



Blundell's

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# DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

ISSUE No: 10

## Christmas at Blundell's

Crackers, carols and parties!



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Team of the Term:  
Girls' 2nd X1 Hockey -  
Undefeated

The Choir:  
Singing in Malta

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Hairspray and  
A Christmas Carol

  
**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
2010|2011





## THE COMMON ROOM AND OBs 1892

The last OB Day at Old Blundell's was held in 1881 and the buildings were finally sold to local brewer Thomas Ford for £2,500. The School reopened on the Horsdon site on 9th May 1882 after the Easter holidays with just 87 boys, but this rose almost immediately to 131. During this first year the boys seized upon an old custom when they returned to Old Blundell's to see whether the Peter Blundell's PB stones had been covered by the flooding Lowman river; they had, and so they called on the Head Master, A.L. Francis, to declare the usual half-day holiday. He granted their wish but emphasised that this was not to be a precedent. Perhaps today's pupils should try to reinstate this custom when the

X-country course behind Ondaatje Hall floods, as it did this January! The PB stones were re-laid outside the Porter's Lodge.

The OB Club was founded in 1891 after being mooted during a dinner at the Holborn Restaurant in London. The first Club Register showed 147 names and the objectives were "to keep up the association of Old Blundellians, to promote mutual intercourse among them, and generally to further the interests of the School". Bishop Temple agreed to be the President and T.U. Cross, who built Old House, the Chairman; the joining fee for life-membership was half a guinea (10s 6d).





## HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION



I well remember the time when the news reader Martin Lewis was lambasted for suggesting that the media might do well to report on good news stories rather than the never-ending stream of unmitigated misery, which had become the norm (has much changed?); gloomy news sells more newspapers and makes for better soundbites

than engaging or happy news. That he was so vilified is, for me, sad. If I can make one relatively uncontroversial statement it is that we all feel better about ourselves if we are encouraged, praised and treated with kindness and respect. Never in my time involved in schools have I met either a teacher or a pupil who is inspired to greatness with a conversation which begins, "now let us ignore your strengths and aspirations and instead let us dwell on the dark moments in your life." We had over four hundred pupils, OBs, parents, friends and members of Common Room at our deliberately informal and familial Christmas Eve service. Is there a better manifestation that the Blundell's ethos of inclusivity, support and the feelings of happiness in the success of others is the perfect antidote to the prevalence these days to denigrate and criticise? Times are indeed tough, but I am sure they are made less so by the feeling of support, which is at the heart of the wider school community. Christmas always draws out the best in us and this edition, which focusses on this communal time, vividly captures the essence of the festive season here. As always I am very grateful to the pupil contributors, under the guidance of Peter Klinkenberg, and the various members of staff who have worked very hard to produce another super edition of The Diary.

*Ian Davenport*

**Ian Davenport**  
Head Master



*The history of Blundell's is told in Mike Sampson's new book. See page 26 for more information.*

Blundell's School  
Tiverton  
Devon EX16 4DN  
Tel: 01884 252543  
E-mail: [registrars@blundells.org](mailto:registrars@blundells.org)  
[www.blundells.org](http://www.blundells.org)







## Physics Olympiad

Alex Everett and Tom Ansell took part in the Physics Olympiad, a competition where they pitted their Physics knowledge against the top Physicists in the country. Both Alex and Tom gained entry to the second round where Alex got a commendation and Tom got a Bronze, which put Tom in the top 1% of the country.



## Model United Nations Day

Some brave Blundellians gave up their Exeat weekend to take part in Exeter School's second Model United Nations day. Emily Nash represented Tanzania, Oliver Tobey-China, Tim Beckett-Argentina, Sam Davenport-Iraq and Georgie Cummings-The Netherlands. Oliver and Emily, in particular, distinguished themselves by dominating their groups to the extent that they were instrumental in moulding resolutions on the question of counteracting the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the question of human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



In Telford last week, Sapphire Reed-Yang was awarded the title of Double Champion for her belt colour in her first major competition. She scored all 9.5s and 9.6s, finishing 3rd in the individual and first in the Team event. As well as being 'armed and dangerous', Sapphy has other strings to her bow as she played Little Inez in the school musical, Hairspray and she enjoys playing hockey for the school as well.



## Will's off to The Nationals!

Will Klinkenberg Yr 8, qualified for the National Biathlon Finals at Crystal Palace recently when he finished 3rd in the Regional Finals held at Bath University. In only his second Biathlon event, out of 58 competitors Will came 6th in the 100m Freestyle in a time of 1.05.26 and 5th in the 1,000m run in 3.15.46. His trophy was presented by the World Junior Pentathlon Bronze Medalist, Freyja Prentice, who has already qualified for the Olympics this year.

## A2 Devised Plays



The A2 performances this year were inspired by Samuel Beckett's "Footfalls" and an article on unemployment. Both groups produced excellent thought provoking pieces of theatre. Elliot Keefe, Joe Wander, Eolande Diaz Phillips and Ellie Casely focused on the plight of an army officer who is made redundant and suffering from PTSD. Louis Edmanson, Vicky Payne, Ciara O'Kelly, and Jamie Morris looked at 1950's Catholic Ireland and the fate of a young girl who has a child outside of marriage and is forced to give it up for adoption. Both pieces explored their themes through a range of performance styles. Each production was intense and well crafted and sent the audience away with much to think about.



## On your bike...

Former England star and current Somerset Cricket captain Marcus Trescothick recently paid a visit to Blundell's. Marcus was on a charity cycle ride from Bristol to St Austell raising money for Children's Hospice Southwest. En route he visited all the hospices and some schools to raise awareness of the good works carried out by the charity. He is being sponsored by Chartered Bank and was accompanied by employees of the bank. Whilst here he received a cheque from 1st XI cricketer, Harrison Folland, for £1,100 which was raised from a home clothes day. Marcus then donned his pads and challenged the pupils to bowl at him in the outdoor nets before he and his entourage departed on the next stage of their trip to Barnstaple. 1st XI bowler, Gary Abdoll, can boast that he bowled Marcus, but the Somerset legend was clearly even more wary of the guile of Emma Jackman Yr 9.



## Grass Track Champions

Brothers Jack and Leo Dummett competed in the national Grass Track Championships at Danebury in Wiltshire recently. Jack has been riding his bike competitively for the last four years with much success and he won the 125 British Championship over a series of three events against riders from all over the country. His younger brother, 8-year-old Leo, also managed a podium place coming third in the Auto Cadet class.

## Pen-spinning



Gabriel Cheung, Yr 11, has an unusual claim to fame as he used to be the 3rd best pen-spinner in China and he was the Chairman of one of the most popular online forums for it. Pen-spinning originated in Japan but it has become viral thanks to the Internet. However, the School's filter system has brought a temporary halt to his combos, freestyle, fingerless, balancing, air, dual-pen and other impressive tricks!

## U13 Rugby Sevens

The U13 Rugby Sevens squad made a very promising start to the season by winning the inaugural St Peter's Tournament. Captained by the impressive Archie Stoneman, they comfortably won their pool by beating Mount House, King's Hall and St Peter's B. In the semi-final they cruised past Exmouth College, setting up a grand finale against the hosts. St Peter's took a deserved lead and held it until close to the end. However, with two minutes to go, following strong work in the contact area by Hugh Hamilton-Green and Will Klinkenberg, Archie Stoneman broke free and scored two decisive tries. Jack Lockwood then completed the victory by burgling the ball close to their line and scoring the third try. The whole squad played their part, the others being Will Vickery, Alex Kilbride, Tobias Francis, Monty Crowe, Mack Butterfield and Sam Maunder.





# Christmas

## AT BLUNDELL'S



*Paul Hoaken, from the maintenance team, stands in for an over worked Father Christmas at the Prep School Party and Christmas Fair.*



**Above:** Checking the bulbs on the Christmas Tree. **Below:** Everyone enjoys refreshments after the Carol Services

For the last ten days of the Autumn Term Blundell's is, above all, absolutely full of Christmas spirit. This spirit infects not just the pupils but the teachers and the support staff from the moment the Christmas lights are switched on illuminating the tree on the lawn outside the Head Master's study. Preparations involve everyone in the School and the celebrations encompass each member of the Blundell's community. This year not only did all the traditional carol services, parties and entertainments take place but the School Play was 'A Christmas Carol' (see page 15). After each event there was an opportunity for staff and parents to drink mulled wine, eat mince pies and become even more infected with the Blundell's Christmas spirit. »





*Christmas at Blundell's – a festive marathon with six Carol Services, three Christmas dinners, numerous “Secret Santas” and seven Christmas entertainments, not to mention the individual House Christmas parties.*



**Below:** After the School House Carol Service on the last Sunday of term (main picture) boarding pupils rush back to School House to change into their pyjamas and watch the X Factor Final. A new tradition which ITV schedulers should bear in mind for future years!

**Main picture:** The team of Porters, lead by Bron Chmiel, light the 199 candles in Chapel for each of the services. Every Christmas nearly 1,000 candles are burnt. Extra chairs run down the centre aisle to accommodate everyone at the packed services. The origins of this special service lie in the 1880s when carols began to be included in classical concerts and has developed to the present day. In 1938 and 1948 there was a huge audience as the BBC broadcast the Christmas Service from Blundell's Chapel.



