

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

Issue No: 11



The Old Blundellian Cricket Club versus France!

### Flying bigh

21st Century OB and Businessman

# Reaching out

Blundell's and the wider community
Charity and volunteering

### GET STUCK IN...

Year 9 at Escot House



INSIDE:

Singing out: The Annual House Music festival

Back in time: A rare look inside Old Blundell's All at sea: Crossing the Atlantic on a raft



### "...it was really gratifying to see the vast majority of our leavers going onto the universities of their choice."



After fifteen years as Second Master I was not expecting to find myself in the hot seat for my final term at Blundell's, but what a marvellous way to finish one's career at this wonderful old school. One of the joys of being the Head is that you can bask in the reflected success of the pupils and colleagues around you. Once again the examination results this summer have been excellent and it was really gratifying to see the vast majority of our leavers going onto the universities of their choice. This could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of the Common Room and the support of parents, for which I am very grateful.

Over the summer holidays the Maintenance Department have again completed an enormous amount of work around the campus. Their most notable achievement has been the complete redecoration and reconfiguration of School House (Years 7 and 8). It really is transformed and now provides vastly improved accommodation for day pupils and boarders alike. Indeed I'd now be happy to move into the boarding house myself!

At the end of last summer we were sorry to say goodbye to our Head Master, Ian Davenport, who has moved on to lead an educational charity, The Springboard Bursary Foundation, a cause very close to his heart. Under his leadership the School achieved new heights, but we have been fortunate to find a worthy successor in Nicola Huggett who joins us in January. Her background of International Eventing, PPE at Oxford, Houseparenting at Haileybury and senior leadership at Downe House would seem to equip her perfectly for the job ahead. One coincidence is that Nicola was a pupil at Marlborough College where Jonathan Leigh (another former Head of Blundell's) now takes up his third Headship. At this point I would like to welcome Mr Bart Wielenga, our new Second Master, who joins us from Wellington College, Berkshire, where he was a Housemaster and Head of Economics.

I am very grateful to Peter Klinkenberg and his team who have put together this edition of the Diary. As you will see, this issue focuses on the many and varied charitable activities that the School undertakes. Charity is an area that is at the core of our community and indeed has its roots in the generosity of Peter Blundell who founded the School over 400 years ago. More recently under the enthusiastic leadership of John Brigden and now Henry Roffe-Silvester the charitable activities of the school have increased enormously and we are proud of what we are able to do both for the local community and the world beyond.

The following quote from William Penn is often included in School Assemblies at the start of term as a reminder of what we are trying to inculcate at Blundell's – 'I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.'

Randall Thane The Head



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# New HEAD NICOLA HUGGETT

NICOLA HUGGETT WILL TAKE OVER AS HEAD OF BLUNDELL'S IN JANUARY 2013. SHE IS CURRENTLY DEPUTY HEAD OF DOWNE HOUSE SCHOOL IN NEWBURY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOTH PASTORAL AND ACADEMIC SIDES OF THE SCHOOL, OVERSEEING THE BOARDING HOUSES AND THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM AS WELL AS MANAGING THE ACADEMIC HEADS OF DEPARTMENT. SHE IS MARRIED TO SPENCER AND THEY HAVE FOUR CHILDREN.

Nicola was educated at Marlborough College, and following a Gap year read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University. After a brief career in advertising, she moved into teaching in 1994, having returned to Oxford to complete her PGCE.

From 1996 to 2007 she taught at Haileybury, where she was a housemistress and then Head of Boarding, coaching hockey and cross country. She has a keen love of music and sport, having completed the London Marathon for charity and played Club Hockey. She was Captain of her College Boat Club and was President of the Oxford University Riding Club.

"I have been given a wonderfully warm welcome and I am looking forward to meeting staff, pupils and parents. This is a terrific opportunity and I am very excited to be part of the unique and vibrant community that is Blundell's."



Three Heads are better than one!





Sophie, Countess of Wessex, caused some excitement recently when she touched down on Big Field during a visit to Tiverton.



# U13 BOYS DEVON CHAMPIONS

For the first time ever, Blundell's won the Devon U13 hockey finals at the tournament held at Exeter University. In the group stages the boys remained unbeaten, scoring seventeen goals and conceding none. They defeated Exeter School. S. Dartmoor, Kingsbridge, Plymouth College and Stoke Damerel. This meant they progressed as group winners to the semi-finals against Exeter School 'B', which they comprehensively won 3-0. This set up the final against Exeter School 'A' which ended 1-1 and therefore went to flicks. Ben Clarke, Alex Kilbride and Will Klinkenberg held their nerve to record a 3-2 victory. Ben Morgan was the tournament's top goal scorer with seven, with Alex Kilbride second with six goals. Hugh Hamilton Green was voted the best goalkeeper conceding only one goal in the whole tournament. The boys now go on and represent Devon in the regional round at Millfield.



### PETER BLUNDELL PRIZE WINNER



Simon Tang receives the coveted Peter Blundell Prize from OB Assistant Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney. This is awarded for unobtrusive but wholly thorough, reliable and decent contribution to the School by manners, bearing and/or achievement.



Chairman of Governors, Cedric Clapp, Assistant Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney and retiring Head Master, Ian Davenport.

### Jubilee windows



SH, under the direction of OB Art Assistant, Lizzie Watts, helped the school celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by populating the school with regal crowns.





"Are we to paint what's on the face, what's inside the face, or what's behind it?" Pablo Picasso

This extraordinary portrait of a Masai warrior was painted by Hebe Lanyon YR9



### Beneath the waves

In the first week of July, the Sub Aqua Club set off with Tom Michelmore, Jim Bremner, Rory Trevelyan-Thomas, Harry Boddington, Charlie Frankpitt, Freddie Morris and Alex Holme, to the blue skies and clear waters of Bodrum, Turkey for a week-long dive trip. For most of the club it was their first time diving in non-UK water and so it was an enlightening

and exciting trip teamed with fun and interesting dive sites including reefs, sunken planes and boats. The boys certainly had a fun holiday. Thanks must be extended to Mr. Yates and Mr. Samson for organising the trip and I'm sure that any future ventures will be very popular.

Alex Holme L6

### **BRADLEY'S** RUSSELL, at last!

Bradley Upcott-Fowler U6 finally won the Senior Boys' Russell after a string of second places. Bradley has always epitomised the Blundellian spirit of grit and determination in the Russell, including relishing the deep mud in the cow fields - the tougher the better for him! Charlotte Routledge NC stormed her

way to the Senior Girls' title and will be back to defend it next year.





### CRICKET IN S AFRICA

**Jack Maunder and Dominic** Bess both enjoyed the challenge of touring S Africa with the **Devon U16 cricket squad this** year. They played six matches starting in Johannesburg and ending in Cape Town. Jack is a wicket keeper batsman playing for Heathcoat and Dominic likes to model himself on Graham Swann and bowls off-spin for Sidmouth. Four U14s have been selected for the same Devon tour next year, Dan Pyle, Ben Steer, Will Thompson and **Charles Fitzrov.** 

#### SUCCESS IN FRANCE

**Rupert Batting OH secured a** 



place in the U18 British **Eventing SW Team after his** strong performance in France on his sister's horse, Manyoshu.



### **FOX-PITT YARD VISIT**

**Our 18-strong Equestrian Team** were lucky enough to spend a day at William Fox-Pitt's yard recently just before he headed off to the Olympic Games 2012 (where he won a Silver medal with the GB team). William himself gave Master-classes in **Dressage and Show Jumping** and the whole group were amazed at the level of dedication and attention to detail that went into every aspect of training top eventers. Amy Clarke U6



### **SPRINGBOARD**

### **BLUNDELL'S FORMER HEAD LEADS NEW EDUCATION CHARITY**

Ian Davenport has now taken up his new role as Chief Executive Officer of the Springboard Bursary Foundation. This new charity will offer life-changing opportunities to disadvantaged children by providing 100% funded bursaries at independent and state boarding schools.



lan, who had been Head Master at Blundell's since 2004, said of his appointment to the post: 'Having been involved in boarding schools for over twenty years I have seen first-hand the transformational effect the environment has on pupils from diverse backgrounds. To be asked to run such a significant charity with this transformational aspiration at its heart, thus benefiting those pupils who have a disadvantaged background, was just too exciting an offer to refuse.'

Education Secretary Michael Gove and Lord Adonis are among senior figures from across the political spectrum to have endorsed plans for this schools-led national bursary foundation, which will be supported by a wide range of donors.

thespringboardbursaryfoundation.org.uk



### **BIOCHEMISTRY DINNER**

The U6 Biology and Chemistry Societies organised and prepared their own dinner for their combined annual event in the Beale Centre.

### U15 & U13 RUGBY SEVEN -**DEVON CHAMPIONS**



After starting slowly the U15 Squad duly won the Devon sevens finals. In the pool they defeated Park School 29-10, Torquay Boys Grammar 34-0 and Tavistock 30-7. In the semifinal they overcame Combeshead 32-0, setting up a final against a physically strong lvybridge. The starting seven saved their best rugby for the final and dominated the game throughout, coming through well 31-7. The whole squad played their part in the rounds, which is always vital in a long sevens tournament. Jack Maunder bossed the show superbly from scrum-half. scoring eight tries, bettered only by the blistering pace of Harry Pilkington out wide with nine. Isaac Hydleman moved the ball well at fly-half and also did most of the kicking. The squad: J Maunder (Capt'), I Hydleman, A Robertshaw, H Pilkington, B Clarke, B Brown, T Wardle, D Bess, T O'Brien, A Kitson, G Dart, B Willder. DJS

The U13s Squad headed off to Rosslyn Park undefeated, winning the St Peter's, Blundell's, Devon and Port Regis Tournaments. In the National Finals they won their pool but were put out in the knock-out stages.

