored on an unsecure web server or transmitted without the maximum level of encryption and security applied.

“BLUNDELL'S IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE DEVON COMMUNITY AND IF THERE IS ONE SERVICE THAT PROVIDES AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO THAT COMMUNITY IT IS THE DEVON AIR AMBULANCE, SO I APPLAUD THIS INITIATIVE TO RAISE MONEY FOR SUCH A WORTHWHILE CAUSE”. **David Fursdon** Chairman of Governors

As usual the school year got off to an energetic start with the annual musical, this year Roger and Hammerstein's first musical Oklahoma!

The musical Oklahoma! Tells the story of the romance between cowboy Curly McLain (Ben Oddy) and farm-girl Laurey Williams (Briony Deuchar), set in Oklahoma territory in 1906, it also follows the flirtatious Ado Annie (Emily Turner) and her fiancé Will Parker (Julian Strong).

For the third year Briony took the lead, and as ever the audience was stunned by both her voice and acting, however also memorable was Alex's performance as sinister farm hand Jud Fry, which reduced a young audience member to tears; and Emily's comic role.

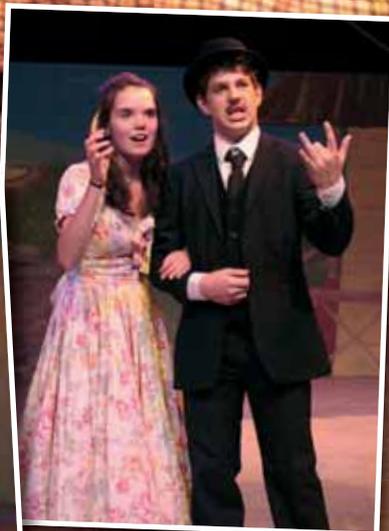
Two solid days before term had started, and week of evening rehearsals again worked their magic and the three performances were memorable both for the content, and enthusiasm that the cast as a whole demonstrated. Thanks must go, as ever, to Miss Symonds and Mr Barlow for the hours of work that went into both putting on and pulling off such an achievement.



*...the three performances were memorable both for the content, and enthusiasm that the cast as a whole demonstrate.*

# Oklahoma!

By Rosamund Harpur Yr 12





## U16 Rugby by Will McBarnet Yr 12

“...EVERY MEMBER OF THE SQUAD CAN BE PROUD OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION.”

Autumn 2008 has seen the U16 rugby team produce one of the most successful seasons that Blundell's has witnessed of late (apologies to the unbeaten U15s, but we featured them last year!); running in a fantastic nine wins from ten games; the squad only lost to an exceptional Millfield side (last year's Daily Mail losing finalists) by a handful of points. Mr Thomas, the Senior Colts' coach, attributes much of their success to the impressive work ethic the boys themselves have fostered and sheer tenacity when faced with a tight game situation. It is always invidious to select individuals in a sport with such a strong team ethic; Mr Thomas truly believes that in this season every member of the squad can be proud of their contribution. It is worth mentioning though that Blundell's continues to produce and cultivate special sporting talent and members of the U16 team are testament to this. Jack Lilly D'Cruz and Will Yard both received invitations to play for the South West in a prestigious tournament including the likes of Munster, Leinster and Ospreys. The future looks bright for Blundell's rugby with regard to the up and coming fifteen aside season at first team level.



Although without a big front five, the team saw huge improvement over the course of the term; playing to their strengths, the pack was extremely mobile and frequently trumped the opposition in terms of fitness. The back row consisting of Richard Paxton, Barney Goss and Jack Lilly D'Cruz arguably lay claim to being the best trio on the circuit. With such an impressive season, one may assume that this was purely the product of consistent hard graft and Mr Thomas's legendary fitness sessions, which to an extent it was, but not without a few laughs on the way. Mr Thomas jokes that there were a few funny moments throughout the term, but cites Guy Clatworthy as the man who most frequently provided some form of entertainment; maintaining his sense of humour and lighting up even the darkest and wettest training sessions! A fantastic season and a team Blundell's is very proud of. Well done!



# Rising STARS

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



Article by Christian Gare Yr 11

## TRISTAN EVANS – 'IMPROV-DRUMMER EXTRAORDINAIRE'



Tristan is a remarkable young man; he is fourteen years old and already has the drumming qualifications of a professional. Both the House Music Competition and the recent Rock Concert really showed us what he is capable of.