Photographs: Andrew Nadolski



# Christmas

AT BLUNDELL'S

School House pupils share a joke with one of the Sixth Form Monitors



Christmas cracker jokes are as bad as they have always been and it is still difficult to keep your hat on your head.

## School House Christmas Meal, Entertainment and Disco

Preparations for the School House Christmas Dinner start well before the meal in School – many mothers have been dealing with the thorny issue of dresses and shoes since the October half term. School House have their own Christmas meal and wrap this up with their House entertainment and a Party. This takes place the night before the main Blundell's Christmas meal traditionally known as 'The Gut'. Kate Woolford and the other Matrons decorated the tables and the kitchen staff cooked a fantastic meal. This was the first of eight hundred Christmas meals that the kitchens produce during the end of term celebrations. The School House Monitors from Westlake, School House Tutors and Head Master are an integral part of the evening and

enjoy themselves as much as the younger children. After the meal everyone moves out of the Dining Hall into the Gym for the House entertainment. This year Mr Marshman, the new head of SH, very bravely sang his own composition which mentioned many of the pupils by name. He may well regret this as everyone is going to expect a new song each year – the birth of a fresh Christmas tradition? Once the entertainment finished the volume increased and the disco took over. The Sixth Form Monitors didn't leave the dance floor and passed on some pretty slick routines to School House.

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School House Monitors perform a very creditable version of Santa Claus is Coming to Town (top left) after some fantastic songs, music and dancing from School House pupils.



*"The School House Monitors from Westlake, School House Tutors and Head Master are an integral part of the evening..."*

## THE HOUSES

Each House has their own Christmas Party and they decorate the common rooms and each other. Gorton House girls sell Christmas Candy Canes in the Dining Hall for a variety of charities. This year they sold 672 canes and raised money for Crisis at Christmas.



Photographs: DH





*Everyone records the evening with hundreds of photographs especially the Upper Sixth who are celebrating their final Christmas at Blundell's.*



## **The Head Master's Drinks Reception, 'The Gut' and House Entertainment**

'The Gut' takes place on the last night of term followed the next day by the School Carol Service. The evening starts with a Drinks Party for Westlake and their Tutors at the Head Master's House. Then all the pupils and Staff come together in the Dining Hall for the meal. Each House decorates their tables with Matrons and pupils spending much of the afternoon arranging napkins, crackers and scattering glitter all reflecting the House colours. As the School has grown a marquee has been added to the Dining Hall so everyone can eat together. The kitchen staff do a really magnificent job.

Led by Geoff Edwards they not only provide the food but also the musical entertainment - Mr Edward's musical talent is legendary. Year 9 are fantastic at serving the meal and are no doubt looking forward to next Christmas when they can sit and enjoy the dinner and not worry about spilling gravy on a member of Staff. After the meal everyone moves over to Big School for coffee and port and then back to Houses for the House Entertainment.



*The Head Master and pupils enjoying drinks before the meal.*







The Head Master is invited to a different House's entertainment and this year it was Gorton House's turn. Particularly special as it was Mr Thane's (Second Master) final 'Gut' as he retires in the summer. The pupils entertain their tutors with each year group performing a song or a sketch.

### Catering facts

170 kilos of Turkey

3,000 sprouts

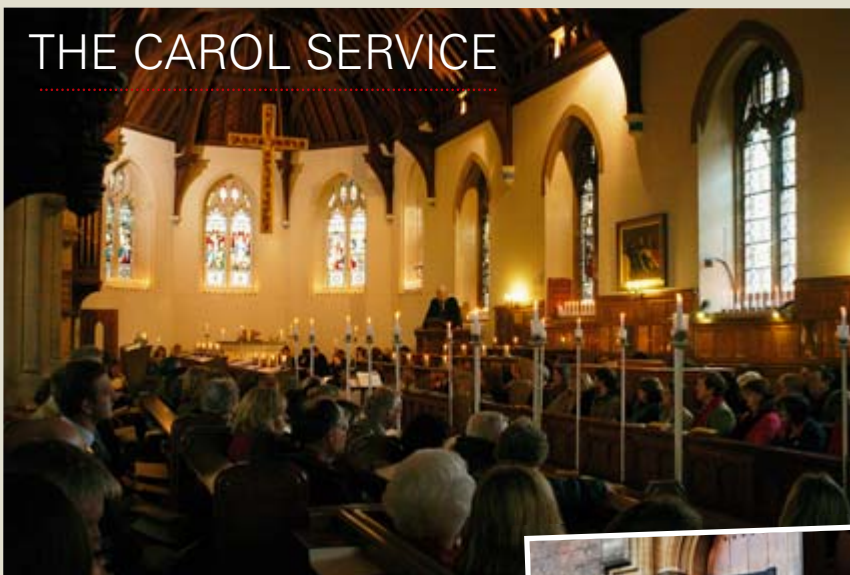
1,000 mince pies

36 Christmas puddings

300 litres of Fruit Punch



## THE CAROL SERVICE



Christmas celebrations at School end with the Carol Service on the last day of term. The Service ends and pupils leave to start celebrating again at home. This is the last part of the School's Christmas celebrations for most Blundellians. However, for parents, Old Blundellians and pupils living close to School there is the Blundell's Christmas Eve Service in Chapel taken by the Head Master. This has grown from a few members of staff and their families to a packed chapel and Christingle Service.





# Rising STARS



**Ella Grob Yr 9**

A talented and gifted young star in the making, Ella Grob, is fast establishing herself as an esteemed actress. Recently, she was scouted by an acting agency and has successfully undergone countless rigorous auditions to appear in a feature film called 'Intruders'. This psychological horror film combines her favourite genres, namely thrillers and dramas. Her first role was in 'The Mikado' at her previous school and she has already appeared in our own 'Hairspray' (see page 14). Apart from her acting talents, she also has a passion for music, being inspired by the likes of Lady Gaga and Avril Lavigne. Ella spends time writing songs for both her piano and guitar. Her musical flair gives her a chance to have an "emotional outlet" away from all her sporting and dramatic activities, which occupy much her busy life. In the future, Ella hopes to follow her mother into a professional acting career and who knows, she could soon appear on the 'Big Screen'. She is definitely one of our Rising Stars.

by Georgie Cummings L6



**Denise and Judit Lam**

It is a small wonder that when you look at the fantastic pieces of art produced by the Lam sisters, you find yourself drawn in, closely observing them in deep awe. Some of their work is inspired by mythological figures that we were able to witness in their jaw dropping sketch books.

Denise's influence for her inspirational drawings mostly comes from the theme of myths and legends. Her first step into completing a drawing is by creating a draft drawing and repeatedly copying the drawing until she is satisfied with her final product. Denise started art in Year Nine at Blundell's and with the help of the brilliant art facilities at school soon became quite a star in the artistic world. Her work has recently featured in the Tiverton Gazette as part of a double page spread on the yr10 exhibition and she has completed a series of paintings based on various parts of the school. Denise practises drawing in her free time and admits it is most definitely her favourite hobby.

Judit also started art when she arrived at Blundell's, however she likes to paint mostly, but her drawings and pieces in other styles are just as excellent. The style of her art is breath-taking and her brushwork skills are exceptional. Her latest masterpiece is a recreation of Mona Lisa's smile painted in peanut butter and chocolate spread. Previously her paintings of horses created quite a stir in the Art department and there are plans afoot for the girls to have a joint exhibition of all their amazing work soon.

With such skills and imagination both girls are definitely rising stars to watch out for!

by Faith Kerekes and Breanna Wilder Year 11











# *The Choir in Malta*

Written by **Sam Davenport**

On the 16th December 2011 members of the Blundell's School Choir set out for Malta. The trip departed from GH at 1 o'clock in the morning, everyone arrived at GH the night before so, not surprisingly, no one slept that night. (Sadly the night before was 'The Gut' where most people also got very little sleep!).

We left on our mammoth journey to Gatwick airport in the School mini buses (all credit to the drivers who were also up early to drive us there!). Gatwick security was negotiated without a hitch although half the teachers were frisked! We arrived in Malta airport to find we were all very over dressed for the 'cold' weather that they were having at the time. We were greeted by our bus driver who gave Mrs Weaver some incomprehensible instructions we think, about how to get to the centre of Valletta. The hotel where we were going to be staying was like a maze, even the porter had trouble navigating us around it! After unpacking and changing into something a lot more appropriate for the weather we were experiencing we all went out for lunch. When we all traipsed back to the hotel at about 4 o'clock in a state of massive sleep deprivation there was a short practice for the

concert that we would be giving the next day. After a good meal at the hotel everyone went to bed for some well earned rest.

The next day after a lie in, kindly allowed by Mr Barlow, we had breakfast with the massive French windows open and the sun on our faces, then set off into the heart of Valletta to do a spot of sightseeing in the beautiful town that was built by the Knights of St. John. We took a boat trip around Malta's two harbours; the Grand Harbour was the home of the British navy in the Mediterranean for many years. We then returned to the hotel, changed into our concert gear and practised for the concert which would take place at the British High Commissioner's residence. Her Excellency Louise Stanton was entertaining the Greek Ambassador, the Austrian Ambassador and the Russian Ambassador as well as numerous influential







priests and her personal friends. We sung a range of songs from the classic Rutter carols to 'Good Night Sweetheart' from 'Three Men and a Baby'. We were accompanied by Alex Everett, introduced by Flo Hart and conducted by a mixture of Mr Barlow and Mr Wynell Mayow. Afterwards there was a reception where we talked to the guests, and the High Commissioner. Returning back to the hotel we took our leave for the night, apart from a few who needed even more sustenance in the form of McDonald's.

