



Blundell's

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DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

SUMMER 2009

ISSUE NUMBER:5

New floodlit astro

- + New East Pavilion
- + New all-weather play area
- + Petergate completely refurbished

Also

- ★ OB forthcoming events
- ★ Old Blundellian Sport
- ★ Rowing the Indian Ocean - Tom Wigram OB



CLASSIC VIEW

A Games Committee resolution in 1885 stated that no one could play tennis if they were needed for cricket and so the long tradition of cricketing prowess became firmly embedded in Blundell's history. The Old Pavilion looked out over the recently levelled Big Field, which very quickly became known as one of the best wickets in Devon. The Captain of Cricket ran the teams, assisted by the school's professional, Shaw (on the right), until Revd O.F. Granlund became the first member of staff to take command some time after 1908. The first unbeaten side was that of 1889, who during the season scored 2613 runs, averaging 27 per wicket; their opponents scored 1323 at 9 per wicket. Two of the 1889 side, B.H. Drury and C.W. Brabant played for Devon and C.J. Francis for Gloucester.

For the average Blundellian the exciting cricket of the term was the House Matches, timeless two-innings affairs in a knockout competition. In 1888 SH scored 593 in their only innings, with C.J. Francis, son of 'The Chief' (Head Master, A.L. Francis), scoring 282 and sharing in three century stands. They beat NC by an innings and 453 runs (wouldn't happen today!). In a similar game in 1919, Considine scored 343 for Westlake. Today's pupils could most likely still spin a game out for several days if it meant avoiding the classroom in the summer term!





HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION



The term started in a very positive atmosphere indeed in beautiful sunshine (where was it on my cycle ride?); the School is full and we also have a record number of full and weekly boarders. They, the rest of the pupils and the Common Room, returned and discovered that the Bursary staff and others had carried out a stunning amount of work over the holidays. The Governors are

determined to maintain the investment in the School, and the boarding facilities are a priority for them; to that end Petergate was completely refurbished at a substantial cost; it looks quite magnificent. We also carried out work in other boarding houses. The pupils also returned to find a new pavilion on Athletics, a new floodlit AstroTurf, which was desperately needed, a new hard play area for the Junior Department (School House) and a significant renovation of the Sports Hall. There was also the usual mass of smaller but nevertheless extremely important projects. These along with the substantial expansion of the Prep School last year, the new Music School and Academic Centre two years ago, have enhanced the campus considerably. There are yet more exciting plans ahead. A school is far more than the buildings and plant but nevertheless it is important to maintain a sense of dynamism for the pupils; to give them the resources they deserve and to reward the endeavours of the staff and the pupils.

We were extremely pleased this year with the GCSE results as they were our best by some way, at nearly 60% A and A*; 51 out of 89 pupils gained six A*/As or better. I was also pleased with the A level results, it looks as if they will, after upgrades which follow appeals, once again top 70% AB grades. All five of our Oxbridge candidates will be headed to Oxford or Cambridge in October (Law at Christ Church, Medicine at Balliol, Biological Sciences at St Edmund Hall, Mathematics and Computation at Keble and Natural Sciences at Trinity College Cambridge). There were equally impressive results achieved by those who were perhaps slightly less academically able, with a high number achieving the university of their choice. As I hope is obvious from this edition of The Diary, it is an exciting time to be here at Blundell's (not that it has not always been so!).

Ian Davenport
Head Master



Mini Restoration

The **Mini restoration club** is run as an activity by Mr Bowden (the DT technician) for D&T enthusiasts. The starting point is an old 1980's Mini Mayfair which is need of new bodywork and engine improvements. The team have completely stripped the mini and removed the two sub-frames from the monocoque shell. They will now split up to work on the engine, bodywork and sub-frames individually. With only 1½ hours per week spent on the restoration, progress is steady and they hope to complete the project within one year.



THEY'RE ALL GOING UP!

We are delighted to report that all five Oxbridge hopefuls reported in the last Diary were successful in securing their places at their respective colleges. Matt Cole will read Natural Sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge, Louise Youngman (Head Girl) Law at Christchurch, Oxford, Alice Wooley Medicine at Balliol, Oxford and Seb Zubov Mathematics and Computer Science at Keble College, Oxford. Harriet Rix (not pictured) was also successful being offered her place to read Biochemistry at St Edmund's Hall, Oxford.



Light relief from the L6 ecological comics, whilst supposedly studying species zonation along an interrupted belt transect. A'level Biology used to be a much more serious subject!

Westward Ho ho ho!



Blundell's return to Bisley - at last!



I am pleased to report that the Blundell's team performed very creditably at the Schools National Rifle Team Championships at Bisley in July, especially as they have had so little practice or experience compared to other schools. Blundell's has an excellent history of competing at Bisley having won the Ashburton Shield to become

National Champions in 1946 and 1956, although the school has not competed there for over 25 years.

625 cadets attended the National Finals and spent 4 days competing at distances of between 300 and 600 yards. The Blundell's four taken to compete were all Under 16 and on the final day competed as two pairs and a four in the U16 National Championships. In the U16 Pairs matches Chris Bodington and Charlie Silcock finished 8th and Charlie Howe and Andrew Kellett were 11th. Combined as a team of four they came an excellent 4th in the National finals at U16 levels. The pairs were on the leader board for a while – only the top 7 or so get on to this out of the 60 plus schools competing, so it was tremendous to see Blundell's name up there in the first year of return after 40 years absence. Blundell's also won the Tom Anstey Salver by beating Clifton College, a match resurrected after many years of abeyance. **JRWP**

SOUL BROTHERS!



James Evans (saxophone - U6), Hugh McDowell (Trumpet - L6), Ben Oddy (Trombone - L6) performing with the Soul Band at a gig in Ondaatje Hall.

International Rugby Board SOS



Now the rugby season has come to a close, boys and girls from Blundell's School Tiverton have just donated four kit bags of rugby shirts to the IRB SOS fund. Will Denford, the 1st XV Vice Captain presented his shirt to Richard Westaway. Richard said that the fund had been running for about seven years and is the brainchild of a former player, John Broadfoot, whose garage was slowly filling up with discarded kit. He felt that the kit could be put to good use and so started the ball rolling. The shirts from Blundell's will be now taken to a central collecting point near London and from there they will be distributed to the RFU emerging nations such as Bulgaria, Poland, Lithuania, Romania and others. If anyone would like to donate any rugby kit to this worthy charity please contact Richard on the IRB SOS website



Comic Relief

It is not always easy to take some teachers seriously, but when you are being taught Maths by Batwoman (NJK), art by an ageing hippy (SJG), DT by one of the 'Chuckle Brothers' (JGP) and English by Friar Tuck (the unmistakable form of JWB), then powers of concentration were tested to the extreme – the Common Room being game for a laugh, as usual!



Surf School



The Adventure & Leadership programme runs a whole myriad of exciting activities and experiential trips outside school for boarders – this group enjoyed a fantastic day at surf school at Westward Ho!

INDIA

EXPEDITION

On the 13th of July a team of seven pupils, two teachers and two doctors set off for India – all very excited and anxious for what was to come in the month ahead. We arrived in Delhi to a huge culture shock – so many people and so much traffic!



■ Main picture: Taj Mahal



Written by Naomi Beckett Yr 12 and Natalie Waddington Yr 12



Left to right:

An audience gathers

The Golden Temple at Amritsar

Phirtse La

On the first day we explored the city on a tour bus, seeing the Gate of India and Ghandi's burial site. Then we went to visit the red fort and got taken on a rickshaw down Wedding Street – surprised to see monkeys hanging above our heads on telephone wires! The look on the rickshaw driver's face when he realised he had to pedal Will, our 6' 8" second-row rugby forward, was priceless.

The next day we got up early and took the train to Chandigarh. The train was a new experience for us as well, as it was rather more basic than the First Great Western. We had to get 26 bags on the train in the space of two minutes, which was the first challenge of the trip! Once we arrived in Chandigarh we spent the night in a hotel and were shocked to be invited to MTV India's party, which was interesting as none of us really knew all that many Indian hits! But Ben hit the dance floor hard and taught some Indians his moves. The following day we took jeeps to Manali – a small town full of markets. Here we met our guide for the trek – Ram and stayed two days taking a practice walk up a hill nearby in between. From Manali we moved over the Rhotang pass as a days drive around very windy and unstable roads with some interesting driving, until we reached our first camp site.

Next came our first days serious walking. We got up at 6am, packed up our tents and were off. Accompanied by our horsemen, with their mules, our cook and kitchen staff, and the man who was in charge, Sula. We experienced our first river crossing that day – with freezing water and I managed to lose a flip flop along the way! We then camped next door to a tiny little hut and met a little girl called Dulma – which suitably entertained Lily and Naomi for the evening.

