



Blundell's

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DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

ISSUE No: 7

Art Review

Creative ideas from the Art Department

Beating the Gobi Desert

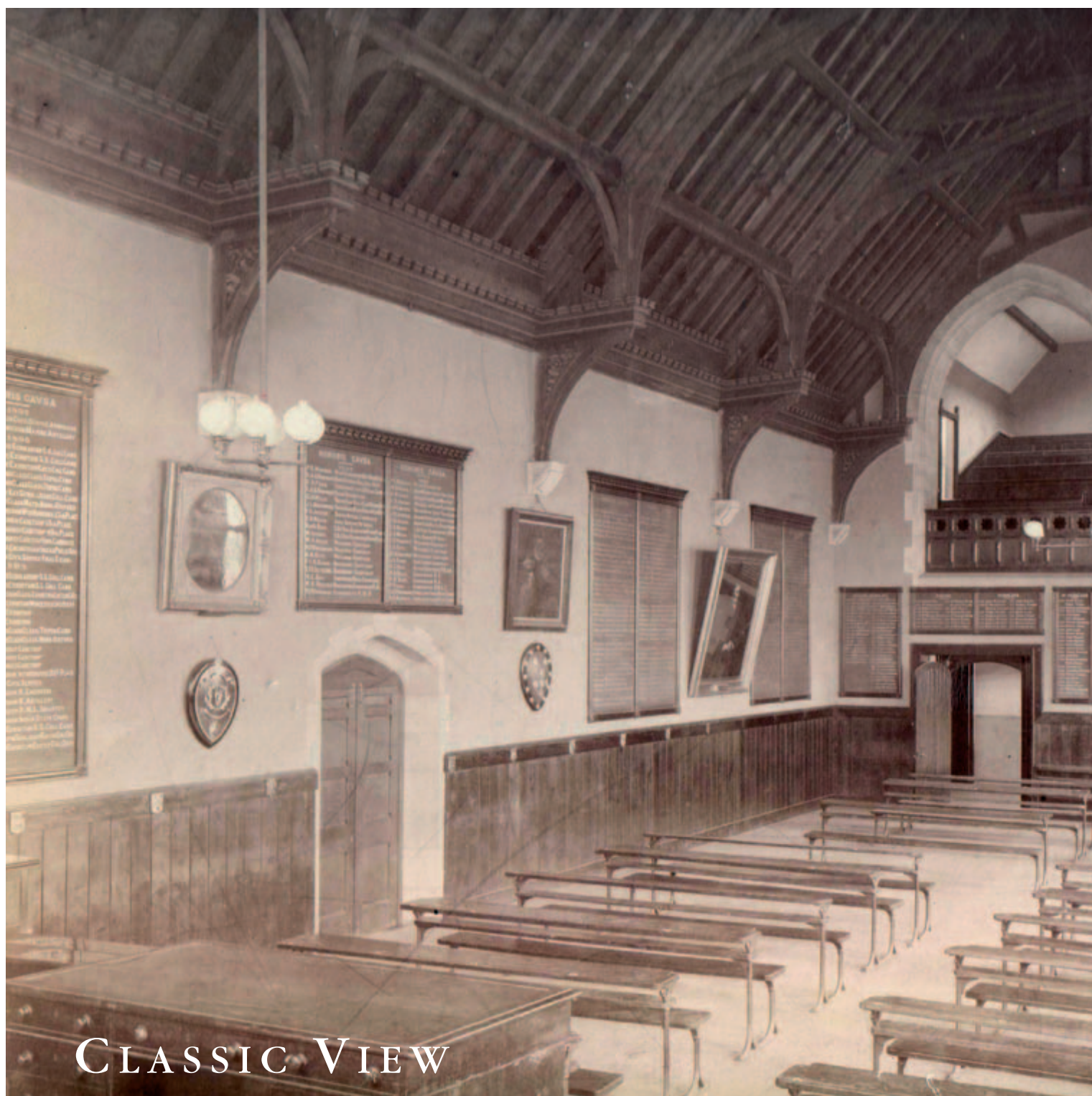
OB Dan Parr wins one of the world's toughest races

Year 9 visit the WWI Battlefields

Also

- ★ OB forthcoming events
- ★ Old Blundellian Sport
- ★ The Duckworth Relays - a history

Front cover photograph by Esme Lewis-Plunkett

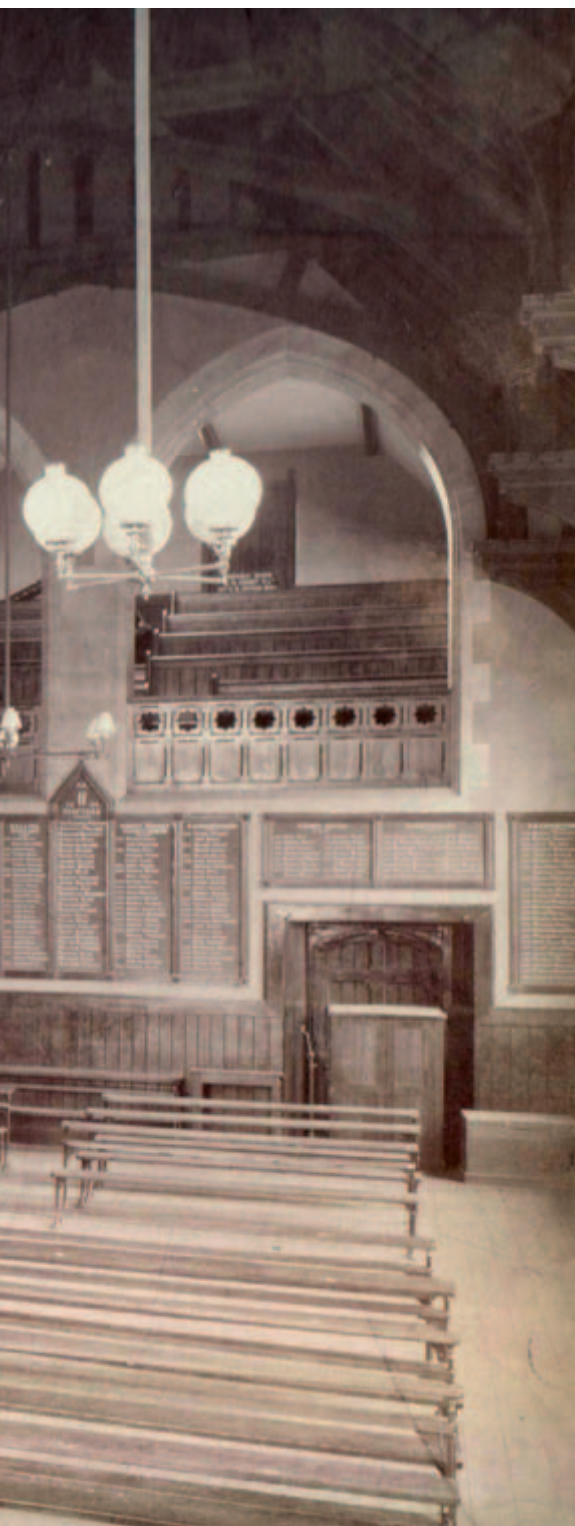


CLASSIC VIEW

Big School c.1910 – now the Library and Resources Centre.

When Blundell's decamped to the Horsdon Site in 1882 the number of boys was just 87, so Big School must have seemed indeed 'Big'. However, the relocation was a tremendous success and by 1885 the roll had swollen to 190 and by 1890 to 249. The doors at the far end were changed at some time but the side door to the Common Room remains today. The overall design, with the rear gallery, is clearly mirrored in the modern version of Big School on the north side of the road, which was opened by The Queen Mother in 1967.





HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION



I am very pleased to report that the School is in very good heart indeed with a full complement of 570 pupils eager to start the new academic year. The pupils received their results over the summer and we were all extremely pleased. The vast majority of our leavers achieved what was required of them by the university of their choice, which given the extra pressures on entries this year was no mean feat. The AS results were the strongest ever recorded here at Blundell's with nearly 20% of the year group achieving four A grades or better. We also had record GCSE results with more than half of the year group gaining at least six A/A* grades or better. However, as I have said many times, I am equally proud of those candidates who exceeded their own personal goals whatever their results. As is well documented in the inspection report, the pupils and staff share a strong sense of purpose here at Blundell's.

But Blundell's is about so much more than just academic success, proud though we are of this. As I said on Speech Day last July, I cannot remember a school year where so much was achieved across so many different areas by a pupil body here. The speech day programme was as full and comprehensive a record of the pupils' achievements as I can remember. Indeed it is such an impressive document that it can be seen on the School's website. The pupils deserve the publicity and the accolades.

As I enter my seventh year here I am every bit as excited about the future as I was when I first accepted the position. There are many challenges ahead and many opportunities. As I have always maintained, it really is a wonderful school.

Ian Davenport
Head Master

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Judo Champ

Fourteen year old Alex Scott FH won Gold and Silver medals at a National Judo tournament earlier this year. Alex travelled to Bristol for the Tora Judo Kai where he fought competitors from all over the UK. Competing in the under 65kg category Alex won all his four pool bouts by an Ippon. This is the highest scoring throw and if achieved the thrower wins instantly. Having won through to the semis finals his good form continued and he found himself in the final. Here he competed well but had to settle for the Silver medal. He then entered the Open under 85kg category where he won five bouts and in the final he scored an Ippon in the first minute to secure Gold.



GIRLS CAN PLAY CRICKET

NC girls, with a couple of GH ringers, boldly laid down a challenge to the SH U13 C boys' cricket team one sunny evening. With a team boasting several 1st X1 hockey players the girls scored an impressive 135 runs in their 20 overs. The SH boys seemed to find concentrating rather tricky – can't think why and they only managed to score 115. However, the girls became over-confident and threw down the gauntlet to the U13 boys' B team and were soundly put in their place. "We're quite good at batting but we failed to bowl enough balls anywhere near the stumps" was Tory Margesson's explanation, "it's much harder than it looks".

Main picture: Kathy Ramsay Carr
Below: Roger Hann



Blundell's own SAS!



No, not that SAS, but our own Special Art Status students - the art scholars have had an exciting programme of lectures one of which was by a local artist. Roger Hann gave an inspirational lecture and kindly brought in some of his large canvasses in varying levels of completion and invited some students to add some paint. They have also visited Kathy Ramsay Carr's studio, where they were given many useful tips and an insight into the life of a professional painter.



Standing tall!

Standing at 6' 8" and weighing eighteen stone **William Carrick-Smith** has been a formidable member of the School's 1st XV 'boiler room' for the last two seasons. Will was selected for Devon to play as a lock-forward and his performance impressed the selectors so much that he graduated to the South West team. At this level he played two more matches against the North and Midlands and he is being monitored by several clubs.



Over the winter **Barney Loader** was selected for the South of England Independent

Schools Barbarians Team. Barney, who has been an outstanding fly-half for the Blundell's 1st XV, went on to represent the South v North at Moseley before being selected for the full England squad. He has been used as a full-back in the recent match versus the Irish Exiles. Barney also played versus the Welsh Crawshays U19s and the Cambridge University Freshers, before touring Malaysia and Singapore over the Easter holidays. Barney has represented Tiverton RFC on a few occasions treading in the footsteps of his father Paul, who also played for the town.