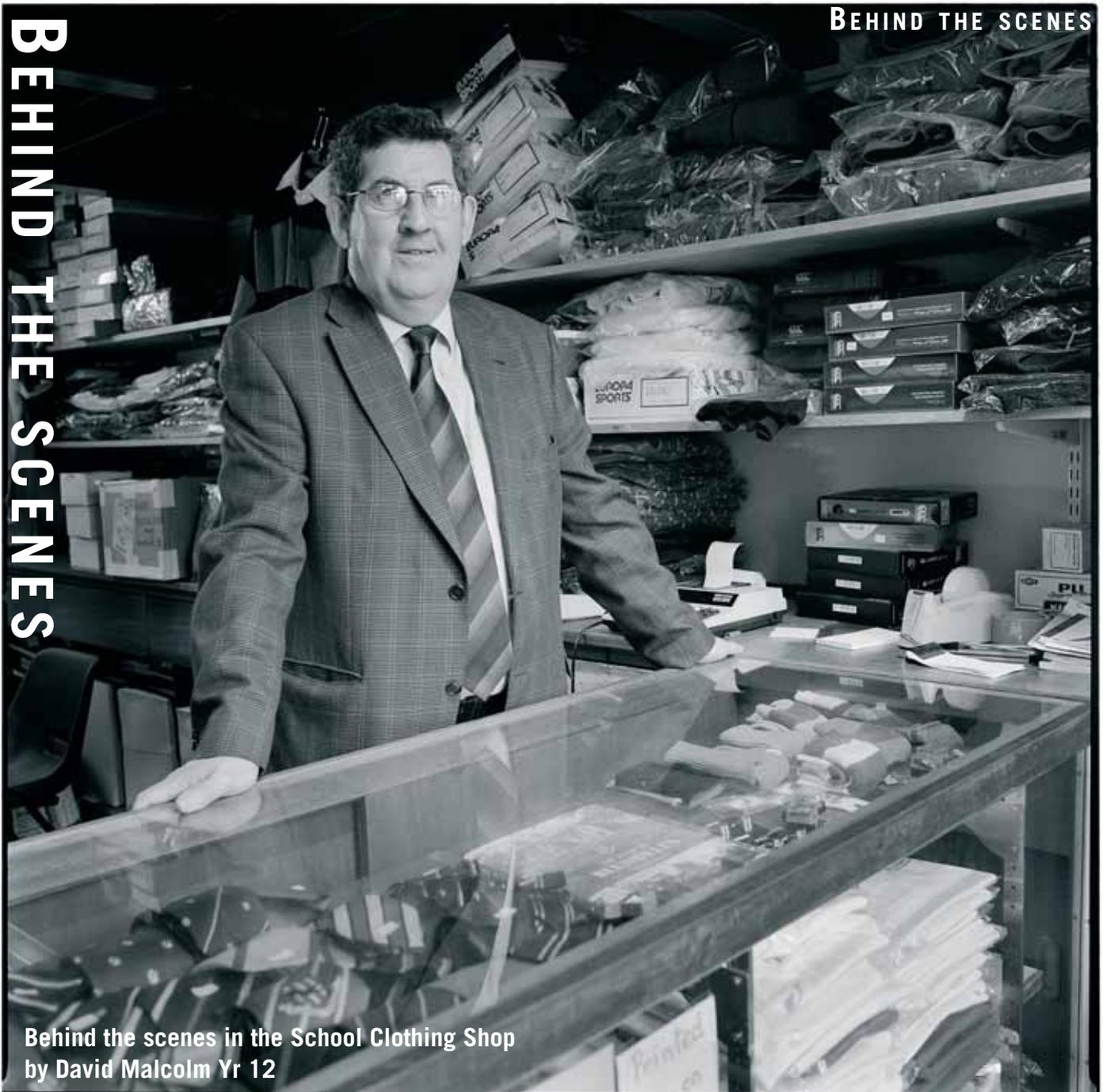
Tristan is a pro-active person, and when he was younger, this really proved a problem because he felt like he had nothing occupy him. His parents bravely solved this problem with a drum kit, replacing hyperactivity with hyper-noise. Tristan instantly fell in love with the drums and has been playing them ever since, practising over 4 hours a day and whenever else he can. In six short years he has gone from beginner grades to masters which are achieved just after you have finished Grade 8 in any instrument.

Tristan is an 'improv-drummer' and although he enjoys playing the drums he doesn't just play them for fun, he has a dream. He wants to make a massive impact on the music business, by reversing the current on-stage band scene. He wants to bring the drums from the back of the stage and launch them to the front where according to Tristan, they belong. He believes that with his style of playing and his incredible capabilities he can do this.