After an early breakfast on Saturday we drove to the top of the island so we could catch a ferry to the island of Gozo. The drive took about 45 minutes and we experienced all the varied and interesting scenery that Malta has to offer. On the ferry rides the wind allowed a few Titanic moments to be acted out at the front of the boat, sadly Mr Barlow and Miss Hoskins were unlucky enough to be in the path of a big wave that soaked them both. When we arrived we boarded a coach that took us off to the earliest known man made building - Ggantija, older than the pyramids of Egypt. Time had taken its toll on the 'rocks' but a building could still be made out. The amazing thing was that the rocks contained fossils and this showed just how old the buildings really were. We then headed off to a Gozitan shopping village and then off to our second concert of the trip where we sung for the local Rotary Club and the Circolo Gozitano. After lunch with some of the audience we visited the seaside resort of Xlendi where a few braved the water.

Then we returned to the ferry terminal and took the ferry back to Malta. That evening we went out to a very nice restaurant and whilst some sixth form explored Valletta the younger years and the teachers went on the 'Malta Fun Train' which, from the reactions of the staff was not fun at all as it consisted of being driven around Valletta in a train that played Christmas carols.

On the Sunday we sang in St Pauls Pro-Cathedral wearing their traditional red cassocks. In the service the choir sung choral items such as 'O Thou the Central Orb' and 'Clare Benediction', as well as a mass setting by Schubert. Afterwards we all split up for lunch and some last minute shopping for Christmas presents, afterwards returning to the Hotel for another short practice then off to St John's Co-Cathedral. It was built by the Knights St. John and was absolutely amazing! The service was all in Maltese; the acoustics were amazing and the choir sang very well. We then returned to the hotel for a dinner of a local dish called beef olive that had nothing to do with olives. It was a good taste of the local food.

The return journey home to Gatwick was quick and relatively painless apart from the horrible temperature change when we arrived home! The trip to Malta was a fun and interesting experience which I am sure was enjoyed by all members of the choir. My thanks go to the group for making the trip so enjoyable, and to the staff who organised it all.

*"Her Excellency Louise Stanton was entertaining the Greek Ambassador, the Austrian Ambassador and the Russian Ambassador as well as numerous influential priests and her personal friends. We sung a range of songs from the classic Rutter carols to 'Good Night Sweetheart' from 'Three Men and a Baby'."*







Charlie Craddock



# Hairspray

The sound of Baltimore and the advent of the 1960s came to Tiverton in September, as the Autumn Term got off to its usual energetic, excellent start with three performances of the School Musical "Hairspray".

Rehearsed and performed in just 10 days, it was a fantastically dynamic show, produced by the usual combination of Mr Barlow and Mrs Milne. There were lots of energetic and tightly choreographed routines, as well as brilliant singing and rousing chorus numbers.

Hairspray is based on the 1988 John Waters film which launched the career of Ricki Lake, with music by Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Scott Wittman. In 1962 Baltimore, Maryland, plump teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on The Corny Collins Show, a local TV dance programme based on the real-life Buddy Deane Show. When Tracy wins a role on the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight and she then launches a campaign to integrate the show. Hairspray is a social commentary on the injustices of parts of American society in the 1960s.

We had some absolutely stunning performances: most notably Ciara O'Kelly in the role of Tracy, who lived and breathed the role, and really embraced the fat suit she had to wear. Joe Wander was also outstanding as her larger than life mother, Edna, who also realises by the end it is ok to be Big, Blonde and Beautiful. Elliot Keefe truly epitomized the smooth American TV presented in Corny Collins, with Matt Oddy doing the same in the role of teen heartthrob, Link Larkin. The mother – daughter duo, the Von Tussles, Velma and Amber were fantastically played by Georgia Stone and Corren Kvesic. Further outstanding performances came from Eolande Diaz (Penny), Charlie Craddock (Seaweed), Jess Atkins (Motormouth Maybelle) and Sapphy Reed-Yang (Little Inez). Who could forget either, the enormous hairspray can invented by Wilbur, excellently played by Will Costa.

The whole cast were a joy to work with. Huge thanks go to all involved in making this an outstanding production – costumes, lighting and an incredibly talented and professional band. They created an unforgettable show, with lots of energy and fantastic songs. Remember... "you can't stop the beat!" REM



Matt Oddy  
and Ciara O'Kelly



# ON STAGE

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Jasper Cattell Yr 12

Main picture: Elliot Keefe and Eolande Diaz-Phillips

**The Autumn Term saw the production of 'A Christmas Carol' and it was the first time in recent years that the School Play has been done in the round.** This entails the stage being in the centre of the theatre whilst seats were arranged around the perimeter. The directors, Miss Baddeley and James Rochford wanted this so that the audience could participate as much as possible in the play. As a result the audience were invited to take part in dancing at the Fezziwig's ball, games at the nephew's dinner party and carol singing throughout the production. As you can image it was a hit with adults and children alike. Mr Winwood's amazing street set pieces in between the normal scenes provided the audience with a rare glimpse of a bustling Victorian city and gave the theatre a profound ambiance throughout the play. Also within the audience was a live band, which played music throughout to accompany the production.

The incredible lighting design from Ellie Casely created a strong atmosphere for each scene and set piece. Alongside the unique set were the truly unforgettable performances from the cast. Elliot Keefe played a perfectly wicked Scrooge and Louis Edmanson an affectionate and lovable Bob Cratchet. Both actors carried their roles with enormous credibility, Elliot especially, who deservedly received Full Colours for drama for this and his many other performances. The supporting cast also played their parts exceedingly well and added to the atmosphere and story of the play. The whole production was a real ensemble effort and every cast member helped recreate the famous seasonal story in an original way. The three ghosts, Eolande Diaz-Phillips, Vicky Paine and Joe Wander, combined with Jamie Morris's powerful Marley were very convincing, not only due to their acting talent but also to their voices being microphoned to create a fantastically eerie and gothic atmosphere. The audience were told the story as it progressed by the chorus of the play, who made up the bulk of the cast. This, along with the set design, provided very effective interaction with the audience and helped to make the production a very memorable and enjoyable one. The play provided entertainment of the highest degree for the three sold-out nights and everyone went home full of Christmas cheer.



Main picture: Elliot Keefe  
Above: Joe Wander and  
Will Costa



Photographs: Tim Dyke



To say that the U16Bs this year were good would be something of an understatement, awesome might be more appropriate. In fact, as the joint most successful rugby team in the school, and indeed the best 16Bs for many years, this season has been one of pure and unadulterated domination of the opposition. Under the satirical, yet determined eye, of the ever-enthusiastic Mr "Benny" Marsden, the team went from strength to strength as the opposition crumpled like the withered autumn leaves we trod on.

Played 11  
Won 9  
Lost 1  
Drawn 1  
Point for: 364. Point against: 73

# Under 16 B XV

by Jim Bremner Yr 11







Of course, victories like these did not just come through the insightful and intuitive coaching we received, but also through the immense wealth of individual talent we harboured. Michael Bennett proved a perfect choice for captain, not only for his inspirational team talks, but also for his ability to crush our opponents with his high-velocity and vice-like tackling. Dale Fletcher was a constant thorn in everyone's side, including ours! 'Lord' Richard Barr, may have been disappointed to miss-out on the leading try scorer award, however his particular propensity for receiving the ball just before the try-line ("just put it down to experience coupled with a great degree of talent"), did result in a significant number of our tries. At the core of our team lay our fearsome front-row Freddie Morris, Tom Stevens and David Kellett, with some appearances also from Henry 'HJL' Lindley.

Playing an equal role in the utter supremacy of the team was our back-line. Teams trembled at the mere foot-step from our ferocious full-back/fly-half Luke 'Spick' Ansell, accompanied by the steadfast power of Ollie Clarke at scrum-half. Before his sheer power and agility was noticed by our As, Henry Barlow also made a huge contribution to our backs along with the help of Hamish "Matt Damon" Friend and Jack Webber. Unfortunately, Alastair "Chipples" Chilcott spent much of the season focusing on parity errors with his 4 by 4 Rubik's cube and (unsuccessfully) honing his technique for chess, this left him little time to contribute to our well-polished mechanism of success, although the time he spent on the pitch was of complete perfection. Of course, not forgotten, is Harry Charteris - the unsung hero of the team, with his un-relenting ball burglary abilities, he secured possession for the team on many an occasion.



The only frustration came early on with the minor aberration of a 15-12 loss to a strong Truro side, which somehow failed to respect our colossal might. However, the season ended with a triumphant victory over a Monmouth side, which could do little to resist the punishing muscle we had at our disposal.