We started into our two week trek, along a flat valley, which was fine for the moment but we knew soon that we were going to be heading over some steep passes. Our first steep climb was the Shingo La pass, 5095m, which we did a couple of days into the trek. Unfortunately it was quite a cloudy and wet day so we weren't able to see much, but this was also an advantage as we didn't have to see how far we had to climb! Something that did surprise us was the amount of snow that we had to walk over, or in Natalie's case fall over! It was a great achievement to get to the top of the pass, and luckily the altitude wasn't affecting any of us too badly. We didn't stay at the top for that long as it was very cold, but we did have enough time to have a celebratory Percy Pig, which Mr Matthew had bought along. Our next camp was lower in the valley and we would have a few days walking along the flat which was good. After a couple of days we arrived at a village which was basically a collection of very small and run down houses. The villagers, especially the children, all seemed very interested in us, and it was a great feeling when we were able to hand out some of our collected clothing and sports equipment. We also got to play a game of football with them, once we had cleared a field of boulders; it was good fun, although as they were a lot more use to the altitude, they could keep running for a lot longer!

“This comprised of a bucket of water being heated for us for 50 rupees, but it felt great having washed in glacial rivers for the previous week.”



Left to right:
Our 22 mules
The children of Kuru
Naomi reading to the orphans of The Tibetan
Children's Village, Dharamsala.



Left: **Phuktal Gompa**

Below: **At The Golden Temple**



got to the top it was worth it. The view from the top was incredible and you were able to get 360 degree shot of snow and summits, a lot of which were below. This was one of the highlights of the trip.

After two weeks of trekking we headed back down to Manali to comfy beds and hot showers. Then we took a long drive down to Dharamsala, still in the Himalayan foothills, where we stayed for a few nights and did some shopping! Unfortunately we had come in the monsoon season and it didn't stop raining all the time we were there. Also here was the Norbulinka Institute, the Buddhist Centre where the Dalai Lama teaches and where lots of the Tibetan art is produced; this was really interesting to look around. We also visited one of the Tibetan schools which a lot of the orphans stayed at. It was great to see that actually they were doing really well but there was a great contrast between our boarding houses and theirs (even FH!). We also spent time with some of the children, which was really fun as well. In Dharamsala we also visited a hospital in which lots of their patients had TB. The hospital was struggling a lot as they had to pay for all their medicines, so before we left we gave them what we could of our first aid provisions, as we hadn't needed them throughout the trek.

We then took the train to Amritsar and visited the Golden Temple which was very impressive; however we were back to the humidity of the cities which wasn't so comfortable. On our final day we drove down to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal which we were all very excited about. It was extremely hot in Agra but it was amazing to see one of the Seven Wonders of the World. In Agra we also visited the Red Fort which was very interesting as well.

After a month it was now time for us all to head home. It had been a really amazing experience and one which none of us would ever forget. We had learnt so much about the culture of India and how their way of life differed to ours so greatly. I don't think any of us realize how lucky we actually are until we visit somewhere less privileged, but we felt we had helped them in our own small way.

If anyone is thinking about going on the next expedition I would definitely recommend it, as although it is a huge challenge, it's the best feeling when you have achieved it; something you will definitely remember for a long time.

Team: Lily Swan, Nat Waddington, Naomi Beckett, Will Carrick-Smith, Dave Malcolm, Ben Grayson, James Foan.
Group Leaders – Mr Matthew and Mr Wilson, Doctors – Rhys Bevan-Jones and Sophie Wallace.

« Our long 6-7 hour days of walking took their toll and we all began to feel a bit tired. We took a rest day at Purne, where we all caught up on our diaries and were also able to have a hot shower. This comprised of a bucket of water being heated for us for 50 rupees, but it felt great having washed in glacial rivers for the previous week. The next day we took a day trip up to Phuktal Gompa, which is a monastery built into the cliff on the site of a holy cave. Here we met some of the monks who offered us tea and, strangely enough, Ritz biscuits. Here we were also able to give some art equipment and also some hockey sticks which Lily had collected before the trip.

Our next pass which was the highest in our trip was the Phirtsil-lar, which stood at 5500m, which was higher than any of us had been before. This was a long and very steep climb to the top, which felt like it would never end, but when we

Rising STARS

“Music, drama, art and sport are all very important elements of my life...I get a buzz from all of them!”

Article by Lydia Ferris Yr11

Emily Turner

Emily Turner, GH Yr 10, clearly has a passion for the expressive arts and sport and this can be seen in the success she has achieved in the wide-ranging artistic and sporting activities in which she has been involved.

Emily has excelled in sport and has gone from strength to strength since achieving her full colours for sport in School House. After playing for all the school 'A' teams of her age and often playing in teams above her age group, Emily's talent was truly recognised when she became a Sports Scholar in Yr 9. Emily has loved all sports from a young age, but she particularly stands out on the hockey field. She began to play for the Isca Hockey Club at the age of ten and, from there, she went on to play for Devon and, more recently, was invited to play for the West of England. She has most recently made the 1st Team squad at school.

Beyond the pitch, Emily has great talent in the expressive and performing arts. She says, "They let me express my emotions in many different ways". Having gained an Art Scholarship in Yr 9, she has continued to impress, even to the extent of gaining the Art prize this year, normally awarded to the Upper Sixth. In Drama and Music she has also made her mark, taking part in various school performances such as 'Oklahoma' and playing in the Soul Band. Her love of singing is demonstrated by her enthusiastic support of Chamber Choir, along with her confident solos – all of which are proof of her well deserved achievement in Grade 5 singing.

Around school, Emily is a bubbly, enthusiastic individual who achieves her success through her strong determination and she is an inspiration to others. This inner motivation and overall success has led her to keep an open mind about the future, although unsurprisingly, a career in singing, acting or designing feature high up on her list of possibilities.





2ND XI CRICKET 'THE VILLAGERS'

Messrs. Wheatley, Watts, Petit and Hedley Dent evoking the spirit of days of yore

The 2nd XI Cricket team, known as the Blundell's Villagers, have enjoyed a terrific term of cricket. Unbeaten, at the time of writing, under Captain George Wheatley's masterly command, the Villagers prided themselves in being relaxed and keeping a cool head for the hours in the sun. They relied on their skills and the wealth of experience to overcome all their opposition; with Robin Hill providing much of the guile and talent and Will Petit the over-confidence.

Head Coach Mr. P. Treseder sadly suffered a stroke early on in the season and had to step down; he was greatly missed and all our best wishes go to him. Fortunately Assistant Coach, Mr. J. 'Shrimpers' Shrimpton, ensured that the ethos of enjoying a game of cricket survived throughout the season.

This year, the team has consisted of a large number of U6 players, some were 2nd XI veterans of several years. Close to their hearts was the regular TFC "Thanks for Coming" Award. The Wooden Spoon, carved by previous Villagers' mentor, Mr. A. Guy, is awarded after each match for a reason determined by a panel of Senior Players, and recent contributions have been:

Josh 'Martha' Hedley Dent for his terrible fielding and old English attitude, Oli 'Connor' Watts for being even worse than Harry Frankpitt and Guy 'Clatters' Clatworthy for being quite simply himself.

"...THE VILLAGERS PRIDED THEMSELVES IN BEING RELAXED AND KEEPING A COOL HEAD FOR THE HOURS IN THE SUN."

The recipient must be within 5 metres of the spoon, or have it on his person all week, and any member of the Villagers may ask to see it at any time. It is not uncommon for dire consequences to result if the spoon is not in evidence, thankfully usually falling just short of death. Versus Clifton, the whole team qualified for the award after an horrendous performance owing to over-zealous end of examination celebrating the night before! The Spoon was kept safe in Coach Shrimpton's classroom for that week.

The departing players hope that they have done enough to ensure that the camaraderie and way of life of the Villagers is never allowed to die.

James Evans U6

This year's AS performance was an edited version of Berkoff's "The Trial".

Steven Berkoff's adaptation of Kafka's novel focuses on the fate of the protagonist, Joseph K, played by Guy Potter, as he struggles against the nameless forces of 'the state' that accuses him. Given the political nature of the plays message we chose to set the piece in communist Russia in the 1930's,

The actors swapped roles throughout the play, from being the anonymous figures of the chorus to defined individual characters. This was very demanding as the cast was on stage all the time. The acting style pushes physicality to an extreme and sometimes to comic effect; as with Huld, played by Julian Strong, who captured, with the help of a fat suit, the hugely over-weight lawyer obsessed with eating. Titorelli, played brilliantly by

Jeremy Manning, was a heightened characterisation of a stereotypical Italian and he provided the audience with some much needed comic relief. Against this background of often grotesque characters, Joseph K appears normal and ordinary and Guy Potter managed to capture the audience's sympathy as he struggled with his fate.

The talented young cast was supported by a brilliant sound design by Conor Purcell, lighting by Jake Cushway and costume by Harriet Goody. The group worked really well together and in the words of one audience member "produced a performance that entranced the audience with the imagination, movement, pace and talent on show". Also starring were Julie Gordon, Abbie Voysey, Oscar Weedon and Mitchell Benellick.