This for Tristan is becoming less and less of a dream and more of a reality every day, because he currently plays in a band called Malicious, and they are already a huge hit.

I am one of the many people who have the chance to hear Tristan play regularly and there is no doubt in my mind that he is immensely talented and is destined for huge success.





Behind the scenes in the School Clothing Shop  
by David Malcolm Yr 12

Photograph by Andrew Nadolski

Though I am sure that nearly all of us have visited the school shop at some time and wondered at the oasis of calm efficiency that it represents, many may have failed to appreciate how difficult it is to run such an operation. One increasingly tricky modern day factor is trying to keep up with the ever-changing fashions within sports clothing and equipment. We can all therefore be thankful to Mr Webber, the man behind it all who has been running the shop on his own for sixteen years.

Mr Webber has lived in Tiverton all his life and he has borne witness to many changes over the years. Before coming to work at Blundell's, Mr Webber worked as a salesman at a local outfitter and remembers the school when girls attended only in the sixth form. Yet despite the changes in the school itself, he remarks that the pupils have always been very respectful and have in many cases proved less troublesome than the parents.

One of the more obvious and most recognisable items, which he notes has not changed over the years, is the brown jacket. OBs will all know that their historical nickname is not too flattering but it seems we won't be seeing a change in the immediate future. The cloth has to be specially ordered from Yorkshire five years in advance and it would be a brave Head Master who brought about the end of the patched elbows and distinctive brown jackets. Love them or hate them they seem likely to be around for some time yet.

We were, of course, all terribly upset about Mr Webber's prolonged absence from the school due to ill health and, as so often happens, only then did we realise just how integral a part he played in school life. However we are glad to have him back and to hear how incredibly supportive he felt the whole Blundell's community had been. We look forward to his continued presence as a much appreciated figure within school life.

# India EXPEDITION



**This July a team of adventurous Blundellians will be trekking through the Himalayan mountains of Ladakh, north India. In doing so they will be passing some of the poorest and most remote villages in the world and one of the main aims of the expedition is to deliver much needed clothes, books and toys direct to the people who need them.**

The fundraising for such an ambitious trip is considerable and having been commissioned to create caricatures of the School's staff rugby coaches for Norman Ridgway's leaving gift it seemed a good opportunity to make saleable prints of the finished piece. This is limited to an edition of 50 prints, £20 each unframed. Individual caricatures of the staff are also available and further commissions will be considered. The money raised will go towards the expedition medical kit and a financial donation to the monastery school at Phugtal Gomba, the final destination of our month-long trek. Please contact RDJ Matthew, Art Department or at [rdjm@blundells.org](mailto:rdjm@blundells.org) for further information on purchasing a print or making a donation (children's clothes etc.).

AJG, TRW, PIC, DJS, BMM, BW  
AJDG, IRC, NAF, HGT, PAT, LM, Kyle, NJR  
JN, DR, RJH, CLLG, JWB, CRJ, JTB, JGP, CMH



## Old Blundellian Club



# OLD BLUNDELLIAN CLUB CHANGES

At an Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday 6th December it was decided not to produce a Newsletter, instead to include important announcements and news in the twice yearly Blundell's Diary. Material that would previously have gone into the Newsletter will be published on the Old Blundellian website ([www.obclub.co.uk](http://www.obclub.co.uk)). Please continue to send in notifications of Births, Marriages and Deaths to the Colin Beale Centre



Paul Waterworth

Not all of you will know that Judge Paul Waterworth (NC 1958-62) took over as Chairman of the Old Blundellian Club in June 2008. Paul is interested in hearing from any OBs about any subject. He is moving from the Midlands to Devon in January, when he becomes a Judge on the South Western Circuit.



Janet Wooff

Sophie Stevens served the OB Club well for 4 years as Administrator and we wish her well in her new job. Janet Wooff (née Frankpitt GH 1980-82) took over in July 2008 and is based in the Colin Beale Centre on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Ted Crowe is impossible to replace, but the Committee has appointed Paddy Armstrong as the new Honorary Secretary of the Old Blundellian Club. He will continue to work for Blundell's as he has done for the last 41 years, but will have significant time to give to the Old Blundellian Club.