## Under 16 B XV Roll of Honour

### Player of the Season Award:

Michael Bennett

### Top try scorer:

Jack Webber (11 tries)

### Best kick-success ratio:

Richard Barr (83%)

### Top try scorer in the forwards:

Richard Barr (7 tries)

### The Henry Kissinger Award for on-pitch diplomacy:

Freddie Hare

### The Roy Keane Award for the player most able to start a fight in an empty room:

Henry Lindley

### The Eric Cantona Award for on-pitch discipline:

Dale Fletcher

### The Ledley King Award for not turning up to training but appearing on match day:

Alistair Chilcott

### The Shane Williams Twinkled-Toed Genius Award:

Richard Barr

### The Award for the player most frequently dropped to the A team:

Henry Barlow

### Most Improved Player Award:

shared between Henry Barlow and Hamish Friend

### Best team performance:

Bryanston 0 – Blundell's 51

### Person most likely to cost the B team victory on any given Saturday:

Mr Richards (A Team Coach)

### Greatest display of athleticism, despite being off games and unavailable for selection:

Clym Montgomery for his trip to McDonald's

### The Big Girl's Blouse Award for not wanting to train in bad weather:

Harry Charteris

### Tenacity at the Breakdown Award:

Harry Charteris

### The 'Ooooh, I don't really fancy it today sir' Award:

Will Qian

### The 'I've played every minute of every game' Award:

Freddie Morris

### The 'Most likely to injure myself doing a foolish try celebration' Award:

Jack Webber

### The 'I'll score one of these days' Award:


David Kellett

### The 'I can't think of anything specific but what a hero he's been' Award:

Jim Bremner, Luke Ansell, Tom Stevens

**Worst Prediction Award:** Mr Marsden during the game against Cheltenham: *'Don't worry lads; we've won this one. He'll never slot that kick from the touchline....'*



A man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a green and yellow striped tie, stands with his arms crossed in a room filled with sports memorabilia. Behind him are shelves with several large silver trophies, a wooden cabinet with names and years inscribed on it, and framed portraits of men. The lighting is warm, highlighting the textures of the wood and metal.

*“.....I have only seen a goat kept on Big Field by the Head of School once in my time here and, neither the goat nor the groundsman, seemed impressed.*

*It became very apparent that goats are surprisingly strong and easily capable of defending themselves...”*

# **The Blundell's** *interview*

Andrew Berrow interviewed by Oliver Tobey Yr 12



# The Blundell's *interview*

**What are your roles at Blundell's?** – I am Head of Boarding and a Head of Department, but most importantly a teacher and housemaster. I also make the tea for the staff at break time.

**How long have you been at Blundell's?** – Fourteen years. It really doesn't seem that long though. If I don't think about it too much, it seems like about five.

**Was Blundell's the first school you taught at?** No, having worked for Procter and Gamble in London, I taught at Warwick School.

**Since your arrival what has been the biggest change at the School?** – The march of technology. It's startling to reflect that I'd never used the internet before I came here as it really had no place in education. The only member of staff with an email address was the Director of Studies (and we couldn't really see the point of that and thought it a bit pretentious...), there were three computers in the library and no network. It's sobering to think of the impact that technology has had on education in such a short space of time. I think that's a global thing though, so I won't count that. The school itself has changed very much for the better over the time I've been here – there has been a great deal of investment and it's a much smarter place. The refurbishment of the houses would be a very good example. Academically things are much better – the curriculum is better balanced than when I arrived and the pupils are rather more focused. Thus they achieve rather more.

**Apart from collecting gadgets and fast cars, do you have any other hobbies?** – Leaving aside my fell running and gym work, I enjoy sailing, flying (although I haven't had much time for that recently), and travel. I spend most of the summer in the USA, a country I enjoy exploring.

**What would you describe as the most amusing moment you have experienced as a house master?** Most of them are unprintable in a family magazine such as this. There was the student from abroad who refused to have his copious supplies of dubious magazines confiscated on the grounds that he was a collector and some of them were rare.... The pupil who tried to hide a cat in his room – I got rid of it by telling him that it had fleas. The mouse mat that they made from the skin of a rabbit that their ferret had caught – that stank out the house, but they were terribly proud of it... the dead badger incident which was one of the most surreal moments of my housemastership – I was collared in the Common Room by one of my colleagues. Long experience has taught me that any sentence beginning with the words, "I thought I should let you know, I've just seen one of your boys...." always ends badly. On this occasion however, it ran "thought I should let you know, I've just seen two of your boys....carrying a dead badger across the road. I think that

they were headed for Biology to dissect it." The thing was flea ridden, stiff as a board, two days dead and the maggots were just setting up residence. I think it was fair to say that Mr Rhodes was less than impressed. One of my predecessors however, was far more enlightened; Mr French allowed the boys to keep snakes in a specially constructed snake pit at the bottom of the Petergate patch. This included, and I quote, "the monster that SH produced in a paper bag." All was well until the housemaster's dog fell in. History does not record what happened next.

Then there are the countless times when I've turned up at exactly the wrong time to find someone doing or saying something which, on reflection, they'd rather I'd not seen or heard. The strained "Hello Sir" is always a joy.

**If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?** Tiverton, obviously. Is there anywhere else with better café society, cultural opportunities and light philosophical banter than that available in our own town? Joking apart however, there are many worse places to be than in Devon. The people, the attitudes and the beauty of our own county takes some beating. Failing this, I'd go for a small New England town in the summer and New York in the winter.

**If you were given £500,000 tomorrow and had to spend it or something other than a house or charity what would you buy?** If I spent it on myself, it'd probably be a car, that's where most of my cash seems to end up. An Alvis Speed 20 would be nice. They're surprisingly quick for a 1930s car of that size and irritate the drivers of elderly hot hatches with loud exhausts when you outrun them. If I spent it on someone else, it would have to be split evenly between a week's supply of pizza for Petergate Year 10 (£250,000 should just about cover that) and the other half on hair care product for Year 11 – that amount might stretch as far as three or four days.

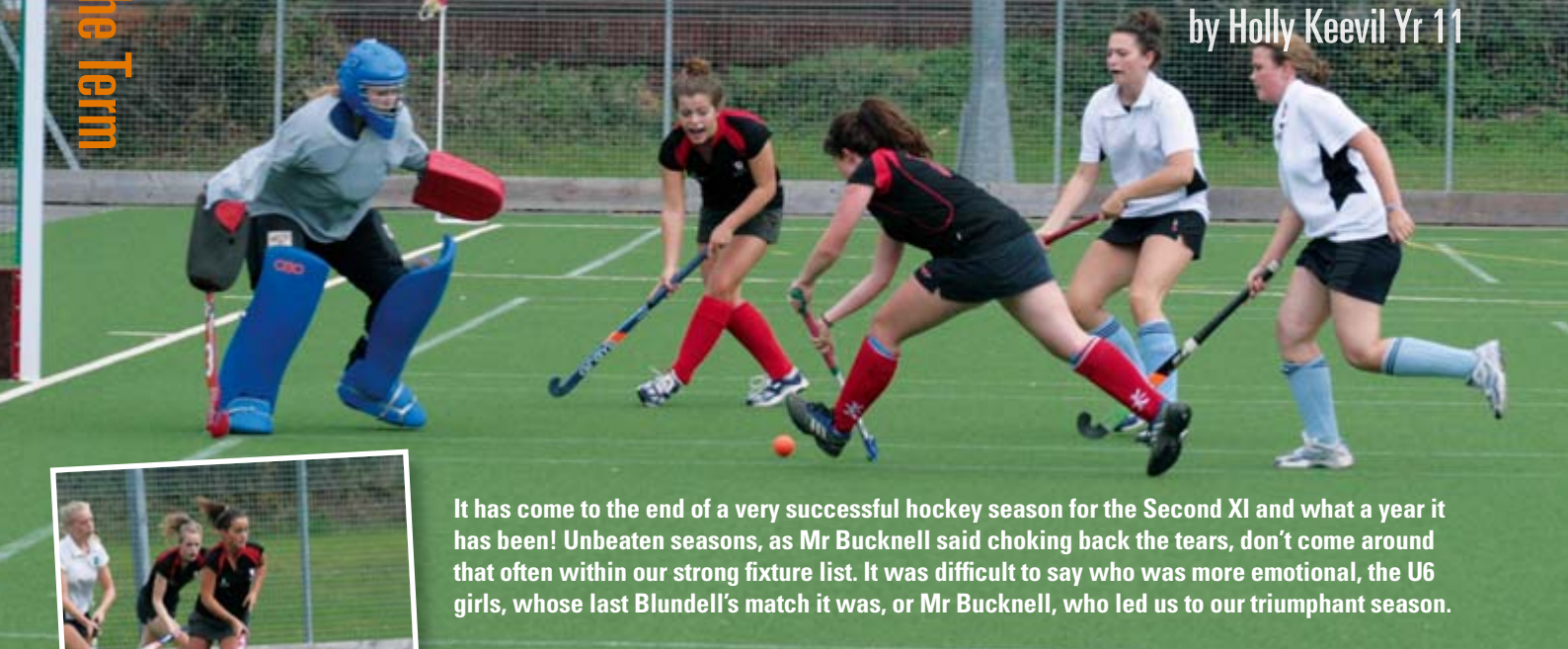
**Are there any old Blundell's traditions you would like to see re-instated at the school?** – There is a tradition that the Head of School could grow a beard (if capable) and keep a goat on Big Field. I have only seen a goat kept on Big Field by the Head of School once in my time here and, neither the goat nor the groundsman, seemed impressed. It became very apparent that goats are surprisingly strong and easily capable of defending themselves. It was right up there with the time that the pig from the "Guess the Weight of the Porker" stand at the school fete escaped and started rooting up the cricket square. That too was surprisingly difficult to corral.

**How would you describe Blundell's as a whole in two words?** – It's not a hole, it's a great school.



# Undefeated! 2nd XI

by Holly Keevil Yr 11



It has come to the end of a very successful hockey season for the Second XI and what a year it has been! Unbeaten seasons, as Mr Bucknell said choking back the tears, don't come around that often within our strong fixture list. It was difficult to say who was more emotional, the U6 girls, whose last Blundell's match it was, or Mr Bucknell, who led us to our triumphant season.