DEVON CRICKET CHAMPIONS

The U14 cricketers were crowned Devon Champs. They won the Exeter and District regional matches beating Kings School Ottery by 6 wickets and St James by an innings. This put them in the quarter finals against Exmouth Community College where they managed to win by 40 runs. In the semis they beat Exeter School by a similar total placing them in the final against King Edward VI School Totnes. The game was played in glorious sunshine at Exmouth CC and batting first Blundell's scored a huge target of 330-9 in their allotted 30 overs. Sam Wyatt-Haines top scored with 159 and was ably supported by Luke Ansell with 47. The Totnes reply got off to a faltering start due to some excellent bowling by Luke Ansell who took four wickets for just 15 runs. Despite a spirited fight back by the batsmen, a hat-trick by Ben French halted any chances of victory and the score closed on 132-9. The trophy was presented by Ted Ashman, Secretary of Devon Schools Cricket and Pete Langford, Chairman of Exmouth CC.



Counting on success



Sixteen athletes qualified for the Devon Championships held at The Exeter Arena recently. At this meet eight of them went on to either win or come second in their events, which meant they were selected to represent Devon at the Southwest trials at the same venue.

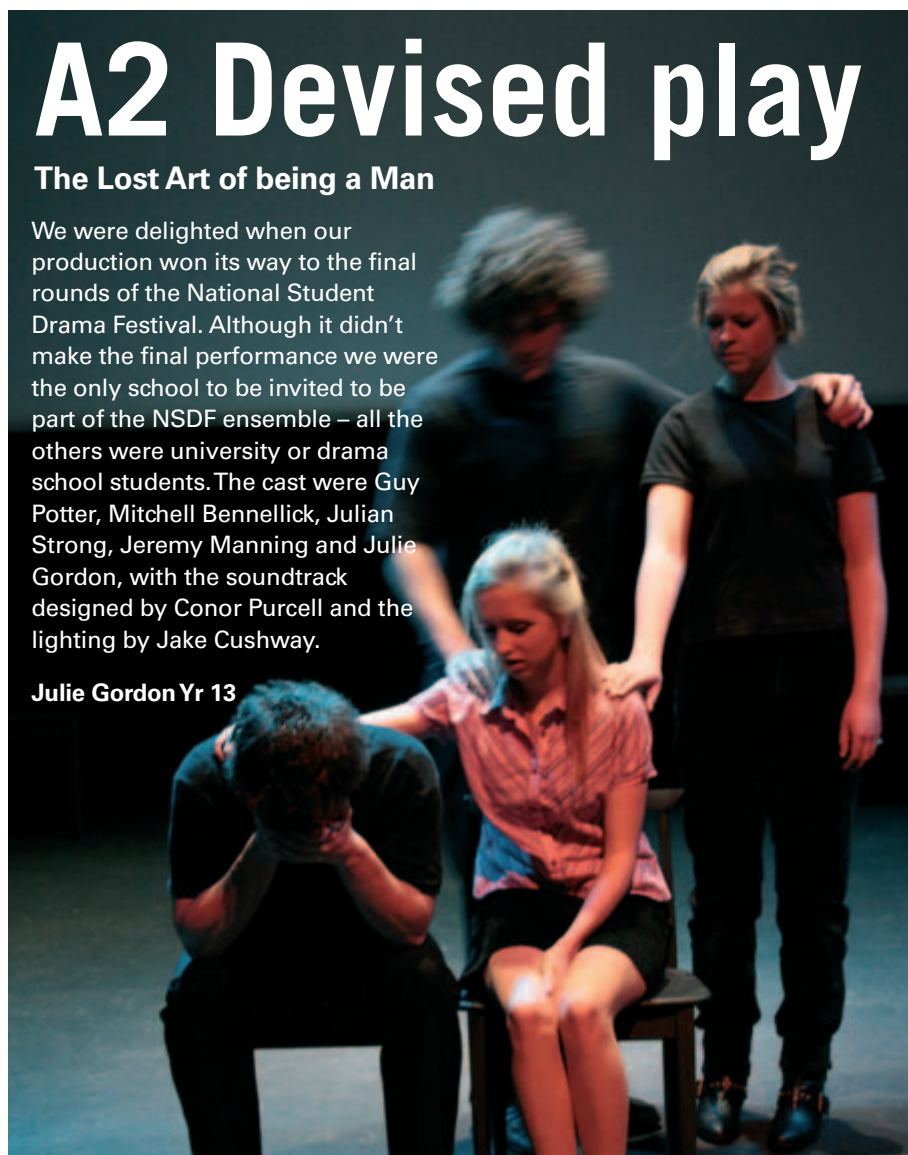
*Back row: Martin Peper, Tom Rickets, Tom Fayers, Bradley Upcott-Fowler
Front row: Holly Keevil, Kate O'Hanlon, Lizzie Wessely, Tessa Tyder, Hannah Robbins*

A2 Devised play

The Lost Art of being a Man

We were delighted when our production won its way to the final rounds of the National Student Drama Festival. Although it didn't make the final performance we were the only school to be invited to be part of the NSDF ensemble – all the others were university or drama school students. The cast were Guy Potter, Mitchell Bennellick, Julian Strong, Jeremy Manning and Julie Gordon, with the soundtrack designed by Conor Purcell and the lighting by Jake Cushway.

Julie Gordon Yr 13



North Close Leavers

The NC L6 girls are all off for their U6 in Westlake but unusually they are taking their House Parents with them. Mrs K is handing over the reins of NC to Mrs Crease and Mr K is becoming the House Master at Westlake, with Mrs K taking care of the pastoral care of the girls - Will, Jack and Digby (the dog) are, of course, going too!



Blooming Romance!

The NC girls raised over £400 for the Breast Cancer Charity in their annual sale of Valentines roses for pupils and staff. In total the girls, ably assisted by Matron Mrs Wilder, sold over 600 roses ensuring that romance is still alive and kicking at Blundell's.

BATTLEFIELDS

YEAR 9 WWI BATTLEFIELDS TRIP 2010

Article by Bryce Clark Yr 9

On the first weekend of the Summer Half Term a group of 40 Blundellians and 5 teachers met at Big School on a typical British early morning, at around 5:30am. However, what was different was that they would not be spending that weekend in Britain, but in France and the destination of the trip, Belgium. Strangely, they would also spend a couple of hours in Germany and even more strangely a couple of hours in Canada. This was the Year 9 World War I Battlefields Trip 2010, full of enjoyment and showed us what we could never find out from reading a textbook.



■ Main picture: **Tyne Cot cemetery**
Inset: **Vimy Ridge Trenches**

"The whole earth heaved and flared, a tremendous and magnificent column rose up into the sky. There was an ear-splitting roar, drowning all the guns, flinging the machine sideways in the repercussing air. The earth column rose higher and higher to almost 4,000 feet." Cecil Lewis

On the last Friday of the first half of term at the crack of dawn, we left on a very, very long journey to Dover to catch the ferry that would take us to Calais and the next phase of the journey. The journey was pretty normal except for Hoen's excitement at leaving the British Isles for the first time! Now the trip could really begin; we had left England and were now roaring through the French countryside in our great lumbering beast of a coach.

It was late afternoon when we arrived at the first stop to pick up our guide for the day, who would be leading us around the Somme Battlefield sites. The Lochnagar Crater was the first stop on the tour. This huge hole was created on the 1st July 1916 by 26.8 tons of TNT detonated in one of the British mining tunnels. Outside everyone wasted their money on useless WWI junk at the shop but how real his products were, no one can tell. By the side there was also a grave for a Scottish soldier who was found there recently. Next we were taken to the Thiepval Memorial, this was a very humbling and sombre place, and it is the largest of the memorials to the missing. The huge imposing monument has sixteen pillars and every one of those pillars has written on them the names of the missing soldiers of the Somme Battle who have no known grave. Every time a body is found and identified their name is removed from the monument. We had now left France and entered Canada as we walked into the Newfoundland Memorial Park. This area is owned and maintained by the Canadian Government and is in the memory of the Newfoundland 29th Division who suffered appalling losses here. Walking into this quiet peaceful wood it was hard to believe that this is where actual fighting had taken place.

After the long hours of driving it was good to arrive at the Hostel for some relaxing time. The place was nice, except for the thin itchy blanket and tiny square pillow that we got and the continual noise from the English Pub goes at the end of the street.



Tyne Cot is the largest cemetery in Europe and the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world. Established in October 1917, it is the burial ground for those who died fighting in the Ypres Salient. There is a total of 11,954 bodies (8,397 unknown) buried here and a further 34,927 names of those who have no known grave inscribed on the wall surrounding (in construction they found it was too small to fit all the names on).

■ Top: Yr 9 Historians at Vimy Ridge
Below: Sanctuary Wood Museum



« After a bright and early start we began our tour of the Ypres Salient. The first stop was the largest cemetery in Europe, Tyne Cot. The pictures could not have prepared us for what we saw. There was just line after line after line of graves and on the wall surrounding there were the names of the missing. But what really amazed me was that this was just a small fraction of those who were killed in the whole of World War I. Not many of us thought about the German graves and it was a surprise to see how Langemark looked. There was a mass grave in the middle and all the others were also groups of individuals buried together. The next stop was the Hill 62 Sanctuary wood. We were allowed in the trenches there and the tunnels were pitch black and full of water. Quite randomly there was a Scottish bagpipe player in the corner of the area. We then bundled back to leper to visit the Flanders Field Museum. Nothing unusual happened there, except when I came out of the toilet everyone had left and I was all by myself, while they were all looking around the streets of leper. Now it was time for the reason most people came on this trip, the Chocolate Shop visit! The man with the microphone told us his deals that involved not 1...not 2...but 3 free gifts! Many of us went out of there with considerably lighter wallets. We went around the town a bit (and to other chocolate shops) and bought a whole load of useless souvenir junk. At 8:00pm it was time for the Last Post ceremony, it was incredible the size of the crowd that turned up considering it happens every night. We were all near the back and resorted to holding our cameras above our heads and watching the screen. When that had ended, there was a cafe that made a fortune from all the wet and cold school children who wanted hot chocolate.

We left the Hostel for the last time and began our last day on the mainland. The journey started with visits to two museums, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele and the Hooze Crater Museum. The MMP had some magnificent gardens that most of us walked through after the exhibits, and the Hooze Museum had some preserved trenches where we had a group photo taken. We then came to the final stop on our trip, Vimy Ridge, which is also in Canada. The front lines were incredible, you could have thrown a stick from one to the other. We also went down to the tunnels beneath the trenches, which were all carved out of the rock in the ground, but the most impressive thing was the monument. This huge monument is to commemorate the Canadian soldiers who have no known graves. This monument took eleven years to build and was unveiled on the 26th July 1936, but one of the more disturbing facts is that Hitler actually visited Vimy and that it would remain untouched by his soldiers.

So the long, long journey on our great lumbering coach began again. The trip to Calais took hours and the trip from Dover to Blundell's took hours. On the way, some of us were dropped off at a petrol station where we also said goodbye to Kevin, the Welsh coach driver, who had taken us all over Belgium and France - it was his birthday that night. We arrived back at Blundell's on Monday morning after the great journey that was the History Trip.



The Menin Gate was unveiled on the 24th July 1927 to commemorate those who had died at Ypres. There are a total of 54,896 names of soldiers with no known grave. The Gate is where the soldiers who fought went out of the town, many of them did not come back. The Last Post ceremony has taken place there at 8.00pm every day since 2nd July 1928 apart from four years during the German occupation in WWII.