Paddy Armstrong

It is intended to begin Ted Crowe Scholarships at Blundell's beginning in September 2009. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the Fund. Will anybody with archival material about Ted that is not needed, please send it to the Colin Beale Centre, as it is intended to produce either a permanent archive or a publication to perpetuate Ted's memory.

Following last years' successful Old Blundellian Dinner in Bristol, Frank Akerman has volunteered to organise the 2009 Dinner on Friday September 25th at Hampshire County Cricket Clubs ground; the Rose Bowl, Southampton. If you would like to attend or are prepared to raise a table of 10, please contact Frank at [fakerman@doctors.org.uk](mailto:fakerman@doctors.org.uk) or 01794513981, or David d'Arcy Hughes on 01962856243. Further details will be available, in due course, on the OB website. A final decision about viability will be made in April.

### Old Blundellian Club Contact Details

#### Colin Beale Centre

Email [admin@obclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@obclub.co.uk)  
Phone 01884-232010  
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Blundell's School  
Tiverton EX16 4DT

#### Paddy Armstrong:

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6 Tidcombe Lane  
Tiverton EX16 4DZ

#### Fives: Alex Rew:

Email [alex.rew@btinternet.com](mailto:alex.rew@btinternet.com)

#### Tennis: Charlie Hamilton:

Email [cmh@blundells.org](mailto:cmh@blundells.org)  
Phone 01884-232362

## OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY 2009

Old Blundellian Day 2009 will take place at Blundell's on Saturday 20th June, with various sporting competitions with the School on Sunday 21st June.

**The theme for Saturday 20th June is 30 Years of Girls at Blundell's.**

The Club is hoping for an excellent turnout of Old Boys and spouses, as well as large numbers of Old Girls. We have a record of about 800 Old Girls and hope that they will get tables of 8 together for lunch. The Day will be family friendly and we hope Old Girls will bring spouses, partners, boyfriends and children to their Alma Mater for the Day. There will be a crèche and, possibly, a children's entertainer if there is a requirement.

A very distinguished Old Blundellian, Lt Commander Katharine Rackham (née Babbington GH 1990-92) has agreed to be President for the Day.

Katharine was Head of School and took part in many sporting activities at Blundell's, including tennis and netball. She became the first woman to win the Queen's Sword, presented annually to the best officer cadet at the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth.



*Katharine and Anthony arrive at the 2004 Ball  
Top right: Katharine receives the Queen's Sword  
Right: Receiving the GSM from her father*



Katharine has served as a Warfare Officer at sea and is shown receiving the General Service Medal from her father, Colonel Babbington R.M. on board HMS Glasgow off Freetown, Sierra Leone. Katharine married Lt Commander Tony Rackham and they have two children, Harry aged 5 and Angus aged 2.

Sheila Taylor (née Pinches GH 1980-82) has been invited to read the lesson and the Preacher will be Revd Anna Norman-Walker, presently Vicar of St Mary's, Willand.

## OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY - SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2009

- 10.00 am** AGM of the Old Blundellian Club in the Colin Beale Centre
- 11.00 am** Service in the School Chapel
- 12.00 noon** Drinks Party at the Colin Beale Centre for Old Blundellians, invited guests, the Head Master and Staff
- 1.00 pm** Buffet Lunch
- 2.30 pm** Shooting  
Cricket versus Clifton on Big Field and Mayfield
- 4.00 pm** Tea in the Colin Beale Centre

Tickets for the Day including pre-lunch Drinks, lunch and tea are £20 per head. To facilitate catering, bookings must be made before 10th June. Tickets are available from Paddy Armstrong at the Colin Beale Centre.

### Sunday 21st June 2009

- 9.30 am** Holy Communion in the School Chapel
- 1.00 pm** Buffet Lunch in the Colin Beale Centre (cost £10. Bookings must be made before 10th June)
- 2.30 pm** Tennis and Fives with the School
- 4.00 pm** Tea in the Colin Beale Centre



*OBs and guests  
enjoying lunch in  
the marquee*



*OBs outside Chapel  
Left: Michael Mates  
with Charles Noon and  
Leigh Menhennet*

## THE OLD BLUNDELLIAN CRICKET CLUB IN 2008



Big Field at Blundell's, with the Colin Beale Centre in the background

The OBCC exists to carry on the activities of a cricket club for OBs and promote and support interest in, and the playing of, cricket at the School. The Club was formed by Ted Crowe in 1951 and he ran it in his inimitable style until his death at the end of January 2008. Transitional arrangements were rapidly put in place, with Steering Committees respectively formed to run the Club and its cricket programme, and the OBCC Box at the County Ground at Taunton.