FAB



A2 Adaptation of Hedda Gabler: "Her Father's Daughter"

Our adaptation of Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler" used physical theatre to explore the extreme

Hedda, played with appropriate emotional intensity by Rosie Le Page, enters into a dangerous love triangle with her academic husband Jorgen, played by Patrick Howe, and the womanising Judge Brack, expertly played by Archie Brown. The caring Mrs Elvstead, played by Briony Deuchar tries to save the alcoholic Ejler Lovborg from both himself, and Hedda's power hungry traps. However, this is not enough and Lovborg succumbs to Hedda's wiles. He goes back to drinking and eventually shoots himself in a fatal accident. Hedda, upon finding out that Brack plans to blackmail her with the knowledge that it was her pistol that caused Loveborg's death, then takes her own life. Seth Richards provided us with some striking lighting.

Rosie Le Page Yr 13

emotion hidden beneath the social correctness of 19th century society and was intended to highlight the power struggle within the social hierarchy. The charmingly fatal

A2 and AS Drama

Some very powerful and challenging plays were tackled by the Sixth Form Drama and Theatre Studies groups this year. Talent shone through in all aspects right from design, direction, production to performance.



"Shell-shock": An interpretation of 'Woyzeck'

Originally set in 1837, this play explores the forces on one man's life and how they cause his descent into madness.

For our A2 performance, which we called 'Shell Shock', we brought the play forward into 1920's Prussia, post World War I, where many people in Eastern Europe were living in poverty and dealing with the after effects of the war.

Through our production we explored the oppressed and claustrophobic life of a soldier, Franz Woyzeck, crushed by society and the issues which plague his being; madness, deceit, adultery and murder.

Kiki Blyth Yr 13

Up the Garden Path

Every spring the Ondaatje Theatre is filled with the sound of raucous laughter as Old House's finest tread the boards; this March was no exception. A stellar line-up directed by Toby Lett and Alex Payne performed 'Up the Garden Path', a hilarious farce that saw lead man Trevor (Guy 'Harry' Potter) torn between his wife (scantly dressed Alex Payne) and his seductive next-door neighbour (an almost-too-convincing Charlie 'Kiki' Craddock). Meanwhile, his wannabe Rastafarian daughter (Xan Winterton) and local mobster Kenny (Ed Lundy) make things all the more difficult. Back-up from a supporting cast of Tim 'Luvvy' Love, Jake Cushway, Ed Crawford, Tommy Cole and Harry Frankpitt, the lads wowed audiences for two consecutive nights, maintaining the Old House reputation as a forerunner in school comedy. Next year's play is now all the more hotly anticipated.

Ed Crawford Yr11

"...the lads wowed audiences for two consecutive nights, maintaining the Old House reputation as a forerunner in school comedy."



"...lead man Trevor (Guy 'Harry' Potter) torn between his wife (scantly dressed Alex Payne) and his seductive next-door neighbour (an almost-too-convincing Charlie 'Kiki' Craddock)."





When I first had the idea to email Tim Harford's agent to see if he would come to Blundell's to speak to the Sixth Form Economists, I had no idea how much work goes into preparing everything for a lecture. With the help of the rest of the Economics Society and Mr Chick, I managed to get all the equipment, microphones, screens, a TV etc organised, but then came the moment where I had to speak in front of 250 people! Tim Harford's lecture was challenging and very well received by everyone there. The whole process of organising such a presentation was a great learning experience for me and I'm very pleased that I took it on.

Sophie Anderson U6

ECONOMICS

Tim Harford's lecture in Big School focused on a part of economics that has come to be known as behavioural economics. His talk gave him the opportunity to flesh out some of the key themes in his best selling books and we were treated to a very entertaining and thought provoking talk. Tim opened up by introducing us to the thoughts of Nobel-prize winner Gary Becker, creator of a theory of rational crime - namely that many crimes have at their core, a rational assessment by the perpetrator of the potential profits from committing a crime set against the risks from detection and punishment. He then moved from crime to speed-dating (no one in the audience was prepared to admit publically that they had ever participated in one!) and then to instances where people often found it difficult to engage in rational behaviour. Tim focused, in particular, on the confusions involved with short and longer term decision making. We can identify with these when making such decisions as saving for our pensions, quitting smoking or going on an effective diet.

He concluded by suggesting that Economics does have something useful to say in the policy arena and that emerging behavioural economists can at least add a few more pieces of the jigsaw to stronger policy-making decisions. **IRC**

Left to right: IRC (Head of Economics), Ed Cumberlege, EJY (Director of studies), Tim Harford, Sophie Anderson





TALL SHIPS ATLANTIC CHALLENGE '09



My trans-Atlantic trip of a life time. By Roz Harpur Yr12

Tall Ships races

The first tall ships race took place in 1956, with 20 vessels crewed by cadets and seamen under training, and since then it has grown in popularity. It is run by the charity 'Sail Training International' and all participating boats have to be sail training vessels, whether Youth organisations or navy training. The races are largely based around the North Sea, the Baltic or down the west coast of Europe. Regular ports include Bergen, St Petersburg Cadiz and the Canaries. Trans-Atlantic races occur only every 7-9 years. This year the race started in Vigo in Spain, and concluded in Belfast more than 3 months later, stopping off in Tenerife, Bermuda, Charleston, Boston and Halifax on the way.

“Less than a mile out of port we had our first taste of sea-life, when we found ourselves surrounded by a large school of dolphins...”

This is how my involvement with sailing and the Project started. I did my 1st STV in August 2008, and went to race selection in September. This was a weekend of tasks designed to test you on teamwork, perseverance, physical and mental tests including an assault course, raft building/racing, and providing entertainment for the 130 Amory award winners; it also included an interview. The crew were then selected for their determination, perseverance and teamwork, rather than their sailing ability, which was never actually put to the test.

The Race

The Project divided the race into 4 legs. Leg 1 sailed from the Project base in Southampton to Vigo, then raced from Vigo to Tenerife. Our crew took over in Tenerife and raced 3004 miles to Bermuda, where Rona was again passed on to a new crew who raced to Charleston, then cruised to Halifax. Here, she was again taken over and raced Leg 4 to Belfast.

We met as a full crew for the first time in Gatwick airport. A Crew of 23, (18 in crew positions, 3 watch-officers, a Skipper and a Mate), we were the 1st all girls crew (certainly from the project) to sail the trans-At leg of a tall ships race (although we had a male WO, Skipper and Mate. Leaving Tenerife, we waved goodbye to land for 24 days. Less than a mile out of port we had our first taste of sea-life, when we found ourselves surrounded by a large school of dolphins, and our first taste of sea-living, as the majority of the crew was struck by sea-sickness! The next 3 weeks were a hugely surreal, yet most definitely life-changing experience. Contrary to how one would picture the mid-Atlantic, we experienced a completely flat sea and meagre wind for the entire crossing. The route we took was south of the direct line from Tenerife to Bermuda, as our aim was to avoid the area of high pressure that had built up on this direct path. We succeeded to a certain extent, being one of only 3 boats who actually sailed the whole crossing, but the conditions meant that an 18-22 day crossing turned into a 24 day one! Living in such a confined space (a little under 3ft per person) for this period of time stretched some relationships on the boat to the limit, and the complete lack of contact with home was a difficult and completely new experience for some.



SAIL

The Rona Sailing Project

The Rona Sailing Project is a charitable organisation, founded in 1960 by Lord Amory. It aims “to provide (through the medium of sea training in offshore craft) opportunities for young people and people with disabilities to acquire those attributes of a seaman, namely; a sense of responsibility, resourcefulness and team-work, which will help them throughout their lives”. It has 3 sail training vessels, Rona II, Donald Searle and Merrilyn, and every summer they take young people to sea for a week long Sail Training Voyage (STV). After the week, an Amory award may be awarded for being a useful member of the crew, giving of your best and for proving yourself to be a keen and reliable member of the team, this then allows you to go to race selection and the chance to be in the following year’s Tall Ships Race with the Project.



“ The boat was very simple in some respects. We had only the fresh water we could carry in the tanks so had to limit its use, the priorities being cooking and drinking; washing up was done in salt water, with a fresh water rinse, and ‘showers’ were a salt-water fight on the aft deck! We also had no refrigeration, so the food was mostly tinned, although we did make fresh bread every day to go with the corned beef, spam and powdered custard, and cooking over a gas stove in 40 degree heat was less than pleasant. Our crew was divided into 3 watches, each was ‘on watch’ for two days (this consisted of 4 hour slots alternating between on and off watch) and on ‘motherwatch’ for the third, which meant you did the days cooking, cleaning, and general boat management for the day; it also meant you had the chance to ‘shower’ and get more than 4 hours of sleep in one go. When on watch, you would be in charge of sailing the boat, helming and doing any sail transformations that needed doing, this also meant four hours on deck in the sun, which is not so nice as it sounds, when you consider the complete lack of any shade. You also only got 4 hours of sleep in one go, and being awoken at quarter to midnight to go on watch, having had only 3 hours sleep is physically very draining. By day twenty the enthusiasm was beginning to waiver, and the ‘graveyard shift’ 0000-0400 seemed more and more challenging.