■ Left: **The Menin Gate**
Above left: **Newfoundland Memorial Park**

Top right: **Hooze Crater tunnels**
Above right: **Dale Fletcher!**



The 3rd VII netball team

The 3rd VII netball team had their greatest season to date, remaining unbeaten despite playing several nail-bitingly close games. Captained with enthusiasm, humour and relentless encouragement, Sorrel Nixon got the most out of her 'troopettes' at every match (helped along the way by a bit of bribery from KJW). Amy Clarke, Jess Summers and Siobhan O'Kelly worked the court well, getting the ball up to the mighty and unflappable shooting double act of Lauren Mitchell and Jess Berry, whose shooting skills were always out of the top drawer. On the few occasions that possession went against us, our opponents had the mighty task of shooting over Jody Whyte's exceptional defending. Victories were secured against Kingswood, Queen's Taunton, Wellington, Taunton School and Clifton but possibly the most impressive result was a great 10-10 draw against Plymouth College's 1st team. Heading up to the courts for our final fixture against Wells Cathedral School, who by beating us last season had clinched their own unbeaten season, we were all almost overcome by excitement. Winning 27-11 at home felt very sweet and I was incredibly proud of all the girls. The whole team seemed to enjoy their training as a 3rd team should, but they were very competitive on match days and knew how to dig deep by really working together. **KJW**

Team of the Term

In the Autumn 2008 Diary we highlighted the prospects of Lizzie Wessely as an athlete with exceptional talent. In the AVIVA English Schools Track & Field Championships held at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham this year, Lizzie achieved her ultimate goal by winning the gold medal in the Senior Girls 400m Hurdles in a time of 60.83 secs. Lizzie won the only 3 competitions she entered this year but she has also been Captain of Netball, Vice Captain of Hockey and only the second girl to be awarded the famous White Jacket at Blundell's. She also won gold with the Devon 4 x 100m relay team at the same meet.

Lizzie has continued her training alliance with ex-Blundell's teaching legend, Norman Ridgway, and his well-known maxim of 'if you're not training, then someone else is' made Lizzie's sacrifice of missing her post-A Level celebrations with her friends, all completely worthwhile. Lizzie is undoubtedly one of the finest athletes Blundell's has ever helped to produce and we were all extremely proud of her achievements. She is hoping to continue her athletics career at Bath University.

Our Rising Star has Risen!

Lizzie Wessley

T81: Senior Girls 400m H			
Final			
1	Lizzie Wessely	DEV	60.83ns
2	Megan Southwart	KEN	61.46ns
3	Laura Burke	SUR	61.82ns
4	Sonia Santos	HUM	62.70ns
5	Hannah Lloyd	HER	62.93ns
6	Felicity Clarke	ESS	63.66ns
7	Amelia Clifford	WIL	64.68es
8	Emma Komocki	DER	64.95es



England U17 cricketer

Cameron Granger has been selected for the England U17 cricket development squad. Cameron, the 1st X1's wicket keeper/batsman, also plays league cricket for Exeter. As a boy he watched Somerset keeper Rob Turner many times at the County Ground and so he was delighted when Rob was appointed master i/c cricket at Blundell's three years ago. In that time Rob has been able to help Cameron to his current level and his inclusion is part of the development of the England U19 world cup programme in two years time. This has been the stepping stone for many first class cricketers including Marcus Trescothick, and Cameron is hoping to progress into professional cricket.



BLUNDELL'S C

1st XI Cricket

The 2010 1st X1 cricket season will go down as a mostly successful one, winning 12 out of 20 matches of all formats. However, it was an inconsistent season with some truly great performances and some rather disappointing efforts too. Highlights were the victories over Sherborne, Clifton College, Plymouth College and Millfield (but not their full Academy side). Against Sherborne, Captain, Hugh McDowell (79), ably assisted by Barney Goss and Matt Hague chased down the 221 they had been set in real style. Zach Bess (52) and Jack Rossiter (50) took the honours when Millfield's total of 246 was passed. A fantastic game versus the Devon Dumplings saw a loss by 1 run when the Captain and Zach Bess found a very able ally in the form of Jack Maunder from Year 8!

There was also an excellent victory over Taunton School in the Twenty20 competition, where Harrison Folland, Toby Lett and the Skipper led the batting, whilst Harrison and Jack Lilly D'Cruz did the damage with the ball. This brought us up against King's Taunton, who this year boasted one of the best sides anywhere, and what it a game it turned out to be. Chasing 165, Zach Bess played quite beautifully for his 58 and Barney Goss struck the ball as cleanly as anyone all year and victory was in our grasp at 154 for 4 with 10 balls to go. The tension took its toll and we fell 5 runs short but it was a memorable match. King's went on to lose to Millfield, who then went on to win the National competition at Lords.

The season ended with a most enjoyable tour to Malvern College where we were the overall Festival winners, beating the likes of Rugby, Downside and Malvern. Hugh McDowell captained the side with a calm authority throughout and he has developed an excellent cricketing brain over the course of the summer.

RJT



RICKET



Above: Alistair Chilcott
Left: Luke Williams

Marlborough Cricket Festival 2010

The U15 boys went to the Marlborough Cricket Festival and were absolutely fantastic, with all three other coaches agreeing that Blundell's were the best team. All the games were closely contested and the standard of cricket was very high. At the festival post-mortem it was also agreed that Blundell's had the batsman with the most potential in Luke Williams, although he has yet to fully realise it.

Many of the cricketing parents and other members of staff spoke to me on several occasions to say how impressed they were with Blundell's fielding, team spirit and enthusiasm at the festival. The boys were a pleasure to spend time with and were fantastic ambassadors for the School both on and off the pitch.

Match 1 (Eton) - Blundell's 189 all out in 47 overs (Chilcott 58, Wyatt-Haines 32, Dart 32)

Eton 187 all out 49 overs (Dart 2-15, Chilcott 3-20)

Blundell's won by 2 runs

A wonderful game in which Blundell's fielded and bowled brilliantly in order to defend a relatively small total.

Match 2 (Marlborough) - Marlborough 192 all out in 49 overs (Wyatt-Haines 2-29, Browne 2-27)

Blundell's 193 for 8 in 42 overs (Wyatt-Haines 50, Abdoll 22 not out)

Blundell's won by 2 wickets

A fine chase led by Sam Wyatt-Haines and Luke Williams and finished in style by Gary Abdoll.

Match 3 (Uppingham) - Blundell's 170 all out (Dart 44, Maunder 53 not out)

Uppingham 170-8 in 46 overs (Ansell 3-23)

Uppingham won by 2 wickets

A fantastic partnership between Jack Dart and Jack Maunder helped us recover from 10-3 in the 3rd over. An amazing display of fielding meant that Blundell's almost defended a score that was 30 runs short on a very good pitch.

A thoroughly enjoyable three days where the boys competed successfully against some of the biggest cricketing schools in the country. **RJH**

Main picture: 1st X1 Captain Hugh McDowell turns on the style

2010

National Champions: Jack Grandfield
and Sam Wyatt-Haines



AT
BLUNDELL'S



Fives is a sport which has been part of Blundell's life for almost as long as the School has been in existence. The game's history stretches all the way back to 1625 and it is still played just as enthusiastically as it was almost 400 years ago.

For those unfamiliar with the sport, Fives is a game closely related to other racquet sports like real tennis and squash. The court has four walls, with players hitting a small, hard ball against the front wall in a similar fashion to squash. The difference however is that instead of using a racquet, players must use their leather-clad hands to propel the ball.

Fives has its origins in old English public schools, where schoolboys would hit a small ball with their hands between the buttresses of their school chapels. The game was soon developed into a recognised sport, with the courts built to mimic the shape of the chapel walls. Since then it quickly spread to other public schools including Blundell's, where it is still played today.

At Blundell's there are eight Fives courts, situated behind FH next to the sports hall. The courts see regular use, with Mr Hedley-Dent and Mr Matthews coaching students throughout the year, from Yr 7 all the way up to the Sixth Form. The sport is played both as an activity for younger years and competitively against other schools by teams from all year groups. Winner of this year's Senior Plate George Daykin summed up Fives at Blundell's perfectly, saying that "Fives is a great sport because it's so easy to pick up. All you need is a ball, a pair of gloves and an opponent. It's also more sociable than squash as we usually play doubles, maybe that's why it's still so popular at Blundell's".

The 2009/10 season was a highly successful one for all of the Blundell's Fives teams, with an almost 100% winning record across the board. Competitive fixtures were played against King's Bruton, Malvern, Winchester, Clifton, Sherborne and Kelly College, with only the Malvern Senior Bs able to overturn a Blundell's side. Captain Jack Turner attributed the season's success not only to the quality of the players, but also to the quality of the coaching, saying "we're very lucky to have several teachers who are willing to put a lot of time and effort in to help us improve". In fact the standard of Fives at Blundell's was so high this year that we were represented at national level, with Sam Wyatt-Haines incredibly being crowned not only U14 National Champion, but also U14 Doubles National Champion with his partner Jack Granfield. Jack Webber and Sam Combe were also present at the national championship, with Jack reaching the plate final. Such a successful season only serves to prove that Fives at Blundell's is not only alive and well, but is being developed and improved with International Fives legend Wayne Enstone taking regular coaching sessions. Let's hope this winning streak continues, and that there are more talented individuals waiting in the wings to continue what has now become one of the School's most popular sports.

Ed Crawford Yr 12

Fives Club 2010

Standing: Jonathan Sawyer (Blundellian parent), Bob Hitchens (Blundellian parent), Douglas Rice (master-in-charge 1981-97), Dwight Schultz (OB), Melanie Whitehead (Blundell's parent), Daniel Hill (OB), Stuart Watson (Exeter)
Kneeling: Andrew Wyeth (OB), Alex Rew (OB), Tim Lewis (Exeter)



1ST IV 1957

Standing: Chris Clarke, Chris Reichwald, master-in-charge, Arthur Littlewood
Seated: Richard Sharp, Frank Akerman



1st IV 1972

Left to right: Tony Beddoe, Vic Marks, Charles Colquhoun, Simon Wright



1959

James Maclachlan (left) and Richard White (right) winners of the British Schools Rugby Fives Doubles Trophy



North Close 1950



Westlake 1977



DUCKWORTH RE

by MJ Sampson (Archivist)



DUCKWORTH RELAYS

The Duckworth Relay Races were first held on March 28th 1928, with the prize of a Challenge Cup presented by Mrs Hotblack and Capt. R.F.H. Duckworth, in memory of their father Robert Fagan Duckworth, an Old Blundellian. 'Bob' Duckworth, the son of a Blundell's Master, attended the School from 1866 to 1876, and in each of his last two years he won the Masters Cup for the best overall performance at the Annual Sports Meeting held on the Green at Old Blundell's. He obtained a Gilberd's Exhibition to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he rowed for his College and played rugby for Somerset. After graduating with a BA in 1881, he succeeded his father as Headmaster of St. Peter's School, Weston-super-Mare; a post he held until his death on October 9th 1926.

The Duckworth Relays were to be an inter-house competition, and the inaugural event comprised eight races, four in the 'Open' category and four in the 'Under 16s'. The distances run were 4 x 110yds, 4 x 440yds, 4 x 1 mile, and a one mile medley race (with 2 legs of 220yds, and one each of 440 and 880yds). The scoring was one point for first, two for second etc., the House with the lowest total of points being declared the winner. For this first competition Francis House were the victors and North Close runners-up.