### The Ted Crowe Memorial Match at Lynton

As a special tribute, our traditional Ondaatje Match between the OBCC and Lynton & Lynmouth CC was designated as a Memorial Game for Ted Crowe (it will revert to being the Ondaatje match in 2009). John Freeman kindly managed the OBCC side, which comprised all OBs or current Blundellians.

It is always a privilege to play on the beautiful ground at Valley of the Rocks, and we were fortunate to enjoy a beautiful September day and some splendid hospitality. The OBs proved too strong on this occasion for the home side, which was stretched by having to field a team also in a cup final at Braunton. As a result, the magnificent Glenthorne Cup returns to Tiverton!



Lynton and Lynmouth CC



The OBCC party at Lynton for the Ted Crowe Memorial Match in September

### 14th September at The Valley of The Rocks

OBCC 223-7 dec (S. Smith 59, A. Giles 53, R Pugsley 31\*)  
Lynton & Lynmouth CC 70 (H. Folland 4-7, R. Pugsley 3-29)  
Won by 153 runs

### THE TED CROWE ROOM AT THE COUNTY GROUND AT TAUNTON

At the beginning of the season, the OBCC Box at Somerset CCC was renamed "The Ted Crowe Room", which tribute was on the initiative of Sir Christopher Ondaatje (whose remarkable generosity created the Box nearly 20 years ago).

Membership of the Crowe Room is open to all members of the Old Blundellian Club and, by invitation, to others. By the end of the season, there were 85 paid up members. There were over 50 days of 1st XI cricket at the County Ground in 2008 and the Crowe Room was open for the vast majority of them.

#### Membership

John Drewett (Room Treasurer)  
Park Mount, Castle Cary,  
Somerset BA7 7EP  
Telephone: 01963 350309

#### To book in

David Dobson (Room Co-ordinator)  
Tremanis, Poughill, Bude,  
Cornwall EX23 9ET  
Telephone: 01288 353366  
E-mail: [dobsond@gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:dobsond@gotadsl.co.uk)

The remainder of Chad Murrin's excellent report is available on the OB Club website, together with more details about the Ted Crowe Room.

## OLD BLUNDELLIAN MELBOURNE DINNER

On Saturday November 8th, 25 Old Blundellians and partners met in Melbourne for dinner. The event was extremely well organised by Simon Carrel (W 1964-67), who built on the success of the dinner he organised in Perth last year.

A mixture of young and old got on very well, reinforced by excellent food and wine. Grace was said by Nigel Creese (W 1940-45), Simon Carrel thanked guests for coming and Paddy Armstrong delivered a few words on behalf of the Head Master who, sadly, had not been able to attend because of a bereavement.

Remarkably, Simon is keen to organise next year's Blundell's dinner in Sydney and the Head Master has promised to attend. The date will be circulated in the New Year – we hope to see as many of you as possible.



*OBs enjoying dinner in Melbourne*



## with HONOUR

**Captain E.D. Bellew, Blundell's only V.C.  
(North Close 1894-96).**



*Tim and Alan in Ypres*

Bellew won his Victoria Cross in the first German gas attack on 24th April 1915, when machine-gun officer of the 7th Battalion Canadian Infantry (British Columbia Regiment).

A bronze plaque commemorating his bravery and his V.C. was unveiled by the Regiment at Vancouver Corner on the Ypres Salient on Monday, 8th September 2008. The event was attended by Major Alan Fradgley M.B.E. and Lieutenant Colonel Tim Courtenay O.B.E., D.L., both Old Blundellians, who laid a wreath on behalf of Blundell's School, and presented a plaque to the Regiment.

## CLUB DATABASE

There are now 1,440 Old Blundellians registered on the electronic database and therefore in a position to amend their own records, as well as looking for contact details of other Old Blundellians.

Sensitive information, such as an address, has to be password protected and all Old Blundellians are encouraged to register online at [www.obclub.co.uk](http://www.obclub.co.uk) and click on Blundell's Reunited.

## EVENTS

Details of other Old Blundellian matches/events, such as cricket, rugby, golf, squash and a possible dinner in Hampshire in Sept/October will be published on the Old Blundellian website as soon as they are available ([www.obclub.co.uk](http://www.obclub.co.uk)).

The next Diary edition will include further Old Blundellian articles, a report on Old Blundellian Day and a tribute to David Hay (P 1944-49), together with advance notice of matches/events.