*"...the team has gone from strength to strength, not conceding a goal since the 24th September and only three in total..."*

This season I am confident that I have had the best view on the pitch, poised as I was in goal. I have seen before me ten players, all so hungry to win, playing some absolutely stunning hockey. I have watched Maddie Simonson take countless balls to the foot, witnessed Flora Dickinson injure players left right and centre (3 in 1 match I believe - sorry Marlborough) and I have admired about 50 beautiful goals being scored at the other end.

Yes, there have been times it's been a close shave and Mr Bucknell has turned a violent shade of magenta, but the team has gone from strength to strength, not conceding a goal since the 24th September and only three in total. I can say this not at all conceitedly because there have been matches where the ball has hardly even entered our D, largely thanks to the Dickinsons outstandingly tenacious defending.

In fact, Thea Dickinson has proved herself to be such an asset to the team that Mr Bucknell awarded her with a miniature hockey stick to commemorate her time playing for him. Since Yr 9 she has been under his management, along with Sophie Scott, who was also presented with a mini stick. Time after time this season we have watched Sophie strike the ball and hit the backboard with a satisfying thud; this was usually followed by a deafening roar from the rest of the team, none louder than our ultra-competitive leader, Dani Lunn. As captain this season, Dani has been quite simply inspirational. Not stopping to take a break at any point during a match, from centre field she has motivated us all to keep on fighting, right up until the final whistle, and it was through muffled sobs that Dani accepted her hockey stick and congratulated the team. However, it must be said that Dani's real triumph was her notoriously delicious cake. It was the last training session and Dani had baked an absolute beauty, shaped like a hockey stick, complete with a ball covered entirely in sweets. She even succeeded in worming a smile from Mr Bucknell.

Other stalwarts from the U6 included Lottie Free, Alexa Batting, Hannah Morris and ace goal scorer Harriet Sansom (when she wasn't being dropped to the 1st X1!). Much of our incredible team spirit must be attributed to the experienced Westlakers.

It has been a season we are all extremely proud of and it will be a tough act to follow next year but those of us returning will give it a go.



'Coach of the season'







**2nd X1:** Holly Keevil, Harriet Sansom, Maddie Simonson, Alexa Batting, Lottie Free, Sophie Scott, Milly Maunder, Georgie Cummings, Abi Wilson-Date, Corren Kvesic, Thea Dickinson, Dani Lunn (Capt'), Hannah Morris, Jenny Boylett, Flora Dickinson

Results	2nd X1	4th X1
Well's Cathedral	Won 6-0	
Exeter School	Won 5-0	
Chilton Cantello A		Won 7-1
Sherborne Girls	Won 2-0	Won 6-0
King's Bruton A	Drew 1-1	Drew 2-2
West Buckland	Won 4-0	
Clifton College	Won 6-0	Won 2-1
Shebbear A		Won 2-0
Millfield	Won 3-0	
Taunton School	Won 2-0	Won 6-0
Wellington School	Won 5-0	
Kingsley A		Won 1-0
King's Taunton	Won 3-0	Won 2-0
Richard Huish	Won 4-0	
Uffculme A		Won 7-0
Canford	Won 6-2	Drew 2-2
Marlborough College	Won 2-0	Won 2-0
Bristol Grammar	Won 1-0	Won 6-0



**4th X1 Girls Hockey**

I should also mention that the brilliant **4th X1 team** were also undefeated this year, beating several other smaller school's 1st X1s. Under the benign guidance of Mr Barlow, they proved to be a force to be reckoned with. Ably led by Jess Summers, with Ellie Casely, Rachael Clarke and Flora Shadbolt giving strong support, they showed the great strength in depth and fun to be had by playing hockey at Blundell's.



Steve Willis (front right) and his trusted team

## New Head Groundsman - Mr Steve Willis

by Flora Shadbolt Yr 12

**Steve Willis**, although being born and bred in the West Country, has worked not only all over the country but also all over the world. When working for British Airways he travelled to Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand, witnessing their dramatic and diverse landscapes. He says he particularly remembers Australia's spectacular landscapes and their "work hard play hard" outdoor approach to life.

I asked him whether these trips abroad sculpted his decision to go into horticulture and his landscaping choices. He shook his head and said that even as a child he had wanted to work outdoors. He painted a charming image of himself as a teenager regularly looking out of a classroom window and seeing a man cutting the lawn outside and thinking 'that's what I would rather be doing!'

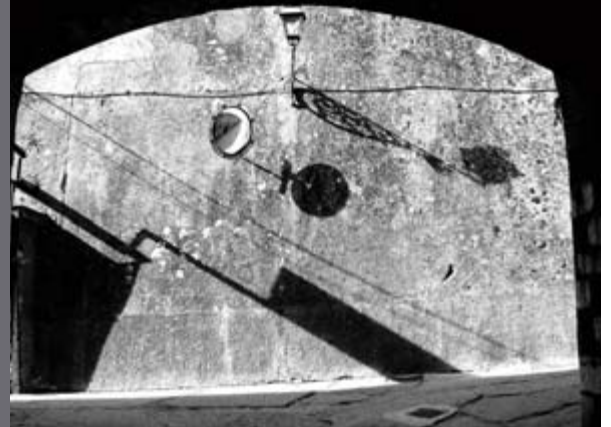
Steve joined us from Bristol City Football Club, where he was also contracted to look after QEH Bristol's pitches. With 80 acres of land, 6 groundsmen and 2 gardeners to organise and keep in check I asked Mr. Willis what inspired him to take up the job offer from Blundell's? "Why wouldn't you want to work in the best school in Devon?" he replied. "I want everyone to enjoy their surroundings and for all our visiting teams to look forward to playing their matches at Blundell's!" The grounds of Blundell's are one of the school's biggest assets and perhaps we all need reminding from time to time how lucky we are to be able to enjoy them on a daily basis. They are vital for the image of our school and a testament to the years of dedication and skill of people like Steve Willis and his team. I would say that we are definitely in safe hands with our new Head Groundsman and his team.





I only really began studying photography when I joined Blundell's last year, having been brought up in Greece, and I very quickly realised that it was something I was very interested in. At the beginning of the Autumn Term we were given the subject of Identity to work on. I interpreted it as national identity, as I felt it was appropriate considering my international background. In my work I try and make a contrast between Greece and England. However I decided not to restrict what I put into my portfolio just because I wanted to keep it within the boundaries of the theme, therefore my photos are not always clearly connected to national identity. Throughout the term I have been using both colour and black and white photography, however I felt more comfortable working in black and white, so the majority of my work is using that.

**Aeneas Michalopoulos Yr12**



## Shooting straight...



Stan Finch is currently in the process of developing a prototype clay pigeon shooting aid. His product fits onto the end of a double barrel shotgun and allows an instructor to adjust the lead needed when shooting a clay in all shooting situations. This allows learners to quickly understand the different types of leads needed for different shooting environments and also to become more successful by having a visual indicator of where to aim. The shooting aid is made from transparent acrylic so that it does not interfere with the overall view and it can fit onto any type of over/under shotgun. Stan spent the Autumn Term developing his design through modelling and testing and is currently making the final prototype. The shooting aid is being manufactured using the department's laser cutter and due to its size can be easily and quickly batch produced. Please contact the Design and Technology department if you would be interested in testing or using this product.





# Graduate Assistants

## Mr James Mayes

Moving to Blundell's, having studied History and Ancient History at Nottingham University, it is easy to speculate, why here? We do not have to look far for the connection between Mr Mayes and Blundell's. He was educated at nearby Wellington School – the bucolic setting is not dissimilar to Blundell's, although let's not allow local rivalries to come in here - and Mr Mayes' sister, Emily, actually attended Blundell's, leaving just last year.

It is immediately evident that Mr Mayes has a passion and understanding for Classics. He is one of our two Graduate Assistants and has settled in very quickly. Currently in his first teaching year, he has made an immediate impact on the Classics department, concentrating on the younger end of the Blundell's community, which undoubtedly is where one requires unconditional patience. When students first learn Latin it can be a daunting and mystifying process, as is the case with all foreign languages. I suspect that Mr Mayes has managed to be both forgiving and informative with his classes and it is this ethos that has already made him so popular with his SH students. He is also teaching some World Studies.

Outside the classroom Mr Mayes is a very accomplished hockey player and he has already become deeply involved with both the girls' and boys' hockey programmes. Having helped Mrs K with the 1st X1 girls last term, he has now taken charge of his first solo team, the U13A boys.

We are all very fortunate that he has chosen to start his career at Blundell's and we hope that he continues to enjoy it as much as he obviously has to date.

**Oscar Mustard** Yr 10

## Mr Ali Taylor

At the beginning of this year, we were joined by Mr Ali Taylor, who had recently come from Nottingham Trent University after studying Sports Sciences and Management. Since being accepted to work at Blundell's as part of a one year contract, he has already been a great addition to school life.

Mr Taylor attended King's Hall and then King's College Taunton – for which we forgive him! – so he was very familiar with Blundell's from an early age. Rugby is his major passion and he has experienced winning the Rosslyn Park Sevens title and he still plays for Wellington RFC. Last term he coached the U14B team and the boys responded well to his competitive spirit by having a very strong season; we can only speculate as to whether he enjoyed their 37-0 win over his old school or not! Mr Taylor is proving to be an invaluable support to the PE and Games Departments.