One of my over-riding memories from the trip was our first night-time sail change. My watch was on deck 2000-0000, and very shortly after the sun had set we needed to put up a different headsail. The one we were hoisting (the cruising chute) was very large, very light and we’d had a few bad experiences with it recently. For the first time in a while it went up smoothly, and being stood on a boat lit with deck-lights, the only life for miles, was unforgettable. Less good, but also memorable, was when our largest sail, a spinnaker, somehow ended up over the side of the boat in the water. This is one of the few ways yachts like Rona can be capsized so it was urgent that we got it back on board. Within about 3

“...our largest sail, a spinnaker, somehow ended up over the side of the boat in the water.”

minutes it was below deck, and we were inspecting the damage a 20’ rip! There was nothing we could do but tape it back together and hope for the best. We did get it flying again, and were told by the sail makers in Bermuda that they could hardly have done a better job. As far as mid-Atlantic wildlife goes we saw very little, only the flying fish that made suicidal leaps onto deck in the middle of the night to be discovered the next morning.

Our first sight of Bermuda was, ironically, on a grey overcast day, and just after we caught sight of it the wind died completely and we drifted further away from the island with the current. When we finally arrived, our first steps onto land along a gangplank, were both tentative and relieving. We moored in St George’s Dinghy club for 2 nights, before sailing to the capital Hamilton, where we remained for the rest of our stay. The Tall Ships Race somewhat took over the island, and as it was also Bermuda’s 400th year, the celebrations were massive. Our final undertaking was the crew parade, where the crews of all the vessels who raced, march through the streets to the prize giving. As a crew we were very proud to win the crew parade prize, beating the vocal efforts of the 90 strong Russian navy crews! We also came 3rd in class and got the ‘Cooks’ award for the vessel sailing longest at sea. In the race as a whole, Rona came first in class.

The Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge is, without doubt, one of the best and most challenging things I’ve done in my life. I would strongly recommend it to anyone with a sense of adventure. I made some true friends, and generally had an amazing time in some very surreal circumstances.



“...IT JUST SHOWS
HOW IT IS PERFECTLY
POSSIBLE FOR GIRLS
AT BLUNDELL’S TO
ACHIEVE SO MUCH AT
THE HIGHEST
LEVELS....”

A SOARING SUCCESS

**Bess Makes Blundell’s
White Jacket History**

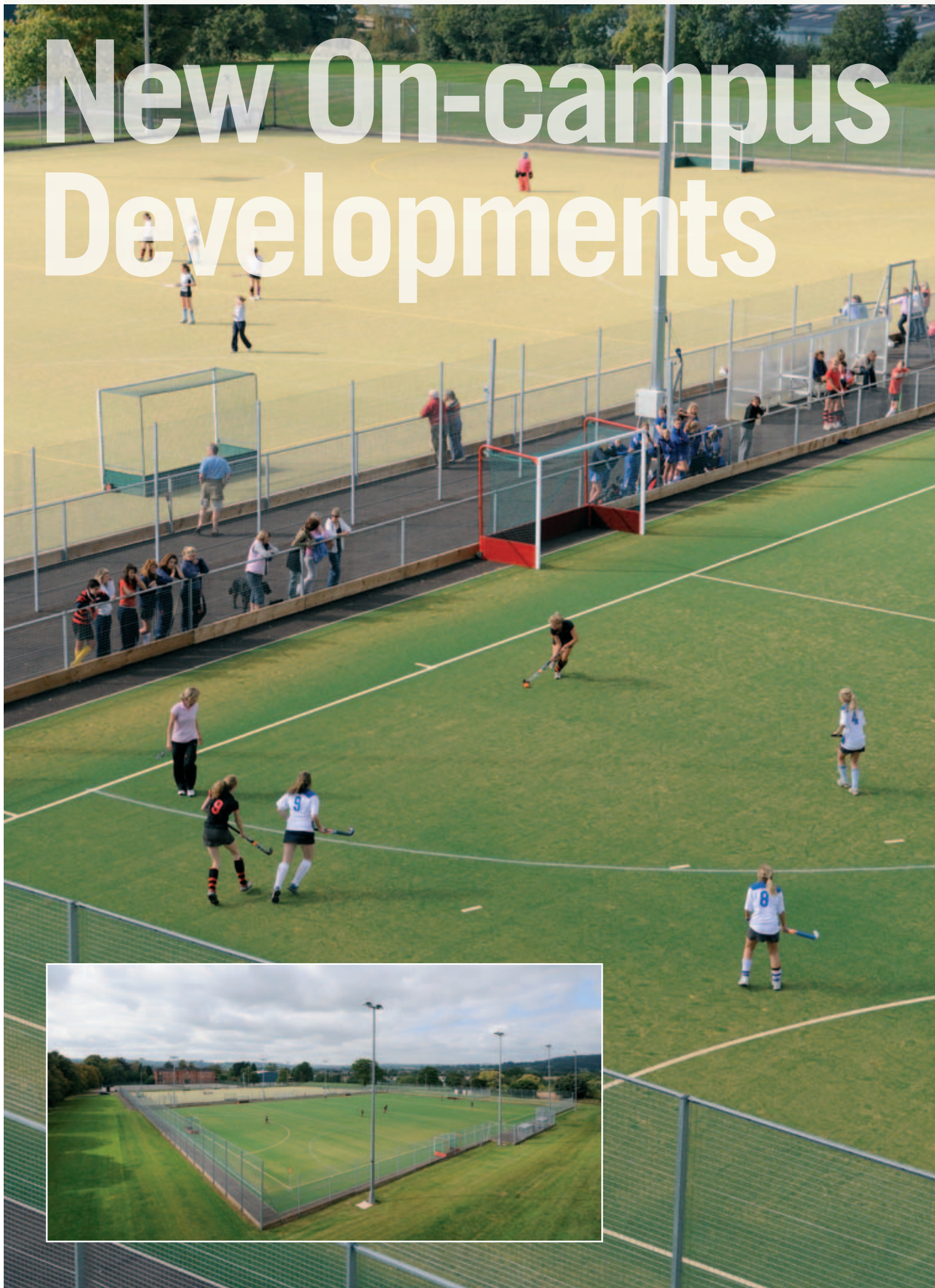
by Indy Murphy Yr 11

Throughout life there are people who seem to be able to do everything and always strive for the best; Bess Menheneott is definitely one of those. Throughout her seven years at Blundell’s, Bess got involved in absolutely everything that she could. She was 1st Team Hockey Captain and a Full Colour, she also played 1st VII Netball. Bess also excelled at Athletics of which she was also Captain and a Full Colour and she competed for Devon. As Captain of Athletics and a Full Colour in another major sport, Bess joined a very elite group of Blundellians, to be awarded the prestigious White Jacket; but her place in Blundell’s history is assured as she is the very first girl.

This alone would make Bess an outstanding Blundellian, but of course it does not end there. Bess was in the school swimming team, she was the U18 Grade 2 National Trampoline Champion and she competed in the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race in 2008 and 2009. Bess was also a committed member of the CCF, being joint Head of Corp, along with this she had a Navy Award for solo glider piloting.

As if all these commitments were not enough, Bess was also a School Monitor and still found the time to play the trumpet to grade 5, going on a Big Band Tour of Brittany and starring in three school musicals. Bess has gone straight to Durham University to read Archaeology and is planning for a career in the Armed Services. Although Bess is an exceptional example, it just shows how it is perfectly possible for girls at Blundell’s to achieve so much at the highest levels. The boys had better look to their laurels, because if they didn’t already know it, here come the girls!







As an on-going commitment to development, over the summer period, David Chambers (Bursar), oversaw a whole flurry of significant improvements to the facilities on the campus. New all-weather cricket nets were built near The Beale Centre and saw constant use during the summer term. The Junior Department (School House) had the old grass 'patch' turned into a rubberised (but still green!) all-weather play area for the 120 11-13 year old pupils. An East Pavilion was built on Athletics, providing some storage but most importantly much needed WCs, which will be a great relief to many rugby and cricket spectators! A new roof (one that doesn't leak) was put on the old sports hall, railings and new safer steps built to the Fives and Squash courts; all of which represents the first phase of a major overhaul in this area. The final major move forward has been the complete refurbishment of Petergate dormitories with modern bespoke furniture.