# SPORT

THE SCIENCE OF

Rupert Allhusen (FH 1993-98)



Rupert Allhusen

After leaving Blundell's I headed to London and university for the first time with two plans; one to play rugby and, secondly, to study Sports Science. Sports Science has in many eyes been seen as the subject sportsmen and women do when they can't find anything else to do and I was, in part, in agreement. But on arriving for lecture one I was surrounded by top class athletes, many of whom have now represented one of the home unions on the rugby field, been to the Olympics or, more importantly for Sports Science, pushed the boundaries of sports performance.

After teaching A Level Sports Science for four years at St Benedict's, a public school in West London, where I became Head of Department, I decided to move back to full time education and investigate the world of Sports Science further, and so started a course in Sports Medicine at Oxford University. This gave me an opportunity to be at the front of a rapidly changing world, developing athletes for the international stage. Oxford is lucky enough to have world leaders in sports nutrition and sports cardio research as well as physiology and genetics. Much of their research has changed the way athletes train and in the future will radically alter the way athletes approach competition. This is a result of the growing understanding of the genes that either promote or inhibit muscle growth, neural function, blood function and hormone control. Much of this centres on synthetic systems already in place in the world of sport that have involved the banning of Tour de France riders, swimmers and athletes. It also helps us to understand how other athletes in the past have been so dominant in eras when the science of testing has been way behind the laboratories producing the synthetic treatments.

Some of the most interesting research surrounds sports nutrition and the wide range of supplements that can be bought on the UK market, many of which I have taken during my rugby career, and I'm sure many Blundellians have too. It is, of course, always important to read the label as 15% of supplements available on the market contain International Olympic Committee banned substances and rely on research carried out in the 1960's! So, all aspiring Olympians, be careful what you take on board!

Sports Science offers a wide range of different careers and future opportunities in a rapidly developing and exciting sporting world. The large numbers of professional sports all require sports lawyers, physiotherapists, marketing teams, analysis specialists, doctors, biomechanists and conditioning experts, all of whom require a good grounding in Sports Science. The majority of these occupations are professionals at the top of their fields, and as a result they are well rewarded for that!

During my year at Oxford I was lucky enough to be involved in the Blues Rugby club, playing many of the top sides in the UK in preparation for the annual varsity match. Sports Science played a key role in this, with many of the university's professors playing a role up to the big day at Twickenham, developing training programmes, aiding recovery, rehabilitation and the day to day nutrition and psychology. Although the result against Cambridge didn't go Oxford's way, the history and post match entertainment was excellent and it was a privilege to play with the great Australian Joe Roff in his last game in an illustrious rugby career, captaining Oxford and literally hanging up his boots in the changing room!



Technically perfect

Sports Science plays a very important role in the national economy, generating an estimated £3 billion a year, contributing to a huge number of different areas. If you are interested in sport and the science behind it then there are a wide variety of careers and employment opportunities available in a rapidly expanding industry.



Shall I take the conversion or will you?

# FULL CIRCLE



Roof top O.P. observation post  
- Hong Kong Sevens 1991

*“I yearned for a bit of adventure and decided I needed to do something completely different”*



Charlie's passport photograph circa 1992

“I even found time to nurture what I now know was a ridiculous moustache!”



Riot training 1991

**Traffic Patrol  
- Hong Kong Island 1992**



## Having left OH in 1982, Charlie Hamilton returned to Blundell's in 2001 and he has recently taken over the helm of FH, former boarding house of four of his cousins. He answers questions from the Foundation about his career prior to teaching.

### How did you come to choose the Royal Hong Kong Police?

With the demise of the Berlin wall in 1989, the end of the 'Cold War' looming and cutbacks in the Ministry of Defence it looked like the nature of the job I was doing in the Directorate of Military Survey was going to change. I yearned for a bit of adventure and decided I needed to do something completely different while I was still relatively young, and before I was embroiled in the grip of mortgages, marriage and the need to get a career underway (all daunting prospects!). I had long held an interest in the Police Force, but was told at 16 I was too short for the Met. Around this time I spoke to an old family friend and in the course of the discussion I learned that on his 19th birthday he parachuted into Arnhem with 30lbs of explosive strapped to his leg, a map and instructions to blow up a bridge. I found this tale somewhat humbling. I didn't think I had much to tell any grandchildren I might eventually have, so resolved to chuck in my job and go overseas. I was born in the South Pacific, where my Father was in the Colonial Service, and generations of Hamiltons before had served in various colonial outposts (India, Malaya, Nigeria etc). With colonies fast disappearing and few opportunities remaining, the RHKP seemed an obvious choice.