### DON'T FORGET

You can keep up to date with the latest Blundell's News at www.blundells.org/admin/news.htm



Four Year 12 pupils from Blundell's have recently completed a six month engineering project with local engineering firm SUPACAT. The company, who design impressive world class high mobility vehicles, had been commissioned by the RNLI to design a vehicle to launch and recover their lifeboats. The boys were given the brief to design an engine bay handling system for this vehicle. The engine bay plus attachments (weighing approx 2.5 tonnes) would be safely removed and stored exposing the engine for maintenance. A written report of all the designs and research was produced by the team and sent away over the Easter holidays for assessment. In May a Celebration and Assessment Day took place at Plymouth University where the team gave a 15 minute presentation to a panel of seven engineers from various industries and were also questioned about their design at their display stand. They achieved their EES certificates for their project and the scheme will help them when applying for University next year as it is widely respected and shows that the pupils were willing to put in that extra effort above and beyond their AS exams. Pictured, team leader Gary Abdoll, report editor Will Muirhead, Alex Holme ic presentation and design leader Tom Golden.

#### L6 AQUARIUM TRIP



L6th Biologists visited Plymouth Aquarium for a day where they were able to use their laboratory to dissect some mackerel, learning in detail the structure and function of the organs of the fish and the adaptations of the gill system that allows the fish to efficiently exchange gas; a large part of the AS syllabus.

Flora Dickinson L6

### JOHN HOSKISON



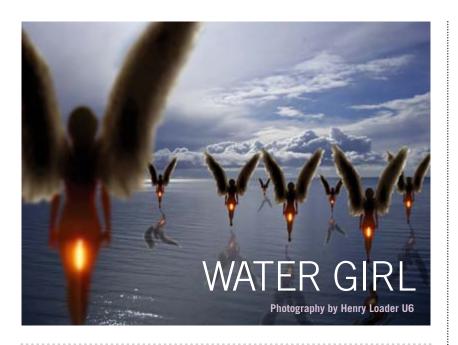
John Hoskison, spoke poignantly about his fall from grace: a once top professional golfer, he found himself in prison following a road accident. The U6 were riveted as he told of the challenges he faced trying to establish himself as a professional golfer and then when rebuilding his life, with his unequivocally positive attitude and approach highlighted throughout.





**Petergate** won an exciting **4x100m Senior Relay race** with Head Boy, Lewis Honey, bringing the baton home after the Japanese trio of Hajime Kasahara, Suguru Saito and Daiki Miyamoto had given him the lead.

Left: **House swimming winners** Holly Keevil GH, Maddie Smith GH, Jess Grandfield GH and Bastian Harvey OH





### MISS YOUNGS: OUR OLYMPIC TORCH BEARER

Miss Youngs was chosen to carry the Olympic Torch in Totnes on Sunday 20th May. We interviewed her on the week after the event back at school:



"...I had had to keep everything a secret for about 2 and a half months." How did you get to become a torch bearer? "I was nominated by Nick Hall my son's Godfather because of my 27 years of cub scouting. As well as the scouting I have also been involved with the Devon Games to Inspire for the past eight years (I am the aquathlon/triathlon coach) and I also teach swimming, so it's really about my involvement in the community and sports. Nick is a good friend who thought that I deserved it and knew that I would love to carry the Olympic torch"

How did you feel on the day? "No words can describe it really, so exciting, no nerves just a great atmosphere, I was just full of pride. It made my day to have so much support from friends and family, it made it so special. I relished the atmosphere and tried to take it all in. I'm very grateful to everyone who travelled so far to watch me."

By Bertie Frankpitt and Greg Cole Yr 8



### SUPER 8

The Millfield Super 8 competition is run along the same lines as the English Schools Cup with athletes having to compete in two events. We did outstandingly well in this competition, there can be few times in Blundell's history that we have beaten Millfield at team track and field athletics.

Our Year 9 team consisted of Ben Summers, Cameron Seymour, Will Scott, Archie Stoneman (Yr 8), Finn Neusinger, Arthur Friend, Austin White, Ed Barlow, Alice Smith, Lucinda Canterbury, Courtney Nation, Tabby Unsworth White, Eliza Tidball, Georgie King, Amy Cross and Lizzie Fearnley. The highlight of the day was Archie Stoneman's fall in the 1500m putting him 30m behind the rest of the field but Archie did magnificently well to claw his way back and to eventually win the race. All these athletes should be part of a strong senior team in the future. Will Scott topped our boys points scores and Alice Smith the girls, but it was the strength in depth that really won the day and, of course, the great Blundellian team spirit. EKS

TEAM	Points	Rank
BLUNDELLS	2,230	1
KING'S BRUTON	2,183	2
MILLFIELD	2079	3
SHERBORNE	2,071	4
CLIFTON	1,936	5
WELLINGTON	1,877	6
BRYANSTON	1,750	7
KING'S COLLEGE TAUNTON	1,717	8

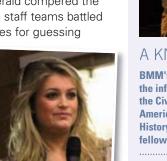


SH put on a fantastic Wizard of Oz musical last term based on L Frank Baum's book and it was Miss Fordham's last production before leaving. In the photograph Ella Davenport (Scarecrow), Imi Sanders-Dutton (Dorothy), Ed O'Brien (Tin Man) and Joe Norris (Cowardly Lion) walk the Yellow Brick Road, encountering Megan Grant's very Wicked Witch on their way to find Max Berry in imperious form lording it in Emerald City as the Wizard.



Eolande Diaz-Phillips and Angus Fitzgerald compered the annual school charity quiz night, where staff teams battled it out against teams of pupils - no prizes for guessing who triumphed!





#### NEW NETBALL KIT

Captain, Kate Robbins leads the netball seven first team modelling their new Kukri kit.



#### A KNOCK-OUT TALK

BMM's entertaining lecture on the influence of black boxers on the Civil Rights movement in America, saw the Head of History take a cheap shot at fellow Historian MJH



### **DEVON U16s**

Harry Pilkington FH, Isaac **Hydleman OH and Jack** Maunder FH all represented **Devon in the recent Inter-county** Championships.

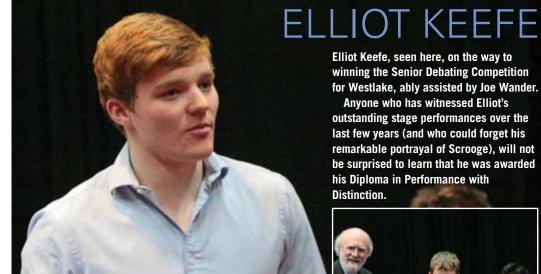


Oliver Tobey aspires to follow in the footsteps of OB, His Honour Judge Horton, who visited during the Judicial Awareness Day



YOU MAY BE DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL, BUT I'M CAPTAIN OF RUGBY"

Ed Mann to twin brother, James, who has caught supper on their **L6 Biology Field Trip** 



### Senior Debating Competition

Winners: Westlake: Elliott Keefe & Joe Wander Runners up: Old House: Jim Bremner & Tom Golden Best Speaker: Joe Wander Highly Commended: Jim Bremner

#### School House Debating Competition

Winners: Mayfield: Alex Davidson, Antony Liu, Jack Watt Best Speakers: Alex Davidson & Flic Charlesworth

### School House Recitations Competition Winners

Year 7: Luke Beach; Year 8: Olivia Jolliffe Best in House: Ella Davenport.



Anyone who has witnessed Elliot's

### Junior Debating Competition Winners: Petergate: Chris Hamilton

& Oscar Mustard Runners Up: School House: Alex Davidson & Flic Charlesworth Best Speaker: Oscar Mustard Highly Commended: Alex Davidson



THESE ARE JUST A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE MANY, MANY PROJECTS TACKLED BY THE WEALTH OF THE DESIGNERS AND MAKERS OF FINE PROJECTS WHO HAVE BEAVERED AWAY FOR MANY HAPPY HOURS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE YEAR AHEAD AS MANY OF THESE STUDENTS WILL MOVE ONTO THE NEXT LEVEL AND YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WHAT IDEAS THEY WILL THINK OF NEXT.

> A level work by Alex Lau An Architectural model of a public

lavatory might not be everyone's choice of a project to embark upon but it is another example of Alex's versatility and maturity as a designer. His 'City Loo' is a classic example of thinking outside the box (or should we say how to get relief inside a box) and represents innovative and creative thinking on an urban scale. He has produced a visual representation of a futuristic WC for the streets of the future that include ecological and

sustainable design ideas.

A level work by Timothy Becket

We could hardly go through an Olympic year without a suitably themed product and Tim has supplied us with an 'Olympic Bus Stop' design to fit the bill. Not only is this unique in its themed approach but he also incorporated a 'Rent an Umbrella' design (left) to complete the British approach to the problem. Let's hope that will not be necessary but it's a prudent thought with our summer's reputation.