Painting by Sophie Foan Yr 13



Girl by tree by Julia McKelvey Yr 12

The Art department continues to flourish with exciting talent on display across all the year groups. Already we have run several trips to Broomhill Sculpture Park, Halden Forest, Anish Kapoor's solo show at the Royal Academy and interesting projects have been developed from these experiences. The scholars have been busy creating willow sculptures of birds after an inspirational workshop from Alicia Castrillo. The summer term also saw exciting workshops from Lily Odgers, a jewellery maker/illustrator, and Justin Quinnell, Pinhole photographer, for the Lower Sixth formers. Several works from last year have been entered into the Saatchi Gallery's Schools Competition, Zia Ferris' portrait opposite being one of them, and we await the results of this month's judging with baited breath. Zia will be continuing with Photography as a degree in the United States. In July, Sophie Anderson, U6, was awarded a gold and a silver certificate from the Royal Academy for the two photographs she entered for their Schools' Summer Exhibition which was a tremendous achievement. The Royal Academy will once again be visiting the school next term with their Outreach lifedrawing workshop. The department is pleased to welcome Robyn Stephenson fresh from graduating in Fine Art from Bournemouth. Her exhibition of coffee stained prints and enormous hut made from filters and coffee beans was a fascinating introduction to her artwork and filled the Hall with a rich aroma guaranteed to keep her audience awake. We look forward to her contribution to the national drawing festival, The Big Draw, with a group of pupils from School House. **RDJM**

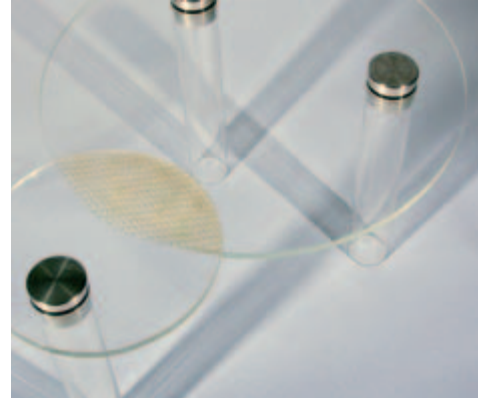


Watercolours by Rex Southwick Yr 7





Girls can do D & T



Sherry Tang Yr 11



Katie Maynard Yr 12



D & T is definitely a subject for both boys and girls, and at GCSE and A-level pupils can pursue their own interests.

Sherry Tang's Yr 11 coursework is made entirely from clear Acrylic and Aluminium, which gives the coffee table a very modern aesthetic. Sherry gained full marks for this coursework project and despite its simplistic look, it involved complicated manufacturing processes with the use of a metal lathe. It can be taken apart and flat packed due the threaded Aluminium joining pieces.

Katie Maynard Yr 12 designed and made a model of an eco-friendly house. The house uses exciting and environmentally friendly materials and energy sources. The inside layout of the house can be seen in the model by lifting off the roof. Katie used a large range of materials and processes in order to build the model and received an A-grade for the coursework Unit.

Naomi Beckett Yr 12 designed and made a range of cutlery in plastic, metal and wood. The wooden spoon is a variety of hardwoods which were laminated together to produce its ergonomic shape. The fork is Aluminium and was made using a sand casting process. Clear Perspex is used for the knife and Naomi utilised the Department's Computer Controlled Router to produce the profile. She then finished all three pieces of cutlery by hand to achieve an extremely high quality finish. She also made a dovetail jointed place-setting container in Walnut and Sycamore and gained an A-grade in her coursework Unit.

Naomi Beckett Yr 12



The first Blundell's Charity Rock Concert was an all-ticket sell-out affair. Eleven differing pupil groups rocked the night away in Big School followed by a BBQ and raffle; the whole evening raised the princely sum of £1,900. The chosen charity was 'The House of Hope' orphanage in Nepal set up by English teacher, Mrs Griffiths.

"Eleven differing pupil groups rocked the night away in Big School followed by a BBQ and raffle..."

Rock Stars



Yr 11 band G.L.A.R.E. –
Lanty Bunning, Ed
Crawford, George Daykin,
Ryan McMaster and
Alex Pike

Guitar impresario, Dan Pert,
leading the very accomplished
Jack of All Trades with Josh
Hedley Dent (Guitars), Rob Sanders
(Bass & vocals) and Ed Jolley
(Drums).



By Henrietta Mills L6


This Easter, the combined History and Geography departments visited Italy for five glorious days. No such trip had taken place before at Blundell's, so Mr Hawkins had been keen to instigate one. Therefore, having arrived from America and joining the all-new History Department, Mr Hawkins began planning and what followed was an undisputed success



On 27th March, having monopolised the 'EasyJet' flight from Bristol, our thirty three strong party, comprising of four teachers and twenty nine sixth-form pupils arrived in Rome unscathed albeit a little tired. On arrival, we were met by a representative of the tour company who led us to Hotel Luciani which was to be our base for the next two nights. Following the first minor (and easily rectifiable, but nonetheless hilarious) incident of the trip involving one pupil getting locked in the loo, we gladly wolfed down our first bowl of authentic Italian pasta before promptly calling it a night in preparation for an early rise.

Under the premise of avoiding the morning commuters, we set off at a rather unsociable hour for what was to prove to be "the central sightseeing day of the trip". Mr Hawkins expertly coordinated the transportation of our party, contending with the Italian Metro system and still ensuring our prompt arrival at our first destination, the Vatican. At this point, our tour guide met us and, equipped with headsets and in true 'grockle' fashion, we set off. What followed amazed even the most decidedly 'uncultured' among us. You could not help but marvel at the enormity and beauty of St Peter's Basilica, about whose domes and columns no amount of description or photos could do justice.





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The detail of the artwork covering every surface of the Vatican Museums was indescribable and this feeling rose to a crescendo in the Sistine Chapel. Any expectations we may have had, having heard so much about Michaelangelo's work, were far surpassed by the sheer scale of one man's masterpiece, completed, one must not forget, on a ceiling with a craned neck and primitive scaffolding!

Our visits to the Colosseum and Roman Forum, which followed, were equally awe-inspiring. Taking a moment to reflect on the fact that this structure was completed around 1,920 years ago, gave a whole new meaning to the words "architectural masterpiece". Our ensuing walk back to the hotel was made a little more interesting by the fact that our group became caught up in a massive general riot and protest march, which provided quite a different insight into Italian culture!



The first day's cultural marathon, although fascinating was nonetheless totally exhausting, and so our next day's schedule of sitting down on a bus was met with relative enthusiasm. En route we had two scheduled stops, the first of which was in Herculaneum; the rather overlooked 'other town' destroyed along with Pompeii by the eruption of Mt Vesuvius in AD 79. Famed as the first site at which Roman human remains were uncovered, Herculaneum was preserved by burial under volcanic debris and what has been excavated is a remarkable, albeit slightly eerie, town. So well preserved in fact that imagining life some 1,930 years ago proved strangely easy. Our next stop was rather more light-hearted as we visited a local Mozzarella factory. Looking more than a little idiotic dressed in aprons, hats and shoe-covers, we toured the factory. Having had the process explained to us, some pupils were given the chance to try their hand at moulding the cheese into shapes, with varying levels of success (it was definitely harder than it looked!) Then came the key tasting, all the more meaningful now we had seen exactly how it was made.



“THESE FACTS COUPLED WITH
SOME SUSPICIOUS LOOKING
EMISSIONS OF GAS PUT US ALL
A LITTLE ON EDGE....”



On arrival in Sorrento, a stark contrast with Rome was quickly apparent both in terms of the landscape and the relative poverty; beautiful coastline scenery and luxurious hotels were juxtaposed with olive groves and the locals' rural homes. In many ways the more relaxed atmosphere came as a welcome break from the bustling city. Indeed, in retrospect, our visit to the island of Capri has been hailed by all as the best of the trip. Having been a little disappointed by the lack of sunshine thus far, the 30 degree heat that met us certainly lifted our spirits. It was immediately clear to see that Capri was thoroughly deserving of its reputation as the playground of the rich and famous. 'Prada' and 'Cavalli' boutiques were happily nestled between gourmet restaurants and five-star hotels, whilst the views were nothing short of spectacular (Mr Bucknell declared the coastlines to be not only stunning but also quite fascinating from a geographical perspective!)

Another day of travelling was upon us, this time interrupted by stops at both Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius. The level of detail preserved at Pompeii was, as in the case of Herculaneum, quite incredible; almost every building boasted intricate mosaics and murals. Meanwhile, seeing the casts of the victims preserved in the contorted positions in which they died, made the tragedy, however long ago, seem somehow more real. Our subsequent visit to Mount Vesuvius was greeted with particular excitement by the geographers. Some pupils, who seemed immune to Mr Bucknell's infectious enthusiasm for his subject, rather begrudgingly undertook the short hike to the crater, although all conceded that the incredible nature of the sight which met us made the effort worthwhile. The sheer scale of the crater far surpassed the dimensions we may have

imagined and the short tutorial about this geographical "masterpiece" explained that Vesuvius is still active and an eruption is overdue. These facts coupled with some suspicious looking emissions of gas put us all a little on edge but fortunately we arrived safely back in Rome!

Our final evening was organised by the trip's coordinator and unsung master-planner, Mr Hawkins. The prize-giving ceremony was a particular highlight, with bars of chocolate awarded for such categories as "the most ridiculous comment of the trip". This was a particularly close-run contest but was won by the girl who had politely asked fellow passengers "so where are you flying to then?" while on the outbound flight to Rome! Head of History, Mr Marsden, also spoke for us all in raising a toast to the seemingly effortless manner with which Mr Hawkins had planned such a fantastic few days.