### How did you get in?

I initially answered an advertisement in the Telegraph and was subsequently called to the Hong Kong Government Offices in London for a day of interviews (none of which I thought I would get through, so I didn't tell my parents I was applying). I sneaked through these and was then called for another day of selection panels (give a presentation, teambuilding exercises, scenarios etc) and a short walk to Harley Street for a medical. I was sure I was going to fail the eye-sight test as I wore glasses and knew the RHKP was an armed force. Having correctly identified a 10 inch letter 'S' from about four feet, my place in Asia's Finest was secured. There then followed a lengthy stay at the Police Training School, Hong Kong Island. I joined with 12 other expats (British, Canadian and two Bermudans) and 22 Hong Kong Chinese Probationary Inspectors on January 11th 1990. One ran away on day two, another was demonstrably mad before arrival and left after an intense first few weeks. The combination of stinking heat, snakes (which I hate), a foreign language I didn't understand, firearms training (I couldn't hit a barn door), endless drill sessions, Law Exams and lots of Physical Exercise made for a fruitful and often hilarious training period, which in no way prepared me for life on the streets of Hong Kong!

### What kind of crime did you deal with?

My first posting was as a Duty Officer at Kwun Tong Station near Kai Tak airport. Here I ran the front desk of the Station, very inefficiently, for 6 months. I was mainly dealing with small time criminals who had been arrested, lots of drug addicts, and the public. Resourcefulness proved the key here, for example, where do you keep the evidence when a man is brought in for stealing a lamp post, or when a large mobile dried fish stall is raided? A brief stint with Vice and Task Force followed before becoming a Patrol Sub-Unit Commander, where I ran the Beat PCs for one of 3 shifts a day in Kwun Tong. This was real Policing and every day was different; sometimes scary, often sad, and inevitably included the sorry task of repatriating Illegal Immigrants to China. The only thing I got right was to take the day off when my Sub Unit got caught in a horrendous 'fire fight' during a jewellery robbery (the first time an AK47 was used on the streets of Hong Kong by a mainland Chinese gang). I saw the light quite quickly and swiftly transferred to Traffic Wing, where I saw out my Hong Kong days driving a large motorbike around Hong Kong Island. These were actually quite sobering times; being so mobile and quick through traffic we were often first to attend scenes. Dealing with the aftermath of car crashes all day had a profound impact on me, but the hours were better, my motorbike was beautiful and I even found time to nurture what I now know was a ridiculous moustache!

### Did you come straight from that to Blundell's?

No! I blagged my way into the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, to start a teaching career and get a teaching qualification (yes, I've got one!). Eight years later I saw Jerry Salter's job as Head of Geography advertised in the Times and threw together a hasty application with a view to seeing my Almer Mater, 19 years after I left it. Things then turned sinister when I was offered the job! The rest is history.

### Was it hard adjusting to UK life again?

No – but I do miss the tropical climate!

### Did you prefer the Police to teaching?

No again – there was never a career for me in the Police, with Hong Kong being returned to the Chinese in 1997. I love teaching and living in Devon, but that's another story.....

**OB Martin Whitaker is now CEO of the Bahrain International Circuit, which holds a Formula One Grand Prix, and has worked with many of the leading Formula One drivers over recent years.**



**Martin in front of his office**



# BLUNDELL'S

I have often said that I have got further in life as a direct result of playing rugby than anything else. At Blundell's I was no great academic. In fact I was no great rugby player either, but I could play, and on leaving school I continued to turn out for an extremely agricultural fifteen at Ledbury RFC in darkest Herefordshire for a further 20 odd years. Why were Blundell's and rugby such an influence? Well, quite simply they both encouraged me to communicate and socialise and this has stood me in good stead throughout my career to date.

I write this from the Kingdom of Bahrain where I am the Chief Executive Officer of the country's Grand Prix circuit – the Bahrain International Circuit at Sakhir. The annual running of the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix has done much to put the Kingdom of Bahrain on the world map. Previously known for its pearls, the first commercial destination for Concorde and possibly as a British protectorate for some hundred years or so, the island Kingdom is friendly, hospitable and safe. I think it is fair to say the running of the Grand Prix has changed many of the perceptions that people from around the world have of the Middle East and, in particular, what countries such as Bahrain have to offer both in terms of hospitality and business. Bahrain has always been a centre for Islamic banking; now it is increasingly being seen as a safe haven for banking the world over, with over 150 banks and 400 plus financial services institutions.