As a modern approach to a desk this aluminium and reinforced plate glass table is a stunning piece of sculptural furniture that has been specifically designed to fit into a room that has a sailing theme. It has been beautifully welded and polished and represents hours of work in a material that is unforgiving and difficult to work.



A Level work by Henry Loader Henry's approach to a fun tooth

brush holder to encourage children to store the tooth brush hygienically and tidily is clever and innovative in its approach. It incorporates a UV light source that kills bacteria and is aesthetically pleasing and humorous in its form. Made from MDF and sprayed to look like plastic it is a high grade production model of professional quality that communicates his idea excellently.





IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE OLYMPICS THERE WAS MUCH DEBATE ABOUT SPORT IN SCHOOLS AND HOW PRIMARY SCHOOLS COULD BENEFIT FROM THE FACILITIES AND COACHING EXPERTISE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS.

Blundell's is ahead of the game – sharing our sport pitches with local schools and youth groups, as well as assisting with training, has been something that we have done for a long time, as part of the School's on-going work for public benefit. It has always been central to the objectives of the School to support the community; other initiatives include voluntary work, opening up lessons and other educational events to local schools, sharing knowledge, and fundraising for charity (see following pages).

One of the most exciting developments has been the partnership formed with the Culm Valley Small Schools Association (CVSSA), a group of eight primary schools, which has involved some inspirational study days and professional development opportunities.

"It has always been central to the objectives of the School to support the community"

#### THE NEXT STEP

Recently the Governors of Blundell's have given approval for a plan to broaden and enhance the work already taking place. Leigh Menheneott will be going into the primary schools on a regular basis to help with the delivery of the 'Leap into Life' scheme (a movement programme for children), endorsed by the Devon Education Authority. In addition, as part of its

continuing charitable work, the School has raised £25,000 through various events and placed this with the Devon Community Foundation to be used for education projects in the wider Devon community. We've been given a wonderful opportunity for a representative of the School to become a trustee of the fund and Gus de Falbe has been nominated as the first trustee.



There are many other areas where we are able to help the community and details will appear on the website. If you would like more information please contact Leigh Menheneott or Henry Roffe-Silvester.

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### **CLASSICS DAY**

Blundell's has hosted a number of study days for pupils from local primary schools and the prep school. The most recent was a Classics Day when the children learned about the ancient

Romans and Greeks. They studied mosaics and made some themselves, improvised Greek plays using specially bought masks and found out about the hard life of a Roman soldier. They worked with professional actors, Blundell's staff from the Classics and Drama departments and sixth formers. The aim of the day was to encourage pupils to develop an interest in studying the Classics and as a way for teachers, pupils and young students from state and independent schools to work together.

Right: One of the thank you letters received from local schools about the mosaic making and other Classics Day activities





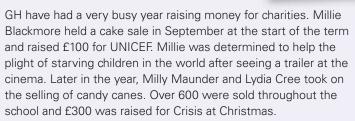
Otis the black Labrador, one of four guide dogs sponsored by Old House over the last four years.

**Every year** Blundell's School raises thousands of pounds for charity through collections and events. It takes imagination, determination, enterprise and lots of energy to organise and take part in these activities and to fit them in alongside academic work, sport and everything else going on in school. The fundraising events, which include cake sales, sponsored walks and runs, plays, concerts and quizzes, are organised by individuals, year groups, houses, departments and the whole school in aid of local, national and international charities. Congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard to fundraise and thank you to the families and friends who support these endeavours, a selection of which are shown on these pages.



### GORTON HOUSE CHARITY EVENTS

The girls of Gorton House have raised £640 over the academic year – much of it involving food! Housemistress Debbie Hosking reports on their fundraising activities.



In February Flo Hart (Head of GH) and GH Monitor Bea Miles organised a bake sale for the Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT). Bea had done some work experience with CHAT in Tiverton during the summer holidays. They raised £70 and then decided to put a box in the house for any tinned/dried food contributions and this is taken to CHAT every month.

Year 12 had a Body Shop Party and raised £20 for C.L.I.C. The proceeds of this year's House Play (Big Hair Day, written by Head of Drama Fiona Baddeley) were also given to C.L.I.C. One of the GH Monitors wanted to support the charity as one of her friends had just been diagnosed with Leukaemia. The play raised £105.

A Year 9 group organised a cake sale in aid of the charity School in

a Bag which provides schoolbags filled with stationery and resources. Ella Morgan is in charge of this worthwhile cause for children in Tsunami hit areas; she was assisted by Emily Combe. They raised £45 which purchased two schools in a bag.

Georgina Scott, also in Year 9, decided to run the Plymouth Race for Life and before she ran she held a cake sale, raising £62 in memory of her primary school Learning Support teacher.



In June I ran the Plymouth half marathon on behalf of Teenage Cancer Trust. Over 21 years Teenage Cancer Trust has learnt a lot about what it's like to be a young person with cancer - their unique emotional, physical and practical needs. Because Teenage Cancer Trust understands, they can provide better care, better services and hopefully a more positive outcome for young people. Without the work of Teenage Cancer Trust, young people with cancer would be treated alongside children or elderly patients at the end of their lives. Being away from normal life, friends and environment at such a vulnerable time is the last thing they need. I feel it is a very worthy charity and I have been overwhelmed by the generosity from all the sponsorship I received and I raised nearly two thousand pounds. It made the 13 miles, and all the training, very worthwhile indeed! It is only a tiny effort when you think of what these teenagers with cancer have to go through.

Lucy Reynolds L6





#### **VALENTINE'S RED ROSES**

Raising money through the sale of red roses on or around Valentine's Day has become something of a tradition at Blundell's. Sixth form girls from North Close sell the roses to their fellow pupils to send to friends in the school, then deliver the flowers and handwritten messages to the chosen recipient. This year the initiative raised £350 for Special Olympics, which provides year-round sports training and competition programmes for children and adults with learning disabilities. The money was donated to the South Devon branch and



# Anyone for tennis?

During the summer term, all pupils in School House obtained sponsorship and took part in at least one of three charity events - a walk in aid of CLIC Sargent, a swim for Lincoln College **Vacation project which** provides holidays for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and the annual Save the Children tennis tournament. Blundell's is one of the top fundraising schools in the country for this event and this year SH raised over £3000 through their tournament.



North Close girls were in the pink when they took part in the Race for Life event at Torbay. The seven Pink Ladies (as they called themselves) collected pledges of just under £800 in aid of Cancer Research UK in advance of their 5k run. The girls all thoroughly enjoyed the event and hope to take part again next year.



### TRAVELLING UNIFORM

Where does Blundell's uniform go when it is out of date? It takes on a new lease of life in far-flung parts of the world where it provides much needed kit for local schools. Obsolete uniform has been taken to India, Nepal and most recently to Africa, where hockey shirts and shorts are now being sported by the hockey team at Butere Boys' High School in Kenya. The kit was delivered to the school through Sporting Chance International, a charity which seeks to improve the lives of people, especially young and needy people, through sport.

#### **ART FOR SALE**

Postcards on an Olympic theme designed by Blundell's pupils went on sale to raise funds for Hospicare in the summer. Over a hundred pupils took part in the project to create the cards, which were then displayed in Tiverton's Lantic Gallery. Inspiration for the designs included the London 2012 logo, the five Olympic rings and

flame, as well as individual sports and competitors. Other larger artworks grew out of the project and were also on show in the gallery, including a dress made from flags of participating nations.



#### **MUSIC MAKING**

The Music Department raises thousands of pounds through the host of concerts it holds annually. Events this year have included a Big Band performance in aid of Tiverton Museum, concerts in churches at Dulverton and Stoke St Gabriel for local charities and the chamber choir singing in Uplowman Church for church funds.

### MAKE A DATE FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

**Big School** will be transformed into a treasure trove of wonderful things on Wednesday 24th October when a Food and Craft Fair in aid of Children's Hospice South West comes to Blundell's. This could be the chance to do some early Christmas shopping as unique and original gifts will be on sale, while the Dining Hall will be the venue for stands selling a wide range of locally-produced food and drink. There will also be refreshments available during the day. The event takes place from 10am until 5pm and is being organised by the charity's Tiverton Friends Group.









PGK game for a laugh! House Parents always run the risk of being lampooned!

# ONE OF THE QUINTESSENTIALLY **BLUNDELLIAN MOMENTS** OF THE YEAR IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION – OR "FESTIVAL" AS AHB PREFERS TO CALL IT.

To those involved however, there is no doubt as to its competitive status. Inter-house industrial espionage starts early with the organisers hanging round the music block like flies around bins, trying to glean morsels of intelligence about what the other houses are up to in the hope of countering it with something more innovative of their own. Practice starts early in the Easter term with the various house organisers whipping their troops into shape. Instruments which have lain dormant for years are pressed into service in response to the house's need as long-forgotten techniques are re-learned in order to complete an ensemble or fill in a space in a group. Meanwhile, at the other

end of the scale (sorry....), the House musicians are learning much about the reliability of their peers at rehearsal attendance as Mr Barlow basks in the warm glow of schadenfreude.