We arrived back at Blundell's the following day in total disbelief that the trip had come to an end. The expression "time flies when you're having fun" may be a cliché but was thoroughly applicable. We disembarked the bus with our suitcases doubled in weight, filled with Italian paraphernalia and all with a real sense that the trip had been a thorough success. In the knowledge that without Mr Hawkins the fledgling idea would not have got off the ground, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of us all for organising an unforgettable trip.



Behind the scenes in the Sanatorium

Behind every boarding school there is a team of dedicated Sanatorium nurses who support us both night and day. In the last ten years the 'San' been relocated no less than four times from Milestones, to Francis House, onto Newte House, then to Westlake and now to Thornton House, the current 'parrots-eat-em-all' palace.

Left to right: Nicola Clancy, Eleanor Pugh, Ginny Grayling, Irene Horsey, Tessa Deuchar (Senior 'San' Sister)



Lunch time in the San (Milestones) 1986. Things have improved somewhat!

Many suspect that it has all been a devious plot devised by the games fraternity to make sure that potential malingers never quite know where the 'San' actually is; they certainly have to work quite hard to get an absit on a rainy day. Once located however, there is always a warm and friendly welcome for those who need medical attention and even those who are just suffering from their 'third suspected bout of swine flu this term' are treated in a very caring and professional manner.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S LETTER

How quickly a year goes by; I can't believe I am into my second year in the School already. I managed to squeeze in my first Russell Run; admittedly it was the 3 mile Fun Run and it was slightly demoralising to see half the school undertaking the run again after their competition run. I was just thankful the school photographer was looking the other way as I crossed the finish line! We have spent much of this year segmenting our records and looking at ways in which we can improve the service we offer our supporters, both past and present, and ensure that we are providing opportunities for engagement with the school in relevant ways for all.

Most recently we hosted an OB Charity Golf Day at Bovey Castle, which is covered in more detail on pages 36-37. It was a wonderful occasion and we are hoping that it will become an annual event.

We were very fortunate, owing to the generous support of James Bullock (P 1981-86), to be able to host a 'Drinks Reception' for OBs and current parents living in or working near London, to bring together young and old and, hopefully, foster some memories of their times at Blundell's. We had a huge turnout and it was a great opportunity for me to meet some of you and find out what sort of activities, events and ways in which you would like to stay in touch with the school. I have met with many of you since that event and always welcome the opportunity to discuss ways in which we can work together.

Another friendly gathering, kindly supported by Governor, Robert Breare, was held at Bovey Castle on the penultimate night of the 'Head South' Cycle ride; to celebrate the success of the ride, and to get to know a few more of the Blundell's constituency. I'd like to thank our generous sponsors, whose names were acknowledged on the expedition shirts. If you have never visited Bovey Castle (it was known as The Manor House at Moretonhampstead) then we would like to strongly recommend it to you as a beautiful and luxurious Hotel and Golf Course.



Above: OBs at the Carlton Club
Left: Jessica Mannix



We are greatly encouraged by the support that so many of you have given to Head South, and are delighted to say that we have raised in excess of £12,000 for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust and pupil identified projects around the school campus. This was a wonderful effort on the part of Ian, Nick and Richard during the first two weeks of the Summer holiday. Children of the school went on to emulate the success of the Two Heads and Deputy Head by undertaking a 'Cycle Sunday' challenge, where they cumulatively rode more than 700 miles of the John o' Groats to Land's End ride. A group of parents also gathered together to support in their own way, by undertaking the epic '3 Peaks Challenge', securing even more funds for the Head South fundraiser. You will see from the photo that they all appear in good spirits, despite the challenging weather they faced.



Above: Culm Valley Small Schools Gala Performance



HEAD SOUTH

John O'Grady's Lands End

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

From the Head Master's blog:

Wednesday 8th July - Day 2

"Having lunch in a lovely little town called Tain, home of Glenmorangie. I am keeping up the long established tradition of scampi and malt whisky for lunch, NAF and RPC less adventurous..."



Left: Keen cyclists on Cycle Sunday
Right: Three Peaks Challengers



If you enjoyed the humorous daily Head South blog written by Ian Davenport and Nick Folland, then you may be interested in reading more about the experience. An illustrated book based on their travels will be available soon.

Above: Guests at the Bovey Castle reception to celebrate the Head South Ride

We had a very exciting event on 8th July which was the culmination event of the partnership project working with Culm Valley Small Schools Group in a 'Creative Arts' Project, with nearly 1,000 primary school pupils working with our Sixth Form and external group organisers, to deliver a highly interactive arts performance afternoon. This was a wonderful opportunity for all to be involved with the local community and utilising the superb facilities Blundell's has to offer.

You should by now have received a brief questionnaire, which is being circulated to our database of OBs, which I really would encourage you to complete and return. It can also be completed online by logging onto www.blundells.org/admin/blundells.htm and clicking on the OB questionnaire link. This will enable us to be much more directed in our invitations and communications. As an added incentive, all completed questionnaires returned by 1st December 2009 will be entered into a free draw to enable an overnight stay at Bovey Castle for two; so do please take 10 or 15 minutes out of your schedule for this exercise.



« We have been fortunate to be able to extend the links of the School use of the unique 'Ted Crowe Room' at Somerset Cricket Ground, with a couple of school groups attending the Women's World Cup Cricket 20/20 matches, where pupils saw the Championship England Ladies' team commence their challenge. Sadly, the following visit was rained off, with only 20 balls played. We are very lucky to have such a special facility available to Old Blundellians and our current pupils, and look forward to enabling the two groups to mingle at future events.

I look forward to the next few months, when I will be working on promoting the Peter Blundell Foundationer Provision, introducing the Annual Fund and Draw, and extending our Legacy Programme for the School, more of which is detailed on our website. If you would like to know more about the Development Office and its activities, or would like to come back and see the school at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Amber Oliver

Tel: **01884 232324**

Email: **a.oliver@blundells.org**

Girls from Blundell's Prep at Somerset Cricket Ground



David Hay (P 1944 - 1949)

An appreciation

Blundell's learned with great sadness of the death of David Hay on 19th December 2007 at the age of 76. This is not intended as an obituary, simply as an appreciation of a distinguished Old Blundellian, and an acknowledgement of his generosity to the school.

David's range of achievements at Blundell's, Oxford and in later life, were remarkable both for their breadth and depth. He was a devoted Old Blundellian and his contribution to the School means that we have a Library of which we can be justly proud. David contributed to the Blundell's Library during his lifetime, followed by a generous legacy, thus adding significantly to our present Library.

Throughout his 30 years as a General Practitioner, he was in continuous contact with the School Librarian and the Head Master, and was largely responsible for the increase in the number of books in the Library from 6-7,000 in 1998 to 17-18,000 at the present time.

His love of literature and appreciation of the written word were particularly obvious to anyone in receipt of those remarkable Christmas cards from David and Susan.

We give thanks for his generosity and for his true gift of friendship.

David (left) with Nick Dewey OB Day 2004

OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY 20TH JUNE 2009



The day began with the Chairman, Judge Paul Waterworth, opening the AGM of the Old Blundellian Club in the Colin Beale Centre at 10.00am. At 11.00am OBs processed into chapel for the traditional Old Blundellian Day Service. The lesson was read by the President for the Day, Katharine Rackham (GH

1990-92) and the service was preached by Reverend Anna Norman-Walker.

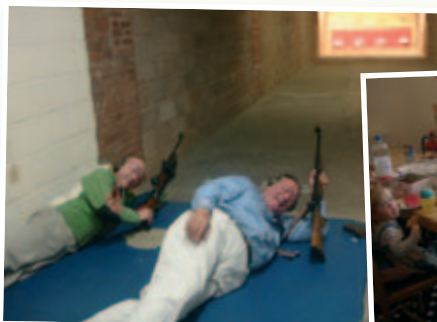
A drinks party at the Colin Beale Centre, to which Blundell's staff were invited, began at 12 midday and was followed by lunch in a marquee for about 80 OBs and guests. Speeches were made by the Mayor of Tiverton, Katharine Rackham, the Headmaster and Paul Waterworth.



After lunch the OBs shot against the school, others watched cricket on Big Field or took themselves off for a tour of the school. Tea was taken in the Colin Beale Centre and the OBs, including Katharine Rackham, played tennis against the school and enjoyed drinks and canapés afterwards.

Top - Ian Davenport, Paul Waterworth and Anna Norman-Walker
Left - Katharine Rackham
Right - Recalling memories
Middle - President Martyn Grose supervising grandchildren

Bottom left to right - Post lunch shooting, OB Club's first crèche and Young OBs enjoying lunch



“We had superb weather and a wonderful mix of people to tackle the challenges of the Bovey Castle course...”

Douglas Bourne (OH 41-45)



BLUNDELL'S CHARITY GOLF DAY

Tony Frost (NC 1946-48)
Tim Frost (NC 1951-54)



The second placed team of John and Katherine Smith (past Parents) and young OBs Joe Smith and Liam Lewis





Bovey Castle



PGK – 'into the trees again?'