Mr Taylor says that he is already very fond of Blundell's and is especially grateful for the warm welcome that students and staff have given him. We all wish Mr. Taylor an enjoyable rest of the year at Blundell's!

**Rowan Carew** Yr 10



# DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Dear All,

I hope you all had a fantastic winter Holiday. I was fortunate to be invited to a Christmas lunch held at the Ted Crowe Room at the Somerset County Cricket ground, organised by the Old Blundellian Cricket Club. It was a lovely occasion and a chance to hear about the great success of the County team last season. If you are interested in enjoying this wonderful facility in the

forthcoming cricket season, you need to be a member of the Old Blundellian Club or an invited guest and must book in first with the Room Steward, David Dobson. Please make contact with him at [dobsond@gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:dobsond@gotadsl.co.uk), or call on 01288 353366, or 07721 098331. Please remember that places are limited and not always available.

I would like to thank you all so much for participating in the Annual Fund which was launched in September. This is an



increasingly important element of the Blundell's development programme, enabling us to invest in a number of projects chosen each year to enhance and enrich the educational experiences of our pupils. This year we are

hoping to purchase new pianos, science telescopic equipment, Pre-prep and Prep School playground equipment, additional equipment for the new Fitness Suite and Activities Programme and enhancements to Ondaatje Hall for theatre productions. The fund also supports our priority project, The Peter Blundell Foundation Award, which enables children who wouldn't normally be able to secure a

Blundell's education to do so. The support received so far is very encouraging, but additional participation is always welcome to ensure all projects are fully funded during the next academic year. If you would like to know more about this important initiative, please look on the web page [www.blundells.org/devoffice/contribution](http://www.blundells.org/devoffice/contribution) or contact us for a leaflet and donation form.

As you will see elsewhere in The Diary, it has been a busy term with a number of events taking place. Please look at the event round-up for photos together with details of forthcoming events over the next few months.



We have gone 'live' with our official Facebook page, designed for members of the Blundell's community. It will keep you updated on School events both on and off campus and you can also see photos from past Old Blundellian events; find us under 'Blundell's School Community'. LinkedIn and Twitter should also be up and running very shortly.

Following the great success of the Business Directory, we are now launching a similar initiative to provide mentoring and careers advice support to members of the Blundell's community. Please register if you feel you could offer either guidance or work experience opportunities. If you are thinking of a career change or exploring a particular profession, please contact us, as we have recently had a number of successes with work experience offers both in the UK and Europe.

Once again, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the Blundell's Development Office. It really is very much appreciated. We hope to meet many of you at the Blundell's Community Olympiad Ball on Saturday 7th July for a convivial social evening in celebration of the 2012 Olympics.

**Amber Oliver**

## THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Amber Oliver  
Development Director  
Tel. 01884 232324  
Mob. 07825734440  
[a.oliver@blundells.org](mailto:a.oliver@blundells.org)

Emily Roffe-Silvester  
Development Officer  
Tel. 01884 243262  
[devoffice@blundells.org](mailto:devoffice@blundells.org)





### Patricia's Farewell

Last term we said farewell to Patricia Thompson, our Development Database Administrator. Patricia retired after 15 years of service with the Blundell's Foundation. Patricia was originally introduced to the School by her late husband Reg Thompson, the legendary pianist whom Blundell's were very lucky to have as a teacher. We hope Patricia enjoys her retirement and many thanks for all your years of dedicated service to the School.



### Old Blundellian Sports

There are numerous Old Blundellian sporting teams that meet throughout the year. If you would like join the team or perhaps come back to Blundell's to play in a game against one of Blundell's current 1st teams please email the OB Club at [obclub@blundells.org](mailto:obclub@blundells.org) with a list of sports you are interested in supporting. See Upcoming Events for a list of current OB games.

Ian & Amber with former parents, Mildred & Gilbert Lee, along with their daughter and former pupil Scarlett Lee (GH 06-08) at the Hong Kong Jockey Club.



**Last October, Ian Davenport and Amber Oliver ventured out to Hong Kong and China where they held a very successful reunion for Old Blundellians, past and current parents and current pupils visiting home over the holidays.**

We are most grateful to those who entertained us on our brief visit, which included a delightful evening at the Hong Kong Jockey Club, an 18 hour visit to China to meet current parents and a final evening meal in a central Hong Kong restaurant with Old Blundellians Dan Parr (P 90-95), Guy Nowell (P 69-74), Toby Bland (SH 84-89) and other guests. This won't be our last trip to Hong Kong; next time we hope to see those whom we regrettably were unable to meet due to an extensive itinerary and limited time. The reception in The China Club Library was held thanks to the generous support from Old Blundellian Tobias Bland (SH 84-89) and his colleague Tim Rainsford.

The reunion was part of the School's aim to bring together old friends and make new contacts from the Blundell's Community in Hong Kong and China. We hope to extend this by visiting the USA in the late spring or early summer next year.



Current pupil Alex Lau (Petergate) with guests at The China Club reception.



# Events

## Hare & Hounds Alumni Race 2011

The Annual Hare and Hounds Alumni Race took place again this year on Wimbledon Common in London. Alistair Knight (NC 70-74) & Will Holland (P 86-91) represented Blundell's in a daring attempt to win the coveted trophy and of course bragging rights. However, Alistair fell foul of a moved flag which forced him to run off course and he was therefore disqualified from scoring for the team, although that didn't stop him from continuing the run. He did receive an official apology from the Hare and Hounds president. Will also had a great run despite a very swollen ankle and he also completed the run despite his injuries. Special thanks go to both runners and to the team Captain, Giles Stimson (NC 60-65) for organising our runners and taking photos. He will certainly be joining the team next year and encouraging runners from the Blundellian community to take part and compete for the coveted winner's trophy!

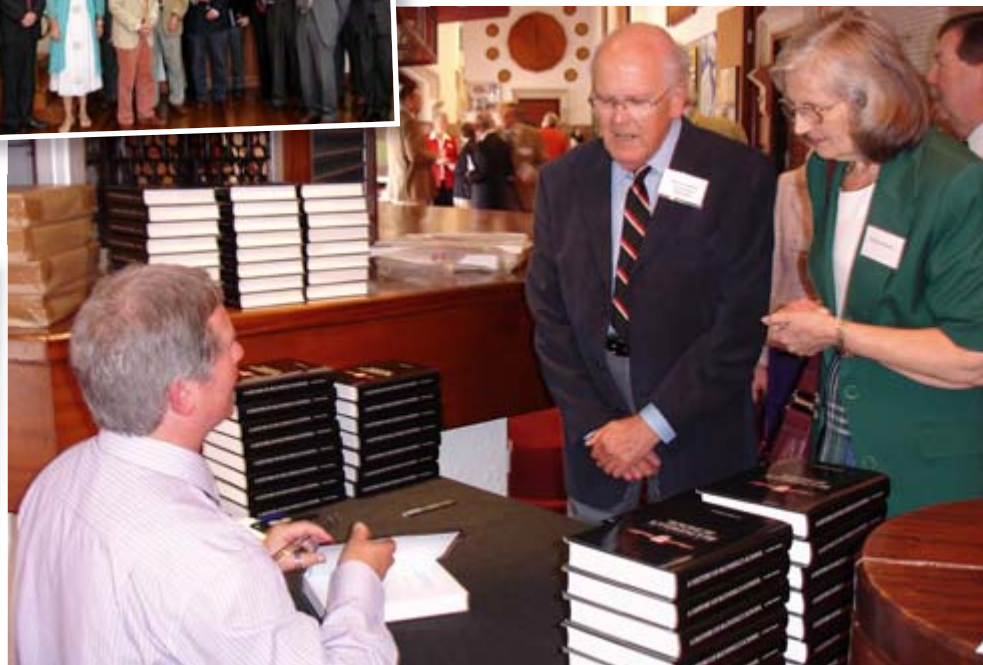
## BOOK LAUNCH 15TH OCT 2011

The launch of *A History of Blundell's*, the new book by School Archivist Mike Sampson, was a terrific success with over 100 people queuing up to get their books signed in Ondaatje Hall. Many stayed on for an informative lecture from the author, which gave an insight into the long history of the School. The lecture concluded with a lunch reception in Big School, giving past and present staff, parents, Old Blundellians, governors and supporters a chance to discuss their memories of the School.

The day continued with a short tour of the exterior of Old Blundell's, followed by a hunt for famous Old Blundellian R.D. Blackmore's name, which is inscribed on the front of the building. This was won by Blundellian supporter Robert Nanney-Williams. The day concluded with afternoon tea in the Beale Centre, when we were able to watch the 1st XV Rugby team play against Bryanston.



Thanks to all who were able to attend and if you would like to purchase a copy of *A History of Blundell's* please email Mike at [mjs@blundells.org](mailto:mjs@blundells.org)  
Exclusive discount extended - £17.50 per copy!







*The Welcome Reception!*

## BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY LONDON DINNER - 4TH NOVEMBER 2011

The Blundell's Annual London Dinner was revived again this year and took place on November 4th 2011 at the Carlton Club. The dinner was sold out, which is testament to its popularity among the Blundell's community both old and young, with representatives from years 1941 to 2001. Many parents, staff, governors and of course Old Blundellians joined us for arrival drinks followed by a delicious four course meal. A big thank you to Chad Murrin (FH 69-73) for saying the grace and also for the speeches by current governor James Bullock (P81-86), Head Master Ian Davenport and School Archivist and author Mike Sampson. It was a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and a chance to network with those from the Blundell's Community.