Then to the evening itself – a packed Big School – standing room only. The rapt and respectful silence as we listen to a virtuoso performance contrasting with the enthusiasm and audience participation for something less formal. The explosion of applause, whistles and cheers at the end of a piece rewarding those who have spent tens of hours getting it as good as it can be. Then there are those who are pushed by necessity into performing something that they do not feel at all confident about doing











"It is an event in which you see all that makes Blundell's special – house spirit, perseverance, support of those running the event and of the other houses... There is little doubt that this event shows Blundell's and Blundellians in their best light."



- those who have never before performed in front of an audience of 600 people and who are supported by their friends and peers through what must be a terrifying and difficult ordeal to be rewarded with the storm of supportive applause that greets their dying note.

Inorthite Routladge and Emily Nash

It is an event in which you see all that makes Blundell's special – house spirit, perseverance, support of those running the event and of the other houses. I will never forget the moment that Ben Weaver-Hincks – the Petergate organiser of the year – discovered that his cello had accidentally been de-tuned a few frantic moments before he was

due to conduct the House orchestra immediately prior to appearing on stage to perform a complex cello solo. GH were our fiercest rivals for the cup that year, but it was his GH opposite number who quietly re-tuned it for him while he was conducting. There is little doubt that this event shows Blundell's and Blundellians in their best light.

It is entertaining too – the characters of the various Houses comes through so very clearly, particularly in the House shout – the clue is in the name...

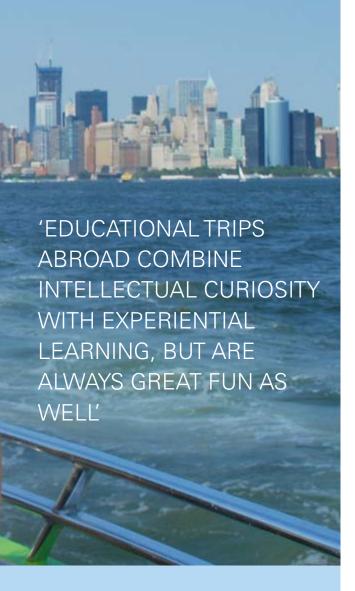
Every year, I sit there in respectful awe of what a group of seventeen and eighteen year olds can conjure up given the space and encouragement to innovate. It is an evening which shows our community at its very best.

AJRB

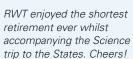


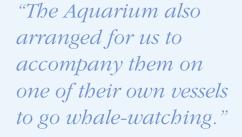
So Giles Taylor OH doesn't spend all his time in the Fitness Suite!



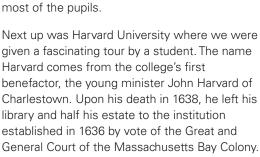












able to see behind the scenes of such an impressive facility, which attracts over 1.3 million

The Aguarium also arranged for us to accompany

them on one of their own vessels to go whale-

watching. We saw a minke whale but spent almost an hour and a half in the company of two humpbacks who put on a display of fluke dives, spy hopping, pectoral waves and what looked to be fun rolling around in the boats wake. We had time for some shopping, a tour of the Freedom Trail before dinner at the Cheers Bar in Beacon Hill – though this novelty seemed to be lost on

visitors a year.









"Sharks had been spotted the day before but all we could claim was a seal and an interesting jaws impression by Alec Reade!"

There are 2,100 Faculty members, who boast 44 current and former Nobel Laureates, and over 21,000 students! Our tour included the Science Observatory, the many libraries (17 million volumes), their graduation building, some dormitory buildings and the expansive grounds. Emily Nash and Will Costa are seriously considering applying to Harvard now. The afternoon was spent studying the salt marshes and shoreline ecology at the Cape Cod National Seashore stretch of coastline. Sharks had been spotted the day before but all we could claim was a seal and an interesting jaws impression by Alec Reade!

The following day saw us attend Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, a world renowned facility with some of the finest marine scientists. Established in 1930, it is the largest independent oceanographic research institution in the U.S., with staff and students numbering about 1,000. Here we were given a video presentation and tour of their visitor centre and ROV (remote operated vehicles) – including Alvin, the ROV that discovered the wreck of the Titanic. We were allowed into a mock up of Alvin, seeing

first hand just how small and difficult it would be to operate such a machine. We continued on to the main institute and were given guided tours of the fisheries tanks, where millions of squid are used in their neurological disease studies. We then spent time in their amazing library, which included an original signed copy of Charles Darwin's 'On the Origin of the Species' published in 1859.

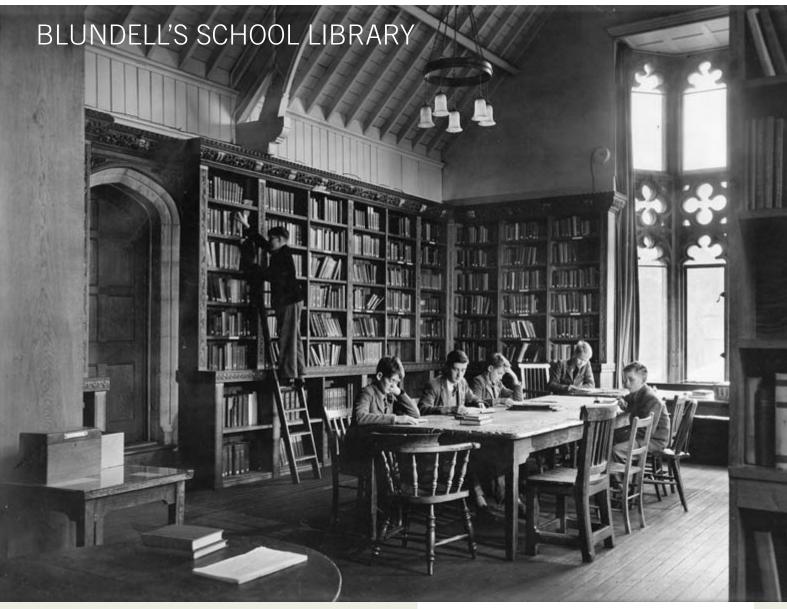
On to the Big Apple! Thursday saw us reach NYC where we were able to choose from a number of different attractions, the Terracotta Warriors exhibition, Madame Tussauds, Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, Statue of Liberty, Central Park, Times Square, Broadway, Fifth Avenue, Macy's, Rockefeller Center, Top of the Rock, Empire State Building, Bronx Zoo and of course every Abercrombie and Fitch or Hollister store between the hotel and wherever they happened to be going! Everyone had a great time here, especially those who decided to leave DJS and KW walking whilst they piled into a stretch hummer limo to take them to their next destination! A fantastic trip with great company throughout. kw







# classic view



When the School was established on its present site in 1882, more than 1,000 volumes were brought from its former buildings. However, it wasn't until 1894 that the site for a Library was finally decided; the Governors contributed £300 and the Staff £1,000, to provide a room which is now used as the Staff Common Room. Three years later new bookshelves, designed by Harry Hems of Exeter, were installed to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The room served not only as the repository of written knowledge for many hundreds of boys for almost a hundred years, but also, as can be seen by the boy on the left, as a place to learn the rudiments of mountaineering. In 1982 the room next door, the Peter Blundell Room (formerly Big School) became the Library, and the Staff Common Room, which had been located downstairs in what is now the Main Office, moved to its present position. However, it was decided to keep many of the older books on the shelves, not to deny the pupils knowledge, but to prevent the Staff from cluttering up the shelves with papers and rugby boots.

Do you remember life at Blundell's as it was in the photo? Please share your memories with us using our social media sites. Twitter #blundellsmemories .

### SOCIAL media Fym



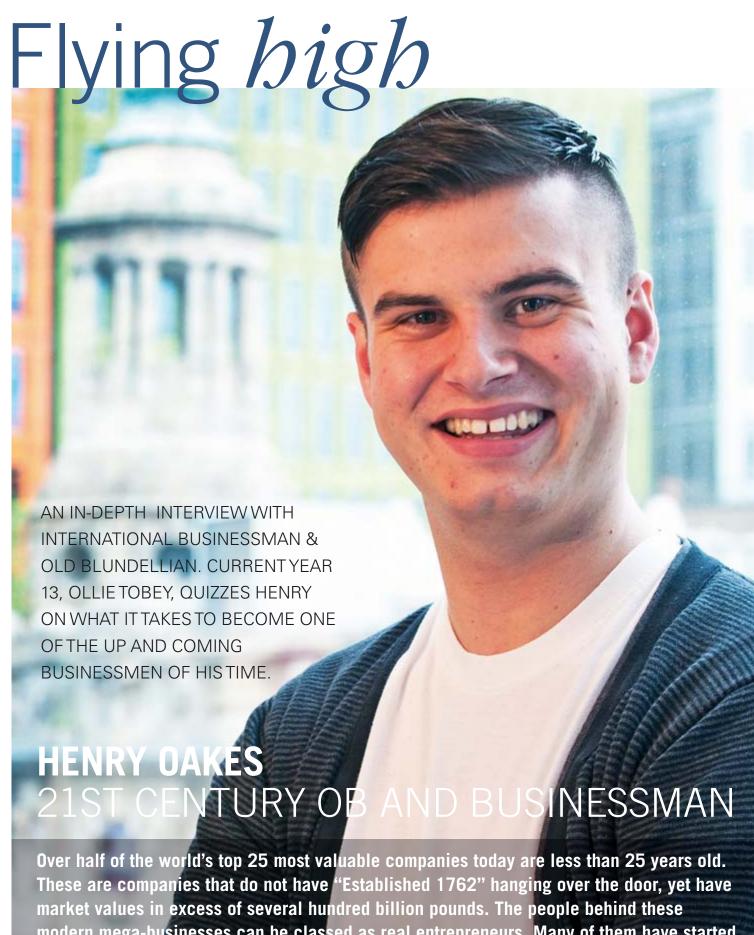








Blundell's School and Blundell's Prep School are keeping up with the 21st Century and are running Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn accounts and we would be delighted to hear from you. Join in and tell us what you think about our activity, sign up for our events or make sure you keep in touch with like-minded colleagues on the social and networking fronts.