In the following year points scored in the Open races were doubled when calculating the total. There were several changes made for the competition in 1930. A third age category was introduced, so there were 'Open' races, and those for 'Under 16½s' and 'Under 15s', with points in the 'Open' races trebled, and those in the 'Under 16½s' doubled. The 4 x 1 mile contest was replaced by one of 4 x 880yds. North Close became the dominant team, winning 11 out of the 14 competitions between 1932 and 1945. In 1962 Westlake teams won 8 out of the 11 races (there was no Junior 4 x 880yds in this year), and virtually monopolized the Cup throughout the 1960s and 1970s. The points system was altered in 1963, with 7 points awarded for a win, 6 points for second, and so on, with the House scoring the most points overall being declared the winner. Decimalization in the early 1970s meant that yards became metres.

The Duckworths had always been held towards the end of the spring term, and were often accompanied by cold rain, wind, sleet and on occasion snow. The decision was taken in 1982 to move the event to the week before half-term in the summer; there was to be no more snow, but avoiding the British rain was often impossible and occasionally the races had to be cancelled. The distances were also revised – the 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m remained, but a 2 x 800m replaced the 4 x 800m, and there was a novel introduction of a 4 x 200m mixed race, each team comprising a junior, an intermediate and a senior boy, and a girl. At this time there was no girls' house, and so each was allocated to a boys' house.

Subsequent developments in the organisation of the School have led to further changes. From 1995 the separate girls' houses, North Close, Gorton House and (later) Thornton House, competed for a new trophy, the Duckworth Shield, and, following the establishment in School House as the Junior Department in 1996, children from that House compete under the various 'fields' – Amory, Mayfield, Gornhay and Beale. Inter-

house competition in the Duckworths is not now so intense as in former years mainly because the earlier seven boys' houses, each with a full range of ages, could compete on equal terms, but now with the division into separate Upper Vth, Junior, girls' and boys' houses, this cannot be so. Nevertheless, one tenet still holds true:

The Duckworth is not won only by outstanding athletes but also by the moderate performers who give that little extra when occasion demands it.'

LAYS



A Full

Blundellians continue to throw their all into their House Plays and the recent Petergate and Old House events were of a high standard. These plays are generated and directed solely by the pupils and typify the close community spirit still prevalent in all the houses.

House



No Sex Please We're British

by Anthony Marriott & Alistair Foot

Having acted in two previous house plays, it was a pleasure to be able to direct this year. Apart from me, only Inigo Vyvyan has participated in a house play before, so it was wonderful to be able to give the rest of the cast their time on stage. The play, 'No Sex Please We're British!', having been performed by Petergate 6 years ago, gave us a real challenge; to not only make it funny, but better than the last performance. Having not seen it before and liking the plot (though the script did hamper us at times!) we set about rehearsing. The plot centres on Peter Hunter (played by Elliot Keefe), who when a package of dodgy photos arrives at his doorstep, must do everything he can to stop his mother and his boss from seeing them. Moving from bad to worse, the play has everything from the crude humour to prostitutes (no surprise there – it is a boys' house after all, but Ryan McMaster and Michel Peper were frighteningly good at their roles). With a memorable performance from Louis Edmanson and the rest of the cast, and a superb choice of costume – many haven't yet recovered from the sight of Louis Roscoe in that dress – everything went well on the night.

After weeks and weeks of chivvying and stress, the final two shows flew by and the whole cast gave their best performances. I suppose one thing that every director fears is that no one will enjoy it, but with Mr Berrow there, laughing at every joke – even after the 27th time – we all felt confident.

Of course, the whole production couldn't have happened without the support of AJRB, the Petergate team and the Drama Department, who all gave so much to the play and helped to make it one of the best experiences I'll take from Blundell's.

Edward Carlton Yr 12



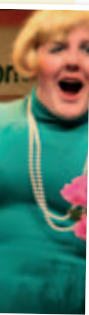
A Day In The Life

by Gary Diamond and Ray Lawrence

Every year OH puts on what it hopes will be a very entertaining play and this year was to prove no exception. Under the direction of Hugo Trevelyan Thomas, Ed Crawford and Xan Winterton, the farce 'A Day In The Life' by Gary Diamond and Ray Lawrence provided humour from start to finish, giving the OH thespians the opportunity to show their comic acting talent. As usual, there were some worryingly convincing performances of OH's version of girls and all the actors would join us in saying, albeit with some ups and downs, that they had a brilliant time both rehearsing and performing. The final product was a well-received success and was enjoyed by both parents and pupils alike.

John Steer-Fowler took on the leading role of Mortimer with great enthusiasm and was well supported by cast members such as Cam Grainger and Charlie Craddock. The whole cast put their all into the performances and for this, as well as their hard work during the preceding months, we thank them.

The Directors.



Design Technology

Photography

Art

leading edge



Top: Stina Ding Yr10

Bottom: Cecily Offord U6



Main picture: Emmie de Falbe Yr11

Above: Lottie Free Yr11

ART REVIEW 2010

Year 10

Year 10 has been structured slightly differently this year due to the new syllabus. Divided into three groups they have rotated between the art staff and the specialisms of Painting, Printmaking and Photography each term. The skills they acquire here can then be explored in greater depth during the externally assessed projects in year 11. A lot of very impressive work has been produced and a healthy appetite for the subject maintained. In Printmaking Amy Hutchens' monoprint, Rachel Bundy's spider etching and Stina Ding's Zebras were highlights amongst some very strong work. Jess Grandfield's butterfly painting and Esme Lewis-Plunkett's photography were also particularly good. The year was rounded off by a trip to the Tate Galleries in London, connected by a ferry along the Thames on a blisteringly hot day. Nothing compares to seeing the great works of the Masters up close and the vision of Stubbs' Hounds and the haunting painting of Ophelia will live on in our memories.

Year 11

This has been an extremely talented year group and the quality of the work in the photos here should speak for themselves. The GCSE course ended with a large exhibition taking over Ondaatje at the end of the Spring Term where it is assessed by the Art staff and then again in the Summer Term by an external moderator. Notable highlights were Lauren Kalsi's soldier sculpture, Maddie Simonson's exam photography and Charlie Craddock's seascape. An exciting and innovative group to teach and much of their work has been entered into the Saatchi Art Prize for Schools.

RDJM

Product Innovation in A2 Design and Technology



Two A* coursework projects this year have come from two girls, Katie Maynard and Naomi Beckett, who both designed and prototyped new DIY products for the female market. Currently the female market in power tools is very limited and manufacturers just seem to turn their male products into female products by injection moulding them with pink plastic. Katie and Naomi have both carefully researched the market to find out what single females really need for basic DIY jobs. Katie Maynard's sander eliminates the need to regularly change the sandpaper which in most hand-sanders is a tricky job. Instead, a 'spool' of sandpaper is bought and loaded into the sander much like an old fashioned camera film. Once the sandpaper becomes worn the spool is 'wound on' to a fresh piece. Naomi's power drill focuses on reducing weight and styling the power drill to make it more female friendly; it looks and feels more like a hairdryer rather than a heavy power tool. The packaging also comes with user friendly instructions and the relevant attachments and fittings for drilling into different surfaces. This removes the confusion that most users feel when trying to decipher the many different wall fittings in the local B&Q. The packaging allows for different 'packs' to then be replaced in an easy and manageable way.

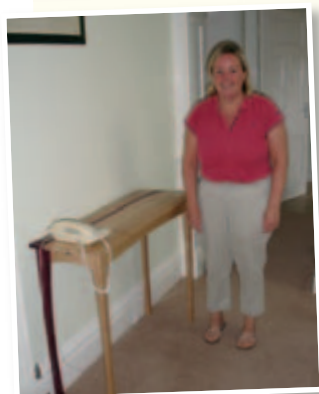
Top: Katie Maynard's 360° sander

Bottom: Naomi Beckett's drill

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S LETTER



The start of another term brings a chance to say thank you to all our supporters who have made such a difference to ensuring our projects go ahead. It is very much appreciated and without such support many activities would not be able to take place. I am also delighted to be able to give a brief round-up of the last year's activities what a busy year it seems to have been.



1st Prize winner with her unique table designed by Prince Phillip Award winning fine furniture maker Nick Gutfreund

We launched the first Annual Draw in support of the Peter Blundell Foundation Provision, an initiative to enable those who would not normally be able to do so, to secure a Blundell's education and give them a life changing opportunity. I am extremely grateful to all our most generous supporters and the wonderful prizes that they donated.

We have some equally wonderful prizes on offer in this year's draw, so please do support and return your ticket stubs today.

It has been a busy year with the events programme for the Blundell's community bringing together Old Blundellians, current and past parents and other supporters of the School. A drinks and canapé reception was held at the magnificent Ashmolean Museum where guests had the opportunity to view some wonderful artifacts. We were very privileged to have the director of the newly refurbished Museum, Dr Christopher Brown, address our gathering of guests; most of whom live or work in and around the Oxford area together with former pupils who went at Oxford. The event was made possible by the most generous support of Old Blundellians



Top right: Ian Davenport welcoming guests
Above: Guests enjoying the wonderful artifacts
Left: Dr Christopher Brown – Ashmolean Museum Director



John Beale (Milestones 56-61) and Mark Beard (School House 76-81), who both run very successful businesses in the area.

It was with the generous support of James Goff (Milestones 75-79) that we held our first casual drinks reception at the truly unique venue of 'The Light Bar' in Shoreditch, London. We had a large turnout of both OBs, current and past parents. James very kindly provided delightful canapés and all enjoyed the fabulous sunny evening on the terrace with the Blundell's flag being proudly flown in the background. It was an opportunity for those working in the city to network and enjoy an informal evening. Nearly a hundred members of the Blundell's community came in and out during the evening; an event that

Left: Blundell's flying high
Middle: Guests enjoying the roof top terrace
Right: OBs of all ages enjoying a drink





Top: Three generations of St Aubyn's/Blundell's Prep pupils. From left, Rupert, Patrick & Nick Batting
Left & Right: Guests enjoying the exhibition



was billed as drinks from six to seven thirty was still going strong at ten thirty! James has offered to do the same thing next year and, hopefully, it will become a regular fixture on the Blundell's Calendar.

In 2000 the conversion of the Blundell's Sanatorium and the completion of a new build, provided accommodation for St Aubyn's Prep, Pre Prep and Nursery to move up to the Blundell's site and extend the age range at Blundell's down to six months. Over the last few years there has been further development on the site, with two main buildings housing a Prep and Pre Prep School renamed Blundell's Prep and taking up to 250 children between the ages of 3½ and 11. Further extensions to the main building, the completion of a Headmaster's house and 16 acres of new playing fields to the east of the School make the Prep School campus one of the best in the South West.

Former pupils, staff and parents of the School, including former pupil Rupert Batting, a founder pupil when the School first started at St Aubyn's Villas, gathered together for a musical recital from current pupils. This was followed by drinks and canapés with an exhibition from the days of its inception in 1929 to celebrate the new School's 10 year anniversary.

We had our second '1604 Society' lunch at the Carlton Club in June by kind permission of James Bullock (Petergate 81-86). We were treated to a delicious lunch in the most beautiful surroundings of the Chamberlain Room. If you wish to find out more about the '1604 Society', the Blundell's Society to recognise potential legacy supporters of the School, please do feel free to contact me.

In June we had our second day with the Culm Valley Small Schools Group. Pupils from local primary schools arrived for the 'Forensic Science Day' and 'Murder Investigation' with the Science department tutors of Blundell's. This stimulating day demonstrated the working partnership between the State and Independent sector. The day was made possible with support from a number of Charitable Trusts who funded the event.