The Blundell's Charity Golf Day took place at Bovey Castle on Sunday 27th September 2009 with a combination of Old Blundellians, current and past parents and pupils, in what was a fun filled afternoon. We were granted courtesy of the course and a shotgun start, and the day ended with a relaxing post competition dinner in the evening. We had superb weather and a wonderful mix of people to tackle the challenges of the Bovey Castle course; another big thank you to Blundell's Governor, Robert Breare, for offering us his spectacular venue.

The winning team comprised Old Blundellians Cedric Clapp (P 1960-65), Graham Howe (M 1967-72), Ross Aldridge (P 1962-67) and Richard Swarbrick (M 1977-82). In the individual competition the leading man was Liam Lewis (OH/W 2001-5), the leading lady Ann Wallace and the winning pupil Tom Ansell (OH 2007-?). Other winners included the Blundell's Preparatory School Head Master, Nick Folland as Best Parent (past and present), and Joe Smith (FH/W 2000-7) as Best OB (as Liam was not allowed to win twice!), best guest was Danny Wallace (Grandson of the former Blundell's Head Master, Revd. A.R. Wallace 1930-33).

We raised just under £2,000 for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust through entries and the 'On the Night Raffle', so a huge thank you to all those participating in and supporting this event.



Left:
Michael Haarer (OH 1945-50)
Alan Hopkins (SH 1943-46)
Patrick Noonan (SH 1968-72)
Bob Kendal (Guest)

Main picture: The winning team
Ross Aldridge (P 1962-67)
Richard Swarbrick (M 1977-82)
Cedric Clapp (P 1960-65)
Graham Howe (M 1967-72)



Right:
Ian Davenport, (Blundell's HM), John Price, (HM of Chilton Cantello),
Jim Massey, (HM of Mount House Prep) & Richard Cross, (Deputy HM
of Blundell's Prep)

Old Blundellian SPORT

*Richard Swarbrick and
Cedric Clapp putt out*

A wide variety of Old Blundellian sport has taken place against the School and, in the case of cricket and golf, against other clubs.

The OB cricket fixture list was badly hit by the weather, but another successful twenty/twenty game against Heathcoat CC was played, and the match against the school at least got started. Hockey, squash, fives, golf and shooting took place against the School.

The golfers enjoyed their usual fixture list, and a highlight was the anniversary match celebrating 50 years of fixtures against Sherborne, played at Burnham and Berrow.

Old Blundellians wishing to play in the coming year's matches should look at the fixtures list on the website and contact the appropriate match manager.



Squash and Fives against the School



Ross Aldridge and David Crews



OBs v Sherborne 50th Anniversary



Above: School 1st XI inflicting a heavy defeat on the OB XI



OBs versus Knightshayes

HUGH MORRIS

Hugh Morris (Westlake 1976 - 1982)



The wheel turned full circle for Hugh when he returned to Blundell's on 3rd July 2009 to give away the prizes and offer advice to pupils and parents. Despite reminders that another Old Blundellian, Myles Wickstead, had delivered an amusing and erudite address at Speech Day 2008, Hugh was unruffled. After orchestrating the movements of a variety of England cricket captains and coaches over the last year and enduring many press conferences, speaking to a benign audience at Blundell's Speech Day must have seemed easy.

Hugh had a very distinguished sporting career at Blundell's, representing the 1st XI for three years and making his first class debut for Glamorgan while still at school. He was also a formidable 1st XV performer and a good squash player. Despite a huge sporting commitment, Hugh found the time to pass A levels and collect a degree at Cardiff. The captaincy of Glamorgan and England cricket caps followed. Hugh now holds the title of Managing Director of English Cricket and we wish him well during a difficult period, as well as thanking him for sparing the time to give away the prizes during an Ashes year.



“...the help and support I received from the teaching staff, including Mr Fursdon, Terry Barwell, the cricket professional Ernie Steele and the late Ted Crowe, helped develop my cricket career.”

Quote from Hugh's speech which can be found on the school website:
www.blundells.org/admin/speech_day.htm

Top left - Hugh in his playing days
 Bottom left - David Fursdon, Hugh Morris and Ian Davenport
 Right - Hugh in a Colts Squash V

OBNews

News of OBs from your era - if you would like to let your contemporaries know what you are doing - why not contact Paddy Armstrong via the OB Club website or via pa@blundells.org

Welcome to the Diary's new OB News pages. We would like to develop this service to OBs so that they can keep up with their contemporaries, let us know where their lives are taking them and to generally enhance their involvement and interest in their Alma Mater. We hope that the numbers contributing will rise and so we intend to publish an abridged 'potted' version and we would appreciate any appropriate photographs. We think this will prove to be of great interest to all OBs and that it may aid further networking in the future.

1960s



Andrew Rossiter
OH 1961-65

Whilst at Blundell's was always destined to be a linguist but it was R.B. Richards' arrival to teach German that really inspired him. He had come to

teaching from industry (Shell) but, like most students, teaching wasn't the way he saw his career developing. However, after a Language degree started lecturing at a French University. In the 1980s was in a position to develop the Modern Languages with Business degree courses, which in the globalised world of today's business, offers many job opportunities. The UK fails to produce enough linguists in one EU language let alone two and so would like to encourage current and future Blundellians to consider the vocational opportunities for modern linguists in business, industry, international relations etc.

1980s



Alex Scott OH 1982-87

After leaving Blundell's found his way to Australia as an unlikely assistant Teacher. This was followed by studying in Lisbon and living in Rome working for the UN. Now a journalist for a U.S.

business publishing group majoring on environment, human health and chemical issues. Interest in this field was first tweaked by a stand-in teacher waxing lyrically about Malthusian population dynamics during Upper Fifth Geography lessons.

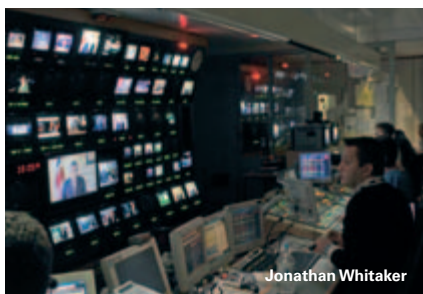
Currently living near Oxford, married to Laura, who works for Disney raising money for Great Ormond St Hospital. Has two children, Thomas (10) and Scarlett (8). Future plans are to get his publishing business trading and to teach his kids to surf.



Katherine Waldemar Brown (née Hughes) GH 1984-86

After Edinburgh University, went to Law school and became a solicitor for London firm Mishcon de Reya. In 2006

moved to Sakhalin Island in East Russia where the winters are snowy but the summers are lovely. Has enjoyed the ex-pat life but is returning home soon and hoping for another posting. Married Julian in 1999 with Jenny Scott GH 1984-86 as a bridesmaid. Has 4 children aged between 9 and 4.



Jonathan Whitaker

Jonathan Whitaker M 1986-91

After University and a post grad diploma in Broadcasting has worked his way up through local radio, Meridian TV, ITV and finally the BBC – first as a Journalist and now Output Editor for the Six 'o Clock News. Thoroughly enjoys the pressurised but exciting world of News TV and has travelled widely, meeting many interesting and famous people along the way.



Rachel Hazell GH 1987-89

Studied English Literature at Edinburgh and despite early extreme career suggestions of 'something in the glamour industry' or a 'librarian' became a Travelling

Bookbinder. Hazell Designs Books is now ten years old, creating commemorative albums, special sketchbooks, and subverting and expanding traditional forms. Worked for Helen Storey Foundation creating a 2m high book that several people could stand in. Now exhibitions and installations are interleaved with teaching and is slowly writing her own book. www.hazelldesignsbooks.co.uk



1990s

David Rendle M 1991-96

After graduating from Bristol (Veterinary Science) and 18 months in veterinary general practice, became an intern at the internationally renowned Liphook Equine hospital in Hants. Thereafter was sponsored by the Horserace Betting Levy Board at Glasgow University and in California. Now qualified as a European Recognised Specialist in Equine Internal Medicine. Recently has moved to the Western Counties Equine Clinic in Culmstock, Devon and finding a little more time to play cricket and golf.

Hana Škarková GH 1995-97

Was a Jihlava music scholar to Blundell's from the Czech Republic and has continued to develop an impressive international singing reputation. Finished her musical training at the Janáček Academy in Brno specialising in Opera Singing. Has won international singing competitions, made many recordings and has sung all over Europe, including at The Royal Albert Hall. Returned to Blundell's recently to give her own concert which was really well received. www.hanaskarkova.estrnky.cz



PETER BLUNDELL

by Tim R Newell-Price (W 1945-50)

The main theme of the *Blundell's Diary* is the lively and adventurous place which it is today. But what about the past? Where do we look for the main root of our history as a community? As Blundellians, the first candidate for mention must be Peter Blundell, mainly known as a very old man (but once young!) of long ago. At least the very existence of the school since 1604 is our direct reminder of him and, but for him, we would not receive the advantages of an education here.