These are companies that do not have "Established 1762" hanging over the door, yet have market values in excess of several hundred billion pounds. The people behind these modern mega-businesses can be classed as real entrepreneurs. Many of them have started from fairly humble beginnings, normally with little in the way of financial handouts or previous business contacts. Yet, through sheer hard work and unfailing determination have managed to grow a successful enterprise into market dominating companies.

AUTHOR: Ollie Tobey Yr. 13 Westlake

WITH THE COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS, OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS A SELECT FEW BRAVE STUDENTS HAVE TAKEN THE PLUNGE INTO THE WORLD OF BUSINESS AND STARTED THEIR OWN. ONE OF THESE IS HENRY OAKES, AN OLD BLUNDELLIAN (FH 2003 -06) WHO IN 2008 FOUNDED "GEOSWEEP", A GAME INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMPANY SUPPLYING GAMES AND GAME SYSTEMS TO THE LOTTERY INDUSTRY. AS OF TODAY THIS INITIALLY SMALL FIRM HAS MANAGED TO RAISE OVER £8,000,000 IN SHARE CAPITAL AND EMPLOYS 40 WORLD-CLASS SOFTWARE ENGINEERS AT THEIR HEAD OFFICE IN LONDON.

Henry joined Blundell's on the Peter Blundell Foundation scheme, which is designed to give pupils, no matter what their background, a chance to really excel in their field. Henry made the most of his time at Blundell's, making more than an impression on the rugby pitch and in the Fives Court.

When asked about what subjects he believed have helped him the most in his business career, he cited Maths, English and History as subjects that he uses every day, and tools that no budding businessman should be without.

After leaving Blundell's at the end of Year 11 and going on to college to study Economics, History and French, Henry moved away from home and into his own, as he puts it "grotty flat". It was this he believes that helped provide a motivation for running his own business, with the aim of making enough money on his own to improve his lifestyle. Even at school he was always looking to find ways in which he could earn some cash; bulk buying fashionable wristbands off eBay and selling them onto classmates at an inflated price was just one of his schemes. During one of my email conversations I had with Henry when researching for this article he said to me that he wanted to get rich quick, and was always formulating business plans in his head. In the end, he recalls, the realization that the only way he could get his hands on a large amount of money quickly was to win the lottery. It was when he was buying a lottery ticket that he realized that the gaming industry could be majorly overhauled and modernized, GeoSweep being the first step along that path.

To start his first company, Henry talked to his brother who worked as an equity trader in the City. His plan obviously made sense as a week later he left his job and he and Henry formed the company. His initial blind optimism that he would be making millions very soon was a little premature, but it also helped him to focus on an end goal, giving him the determination to carry on. He admits that he actually has a list of every single person that ever doubted his plans, or his chances of success, and that people saying he wouldn't succeed actually encouraged him, with a desire to prove them wrong. The months that followed were hard, with seed finance to find, gaming legislation to navigate, and a prototype to build. It was also important to secure Intellectual Property protection early on (in the form of global patents) which came at price. Henry explained that he and his brother spent day after day just thinking, working out every single outcome of the business and how it could be run. By this time it was late 2008, and the heart of the global recession, and so they knew that investment was not going to be easy to find. The months of meticulous planning did eventually pay off, and they secured investment and hired a Chief Technology Officer to lead the development. It is perhaps interesting that despite the fact that GeoSweep is a technology business, neither Henry or his brother knew much about how to build the product.

# ...MATHS, ENGLISH AND HISTORY ... SUBJECTS THAT HE USES EVERY DAY, AND TOOLS THAT NO BUDDING BUSINESSMAN SHOULD BE WITHOUT.

The rest they say is history. GeoSweep has gone global, with the Atlantic Lottery Corporation in Canada going live with GeoSweep's interactive 'draw' game in May and several other world lotteries are are in line to launch GeoSweep later this year. When asked about the future Henry replied with "From day one we were going to turn GeoSweep into a billion-pound business, and that's still the plan".

Many young students such as myself are now facing the rather daunting task of planning for our futures, with more than the single option of university on offer to us, and I put it to Henry and asked what he thought of the current university fee rise and how that might affect what route students may take.

"I think that the increase in fees may have an effect on the number of young people going to university. However, of those people who decide not to go to university, it is hard to say what they'd do with their time instead and whether they'd start their own business. I don't think it'll make a huge difference, personally. Those with the tools and the desire to start their own business will likely do it anyway – regardless of the cost of university. I think it's an attitude thing – highly motivated people will make sure they do what they want to do. So, if you're really keen to go to university, you'll likely do whatever you can to make that happen, despite the increased fees. If you just want to start your own business, cheap university probably wouldn't persuade you otherwise. If you're just not bothered or motivated either way, then an average career most likely awaits!"

To finish I asked Henry, as a successful entrepreneur, if he could give someone a key piece of advice for starting a business what would it be.

"That's a hard question, because so much depends upon the individual and the specific business. But there are a few really key things that I have learned. Firstly, Hofstadter's Law applies. Hofstadter's Law states that things always take longer than you expect, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law. Next, be prepared to change. I guarantee that your first idea or business model (that will no doubt seem perfect at the time) will not be the one that is successful. Cash is king. Without cash-flow, you don't have a business. So make sure you know how much cash you've got, when it'll run out, and where your next cash injection will come from."

During my conversations with Henry he made no effort to hide the fact that he has learnt a lot of what he knows from experience, both good and bad. It is certainly obvious that starting a company from scratch is no mean feat, and while GeoSweep may not be listed in the Fortune 500 today, it's certainly heading that way.

### Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors and supporters who give so generously to many of the initiatives around the school. The ERC



Crowe Memorial Fund continues to provide a scholar each year and will celebrate its fifth anniversary in the Spring. The Peter Blundell Foundation Bursary Award provision grows year on year and we have managed to fund an additional sixth form bursary through this initiative. We are always pleased to see Old Blundellians who are in the area. Please contact the development office if you would like a tour of the school which may have changed since you last visited.





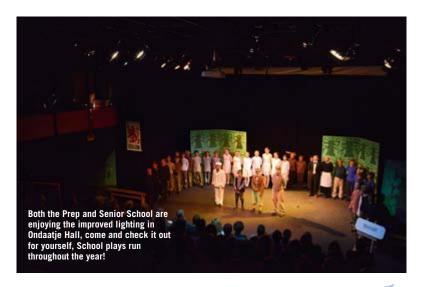
Emily Roffe-Silvester (and Jasper)

### THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Lewel The

Amber Oliver Development Director Tel. 01884 232324 Mob. 07825 734440 a.oliver@blundells.org

Emily Roffe-Silvester Development Officer Tel. 01884 243262 devoffice@blundells.org



### ENHANCE & enrich

Thank you so much for supporting our first **Annual Fund**. I am delighted to report that because of your most generous donations, we have been able to secure the required funding to undertake all the projects we featured in our first 'Enhance and Enrich' Annual Fund. This academic year we will have a new piano for the Music Department, an Alpha telescope enabling pupils to view and take pictures of the sun, additional equipment for the Fitness Suite, a wonderful new lighting galley for Ondaatje Hall which will help with the overall enhancement of the

theatre and the productions put on in the Hall, a new lathe for the Design and Technology Department and a piece of play equipment for the Prep and Pre-School. We have also been able to make a donation to the Peter Blundell Foundation Award Bursary provision, providing pupils with restricted means much needed bursary support to secure a Blundell's education and all that it offers.

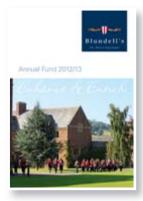
Why is the Annual Fund so important? The School is not able to achieve all of its goals from fee income alone. Whilst some planned developments can be financed from the annual surplus, the Development Office provides essential support in funding enhanced facilities and in the provision of scholarships and bursaries. The School is strongly committed to widening access by offering assistance with fees and the Development Office plays an essential role in making this possible.

Thank you for helping us provide for today and shape the world for tomorrow. I do

hope that we can build on the success of our first year and that you will choose to support one of our projects in this year's Annual Fund (2012/2013).



Featured above are just a few of the projects (new piano, telescope and lathe) that have been funded through our Annual Fund 2011/12, thanks to our generous donors.



### Corporate support



A big thank you to our sponsors and supporters who have helped make so many of our events possible both in the last year and going forward into the 2012/2013 academic year. Ashfords Solicitors continue to support many areas and events around the school. Knight Frank, The Wool Packaging Company Ltd, Mundy Veneer and the Western Counties Equine Hospital are the primary sponsors of the

Blundell's One Day Event. Our many prize supporters for the Olympic Ball and the Charity Golf Day include Happy Holidays,

Flybe.com, Pia Jewellery, The Jolly Vintner, Mullion Cove Hotel, Chatham Marine Retailers and Firewatch.