A special thanks to James Bullock for hosting this evening and allowing us to take advantage of the impressive Carlton Club.



*Class of 1985/86 (top);  
The Petty Family (left);  
The Seaton Family (right);*



## Charlie Leigh Book Launch



During his Gap year Charlie Leigh (W 1998-2004) set off on overland odyssey to circumnavigate the Middle East from Istanbul to Jerusalem. The story of this trip including running out of money and finding himself in situations of which he had no experience has been set out in his book 'Educating an Englantenee Inshallah'. It is an excellent read, and as Sir Ralph Fiennes says: *"This is an ambitious book for an 18 year old author and he has managed it brilliantly."* There is an introduction by Sir Christopher Ondaatje and illustrations are by Blundellian Lauren Kalsi (W). Copies of the book may be obtained from the Beale Centre.

The book was launched with a signing, drinks and canapés in the Beale Centre on 15th October 2011. An eclectic mixture of over 80 OBs and friends enjoyed the evening and many had copies of the book signed by Charlie.



## OBCC 60TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER



**The Old Blundellian Cricket Club** organised a 60th Anniversary dinner at the County Ground, Taunton on 1st October 2011. The event was immaculately organised by Chad Murrin and 60 OBs and partners enjoyed an excellent meal and a very entertaining speech from Vic Marks (FH 1968-73, England and Somerset). David Fursdon (Staff 1979-84, Governor 1984-2011, Chairman 2000-2011) was also present as a guest of the Old Blundellian Club, which is grateful for his consistent efforts in moving OBs, the School and Governors along in harmony. David has been succeeded as Chairman of Governors by Cedric Clapp (P 1960-65), who will certainly carry on the good work.

**Top:** Richard Sharp makes a point to Richard White

**Middle:** Andy Giles welcomes guests **Right:** John Harding and Tom Hillman reminisce



## JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD LUNCH

Peter Hartland (NC 1941-46), prompted by a visit to the UK by John Hollingshead (NC 1942-46), organised a lunch in the Beale Centre for contemporaries and their partners. John was over from Australia, where he has been instrumental in keeping OBs in contact with one another, and the chance was taken to meet up and see Blundell's. After drinks in the Beale Centre there was a tour of North Close followed by lunch at the Beale Centre for OBs and their partners.





# Fives

The annual Fives extravaganza including the competition for the Reichwald Trophy was held at Blundell's on Sunday, 16th October 2011. Lunch in the Beale Centre was followed by some excellent Fives involving OBs, Blundellians and guests. The Reichwald Trophy was won by Sam Wyatt-Haines (OH) and Georgina Scott (GH) who were presented with the Cup during tea in the Beale Centre.



## Five go...

The Marlborough Town Fives Club made history, on the 27th November 2011, they visited and played at Rugby School, Eton College and Winchester College. This tremendous undertaking took 14 hours, over 300 miles, copious Champagne and Beer, smoked salmon bagels, crisps and chocolate.

I was at school in F.H. 1964 -1968 at the height of Chris Reichwald's housemastership and Fives stewardship. Anyone who seemed to be doing nothing in their spare time was encouraged - or more likely - ordered to use the courts which were and are, of course, very close.

I have resumed playing regularly at Marlborough in the last 4 years and have represented Rugby Fives Association at Clifton, Kings Bruton, Marlborough as well as competing in National Vintage and Veterans championship.

My recent excellent experience of Fives leads me to urge as many as possible to take up the game and continue to play on into life.

**Tom Hillman**

## Rugby Lunch



Following an initiative by Tim Bayliss (FH 1999-2003) members of the 2002 1stXV returned to watch Blundell's 1stXV play Sherborne on Big Field on 26th November, 2011 for the Harding Cup. There was an excellent turn out with past players, partners and parents arriving at the Beale Centre for lunch and drinks before the match. For several this was the first meeting since leaving school and the usual comments about increasing waistlines and receding hairlines were bandied about. Unfortunately, the extra support did not generate a Blundell's win and the Harding Cup returned to Sherborne.



# Upcoming Events



## Tour of Old Blundell's

We are very excited to have the unique opportunity to view various interior areas of Old Blundell's on Saturday 25th February between 11.00am and 3.00pm. The National Trust is generously allowing us to take advantage of a current absence of tenants in two of the flats and the original Porter's Lodge to tour these parts of the original building. School Archivist Mike Sampson will be there to answer any questions and there will be exclusive displays from the archives of both Blundell's and the Trust. Do let us know if you are able to come along. Email: [devoffice@blundells.org](mailto:devoffice@blundells.org) and/or Tel. 01884 243262

## House of Lords Blundell's London Dinner

By kind introduction from Simon Davenport QC (P 76-82) we are very privileged to be able to host the 2012 Blundell's London Dinner in the delightful surroundings of the Lord Cholmondeley Room and Terrace on the evening of 20th November. Places are strictly limited and likely to sell out early, so contact us to register your interest as soon as possible.

**Please note the email address of the OB Club is now: [admin@obclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@obclub.co.uk)**

**We have some very exciting events coming up this spring and summer, so please book early if you think you may be interested in attending. A full listing and contact details appear on the back cover of this diary edition.**

## Diamond Gaudy

It has been a number of years since we held a Gaudy and we thought the Queen's Diamond celebrations were an ideal opportunity to invite all Old Blundellians, partners and families and former staff members to attend a social gathering on Saturday 28th April. We will be welcomed by Ian Davenport, the Head Master, at 11.45am, followed by a buffet lunch in Big School at 12.15pm. After lunch there will be tours of the School and the Houses and a chance to watch cricket and tennis matches taking place that afternoon. There will also be a display of the many aspects of Blundell's pre-1952 and afternoon tea will be available. If you were at Blundell's prior to and including 1952, you should receive an invitation shortly, but please contact us directly if you would like more information.



## The Light Bar Casual Drinks Reception



This increasingly popular event takes place again this summer on Thursday 14th June thanks to the generosity of our host James Goff (M 75-79). The Light Bar is in a prime central London location just off Liverpool Street. The reception for members of the Blundell's community takes place between 6.00pm and 8.00pm and includes a complimentary drink on arrival. If you live/work in the London area please do let us know so we can ensure you receive more information

## 1604 SOCIETY LUNCH

This will take place at St Paul's Cathedral, London on Thursday 31st May and include a private tour of this wonderful building and lunch. Invitations to our 1604 Society members will be circulated shortly. If you would like to know more about the 1604 Society, which was created to thank individuals who have told us of their intention to make a bequest to the School, please contact Amber Oliver.



## Tyntesfield House & Garden, Wraxell near Bristol

We have been fortunate to secure a guided garden tour of this wonderful National Trust property on Wednesday 16th May. The day will include lunch and self-guided tours of the house in the afternoon. Numbers are strictly limited so places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and will attract a charge of £20 per head towards the overall costs of the event. Invitations will be sent to those Blundellians living or working in the Bristol area, but if you are keen to attend, please register your interest as soon as possible.



# OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY 2012

**Old Blundellian Day will be on Saturday, 16th June 2012 and we will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the Colin Beale Centre.**

Richard Swarbrick (M 1977-82) has kindly agreed to be President for the Day. Nearly all of you will know the Swarbrick family, Richard's father Nick taught at Blundell's for over 30 years during which he was Westlake Housemaster, Second Master and then Governor. Richard had a distinguished career in the Royal Navy, now works and lives in the Tiverton area and has just seen his daughter successfully complete her time at Blundell's.

The Preacher is the Reverend Hilary Dawson, School Governor, and the lesson will be read by Sue Beale who needs no introduction.

## Programme for the day

10.00am	AGM of the OB Club, Beale Centre
11.00am	Chapel Service
12 noon	Drinks with staff, Beale Centre
12.30pm	Unveiling of plaque by Sue Beale
1.00pm	Lunch in the marquee on Big Field
2.00pm	Cricket v Taunton on Big Field
4.00pm	Tea in the Beale Centre

We hope to see OBs with connections to the Swarbrick family and those who were Richard's contemporaries in Milestones. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to any OBs who were at School during the Queen's coronation. Tickets for the Day include pre lunch drinks, lunch and tea and are available at £20 per head from the OB Club, Beale Centre, 01884 232010 or email: [admin@obclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@obclub.co.uk)



## Veterans Russell

We invite all Old Blundellians and parents both past and present to participate in the Veterans Race on the afternoon of the Annual School Russell Race, Saturday 3rd March, commencing at 3.30pm on the field at the Blundell's Preparatory School. Trophies are awarded to the winners in three categories, under 40s, 40-60s and over 60s. A tremendous number of runners participated last year and we hope that you are keen to undertake the challenge once again. Please register your interest.

# Olympic Ball



7TH JULY 2012

**Get your table together for the Blundell's Olympic Ball to be held at the Senior School marquee on Big Field, Saturday 7th July.**

The Old Blundellian Club invites Old Blundellians, current and past parents, staff and other Blundell's supporters to celebrate the Olympics at this exciting social event.