We have already had a busy start to the term with support from principle sponsors Porsche, Knight Frank and Ashfords for the One Day Event on Sunday 12th September and again from Ashfords for the Open Day Hockey Tournament on Saturday 18th September.

On the 25th September over 170 guests from the Blundell's Community joined us for a Military Reception to celebrate 150 years of the CCF and a look at 'all things military' taking place during Blundell's History. A full report and photographs will be published in the next edition of the diary together with recollections from a number of OBs about their military careers.

We are also hoping to field a team for the 'Hare and Hounds' race in Wimbledon on 11th December. Please send me an email or give me a call if you would like to be involved. It would be a great opportunity to get into training for the 'Blundell's Veterans Race', which will be held again at The Russell on Saturday 12th March; parents past and present and Old Blundellians are all welcome to participate.

It is not too late to enter the Blundell's Charity Golf Day, as an individual, pair or team. This will be held on Thursday 21st October at Woodbury Golf and Country club. There will plenty of activities, including a spa, for guests of players to enjoy before the evening dinner. See the Development Office website to download an application form, or contact us at the office.

We have produced a web-based Business Directory, and all members of the Blundell's community are welcome to include their business details on these pages; please see the School's website for contact and application details.

A huge thank you to all who have most generously supported the Development Office activities, events and fundraising in the last year. With the current economic climate, your support is more important than ever. Do please give me a call if you would like to be involved or would like to support us in any way.

Amber Oliver

a.oliver@blundells.org or 01884 232324.

OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY 2010

The day began with the Old Blundellian Club Annual General Meeting, at which new regulations concerning membership were passed. The aim of the Club is to embrace all who have been educated at or worked for Blundell's School. James Bullock, President for the Day, attended the Meeting after his morning run and was pleased with the broadening of the OB Club.

Drinks were taken in the Colin Beale Centre after the Chapel Service. Andrew Berrow preached an excellent sermon and Cedric Clapp read the lesson. The sermon is available on the OB Club website. The amended form of service was popular with both Old Blundellians and pupils.

An excellent lunch was served to about ninety in a marquee adjacent to the Colin Beale Centre, which was followed by addresses from the Chairman of the OB Club, Paul Waterworth, the Mayor of Tiverton, Lester Crocker, the Head Master, Ian Davenport and the President for the Day, James Bullock. Tours of the dramatically improved Petergate followed, together with a variety of sport on cricket pitches and tennis courts. Tea was taken in the Colin Beale Centre, the weather remained good and the Day was enjoyed by one and all.



Top: David Bentata holding court

Right: Chris Price and Brian Currie put the world to rights

Below: Hugh Bayly making a point very firmly





Top: Lester Crocker and guests

Middle: Paul Waterworth addresses OBs

Above: Seb and Hannah Prowse with Heather Barlow

Below: It wasn't like this in the old days



OB DAY 2011



Above: Paul running the New York marathon 1983

Old Blundellian Day 2011 will take place on Saturday 18th June.

The theme for the day will be 'The Law'. All OBs are very welcome but we hope to attract back as many as possible who have a connection with the law including judges, barristers, solicitors and police officers.

Judge Paul Waterworth has agreed to be President for the Day. Paul was Head Boy of Blundell's in 1962. He played for two years in the 1st XV and 1st XI and was a full colour in both sports. He subsequently played regularly for the OBCC.

After leaving school, Paul attended the College of Law and was admitted a solicitor in 1968. He then practised first in London and later in Warwickshire, where he became senior partner. He became a deputy judge and was appointed a full time judge in 1999. He sat for 10 years in the Midlands, increasingly specialising in family cases. He and his wife Helen had owned a house on Dartmoor for some time and in 2009 Paul moved to the Western Circuit. He now sits at Exeter and Barnstaple.

In his thirties, Paul took up long distance running and eventually ran 22 marathons, achieving a best time of 3 hours 12 minutes. He ran marathons in many cities including London, New York, Brussels, Paris and Berlin. He now runs gently around the boundary of his local cricket club in Lustleigh, dreaming of those glory days. He competed (successfully) against his son James in The Russell in 1992 and was delighted to discover that there was still life in the old legs.

Paul became Chairman of the Old Blundellian Club in 2008.

James Patrick, Circuit Judge, ex-head of School and ordained priest, has agreed to preach.

Provisional Programme

- 10.00 am** AGM of the Old Blundellian Club in the Colin Beale Centre
- 11.00 am** Service in School Chapel
- 12.00 noon** Drinks Party in the Colin Beale Centre for Old Blundellians, invited guests, the Head Master and Staff
- 1.00 pm** Buffet lunch in the marquee on Big Field
- 4.00 pm** Tennis against the School
- 4.30 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 Wednesday 8th June. Tickets are available from Paddy or Janet Wooff at the Colin Beale Centre (obclub@blundells.org or **01884 232010**).

Chris Clark Old House 1997-2002

The Long Road To Congo



In August 2008, a long imagined journey began to enter into fruition. I posed awkwardly for a picture at the sign marking Land's End, the sea stretching to the horizon behind me. Then I was off. The sun beat down on my back, a soft wind brushed my face. I could hear the light hiss of the waves caressing the shore below me. It was a great day to embark on an adventure. And what a great adventure it would become.

That day I was beginning a solitary march from Land's End, the most south-westerly point of Britain, to John o'Groats, the most north-easterly. I intended to complete my mission in roughly 2 months, hoping to arrive at John o'Groats by the beginning of October 2008. I was walking to raise money for charities throughout Africa. On completing the walk, I intended to fly to South Africa and then use it as a gateway into other parts of the continent where I hoped to work as a volunteer for some of the various beneficiaries of my walk. I also intended to get off the beaten track in search of untold stories and write a book based on these experiences.

My fascination for Africa had begun a few years previously through books about the Congo. I had formulated Conradian dreams of a mysterious and secret 'heart of darkness'. It was one such book that also gave me the inspiration to embark on my walk. In Tim Butcher's 'Blood River' he tells of an encounter with an old man in the

Congo who is walking a 700 mile round trip to the nearest market town and back with a battered old bike laden with palm oil to sell in the market. He makes this journey every few months and all for just a few dollars at the end of it. I took out a map of Britain and roughly measured the distance from top to bottom. 700 miles it seemed was at least the equivalent of walking all the way from Cornwall to the Scottish borders. Why not go the whole way I thought to myself. So, with this story as the catalyst, I set about planning my route and began to send letters to all and sundry, telling them the story of the Congolese man, the details of my own intended trip, and requesting donations towards the cause. By August I had raised a total of around £2,500, with a great deal of help from Blundell's, and I readied myself for off.

Having never been one for long distance walking, I certainly expected a test. That, in fact, was part of the point; I wanted to test both my own resilience and my dedication to the cause. I did not want to do something easy. And at the beginning at least it certainly was not. After the initial day's sunshine, over the following few weeks the weather threw everything it could at me. It rained and rained and the wind seemed determined to stop me dead in my tracks by day, or take my tent away with it at night. My feet were covered in blisters. My back ached from the weight of my backpack. And I was alone, with no-one else to spur me on. But onwards I marched, determined that it would get

easier, discarding possessions from my pack to lighten the load as I went. And soon the weather improved and my body healed - it had no choice but to adapt, I suppose - and I began to see the true beauty of my home country, a beauty that I had often overlooked in the past. I fell in love with England. I walked through wonderful places that I never would have thought to go to otherwise. It was revelatory. I had never been so close to nature. I had never lived such a simple existence; fresh air, walking, sleeping, eating; that was all. I began to wonder if I had ever felt happier.

2 months later I saw the North Sea in front of me and felt as if, light as a feather, I was walking to the end of the world. It is hard to say what I thought when I stood at John o'Groats, the land having run out; a calmness or peace perhaps. Only later would I consider what I had achieved and the relative ease with which I had done so in the end. Now I use it as fuel to tell myself that we can achieve anything if we put our minds to it.

So, having done little besides eat since the end of the walk, on January 3rd 2009 I boarded a plane bound for Cape Town. I tingled with excitement. I had travelled much but never had so little idea of what to expect or where I would end up. I didn't even have a return ticket. I was wandering off into the unknown, stumbling blindly, arms outstretched.

I initially settled in a place called Simon's Town, on the False Bay coastline outside Cape Town. It was one of those places where you instantly feel you belong: after a matter of days you feel you have been there forever, perhaps you lived there in a past life. I moved in with a self-proclaimed 'witch' to a ramshackle house set back in the foothills of the Simonsberg mountains overlooking the sea. Despite my landlady's strange beliefs in the power of crystals and the very real threat of sabotage by a troop of baboons, life was good. I acquired a 1977 Volkswagen Beetle which I named Betty, and which paid my bills by helping me to ferry tourists around the area as an unofficial tour guide.

I spent the next 3 months guiding, playing cricket, swimming, sunbathing and writing. But I still felt I was some way away from finding the stories that I had imagined. And life in South Africa, for all the country's magic, was still so segregated and polarised. It was still incredibly difficult to enter certain areas or mix with certain peoples. There were many brick walls facing my inquisitive, wandering ideals. One night, when I had tried to venture beyond the recommended boundaries, I had ended up with a gun staring me in the face and returned home with my pockets considerably lighter and, in a country with so many horror stories, feeling lucky to be alive. So, with my visa soon to expire anyway, I boarded a bus bound for Namibia.

As we came nearer to the border, and then across it, the contrast to Simon's Town and the Western Cape was extreme. Desert stretched ahead of us like a vast ocean, with hills rising in the distance like great waves of sand. Namibia is almost 4 times the size of Britain and has a



population of just under 2 million. Never have I felt so small as under the Namibian sky.

Having spent some time immersing myself in the abundant traditional tribal cultures that survive in Namibia thanks to its often inhospitable and untouched land, I returned to Cape Town a month later to prepare to head east towards Kenya, where I was due to begin my work as a volunteer.

I spent another month in Mozambique enjoying the diving and the fruits of the Indian Ocean and the colour and vibrancy of the country in general, a country once so crippled by civil war, now risen from the ashes and booming as a tourist destination, and then I was off to Kenya.

Once there I was based in Nakuru, 2 hours or so west of Nairobi. I lived with a Kenyan family and worked in some of the poorer schools or slums, helping to build new classrooms or shelters. I was amazed by the community that we encountered in the slums. In all honesty, I had expected to see mostly wretched beggars and criminals, or people lying around drunk or just downtrodden, bemoaning the hand that fate had dealt them. But in reality people were struggling on, and doing so with a smile on their faces. We were greeted warmly by all and incessant chants of 'How are you?' from groups of eager and inquisitive children followed us wherever we went. Women sat huddled over their cooking pots, joking with one another. Traffic buzzed by incessantly in a cacophony of tooting horns. Music from the bars and eateries flooded the streets. I began to wonder if these people really needed or wanted our help. They had a sense of unity in their community that we would never understand. They were united by their poverty. They could not survive alone.