I would also like to thank Savills who have become a major Blundell's supporter this year. The company has sponsored the First team rugby shirts (see below).





### **SPEAKERS**

Do you have a particular subject that you think may be of interest to others? We are always keen to secure speakers for a number of our programmes, including the lecture series for our 6th formers, Year 11 and other pupils throughout the school as well as the Winter Lunches series run by the Old Blundellian Club which meets on the first Wednesday throughout the Autumn/Spring term.

Please contact devoffice@blundells.org to register your interest. We have an interesting and varied events programme planned for 2012/13, with events such as a tour of the House of Commons, a Gaudy for those in school between 1950 and 1970 and a private tour and reception at the National Trust's wonderful Greenway in South Devon (the summer home of Agatha Christie). Members of our 1604 Society will have the opportunity to lunch with our new Head Nicola Huggett at Blundell's House and we are planning a reunion for those in the property world next Autumn. Please do take a look at the calendar on the back page and if you would like to reserve, book in or find out any more information, please do contact us. Many of our events are selling out very quickly now so early booking is advised.

### SCIENCE CELEBRATION

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the John Coles Science block (the current Chemistry department), we are collaborating with the Art Department to put together a graphic depiction of the periodic Table of Elements to be installed in the Science Department. We are delighted to be able to offer an opportunity for you to engage with the school and recognise your individual or family support of Blundell's in this particular area. Details will be announced towards Christmas.

### BUSINESS DIRECTORY & MENTORING

The Business Directory was introduced last year and we are delighted with the many contributions added. If you would like to avail yourself of some of the wonderful opportunities from like-minded individuals please do take a look at www.blundells.org/devoffice/business\_directory.

We are very keen to extend our influence beyond the school gates and provide a comprehensive service where we offer careers advice, mentoring and work placements to both our current pupils and leavers. Please do contact me if this is an area you are interested in supporting. Thank you to all those who have offered their support to date;

please look out for the new section on our website which will be appearing shortly.



### **GET INVOLVED**

We are very keen to enable greater communications amongst our community of Old Blundellians, parents past and present and other supporters by introducing 'Peer Group' representatives who will disseminate and support Development Office communications to each other. If you think you would be able to represent your year group by communicating with your school peers, please do email me at a.oliver@blundells.org

# **OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY**FEATURING 1950 TO 1970 WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2013

The theme for this year's OB day will be the 1950s to 1970s era and the day will include an exhibition of memorabilia from these years.

Members of the teaching staff from these years will also be invited and partners are more than welcome.

Details of the Preacher and President for the Day will be announced in the next Blundell's Diary.

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR OB DAY AND 1950-70 GAUDY

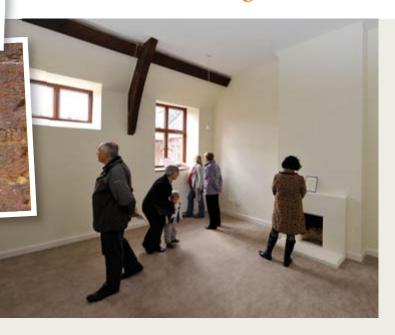
10.00am	AGM of OB Club in the Beale Centre
11.00am	Chapel Service
12.00noon	Drinks with staff in the Beale Centre
1.00pm	Buffet lunch in the marquee on Big Field
2.00pm	Cricket. Blundell's v Taunton on Big Field
3.00pm	Tours of the School
4.00pm	OB Tennis v The School followed by refreshments in the Beale Centre
4.30pm	Tea in the Beale Centre
6.00pm - 8.00pm	Cheese & Wine Reception in the Beale Centre

In order to facilitate catering, tickets will be issued by Emily Roffe-Silvester in the Development Office. Tickets are available to purchase (£20 each) from January by contacting Emily at devoffice@blundells.org or Tel 01884 243262.

Janet Wooff is away from
5th October 2012 to Christmas and
Patricia Thompson, well known to
many of you, has agreed to act as
OB Administrator for that period.



### Tour of old Blundell's School



OLD BLUNDELL'S, WHICH IS OWNED BY THE NATIONAL TRUST, WELCOMED NEARLY 700 VISITORS WHEN IT OPENED ITS DOORS IN FEBRUARY. VISITORS HAD A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT WERE ORIGINALLY THE HEAD MASTER'S HOUSE (COMPRISING NEARLY HALF OF THE BUILDING!), THE LIBRARY, THE PORTER'S LODGE AND PARTS OF THE GARDEN. OUR VISITORS WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT MANY OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURES BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY WERE STILL IN PLACE. AN EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTING LIFE AT BLUNDELL'S MORE THAN 400 YEARS AGO WAS ALSO DISPLAYED, AMUSING VISITORS WITH DETAILS, SUCH AS BEFORE OLD BLUNDELL'S WAS CONVERTED INTO FLATS IT WAS ALMOST CONVERTED INTO AN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE!

Above left: A miniscavenger hunt for School House boarders took place in the afternoon. It was their chance to find famous writer RD Blackmore's name carved on the outside of the building.

Below centre: Much of the House has remained untouched as you can see from the Blundell's Shield stained glass window.























#### Below (left to right)

David Marshall-Lee (FH 49-55), Peter Marten (SH 49-53) and John Stuart (SH 49-54) talk about life at Blundell's back in 1942!

# Diamond Gaudy REUNION



**Above:** Old Blundellians enjoyed a drinks reception in Big School before sitting down for lunch and speeches.

Nearly 200 Old Blundellians and their families returned to Blundell's for a Diamond Gaudy. Old Blundellians were given the opportunity to explore their former houses and rooms where they spent their school years, rekindling many memories. Current pupils from each House led the tours and were fascinated (and somewhat surprised!) by many of the stories recounted during the day.

A lunch reception followed where many OBs joked at how pleased they were with the lunch as food at Blundell's pre-1952 "from the 'Feeding Centre' wasn't considered the best example of fine dining!" Our guest speaker for the day was Martyn Grose (FH 47-52) who has been very involved with the School in the last 20 or so years, initially as a Governor and more recently as the President of the Old Blundellian Club. He reminded many guests of what life was like at Blundell's School 60 years ago, a trip down memory lane for so many.

Mike Sampson, the School Archivist, put together a comprehensive and fascinating exhibition of School life in 1952 and before with many contributions from OBs from that era. Score cards and punishment books provoked many comments. The afternoon concluded with a traditional English tea in the Gymnasium.





Nigel Barnes (SH 42-47) explores the commemorative plaques in the Chapel, while Hugh Reed (P 46-51) meets one of his fellow classmates.



### ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY AT DAINTON PARK

Our Blundellian Golfers came out in force again this year with 17 teams competing for the championship title at the end of August. We were fortunate to experience one of the better days this summer with a very sunny day of golf. The Prep School Team (Venner, Kitson, Butt and Southgate, pictured below) won overall with 93 points. The overall lady winner was Gloria Butt (Prep School Administrator) and for the gentlemen Scott Burrows (supporter). An array of individual prizes was also won along with raffle prizes. Funds from this event have supported both the Exeter Leukaemia Fund and the Peter Blundell Foundation Bursary Award provision.



### 1604 SOCIETY

Legacy Lunch, St. Paul's Cathedral

The 1604 Society was established to recognise those who have notified us that they have generously pledged money to Blundell's.This year's 'thank you' was held at the impressive St. Paul's Cathedral in May. Guests were given a private viewing of the cathedral, followed by a traditional afternoon tea in the crypt. Many thanks to our 1604 Society members for all their support.

Please don't besitate to contact Amber Oliver if you would like to know more about the 1604 Society.

### Blundell's Annual London Dinner House of Lords

This year's dinner will be held on November 20th with the very kind support of Simon Davenport (P 76-82) and Baroness Wilcock. We are nearly sold out but if you are interested in attending, please contact the Development Office. and parents from the Bristol and Avon area to Tyntesfield House and Gardens in May. We were given a private tour of the estate, which was built in 1843 by Williams Gibbs, who is believed to have attended Blundell's from 1800 to 1802. The garden tour concluded with an amble back to the Cow Barn restaurant for a well-deserved lunch. The day ended with a chance for our guests to wander at their leisure around Tyntesfield House. We were very lucky with the sunny weather and we know many of our guests enjoyed their day out!





more exciting.



### ANNUAL LONDON DRINKS RECEPTION

Blundellians showed up in force for this increasingly popular event at The Light Bar, near Shoreditch. Old Blundellians were treated to a complimentary drink followed by some impressive canapés. It was a chance for OBs across the London area to gather, many of whom stayed late into the night catching up and reminiscing of their time at Blundell's. A special thanks to Old Blundellian James Goff (M 1975-79) and Brett Sullings (FH 1998-03) for all their help in enabling us to stage this event.



being treated to a two course lunch. Many of the

Blundellians attending had themselves rowed at University and one or two at Henley which made this event even

Roger Davis had the idea of bringing together the 1st XI of 1962 fifty years on for a dinner. After much planning and research, the team plus a few others met for an afternoon of cricket at Lords which was followed by a

dinner at a private room in The Savoy. An exhibition of the 1962 cricket team was also available to view throughout the meal and the evening ended with trophies being awarded to the Overseas OBs (Benito – USA, Rick Ackroyd – RSA and Roger Davis – Wales). Fifty years on is a good time to get groups/teams together and readers who would like to do something similar in years to come should contact the OB Club/ Development Office for assistance.