Five years ago we were celebrating the 400th anniversary of the School's foundation and I thought that it might be interesting to read Peter Blundell's will for the first time. A printed edition of the long will was published in 1792 and copies are very rare and very expensive. Fortunately I was able to borrow a battered but complete copy from the School Archive.

A will to a legal amateur like me, is inevitably a difficult and stodgy document to wade through and the fascination with wills in general is to find out who the main beneficiaries were (will there be anything in it for me!) and what were the total riches? I certainly read Peter Blundell's will to discover the great range of his public bequests. Though the foundation of the School was his biggest project, he established schemes in London for the care of the sick, abandoned children and prisoners in extreme poverty. In Tiverton and Exeter his aim was to support the ambitious and the industrious young craftsmen needing loans and opportunities for apprenticeships in farming skills. His total fortune would have made him a billionaire rather than a millionaire today.

One of the great frustrations to the historian and the biographer is that, apart from his will, only the tiniest bits of largely unrevealing information have ever been discovered about Peter Blundell. There is also, and always, a major difficulty in identifying him with any certainty because of the Tudor flexibility in spelling 'Blonbon', 'Bloundon', 'Blunden' etc.. There was hope that when Douglas Rice undertook major research into Blundell's great friend and ally Sir John Popham, some exchange of letters would be found: but not a word.

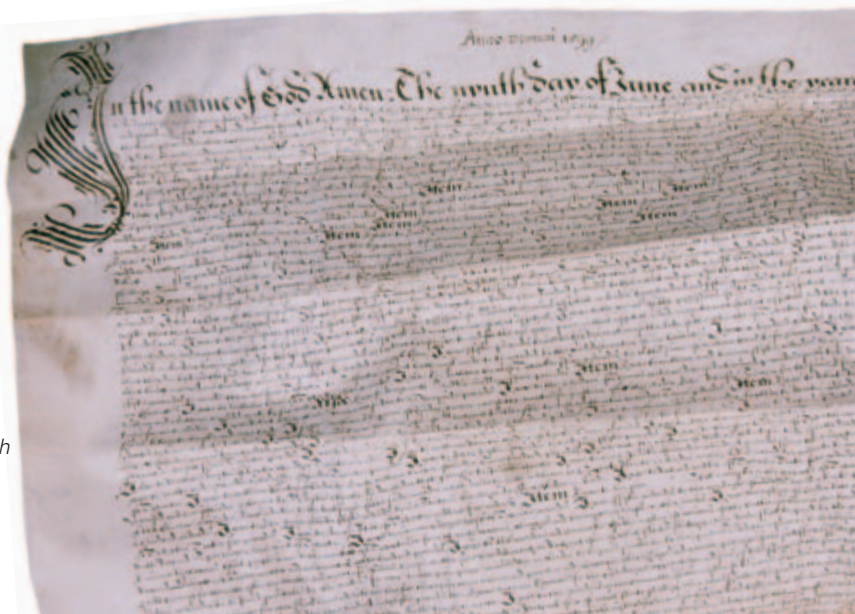
There is an account of how Peter Blundell, when quite a youngster, saved up tips from minding horses and from such small beginnings developed a business and

accumulated a great fortune. Although the story was passed down two generations of the Newte family before it was recorded in Prince's "Worthies of Devon", it has the credibility of the sort of tale that Peter Blundell might have indulged in himself as an old man.

To come back to his will. It is just words on paper and therefore a document which we can be as critical about as a poem or a book. This approach is particularly important and potentially fruitful because Peter Blundell wrote the will himself and over a period of about three years; so it might even be possible to sense changes in his attitude and mood. Different readers will obviously gain rather different impressions, but it is impossible not to be moved by the picture of an old, thoughtful, intelligent and generous man coming to terms with the fact, and its implications, that approaching 80 (a very old age in his day) he might die at any time.

At a more obvious level, we are able to make a sensible (and inevitably personal) evaluation of his individual bequests to his near relatives, his close friends, business associates and his key employees. Though a bachelor, he had a particular care for women and not least twenty maidens of Tiverton who were each to receive £20 (equivalent to about £20,000 today) when they married. The single most indulged was his nephew Robert Chilcott, who was also his confidential assistant in all things; he received the equivalent of more than £4,000,000.

We now have the privilege of an enormous range of modern research into Tudor times, made available through many readable books. This enables us to fit Peter Blundell into his background and helps us to achieve an increasingly clear impression of our remarkable founder. Yes, we can all get to know Peter Blundell in our own way and not leave him almost entirely obscured behind a hallowed mist.



Copies of "Peter Blundell; his Will" are available to read in the School's Library and its Archive. The History Department have a disc available of the A4 version. The printed version, together with "Releasing Peter Blundell", can be purchased from the OB Club.

ROWING THE

On 19th April 2009, Tom Wigram (SH 1991-1996) and three other expats set out in a rowing race across the Indian Ocean, from Australia to Mauritius, raising funds for prostate cancer awareness.

Representing New Zealand, the four-man crew overcame huge storms, a capsized, and malfunctioning equipment to arrive in Mauritius in second place overall. The Rowing for Prostate (RFP) crew of Tom Wigram, Peter Staples, Billy Gammon and Matt Hampel - all expat Britons - completed the 3132 nautical mile journey from Western Australia in 81 days, four hours and one minute. They were one of only four boats to complete the inaugural race.

"It's been an emotional rollercoaster from start to finish but the elation to have succeeded in what we set out to do and to have finished in second place overall is the best feeling ever". But the journey was not without its drama, as 10-metre swells threatened to swallow up the 8.8m purpose-built boat. The team had a torrid time, including after 71 days of rowing surviving an "horrendous storm", which capsized the boat, knocking out their GPS and satellite phone equipment. Gammon and Staples, who were rowing at the time, were thrown out of their seats, but were wearing lifejackets tethered to the boat. "We all got away unscathed, just very

wet," Hampel told Radio New Zealand. But there was no contact with worried race organisers or family back home for six days and they were still 980Km from their destination. They were eventually located by a coastguard plane, and communication established by VHF radio.

Tom was brought up in Bovey Tracey and went to Wolborough Hill Prep School before coming to Blundell's in 1991. Whilst, by his own admission, the academic side of things took something of a back seat, he excelled on the sports field. Highlights included representing Devon at rugby and later winning the Devon Cup for Newton Abbot RFC in 2004. During his 'colourful' schooldays, Tom spent a brief spell out in New Zealand at King's College between 1994-1995 and this is where his love affair with New Zealand was born. If anyone is interested in supporting the Rowing for Prostate Cancer cause, more information can be found at www.rowingforprostate.com



Top: Tom working on the preparation of the boat



Left: Boat arrives at Geraldton, Australia
Below: The Start.



Big seas building

INDIAN OCEAN



Left: A happy T.Wigram Esq
Right: Arrival at Mauritius
Below: More wet weather



Tom's big catch



Team Triumphant

FUTURE EVENTS



DEDICATION OF THE ER CROWE PLAQUE IN CHAPEL 28TH NOVEMBER 2009

12.30 Dedication Service

13.00 the OBC will provide lunch in the Colin Beale Centre

14.45 1st XV v Sherborne – Big Field

Please let Janet or Paddy know if you would like to take up the offer of lunch by 21st November 2009
Tel: 01884 232010 / obclub@blundells.org



Old Blundellian Club Contact Details

Email obclub@blundells.org

Tel 01884 232010

Address Old Blundellian Club,
The Colin Beale Centre,
Blundell's School, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4DT

Website www.obclub.co.uk

Blundell's Development Office

Address Amber Oliver, Development Director
Blundell's School, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4DN

Email a.oliver@blundells.org

Tel 01884 232324

Mobile 07825 734440



Top - Outside Chapel on OB Day
Left - Mike Daniels entertains
Right - the Pugsleys at lunch on OB Day

OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY 2010

will be on Saturday 19th June 2010. Tickets for the day, including lunch and tea, are available from Janet or Paddy at £20 per person.

WINTER LUNCHES

will take place in the Colin Beale Centre on the second Wednesday of each month. They are informal gatherings with lunch and a speaker - all are welcome. Please see the website for further details.
www.obclub.co.uk



OLD BLUNDELLIAN TOKYO LUNCH

will take place on 17th October 2009.

OLD BLUNDELLIAN HONG KONG DRINKS

will be on the evening of 27th October 2009.



Top - Winter Lunch with Amber Oliver
Bottom - Rufus Lyons-Wilson and Ivor Atkins

OLD BLUNDELLIAN SYDNEY DINNER

will be on 31st October 2009.

OLD BLUNDELLIAN SINGAPORE LUNCH

will be on 3rd November 2009.

Details of **OLD BLUNDELLIAN SPORTING FIXTURES** can be found on the website.

OLD BLUNDELLIAN SOUTHAMPTON DINNER:

Details of this event, organised by Frank Akerman, will be published in the next edition of the Diary.