After my 2 month spell volunteering was over, I ventured far north to Turkana, near the Ethiopian and Sudanese borders. Turkana has a fairly volatile reputation. It is seen as the 'wild west' of Kenya; a lawless, barren land filled with bandits and rife with tribal warfare. Most of my Kenyan friends told me I was mad to even consider going there. But, having narrowly avoided an ambush from bandits en-route, I found a place steeped in tradition and rich with the



culture of the incredibly hospitable nomadic Turkana tribe. And at its heart was the stunning saltwater Lake Turkana, its abundance of fish allowing the Turkana that line its banks to live a relatively healthy, self-sufficient life. But away from this oasis there was still a very palpable fragility to the area below the surface. The towns were crawling with UN and various NGO vehicles. And away from the Lake the already scorched earth was growing ever drier as the rains continued to fail. I went to one small tribal village in the desert where 2 children had died that week from starvation and nobody had eaten for more than a week. I had to leave another village in haste as we heard gunshots and saw bandits approaching on the horizon. Cattle rustling or fighting over grazing lands is often the cause of such attacks. It all stems from the drought. Many people are desperate. Transport anywhere is difficult and often requires armed vehicles due to the threat of the bandits. And the proximity to the borders of troubled nations such as Sudan and Somalia has only exacerbated the situation, with the influx of refugees, more bandits and weapons. I visited one refugee camp of over 80,000 people from more than 6 different African nations that has sprung up in the heart of the region.

From drought-ridden Turkana I journeyed south-west into Uganda and its green rolling hills and rich, fertile earth. Africa was a continent of constant contrasts. I was nearing the end of my time in Africa and beginning to notice again many of the differences to back home that I had come, over time, to see as normal. The way people ate with their hands, the way that people always greeted each other, the way they gesticulated or exclaimed, the colours and styles of their clothing, the way they carried things on their heads; almost everything was different. But perhaps Africa's greatest talent is its ability, if you are not afraid of it, to accept you with open arms and make you feel akin to its ways. Never will you receive such hospitality anywhere else. As we climbed one of the hills into Kampala, I saw an old man struggling up the steep incline with a rusty old bicycle laden with plastic containers full of water. He was digging in his heels, but the weight was seemingly almost

too much for his fragile, tired legs to move. As our bus drew nearer he stopped and, with more than a little effort, managed to prop his bike onto its stand, to ask for some help I assumed. But as the bus drew nearer and then was at his side, itself struggling under its load, he simply raised his right hand and waved. We passed him and I turned around to see him kick away the stand and continue his battle against gravity.

After a visit to the Source of the Nile and Lake Victoria, I continued on into Rwanda, the land of a thousand hills. In the capital Kigali I was amazed, not for the first time in Africa, by the resilience of people to rise up from the rubble of terrible tragedy or horror and rebuild their lives. Kigali was a clean, organised, progressing city; a city on the move and, for the most part, quite wealthy. It was hard to envisage the hellish genocide that had engulfed Rwanda, and particularly the capital, in 1994, taking over 800,000 lives with it in less than 2 months.

From Kigali I again headed south-west to Gisenyi on the banks of the great Lake Kivu and sitting on the border into Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo on the other side. I sat by the water's edge and looked to my right. I could see Goma. It seemed but a stone's throw away. I had to get there. There I was right in the place that had first planted the idea of this whole journey in my mind. This, in a way, was where it had all begun. It was more than that too: it was where the entire long history of Europe in the African interior had begun. It was the giant beating heart at the centre of everything to do with Africa. But it was a broken heart; an unpredictable land of corruption, exploitation and ruin. A land of thick tropical jungle mostly hidden by the 'fog of war'; a land cursed by its vast deposits of valuable minerals, allowing wild rebels to continue to sustain their reigns of rape and destruction. Despite my apprehensions, again with the sun beating down on my back and the water hissing on the sand below me, I set off and walked across the border into the Congo. And there, in many ways, my story really began.

Since returning from Africa in October 2009 I have been working on a book about my journey, as originally intended. It tells the story of the many amazing Africans that I met along the way and how they shaped my own journey and vision of Africa. But it centres on the Congo, and two particular individuals whom I met there in Muzenze prison, Goma. Their names are James and Nathan and they are facing the death penalty far from their homeland. After leaving Muzenze a new journey began, the end of which is not yet clear. But what is clear is that, just as the way everything started, it will end with Congo.

The book is called 'The Road to Muzenze'. I hope to return to Congo just before the New Year and finish it there. Thank you Blundell's for helping make all this possible. Watch this space!

Old Blundellian SPORT

A large range of Old Blundellian sporting fixtures have taken place, including extensive fixture lists for golf and cricket. The over 50s golfers did particularly well in winning the Plate competition in The Cyril Gray event. The winning team is pictured top right.

Chad Murrin organised seven OB cricket matches resulting in wins over the School, Southwesters, Devon Dimplings, Old Tauntonians, and a thrilling finish against Somerset Stragglers resulting in the OBCC losing off the last ball of the match.

Elsewhere, Old Blundellians enjoyed hockey, squash, soccer and tennis fixtures against the School; the Colin Beale Centre was used as an entertainment area after all home fixtures.

Above: OBs versus School on Big Field



Top right: Cyril Gray Plate winners

Above and right: Hockey teams before and after the match

Below, left to right: Matthew Pynn looking dangerous, Messrs Labdon and Ibrahim thoroughly enjoying OB tennis, David D'Arcy Hughes can't believe he's just lost to a girl



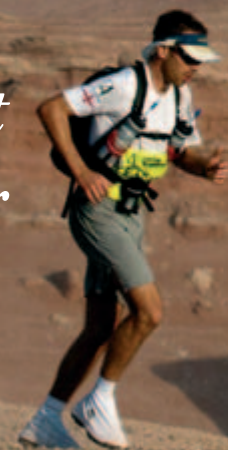
Dan Parr wins Gobi Desert Race

Dan Parr was an enthusiastic sportsman at Blundell's and played 1st XV rugby as well as other games. I thought him a well balanced and ambitious Blundellian and last saw him for a drink in the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club bar, as Dan had moved to Hong Kong on business.

I was rather surprised when Dan's mother emailed me and suggested that I look at the Gobi March website. The Gobi March is a 7 day, 6 stage, 250 km footrace across the Gobi Desert in China and is described by Time magazine as the ultimate footrace. Not only had Dan got fit enough to compete with 80 others in this race, but he had won all stages bar one, and won the overall race comfortably in a time just over 24hrs in total. My calculations make that an average of over 10 kph or one kilometre every six minutes through sand and in temperatures of up to 40° C. Well done Dan and here are some extracts from his blog.

Paddy Armstrong

"...the sun is beating down and temps in the tent are brutal. The good news is that it's going to get hotter too!"



DAN PARR PETERGATE 1990-95

Stage 1

27-Jun-2010 07:21 AM

So the race is under way at last. Journey to the first camp site was an adventure in itself. Combination of dirt roads, knackered Chinese buses and drivers who have never left Urumqi meant that we had several unplanned stops when the buses got stuck or they were afraid that the bridges were not strong enough. Each stop involved a big get together of the drivers, lots of pointing, jabbering and a quick fag. Despite the repeated committee meetings we eventually got to camp. Our tent would win the prize for most food eaten on the night before the race - enough calories to get Lance around the Tour were guzzled in preparation.

Stage one was great - relatively short and having trained in the heat and humidity of HK the conditions were fantastic - dry and cool - so an opportunity to put the foot down. Am a bit concerned that I might have gone too fast for stage one but I felt good and it's going to get hotter so I thought I may as well try and gain some time while the conditions are good. The scenery is magnificent. I almost got lost twice as I was too busy gazing at the views. The route is marked by little pink flags, which is fine unless you are colour blind like yours truly! Anyway, managed to get into camp ahead of the field, so am pretty pleased. Also a bit nervous as there are some experienced runners behind me and I think they know how to run these things, whereas I don't have a clue!! Made me think I may have gone off too quick but blow it - you've got to be in it to win it

Have got a great bunch in the tent - Amanda came in 2nd woman, beating a Kiwi who has completed Badwater twice and run the length of New Zealand! Nick and Dan have just come into camp and sound pretty fresh. Had better go and say hi.

Stage 2

28-Jun-2010 10:39 AM

You'll all be pleased to know it's getting hotter! Stage 2 was pretty good, managed to get a lead on the hilly early stage and then hung on. Crossed our 1st river and then into another stunning campsite surrounded by mountains. The sun is beating down and temps in the tent are brutal. The good news is that it's going to get hotter too! Tent no 1 is going pretty well with Amanda in 2nd for the chicks and Stu roaring in 15th today. Even Nick and Brandty are performing v well - unfortunately I think they have run out of extra food which is not good news for me!

Sorry this is so short, the computers here are tiny and typing is like using a keyboard with mittens on!

Stage 3

29-Jun-2010 08:36 AM

Someone has found the thermostat and the temp has gone through the roof! Managed to get through stage 3 before it got really hot - in fact, we actually had some rain. I've asked the organisers for my money back.

We're staying the night in some local Uigur houses. What normally would pass for basic is considered superior to the Four Seasons when you've been sleeping in a tent and going to the loo in a hole for four days! Great to have a roof over the head and windows to look out of. The rooms have carpets on the wall which is a bit weird and it feels like a Turkish boudoir but it's the height of luxury. It's great to be around the locals and we get some pretty odd looks. I walked past a couple of kids in my white long-sleeve tee shirt and white full length leggings (the ballerina ones) and they both broke out in laughter. I don't think it was complimentary! Having the little kids running around makes me miss Milo and his chaos but I'm getting more kip here than at home. Have met some great people out here - lots of super-keenos but on the whole a pretty decent bunch. There are a couple of real old boys taking part so I reckon if we get Dad some new knees he'd be good to go!

Have been racing hard against a local Chinese fella called Wey. He goes like the wind on the flat but I think I have got the edge up the hills. Unfortunately the rest of the course is flat!!

Just been told that our wake-up call is 2:45 tomorrow so the course director is clearly reading my emails about sleep! Had better get to bed

Stage 4

01-Jul-2010 03:40 AM

For all of you who are concerned it has not been hot enough, you can relax - it's hotter than I have ever experienced. Fortunately I was through today's stage before the sun got too high but there have been some casualties today. The last competitor has just come in after 11 HOURS! We came through about 10km of slot canyons and the temp in there must have been unreal - north of 50 degrees would not be an exaggeration. Good news is we've got 100km in this tomorrow. Bit of an atmosphere around camp as people are realising what we have got in front of us tomorrow. It's going to be hard, hard work.



Apart from that, today's last stage was phenomenal. I wish you were all able to see the landscape, as it's spectacular. It seems a shame that I'm seeing it on my own!! The racing was hard today. The 2 Chinese lads completely bonked and were scooped up by my tent mate - they were both lying prone in the canyons. Problem is they run with no food and not enough water - fine if it's cool, catastrophic when it's hot. Anyway, I think they might be toast. The Austrian fella called Christian was 2nd - he's sponsored by Red Bull and has got a film crew following him around!! Not sure I was in the script. I think he will be strong tomorrow, he ought to be - he's been asleep since we got in about 7 hours ago - not the most social chap, plus he wears a weird boiler suit during the day which makes him look like he stepped off the set of CSI. Other than that, seems like a perfectly normal Austrian.

It's great to have such a good bunch in our tent - the tuck-shop twins Nick and Dan, Stu Gates who is motoring in 10th and rescued the Chinese chaps, Amanda who's placing well in the girls, Emma who's is doing her university thesis on ultramarathon running (not bad being a student these days), Andy's performing solidly and Louisa, who is adding a touch of glamour to proceedings (as much as that is possible!) - a great bunch.