### Annual Veteran's Russell Race and Awards Ceremony

Over 30 Old Blundellians, parents, grandparents and staff took part in the 3rd Annual Veteran's race (132nd Russell Race), running the 6.2 mile cross-country course cheered on by many spectators. Race parents and runners were welcomed back to enjoy a well-deserved afternoon tea while Governor James Bullock (P 81-86) presented the winners with their medals. Old Blundellian Ruth Hyland (GH 91-93) won the medal in the Under 40 category, current parent Martin Price won the 40-55 category & grandmother Mary Humphreys won the over 55 category.





### ANNUAL HARE AND HOUNDS ALUMNI RACE

Calling all runners! Blundell's School will again be entering into the Alumni Race hosted by the Hare and Hounds (the UK's oldest running club) held at Wimbledon Common in South West London on 15th December. This is the third year we will be entering a team and we welcome all runners to join. Email us now if you would like to know more details.

### Events



### **OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY**

A decent turn out of about 80 enjoyed an excellent sermon delivered by Blundell's Governor Rev Hilary Dawson. Drinks with the Common Room followed and Sue Beale then unveiled a plaque detailing Colin Beale's life which is mounted on the outside of the Beale Centre. The building can now be said to be complete ten years after it was started! Richard Swarbrick, President for the Day, delivered a pithy, witty and perspicacious addresss after a good lunch. It was good to see so many Beales and Swarbricks together in the marquee. A full list of attendees is available on the website.



### **BLACK TIE DINNER**

For the first time at Blundell's we will be hosting The Russell Black Tie Dinner which is to be held at Blundell's School. Blundell's age old tradition of the Russell Race, which was founded by famous Old Blundellian Jack Russell in 1879, will be celebrated at this event. We are inviting Old Blundellians, parents, staff and supporters to gather for a drinks reception, dinner and auction. Funds raised in support of this event will go towards the Rugby and Girls Hockey team tour to Italy in the summer. Please register your interest by emailing the Development Office and we will ensure you receive the relevant details.







Old Blundellians, parents past and present, staff and supporters celebrated the London Olympics at an Olympic Ball held at the School in July. The night started off with champagne and

wowed by the amazing talents of the magicians and cartoonists at the event. Dinner was followed by a raffle where participants won products kindly supplied by Happy Holidays, Flybe, Pia Jewellery, The Jolly Vintner, Mullion Cove Hotel, and Chatham Marine Retailers. The evening got

canapés and many people were

into full swing once the band started up and a good evening was had by all.



The Olympic theme did not go unnoticed as Design & Technology teacher Jeremy Pilbeam dressed to impress!

Chambers (W 93-98).



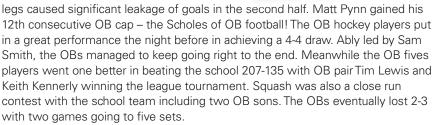
More than 400 people attended all ready to share a good night with friends, great food and some inspiring dance moves!





Rather an impressive title for the 23/24 March 2012 during which OBs played football, hockey, squash and fives against the School. There has been significant response from old girls since and we are aiming to provide more entertainment in the way of a girls hockey match and a netball match in addition to this year's events. This would hopefully encourage young OBs to make a weekend of it with matches on Friday and Saturday, early food and drink in the Beale Centre and clubbing fitted in whenever possible. We are looking at the weekend of 15/16 March 2013, so put that down in your diaries and we will be in touch with OB sport secretaries soon.

This year's matches were well supported. The football resulted in a 6-1 win for the School. An early goal by the school prompted a swift response from the OBs, but weary





### Vedding bells

### Alex Julien (FH 91-96) married Katy Wragg on 16th June.

Old Blundellians attended include best man, Thomas Cadbury (SH 91-96), usher Tom Blomfield (FH 94-96), father Simon Julien (SH 58-63) and sister Clare Julien (GH 91-93). Other OB's were Gabrielle Cadbury (GH 95-00), Sam Cadbury (OH 99-04) and James Rhys-Davies (SH 91-96).



## **Old Blundellian** camping weekend

James Bullock (P 1981-86) and Alex Scott (OH 1982-87) put forward the idea of an OB camping weekend at Blundell's after a couple of drinks at The Light Bar back in June and a date was fixed for the August Bank Holiday weekend. The only criteria for selection were that you left in around 1987, you enjoy camping and you have children.

Alex liaised with Paddy Armstrong and on 25th August about 34 (numbers were never certain at any point in the weekend) happy campers turned up to stay in anything from motor homes



to tiny tents on the field adjacent to Westlake. The Beale Centre was used as Base Camp and Big Field was used as the children's playground. Tim Hassell (FH 1983-88) who owns a hotel (Ilsington Hotel and very good rates for OBs) had brought down food left over from a wedding. Attempts to heat it up on the Saturday evening were eventually successful and the bar was comprehensively stocked. Sunday brought decent weather and the pool was used for most of the day. Parry Woods, bicycle sheds and other popular venues frequented by parents while at Blundell's were visited. Sensibly Sunday evening's meal was take away pizza and campers departed after breakfast on the Monday.

Feedback suggested the event was a great success and next year's August Bank Holiday, 24th to 25th August, has been pencilled in for a repeat performance.



The Olympic Games at Paris in 1900 featured cricket for the only time in cricket history. The final was between France and an English team drawn from the West Country including four Old **Blundellians** and several Castle Cary players. To mark the year of the London Games, the French National side, selected and supported by the French Cricket Federation, visited the West Country to play the Old Blundellian Cricket Club and, two days later, Castle Cary.



Much to the relief of the organisers, a beautiful English summer's day dawned over Big Field at Blundell's to welcome the two teams. Victor Marks, late of England and Somerset, marked his retirement from international cricket by captaining the OBCC XI which included five Old Boys from the Tiverton district. France was led by Mark Moodley, born in Dorset, but resident in France for 24 years. A traditional all day game was agreed with 20 overs to be bowled from 5.30pm onwards to conclude the match.

France won the toss and, rather unusually put OBCC in to bat. The wicket was true, if a little slow after recent deluges. An idyllic scene unfolded with the tree lined ground patrolled by knowledgeable ex cricketers dressed for the occasion in cravats/club ties. linen suits and panamas. The France decision to bowl looked good when OBCCs much fancied opener, Andy Giles, was dismissed in the first over by Tom Liddiard, latterly a member of Durham University MCC Centre of Excellence and currently, with 17 caps, representing Paris University CC. The ship was steadied by Adam Gingell (36) and Jack Menheneott (48). The players joined 100 spectators in the marquee for lunch with the OBCC 129 for 4 and the match finely poised. Both captains were interviewed by South West ITV during the interval.

Temperatures were in the high 20s and drinks intervals were taken every hour to rehydrate the players. Spectators enjoyed a decisive partnership between Mike Coe who caressed the crimson rambler to the ropes (with acknowledgement to Neville Cardus) and Henry Weekes, who befitting a prop forward, bludgeoned the ball to parts far and wide in his innings of 52 not out. Tom Liddiard finished with a very creditable 4 for 36 and the crowd felt the game could be won by either side.

France began cautiously and looked to be going well until Jack Menheneott was introduced into the OBCC attack. His flight and leg spin beguiled the French who lost four quick wickets before the tea interval. A brief flurry between Oliver Jenner and Tom Liddiard put the French nearly back on track and as the last 20 overs ticked away, despite more Menheneott wickets, it looked as though a draw was possible. However, an inspirational decision by captain Vic Marks to bring back Adam Gingell resulted in the last two French batsmen being clean bowled in the 18th over of the last 20. Jack Meenheneott finished with the remarkable figures of 8 for 29.

Post match liquid refreshment and food was taken and OBCC Treasurer Chad Murrin presented Mark Moodley with a framed photo of Blundell's in 1900 plus a case of local Yearlstone champagne (or do we have to say 'sparkling wine'?). The Olympic Cup was accepted by Vic Marks and Jack Menheneott received a French cap as man of the match. As shadows lenghthened over Big Field, tentative discussions began about a rematch. OBCC in Paris next summer – bring it on!

"...the match was inspired by the 1900 Paris Olympics, when cricket...was included in the schedule for the first and only time in Olympic history."







Father and son prepare to take on the French - the Coes ready for the fray!

The report by **Vic Marks** (chief cricket correspondent of The Observer) posted online following the France vs. OBCC match

In sublime Devonian conditions – a cloudless sky and a barrel of Otter Ale in the pavilion – the Old Blundellian Cricket Club, made up of old boys from Blundell's School, was victorious on Tuesday. Led self effacingly by your correspondent (batted number 10, bowled three overs – don't ask) the opposition were defeated by 86 runs.



I appreciate you may not yet be captivated – but remember this is an Olympic year. The opponents were France and the match was inspired by the 1900 Paris Olympics, when cricket, haphazardly, was included in the schedule for the first and only time in Olympic history.