**Tickets go on sale Friday 10th February, please book your tickets on the 10th as places are limited.**

Contact Carole at the Senior School to book your tickets on 01884 232401 or [c.francis@blundells.org](mailto:c.francis@blundells.org). Places are confirmed once payment is received. Tickets are £35 or £30 for those under 25 and include drinks and canapés on arrival and dinner followed by music from the band 'Fourplay'. Cheques payable to Blundell's School.

## Medical Reception

We are delighted to announce that Old Blundellian Professor John Shepherd (FH 61-66) will be our speaker at the Medical Reception to be held in Big School on Saturday 6th October. John is one of the country's leading consultant gynaecological surgeons and oncologists and was awarded Hunterian Professor RSC in 2006/7. He has also received the Victor Bonney Award amongst others. It will be a pleasure to listen to John and a chance to socialise with fellow medics from the Blundell's Community. We intend to invite all Blundellians who work or have worked within the medical profession. However please contact us if this is also relevant to you and you would like an invitation.

## HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA - *Blundell's Reception*



By kind permission of Old Blundellian Patrick Penny (W 78-83) we are holding a small lunch reception for interested parties in

the exclusive Henley Stewards enclosure on Wednesday 27th June. If you would like to enjoy this wonderful regatta with like-minded individuals from the Blundell's Community, please contact us now to register your interest. Cost will include entry and lunch reception in the Stewards Enclosure. Places are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



# OLD BLUNDELLIAN CC v FRANCE

The French will be traveling to the UK to play against the two clubs providing players for the historic Olympic Cricket Match, which formed part of the 1900 Paris Olympics. A team of players from the Old Blundellian Cricket Club and Castle Cary representing England played France in the final and won. As a result four Old Blundellians were presented with Olympic Gold medals.



The OBCC v France match will take place on Big Field on Tuesday, 24th July 2012 beginning at 11.30 a.m. Vic Marks (FH 1968-73, England and Somerset) has agreed to captain the OBXI. There will be a buffet lunch in the marquee on Big Field at 1.00 p.m. during which there will be an opportunity to meet the teams. Tickets for ground entrance and lunch can be obtained for £12.50 from Janet Wooff at the Beale Centre (obclub@blundells.org, tel:01884 232010) or Paddy Armstrong (pa@obclub.co.uk tel:07799 066966). Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and lunch space is limited, so please book as soon as possible. There will be a bar running in the Beale Centre all day and it is intended to invite local Olympians to the match.



## Blundell's Charity Golf Day



**Blundell's Charity Golf Day** will take place again on Friday 31st August 2012 at Dainton Park Golf Club, Nr Newton Abbot, Devon. This year we will be supporting both the Peter Blundell's Awards along with Exeter Leukaemia Fund. The day will comprise an 18 hole round of golf followed by awards ceremony and evening meal. Tickets are £65 per person. Please start gathering a team but individual entries are more than welcome.



## OB Camping Weekend

Old Blundellian, Alex Scott (OH 1982-87), is celebrating 25 years since his departure from Blundell's School by organizing an OB camping weekend on August 25th & 26th for OBs who left the School in 1987 (or a year either side). Families are welcome to come back to the School for a weekend to make use of the School facilities and enjoy an evening BBQ. They will be camping on the old CCF training grounds, but don't worry no 'square bashing' is required - it is now grassed over.

**If you would like to participate in the weekend please email Alex at alexscott1969@yahoo.co.uk or get in contact with the OB Club.**



# Where are they now? 1986 Blundellians

Last issue we featured Andrew Nadolski's archive pictures of life at the School in 1986. The photographs created a lot of interest amongst the Blundell's community and were featured in regional magazines and The Western Morning News. This issue we ask the question 'Where are they now?' for some of those who appeared in the photographs



**Nigel Casey**

**FH 1982-87**

Nigel was sent to Blundell's as a scholar from the Downs School, Wraxall and immediately established himself as an academic as well as being a very useful Fives player. He went up to Oxford to read Modern History and then joined the Diplomatic Service moving through posts in South Africa, Moscow and Delhi to his current post as British Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina based in Sarajevo.



**Alex Wirtz**

**FH 1982-87**

Alex arrived at Blundell's from St Michael's, Tawstock and excelled as a runner, a musician and an academic. After Oxford University he played in various bands and taught English before moving to Poland on a whim where he met and married Monika. Back in London needing to support a wife and child he wrote software for City firms including trading simulations. Now back in Poland doing the same thing on a telecommuting basis, he visits the UK regularly and enjoyed a drink at 'The Light' with OBs recently.



**Rob Giles**

**SH 1982-87**

Rob followed brother Andy and father Richard to Blundell's and as well as being no mean academic, spent as much time as possible on a sports field. He excelled as a rugby player and runner and joined the Royal Navy where he stayed for 18 years, 3 of which were at Britannia Royal Naval College. He has recently been appointed Harbour Master and CEO of the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority which will keep him, his wife and 3 children busy in the South West.



**Bob Dorhout Mees**

**W 1985-87**

Bob arrived from Holland in the Sixth Form to study A level already a junior Dutch Hockey International. He totally galvanised boy's Hockey at Blundell's which was fairly badly supported at the time. He became the first ever Hockey player to be awarded full colours. He gained several caps as a full Dutch international and left to attend University in Holland. He has made a career in insurance in the Rotterdam area and is still involved in hockey with the Alliance Hockey Academy.



**Toby Tidmarsh**

**FH 1985-89**

Toby arrived in FH from Clifton Prep and immediately got involved in everything. He was particularly involved socially and is still in touch with Toby Millage and Toby Gornall who are working together in Portugal. Toby travelled a great deal and is now working in Sydney, Australia in digital marketing and enjoyed a drink with Paddy and the Headmaster before the OB Sydney Dinner.



# FUTURE EVENTS 2012

## FEBRUARY 2012

- 25th Tour of Old Blundell's School**  
Anytime between 11.00am and 3.00pm. Last tour at 2.00pm. **Contact: Development Office**

## MARCH 2012

- 3rd Annual Veteran's Russell Race** – Blundell's School, 3.30pm race start, followed by a prize award ceremony in the Beale Centre.  
**Contact: Development Office**
- 6th The Annual Blundell's Magpies Spring Luncheon** – Special Forces Club, London. Numbers are limited.  
**Contact: OB Club**
- 14th OBC Winter Lunch** – Colin Beale Centre  
**Contact: OB Club**
- 23rd Old Blundellian Club vs. Blundell's School 1st team** – Blundell's School Hockey Pitch at 4.30pm  
Followed with refreshments in the Colin Beale Centre.  
**Contact: OB Club**
- 24th Old Blundellian Club vs. Blundell's School 1st teams** – Blundell's School  
**Squash:** Blundell's Squash Courts at 2.00pm  
**Football:** Blundell's Amory Football Fields at 2.00pm  
**Fives:** Blundell's Fives Courts at 2.30pm  
Followed by refreshments in the Colin Beale Centre.  
**Contact: OB Club**

## APRIL 2012

- 28th Diamond Gaudy** – All those attending Blundell's prior to and including 1952 – Big School, Blundell's School. 11.45am onwards.  
**Contact: Development Office**

## MAY 2012

- 16th Garden Tour and Lunch Reception** – Tyntesfield – Places strictly limited.  
**Contact: Development Office**
- 31st 1604 Society Legacy Lunch** – St. Paul's Cathedral, London – By Invitation Only.  
**Contact: Amber Oliver**

## JUNE 2012

- 14th The Light Bar,**  
London Casual Drinks Reception 6.00-8.00pm  
**Contact: Development Office**
- 16th OB Day** – 'Colin Beale Centre's 10th Anniversary'  
**Contact: OB Club**
- 27th Henley Royal Regatta Blundell's Reception**  
Henley-on-Thames, *Places strictly limited.*  
**Contact: Development Office**

## OLD BLUNDELLIAN SPORT

Details of golf, shooting, cricket, squash, fives, hockey, football and tennis can be found on the OB Club website.

## JULY 2012

- 7th Blundell's Olympic Ball** – Big Field Marquee  
Tickets on Sale February 10th. *Places strictly limited*  
**Contact: Blundell's Main Office 01884 252543**
- 24th OBCC v France Olympic Cricket Match**  
Big Field, Blundell's School  
**Contact: OB Club**

## AUGUST 2012

- 25th Old Blundellians & Family Camping Trip**  
**&26th** Blundell's School-Open to OBs that left in 1986-1988  
**Contact: OB Club**
- 31st Blundell's Charity Golf Day**  
Dainton Park Golf Club, Nr Newton Abbot, Devon  
**Contact: Development Office**

## OCTOBER 2012

- 6th Medical Reception & Lunch**  
Blundell's School  
**Contact: Development Office**
- 9th OBC Winter Lunch** – Colin Beale Centre  
**Contact: OB Club**

## NOVEMBER 2012

- 13th OBC Winter Lunch** – Colin Beale Centre  
**Contact: OB Club**
- 20th Blundell's Annual London Dinner**  
House of Lords. *Places strictly limited.*  
**Contact: Development Office**

## DECEMBER 2012

- 11th OBC Winter Lunch** – Colin Beale Centre  
**Contact: OB Club**
- tbc Hare and Hounds Alumni Run**  
Wimbledon Common  
**Contact: Development Office**

## Old Blundellian Club Contact Details

**Email** admin@obclub.co.uk  
**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** devoffice@blundells.org  
**Tel** 01884 232324  
**Mobile** 07825 734440