I first came here during the period when the circuit was being constructed in late 2003. At the time I was working for Bernie Ecclestone on the two new circuits in Shanghai and Bahrain. The two could not have been more different, and the subsequent offer to head the track's management here in the Gulf was one not to be missed. Since the first Grand Prix in 2004 the circuit has gone from strength to strength and now hosts well over 400 events a year. Racing is the primary business, with the Grand Prix and other international races such as the GP2, FIA GT, Drag and Australian V8 Supercars Championships at the forefront of the calendar. But it is the development of junior motorsport, in a region that has little heritage or history of racing, and corporate business tourism that are perhaps the most rewarding.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is a major shareholder in the McLaren Group and, needless to say, greatly enjoyed Lewis Hamilton's victory in last year's F1 Driver's World Championship. Lewis' historic (and nail biting) victory came almost twenty years after I started working for the McLaren Formula One team. At the time the late, great, Ayrton Senna was the team's lead driver. Working with Senna was a highlight of my career and you can imagine the hopelessness that everyone felt a few years later when he lost his life in that horrendous accident during the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on May 1st 1994. Having worked with him and handled



# - BAHRAIN

*Racing in the sun*

**BLUNDELL'S - BAHRAIN** *Racing in the sun*



**The start**



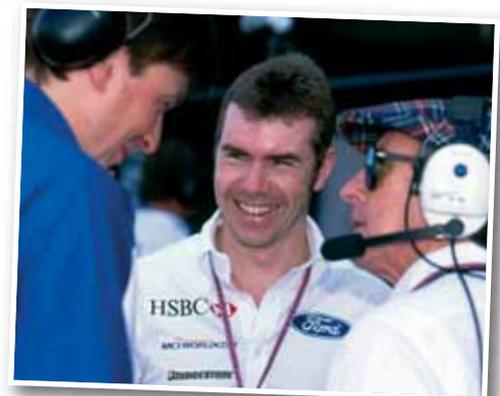
**Ayrton Senna**

all media and PR relationships for the team, it was all the more dreadful for me, at the time working for the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), to announce his death to a stunned global media.

Working at the FIA for the organisation's President, Max Mosley, allowed me an insight into the running of motorsport around the world, but it was the atmosphere of working in a team

environment that led me to Ford Motor Company and the position of Motorsport Director. Here I was responsible for the company's involvement in the FIA Formula One and World Rally Championships, along with its many other motorsport activities. Looking back, my time at Ford seemed to revolve around two Scots – Sir Jackie Stewart and Colin McRae. With Jackie and his son Paul, I was instrumental in the formation of the Stewart Grand Prix team, but it was the relationship with Colin and the World Rally Championship programme that was probably the most rewarding. Ford's heritage in motorsport – Formula One and Rallying – was immense, but a lack of success at the pinnacle of rallying had eluded the company for almost two decades. I helped move the responsibility of running the rally programme to Malcolm Wilson's M Sport operation in Cumbria. With this move came sponsorship from the iconic Martini brand and this, coupled with the ability of McRae and his team-mate Carlos Sainz, gave Ford the ingredients for a concerted effort to get the brand back to where many believe it rightly belonged – at the top of the sport. In the end we didn't quite get there, but

three years with Colin, Carlos and others set the standard and I was delighted when Malcolm and the team pulled off the World Championship Constructors' victory in 2007. Sadly, Colin wasn't there to see it, the sport losing one of its greatest talents in tragic circumstances.



**Martin, Colin McRae and Sir Jackie Stewart**

Life now is somewhat quieter than those heady days of attending an F1 race one weekend and a rally the next. Nevertheless, it is no less rewarding and entertaining although the pace of life in the Middle East is a lot quieter. Family life is great in this part of the world, although our eldest, Ben, has now left the island for The Elms Prep School in Worcestershire. At twelve he was getting a bit tired of playing the same rugby team every week, which is one of the down sides of a small community - there are; after all, only so many times that you can play the same opposition! The other two, Molly and Alexander, will soon be following him, but it is refreshing to know that as I look forward to next year's Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, that the life of at least one of my children is beginning to revolve around the values that I was taught and took away from Blundell's. I sincerely hope that playing rugby (who knows maybe even at Blundell's) will lead to a similarly interesting life to the one that I have been lucky enough to enjoy.

**Martin Whitaker (W 1972-77)**