There was just one fixture in 1900 – after the late withdrawal of Belgium and Holland – and it was between England and France. It took place in the Municipal Velodrome de Vincennes. In the official report of the 1900 Olympics we learn that "the English team was composed of twelve men of Devon County, long accustomed to playing together. They were superior in team work and training." The Devon County Wanderers "gagne par 157 points" after a two innings match completed in a day. Obviously this was a triumph only partially diluted by the return journey to the team's headquarters, Hotel des Trois Princes, which was "eventful" since the coach driver crashed and caused minor injuries to some of the players.

In fact Devon cannot take all of the credit. There was some help from Somerset as well. The "England" team comprised four Old Blundellians and five cricketers from Castle Cary CC (which is in Somerset) and they happened to be on tour in France in 1900, calling themselves the Devon and Somerset Wanderers. Forget all those failures to win ICC trophies, somewhere out there are a dozen Olympic gold medals, eventually handed to the dozen members of a successful England team (they played twelve a side and had to wait twelve years to receive those medals).

This week there was just an exchange of gifts when the French were on tour to celebrate cricket's Olympic heritage. The Old Blundellians kept the cup – there is one – and, rather impishly, the French captain, Mark Moodley, was given a case of sparkling wine (they cannot call it champagne), brewed in Devon. After the match in Tiverton the French team was moving on to Castle Cary to play two more games this week to commemorate a quirky piece of Olympic history, to have a good time and to add sparkle to Castle Cary CC's 125 anniversary celebrations.

Moodley is also the pioneer managing director of French cricket. He has been resident in France for 24 years – though once played for Dorset under 19s. Most of his side were French resident, though many of their cricketers were born in the country. Out on the field they were bi-lingual. Much of the encouragement to the bowlers was in French, though I am fairly confident (no more than that) that the Old Blundellian batsmen, so meticulously educated, could translate. It was easier to unravel than Urdu.

Afterwards Moodley spoke with unbridled enthusiasm about the game in France. There are 5000 participants and his optimism has been heightened by the fact that the authorities are allowing cricket into the education curriculum. Inevitably the French Cricket Federation is desperate for funding for development officers. Moodley assured me wistfully that there must be sponsors out there somewhere. Already there is great enthusiasm among English club cricketers – and their wives – to embrace France as a touring venue, though a few more turf pitches would help.

Back in Devon there was no despondency after their defeat. There may not be many wrist-spinners in France – apart from Richie Benaud, who appears prominently on their website – and a young old Blundellian wrist-spinner, Jack Menheneott, under very cunning direction, contrived 8-29 – or "8 guichets pour 29 courses".

According to that website – francecricket.com - there was compensation in defeat for one of the French cricketers, Christopher Bartlett, "qui ajoute un troisieme "Test player" a la liste de ses victims au lancer – le guichet de Vic Marks s'ajoute a ceux de Hashim Amla et John Edrich". (I assume my readership needs no translation). At least I'm in good company.

Finally a scoop (this is where I always station my scoops): on Tuesday, the French having been resisted, I announced my retirement from international cricket.

# all at sea



**ANTHONY SMITH (P 1940-44)** 

### **Inspiration**

Widdicombe and Tapscott were survivors of SS Anglo Saxon, a British merchant ship which had been sunk by a German raider disguised as a neutral ship

Seven men from the crew of 41 had scrambled into a safety boat. The youngest man died from gangrene; four others threw themselves into the sea, their pain from hunger and thirst quite unbearable. At one point, the last two men on board, Roy Widdicombe, 24, and Robert Tapscott, 19, tried to drown themselves too, but climbed back into the boat, tenaciously hanging on to life. For 70 days, they drifted 2,800 miles across the Atlantic, losing half their body weight, before finally reaching the island of Eleuthera on the Bahamas. After many months of recovery, Widdicombe travelled to New York but was killed after his vessel was torpedoed by a German U-Boat. Tapscott tragically, took his own life after the war, perhaps haunted by "survivor's guilt".

'Old men ought to be explorers' wrote T.S. Eliot in his Four Quartets Anthony Smith, the intrepid 86 year old, who last year crossed the Atlantic Ocean by raft, tells the remarkable story behind his treacherous three week journey to the Bahamas

My time at Petergate from 1940 to 1944 was wartime in all respects. I started off my first term joining the 'Salvage Squad.' We 'salvagers' took lead from churches, brass from pew ends – all, so nobly, for the war effort.

Many masters had departed to join the services, and there was little seriousness about gaining qualifications. We knew we would have to enlist, that being the only certainty. Blundell's (under the excellent Gorton) seemed to encourage this attitude by sending us to dig potatoes, destroy hedgerows and fell trees. At night from the highest dorm in Petergate we could watch Exeter burn.

While at Blundell's, I read the story of Widdicombe and Tapscott (see box left) 70 days at sea and how their fellow crew members had preferred death to agony. This moved me deeply and stayed with me for many years. In the meantime, I began to think that some kind of re-enactment might be interesting: 'old men ought to be explorers' wrote T.S. Eliot and I took the hint.

The idea began to grow in my mind that, using a raft, I would cross the very waters where Widdicombe and Tapscott had suffered so horrendously. My aim was to show that rafts could be navigated at sea and to draw attention to the plight of seamen in wartime, their chance of death higher than in any of the armed services.

At the age of 85 and with three companions, we left the Canary Islands, with the Bahamas (the landing place of Widdicombe and Tapscott) in our sights. The raft's two rudders broke on the third day and fresh food ran out after three weeks.

In 66 days we completed 2,763 miles at an average speed of 2.1 knots. The slow journey meant we were unable to finish the other 700 miles, so we ended our voyage in the Caribbean island of St Maarten.

A little over a year later I was ready to make voyage number two. A new crew soon surfaced and we set sail. This second trip was very different from the first. With two women and three men – rather than four men alone on a raft – the cabin was tidier and the culinary choice better.

The new venture had us on our toes before the first week was over. The second week was an even greater nightmare. As for the third week, we started talking about survival.

I still had a hankering to reach the place where those two sailors had arrived 72 years earlier, but a far greater hankering just to stay alive. But after sailing some 850 nautical miles and only one mile from the shore of the Bahamas, the conditions became so bad we chose to sail past our destination and ask for a tow.

That night the wind became unbearable and our sail flapped wildly. We moved erratically and things were becoming uncontrollable. Out went the sea anchor to steady our progress. It snagged on something and we stopped. Waves were everywhere and so were we. For some three hours, we were pinned to something down below. It was a foul night with heavy rain and very poor visibility. All control had gone. But movement under the raft finally came and at last, we came to a beach. It was midnight by the time we stood on land. And there we sought to spend the night.

In the morning, Bahamians arrived, including the police. We hugged everyone in sight. We were overjoyed. We took photographs. And then, to crown it all, we learned that it was the sailors' beach on which we had arrived. What total joy! We were all safe and our raft looked good. Miracles do occur.

Can life ever be better than on that day and at that hour? I do not think so.



### Old Blundellian Club & Development Office

### FUTURE EVENTS 2012-13

#### **NOVEMBER 2012**

14th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre

Speaker David Woodliffe (SH 1949-52);

'National Service in Aden'

Contact: OB Club

20th Blundell's Annual London Dinner – House of Lords

Places strictly limited

Contact: Development Office

30th Recital & Concerto Concert,

Graham Caskie (M 1980-85),

Blundell's Big School at 19.30 Contact: Development Office

#### **DECEMBER 2012**

12th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre

Speaker Douglas Rice (Master 1969-98); 'Some of Blundell's high achievers'

Contact: OB Club

15th Hare and Hounds Alumni Run

Wimbledon Common Contact: Development Office

### **JANUARY 2013**

9th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre

Speaker Lt. Col. Tim Courtenay, OBE RM Rtd (OH 1954-59); 'The Trucial Oman Scouts'

Contact: OB Club

#### **FEBRUARY 2013**

13th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre

Speaker Nicola Huggett Blundell's Head

Contact: OB Club

#### **MARCH 2013**

9th Annual Veteran's Russell Race & Black Tie Dinner –

Blundell's School, 3.30pm race start & 7.00pm Dinner and Auction in support of boys rugby & girls hockey tour to Italy.

Contact: Development Office

13th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre

Speaker Judge Paul Waterworth (NC 1958-52);

'Being a judge ... from the inside'

Contact: OB Club

**15th OB Sport Weekend** – squash, fives, football, boys

hockey, girls hockey and netball

Contact: OB Club

**tbc** London Tour – House of Commons

Contact: Development Office

#### **MAY 2013**

14th Garden Tour and Lunch Reception – Greenway

House and Gardens Places strictly limited

Contact: Development Office

#### **JUNE 2013**

tbc The Light Bar, London

Casual Drinks Reception 6.00-8.00 pm

Contact: Development Office

15th Old Blundellian Day featuring 1950-1970

Reunion for Old Blundellians and Former Masters

Contact: Development Office or OB Club

#### **JULY 2013**

tbc Cricket Reception

Ted Crowe Room at Somerset Cricket Club

Contact: Development Office

#### **AUGUST 2013**

24th- Old Blundellians & Family Camping Trip

25th Blundell's School

- Open to OBs who left between 1986 and 1988

Contact: OB Club

tbc Blundell's Charity Golf Day

Location TBC, Devon

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.

### THE COLIN BEALE CENTRE

The Colin Beale Centre is available for use, free of charge, to all members of the Old Blundellian Club for social events. Bookings can be made through admin@obclub.co.uk or 01884 232010.

Catering and bar facilities can be provided.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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