Stage 5

02-Jul-2010 10:41 AM

Here we are in the desert. Yesterday was 95% perfect, 5% disaster. Conditions were great and I gassed the 1st 50km in pretty good time. I had an hour lead coming into the final checkpoint and was home and hosed. However, it's never over 'til it's over and the Good Lord gave me a salutary lesson today. I was 3 km into the last stage and could smell the finish line and victory. I had an hour lead, plus the 30-odd minutes from the rest of the stages so the race was almost in the bag - almost. After 3km we came through a vine grove and I was following the pink flags which mark the route. As I came out of the grove there were no flags and a group of kids were playing with them, throwing them up in the air. Not a good sight. I spent 5 mins trying to explain that I needed to follow them and asking them where did they come from. Blank faces. I set off into the dunes, zig-zagging in the hope of seeing a flag but no joy. Long story short, I spent an hour bumbling around trying to find the route. I was at my wits end and out of options so I went back to the road to wait for another competitor. Whilst on the road I stopped a girl on a motorbike who was holding 2 FLAGS! I asked her where did she get them, no response. Then, thank God, another local guy stopped who spoke English and I begged him to help. He asked the lady and then suggested I get on his motorbike and he would take me to the route. Obviously that's not allowed so I was shuffling along the road with this chap pottering along on his bike behind me. Eventually, after losing over an hour, I picked up the trail and set off into the monster sand dunes for the final 4km. It was brutal - hot, I had barely enough water and had already run about 100km in total. Once in the dunes it was well flagged and I followed the footprints home. Christian finished about 10mins ahead of me and the other Chinese chap, Penbin, was about

10mins ahead of him. We were all shattered. I think I still have some sort of lead but not really sure how much it is and I can hardly bring myself to look. As you can imagine, my frustration is huge. I ought to be sitting here with at least 1.5 hours lead but now I'm not sure I've got 20 mins, which means it is game on tomorrow over 20km in the dunes. Not a pleasant thought. Anyway, I'm still in the lead and if someone had said that I was in with a chance of winning after the long day, I'd have taken that.

So keep your fingers crossed, no walking under ladders, no pairs of shoes on the table, no crossing on the stairs. I'm running this for everyone who has sponsored me, everyone who has messaged me, Mum, Dad and Nick, the gang in UK and HK. And most of all, for the three inhabitants of 14B Arts Mansion.

The fat lady has sung

08-Jul-2010 01:01 AM

And it's over. What a week. A week that surpassed all my expectations, both in terms of personal performance and overall race experience. It was a week of huge contrasts, of massive highs and terrible lows. The passing of Nick Kruse was a terrible chapter in the 2010 Gobi March and it was crushing to hear that a fellow competitor had died. I didn't know Nick but he came to the Gobi for the same reasons as many of us - adventure, challenge, opportunity and, dare I say it, risk. He wanted to pit himself against a fierce, magnificent and brutal environment, to test and challenge himself in a way that is all too rare in today's cosseted and comfortable world. That's a sentiment every competitor can understand and appreciate.

My race went about as well as I could have hoped, apart from the fiasco on the last stage of the long day. Ultimately it didn't make any difference and I can afford to be prosaic about it. I can't deny that I'm a bit disappointed that I didn't win the long day; that's the stage you definitely want to win. Also the extra hour of bumbling around the desert cost me the chance to go under 24hours, a benchmark I had set myself. However, I shouldn't be greedy and I'm delighted with the win.

For long periods of the race I ran on my own, and even when I had company, the language barrier kept the level of conversation to a minimum. I know some people find it very hard to run alone, some listen to music, others talk or sing to themselves but I have got to say, I loved the isolation, the quiet and the sense of self-reliance. To come from Hong Kong, arguably the world's busiest city, to the middle of the Gobi wilderness was a huge contrast, but the beauty of the environment, the vastness of the desert and the feeling of being completely alone was exhilarating. It's not often you get that feeling.

We finished the race with a 5km sprint. It was somewhat odd bearing in mind the distances we'd already covered, but there were not too many complaining. Crossing the line was a wonderful sensation, knowing that I had done enough to win. However, for many of the competitors, just getting to



the finish is the primary objective. It was wonderful to watch as the people I had got to know over the preceding few days made their way to the end and conquered their own Everest. Every runner had a different story, a different motivation, but the same end goal, to cross that finish line. Hats off to every single runner who got to the end.

I can't finish without saying something about my tent mates. The spirit, camaraderie, humour and goodwill in Tent 1 was magnificent. Everyone was supportive of everyone else, both out on the course and in camp - urging each other on, cajoling each other to continue, sharing in each others' success. We must have been one of the only tents with a 100% completion rate and that is no coincidence. Everyone performed magnificently and I think the only person who perhaps thought they had a bit more in the tank was Jude. He finished the long day looking so fresh it was ridiculous. The campsite looked like Omaha Beach and he waltzed in like he'd just stepped off the boules court. However, this means he'll be back for another and I have no doubt he will be pushing for a top ten finish.

Thanks to everyone who supported me on this daft adventure, for the sponsorship (we've now raised well over GBP4k for Sparks which is wonderful), for all the messages of support during the race, no matter how offensive. But the biggest thanks go to my darling wife who encouraged and supported me in what is an essentially selfish and indulgent pastime. The hours of training, the smelly kit, the obsession with calorie content and the time away from home. I ran for you and my success says more about your love and support than it does about my ability. Until the next time sports fans.

Petergate

OB News

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.

1940s



Miles Amherst
(1944-1949)

After Blundell's Miles attended Cambridge University and pursued his lifelong interest in music. He taught music at Blundell's between 1967 and 1969 and then followed Eric Suddrick, sometime Director of Music at Blundell's, to Cheltenham to teach. Miles then was Head of a Preparatory School in Gloucestershire and ran it until retirement. He has returned regularly to Blundell's and shown particular interest in and generosity to the Music Department. He has a son and a daughter and still visits his elder brother in Devon.



Mike Daniels (1945-1950)

Mike enjoyed sport, particularly rugby and tennis at Blundell's, and then went on to St John's College, Cambridge to read Mechanical Engineering. He worked as an Engineer in the UK before moving to IBM in 1962 and moving over to Marketing and IT finishing at IBM in Paris. He is now retired, living in South Devon with his wife Maggie, whom he married in 1958. Mike continues to be very involved in sailing and follows rugby and tennis. Daughter Jane attended Blundell's and is now based in Darwin, North Territory Australia, and is married to a doctor. Daughter Sara has moved to Devon and has children at Blundell's, allowing Mike and Maggie to enjoy their roles as Blundell's grandparents. Mike is a long serving member of the Old Blundellian Club Committee and has been Chairman. He is a very committed Old Blundellian and thanks go to him for all the time and effort he has put in over the years.



Brian Currie (1947-1953)

The Currie family connection with Blundell's is extensive. Both Brian's brothers, Michael (P 49-55) and Ray (P 57-62) attended Blundell's and his three sons duly followed.

Brian read Greats at Oriel College, Oxford, where he met Trixie, his future wife. Trixie later established her own relationship with Blundell's by teaching Classics for several years.

Brian qualified as a Chartered Accountant and moved quickly up the ladder, becoming Vice President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in 1994-95. He also encountered a young Ian Davenport (Head Master 2004-present) as a trainee. Brian served for many years as a Governor of Blundell's and chaired fundraising committees. He and Trixie are regular visitors to Blundell's and Brian continues to enjoy the Exmoor Society and his involvement with the Glass Association.



Sir Christopher Ondaatje (1947-1951)

Space permits only a brief mention of this very distinguished Old Blundellian. Sir Christopher was born in Ceylon and despatched to Blundell's where he enjoyed, in particular, cricket. An adventurer by nature, he went to London and then Canada to seek his fortune. He became a successful businessman on an international scale, but still found time to be a member of the Canadian Olympic Bobsled team in 1964. Contact with Blundell's relied mainly on Ted Crowe's regular letters until Sir Christopher attended an Old Blundellian lunch in Toronto. Following that he funded Ondaatje Hall and became very involved in Old Blundellian cricket. He is also a Governor Emeritus and a regular visitor to the School. Cricket continues to be a major interest and Sir Christopher is a Patron of Somerset County Cricket Club. Married to Valda, and with three children and fifteen grandchildren, his base is mainly London, but he continues to write, travel and collect.

1950s



Frank Akerman (1953-1958)

Frank played 1st XI cricket at Blundell's and began his lifelong involvement with Fives. He went on to read Medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London and

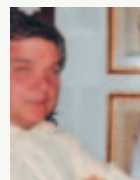
obtained a variety of further qualifications. He became a General Practitioner and has spent most of his working life in Hampshire. He married Mary in 1967 and they sent their three children Alison, William and Harry to Blundell's. He has been a very regular visitor to Blundell's as parent, member of the Old Blundellian Committee, Fives and cricket player and concert goer. He recently organised a lunch and Fives match to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Richard White and James McLachlan winning the Public Schools Fives Doubles. Sailing and music have also been great areas of interest and involvement.



Richard Shore (1954-1959)

Richard was an outstanding rugby and cricket player at Blundell's and a considerable academic. He went on to Brasenose College, Oxford to read Chemistry and then into

the Army where he pursued a career in Defence Evaluation and Research. He represented the Army and the Combined Services at cricket and is still heavily involved as a coach and umpire in the Hampshire area. A great supporter of Old Blundellian cricket, Richard was Ted Crowe's banker in many matches. As a very good quick bowler, Richard would be given the new ball and still find himself bowling at the end of the innings!



Nick Hippiusley-Coxe
(1958-1963)

Nick was a distinguished member of the front row union at Blundell's, hooking for the Senior Colts and the 1st XV. He left to go into the

film industry and spent 15 years in Hong Kong before moving to Los Angeles. He is married to Sheelagh and they live in Venice with a great many cats. Nick is a well known and respected film producer. He specialised in high class advertisements and has now moved on to feature films. He and Sheelagh are very involved in the Venice community and Nick is also a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist as well as being CEO of the Healing Channel. He visited Blundell's in 2010 and advised Blundellians interested in a career in film. He still watches rugby internationals on TV in LA or wherever his filming takes him. Nick and Sheelagh's

daughter attended Blundell's and is now based in New York working as a costume designer in film on projects such as Sex and The City.

1960s



Cedric Clapp (1960-1965)

Cedric, under the tutelage of Chris Reichwald, became a very good fives player and it is an interest that stayed with him for life. He has lived in Bristol with wife Diane for

over 20 years and was, until recently, senior partner of chartered accountants Baker Tilly, and is a former President of the West of England Society of Chartered Accountants. He also does a great deal of community work in the Bristol area. Rick and Steve Clapp both came to Blundell's and Cedric enjoyed visits as a parent and a fives player. He has now taken up golf and is a keen supporter of the Old Blundellian Golfing Society. He was treasurer of the Old Blundellian Club for many years and is now a Governor of Blundell's and Chairman of the Finance and General Purpose Committee.



Charles Campion (1965-1969)

Charles Campion is Blundell's best known food writer and is a larger than life character who would be the first to agree that Blundell's food and

running the Russell had nothing to do with getting him where he is now. After 15 years in advertising in London, Charles and his wife Sylvia sold up and initially started a hotel in Derbyshire with Charles as head chef. Sadly, this did not work and Charles became a food writer. He has written for the Evening Standard for over 10 years, appeared on Radio Four's 'The Food Programme' and done a lot of television work including BBC Two's 'Hell's Kitchen', 'Masterchef' and co-hosted Sky's 'The Greatest Dishes of the World'. He is in great demand as a judge at events such as the British Cheese Awards. He has published several books including Charles Campion's London Restaurant Guide and I would encourage readers to buy his latest entitled 'Eat Up' which is about British Food and published by Kyle Cathie this year.



David Crews (1965-1969)

David came to Blundell's from St Aubyn's and is remembered as an excellent sportsman. He was an outstanding back row rugby

forward in a good 1st XV and continued playing after school in Bristol. He was also a regular player and captain of the OB XV. An excellent athlete, David was the first Blundellian to Long Jump over 6m. He has since successfully taken up golf and enjoys surfing, running and the guitar. After

attending Plymouth Polytechnic David became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and has worked and lived in the Bristol area with his family for many years.



Myles Wickstead (1964-1969)

Myles was a talented sportsman at Blundell's and played at full back in the unbeaten 1968 rugby XV. He also played 1st IV fives. He left

Blundell's to go to the University of St Andrews and then on to Oxford University. Moving on to London Myles joined the Civil Service and pursued a career as a diplomat and specialist in African matters. He was Head of the British Development Division in Eastern Africa, served on the Board of the World Bank in Washington, became British Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti and then Head of the Secretariat to the Commission for Africa. He is now visiting Professor to the Open University, a Senior Associate at University College, Oxford and serves on various Boards. He was made CBE in 2006 and still plays fives! Myles returned to Blundell's to give the Speech Day address in 2008.

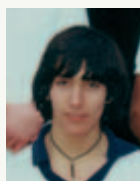


Jonathan Watts (1968-1973)

Jonny was a thoroughly eccentric squash No 1 at Blundell's and enjoyed considerable academic success before going to St Andrews University for a BSc.

He moved into the very specialised area of animal filming and photography. He worked all over the world for major TV companies, using his remarkable patience to provide film of exotic insects and animals and became very successful in the industry. He moved back to Exeter and sent his son and daughter to Blundell's. Having decided that he needed to move on from filming, in typical Watts fashion he went the whole hog and bought a lavender farm which he now cultivates in Farringdon.

1970s



Nick (1970-1975) and Matthew (1972-1977)

Vallance
Nick and Matthew

were both outstanding sportsmen at School. Nick played 1st XV rugby, captained the 1st XI cricket and the 1st V squash. Matthew was a 1st XI cricketer and captained 1st V squash but found the 3rd XV rugby more to his liking. After Blundell's Nick found himself in the Army in Belize, before going into the city and then the family haulage business. Matthew collected a degree at Cardiff University before also joining the family business. Both carried on cricket at a high standard after school and Matthew gained

county caps as a squash player. Both play golf now and were back at Blundell's in action as a pair for the OB tennis team.



Grant Dee Shapland (1976-1981)

Grant enjoyed his sport at school and became Devon U16 squash champion as well as playing 1st XI cricket.

He worked in a variety of marketing positions and now runs his own marketing company. He married a Spanish girl and spends a lot of time with family in Spain. He now plays golf as well as continuing his squash and cricket. He has organised two very successful reunions for his generation. The last one was based on morning golf in Taunton followed by 20/20 cricket at the County Ground and then a meal plus the odd drink. Grant is keen to keep this going and if you would like to see Reg House, Ian Brierley, Shaun Watts, Mike Coe, Paul Hussell and others then please get in touch with Grant.

1980s



James Bullock (1981-1986)

James joined Blundell's from Downs Wrexall, whose Headmaster at the time is now a Blundell's Governor (James McPherson). After Blundell's he read Law at

Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He rowed for his college, was on the Committee of the Cambridge Union Society and Chairman of the Cambridge University Conservative Association. He qualified as a solicitor in 1992 and set up the UK's first Contentious Tax Practice in 2001. Since 2004 he has been a partner in McGrigors LLP and is recognised in the Legal Journals as being one of the leading practitioners in his field. He still enjoys early morning runs and was appointed a Governor of Blundell's in 2009.



Ian Gompertz (1989-1994)

Ian arrived at Blundell's from St Aubyn's with a formidable reputation as a cricketer. He played 1st XI cricket for four years and represented the National Association of Young

Cricketers (England Schools XI) whilst at Blundell's. He went on to read Business Studies at Swansea University. A right handed batsman and medium pace bowler, he went on to represent Devon, Glamorgan 1st and 2nd XI amongst others. He worked for international business groups and has been resident in Sydney for some time. He is currently an Account Executive with Robert Half Management Resources and is not finding much time to play cricket!

Continued

1990s

**Hiro Azuma (1991-1995)**

Hiro arrived in Year 10 with very little experience of UK boarding and the usual reservations about UK food and weather. He was a very successful rugby player for the 1st XV, 1st VII and obtained his full colours. He wished to return to Tokyo for University and by dint of hard work gained a place to read Business Studies at Keio University one of the top two universities in Japan. He became Japan Universities squash champion and on graduation joined the family business. He is now married with three children and runs a company moving goods around Japan and China with a fleet of 300 lorries.

**Kwabena Asare (1997-2000)**

Kwabena was an enthusiastic footballer at Blundell's as well as aiming high academically. He obtained a place to read Law at Exeter University and became the Deputy President of Exeter University Guild of Students. He continued his legal studies at London Guildhall University and UWE Bristol. He was called to the Bar in 2006 and now practices as a barrister in London. He is the Secretary of the Old Blundellian Association Football Club and has done a great job, together with Matthew Pynn, getting together OB teams to play the School. The Club would like to expand its fixture list and pool of players. Anybody interested please contact Matthew or Kwabena.

**Tom Fursdon (1995-2000)**

One of the three Fursdon brothers in Petergate during the late 90s, Tom played 1st XV rugby and 1st XI cricket. Although built like a lock he became, probably, Blundell's tallest winger. He followed in his father's footsteps and got to Oxford University where he read Land Economy. He moved to London, obtained his Membership of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and is working as a surveyor for West End Agency which deals in engineering, construction and property. Whilst mentioning Tom, we should congratulate elder brother Oliver on his recent engagement and younger brother Charlie on his recent graduation from Edinburgh University.



A JOYOUS BLUNDELL'S CHAPEL OCCASION

Robyn Benville-Scott (GH 1995-2000) After Blundell's Robyn studied Sports Science and English at Loughborough University. Whilst on an exciting GAP year in the ski resorts of Whistler and Val D'Iserre she met her husband-to-be Pete.

Robyn and Pete married in the Blundell's chapel in 2009 and the occasion was to be a wonderful Blundellian event. The Reverend Hamer (ex-school Chaplain) presided over the service, Andrew Barlow, the Director of Music, provided the musical entertainment along with the school choir. Victoria

Doyne-Ditmus (SH/GH/W 03-10) and her older sister Emily (GH 95-00) flew over from Abu Dhabi to sing solos. James Barton (Westlake 95-00) did a reading and Jessica Grandfield, who is Robyn's niece and currently in GH, was a bridesmaid.

Robyn said that the School Chapel, with all its memories, and the reception at Bickleigh Castle could not have provided more perfect settings. Robyn and Pete have settled in Devon and have founded their own internet-based lettings agency, Scott-Bates & Coles (www.scottbatesandcoles.co.uk). They are currently working towards their ARLA registration.



Devon County Show

For the first time Blundell's held a drinks and canapés reception on the Thursday evening at the showground, which was attended by about 60 Old Blundellians and parents.

Top: Head Master, Claire Marshall and Chairman of Governors

Left: Devon County Show

Right: Martin Whitaker and Mario Andretti

Below: Richard White on left with Jeremy Courtenay Stamp

OLD BLUNDELLIANS AROUND AND ABOUT

Speech Day

Speech Day again had an Old Blundellian as speaker for the day. Claire Marshall gave away prizes and spoke about her past Blundell's career at Balliol College, Oxford and her wide ranging journalistic experiences travelling around the world reporting for the BBC.

Other Old Blundellians on the stage were Governors Cedric Clapp and James Bullock

Further afield

Jeremy Courtney Stamp and Richard White bumped into one another at the Bahrain Grand Prix. Richard was the guest of Martin Whitaker and Jeremy handles the Renault team's legal matters.



1980s REUNION



Grant Dee Shapland had organised a successful reunion of sporting OBs from the 80s a couple of years ago. This year he went for a repeat and is to be congratulated on getting so many unreliable performers to the same place at the same time.

The day began with breakfast at a golf club near Taunton and was followed by a round of golf. The group then headed off to a box at the County Cricket Ground for a Twenty /Twenty game and refreshments. Following the cricket, they repaired to a local hostelry and enjoyed an excellent meal with appropriate drinks! Well done Grant!

FUTURE EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 17th Drinks and canapés with academic staff CBC 6pm
25th Military Reunion Lunch Big School 12 noon

OCTOBER 2010

- 2nd OB Committee Meeting and lunch CBC 10am
13th Winter lunch CBC 12.30pm speaker Dr Simon Johnson-Ferguson
17th OB Fives and lunch CBC 12.30pm
21st Blundell's Charity Golf Day Woodbury

NOVEMBER 2010

- 10th Winter lunch CBC 12.30pm speaker Richard Fox
26th OB Committee and Governors' Dinner CBC 7pm

DECEMBER 2010

- 4th OB Committee Meeting Governor's Room 10am
OB Committee and Parents lunch CBC 1pm
8th Winter lunch CBC 12.30pm speaker Lt Col Nick Cooper
11th Hare and Hounds OB race Wimbledon Common

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 4DT
Email a.oliver@blundells.org
Tel 01884 232324
Mobile 07825 734440

JANUARY 2011

- 12th Winter Lunch CBC 12.30pm speaker TBC

FEBRUARY 2011

- 5th OB Committee Meeting and lunch CBC 10am
9th Winter lunch CBC 12.30pm speaker TBC

MARCH 2011

- 9th Winter lunch CBC 12.30pm speaker TBC
12th OB Veterans Russell Blundell's School 12.30pm

APRIL 2011

- 2nd OB Committee Meeting and lunch CBC 10am

MAY 2011

- TBC Blundell's London Dinner at the Carlton Club

JUNE 2011

- 4th OB Committee Meeting and lunch CBC 10am
9th Drinks at 'The Light', Shoreditch
18th OB Day
TBC Cambridge drinks
TBC OB and parents cricket lunches CBC
TBC OB and parents drinks at County Shows

SEPTEMBER 2011

- TBC OB Medical themed event

FIXTURES

Fixtures for golf, shooting, hockey, soccer, cricket, tennis and squash against the School and others will be arranged by Sports Club Secretaries. OBCC is arranging a dinner in 2011 at Taunton to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the OBCC and is working on plans for the Olympic rematch against France in 2012.

Thames Hare and Hounds Alumni Race

SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2010 - WIMBLEDON COMMON

The call is out for a Blundell's Team for this years race.

Thames Hare and Hounds is a running club based on Wimbledon Common. It has hosted an annual Alumni Race for the last 55 years. The course comprises 5 miles across Wimbledon Common; a shortened version of the Blues Race Course. All ages are welcome with 70 year olds competing with 18 year olds. The fastest time is usually close to 25 mins and the back markers nearer 60 mins.

The entry rules are simple: A team of unlimited members may enter, but they must all be genuine alumni of the nominated school. Guest runners are welcome, whether partners, friends, parents, staff, current pupils, children or grandchildren but they cannot score as part of the team.

If you are interested in participating as part of the official alumni team or as a guest runner, please contact Amber Oliver in the Development Office a.oliver@blundells.org or 01884 232324 in the first instance to register your interest.