

Blundell's DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

ISSUE No: 12

Enterprise and Endeavour

The Blundell's entrepreneurs running their own businesses, innovating and volunteering overseas



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Daily Mail debut

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at Blundell's

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Classic view

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The Russell 2013 - boys in House colours running up Pool Anthony track - Photographs by Corren Kvesic Yr 12.

The traditional format of the Russell was for all to run and just the first twenty or so home scoring points for their House, leaving the vast majority to simply endure. As soon as Norman Ridgway took charge, however, the philosophy was to change. Each course now has optimum times and the runners score points according to their personal times, thereby encouraging the ideal of trying one's best for personal satisfaction and the greater good of others; namely your House. Further to this, the modern Russell enhances collective spirit and tolerance of others; the early fleet-footed finishers now jog back down the course to encourage and support the less aerodynamically blessed members of their House, urging them to strive for those one or two extra points. That everyone has their worth and that selfless effort is lauded, greatly underpins much of the spirit prevalent in the lives of the Blundellians of today.

New Head Nicola Huggett dived straight into this unique Blundell's tradition by running the Russell in her inaugural term.

The 2013 Senior Boy's winner was Ollie Clarke FH Yr 12 and the Senior Girls' race was won by the Head Girl, Charlotte Routledge NC/W Yr 13. The latter has never been beaten in a Russell run since she joined Blundell's in Year 7.



HEAD'S INTRODUCTION



As I now draw near the end of my first term as Head, I can look back at a remarkable set of achievements by both pupils and staff. Blundell's is as vibrant and exciting a place as I have ever been and I consider myself fortunate indeed to be able to reflect in the glory of so many individual and team achievements. We have excelled on the sports fields, triumphing soundly I believe over whatever obstacles the meteorological office decides to send us. A few weeks ago, I drew the School's attention to a quote by iconic US track and field coach Bill Bowerman 'There's no such thing as bad weather, just soft people.' This was certainly put to the test in the 133rd Russell Run, showing, once again, that Blundellian spirit and drive is at its very best when three feet deep in sticky mud!

We have also seen a wonderful array of musical talent in both the House Music competition and the many individual concerts that have taken place. A great range of acting talent has also been on show in School House's production of the Snow Queen and the very individual and universally hilarious House plays that have brought us in such good spirit to the end of term.

The arrival of nine experienced inspectors from some of the other top independent schools in the country, in the second week of term, might have challenged the faint-hearted, but not us. The final report, which is now available on the school website, is a true and fair reflection of all the very best that we have to offer. We are thrilled and excited by both the recognition of what we do well and by the clear direction it provides for the future. Perhaps my favourite quote from the whole report (though there are many excellent ones to choose from) is the observation that there is a wonderful 'unforced rapport' that exists between the staff and pupils here. This is something that I noticed from my first day, as do all visitors that I meet, and the commitment of the staff to the pupil's achievement both inside and outside the classroom makes it a wonderfully strong community committed to helping the pupils achieve their very best. At Blundell's we really do believe that you get out of life what you put in.

I am indebted to the staff for all that they do, and to the pupils and parents who give so generously of their time and effort. This edition of The Diary, thanks to the many pupil contributions, celebrates the spirit of enterprise and endeavour that permeates the School and highlights other terrific achievements. I am sure it will give you the same sense of interest and excitement that it does me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicola Huggett".

Nicola Huggett
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Front cover: Business owners Ollie Tobey, Lewis Steer and Georgie Cummings (see pages 8 and 9), posing on Lewis Steer's Land Rover, a vital tool for his sheep business





England *call up*

Victoria (Torzie) Boylett, (Year 10) has been selected for the U16 England hockey squad, despite spending several weeks at the end of last year in a wheelchair following an accident at a tournament when her knee cap was smashed by a hockey stick; she wasn't able to start playing again until January and trained really hard for her selection. She attended an England training camp during half term.

Jack Maunder (Year 10) has also received an England call up for the U16 rugby training squad – see special feature on Blundell's rugby on pages 22-25.



Devised Drama

This year the A2 Drama students created a piece of theatre inspired by the case of Joyce Carole Vincent; a successful 38 year old woman living in London who died alone and who lay undiscovered for three years. The piece contrasted the frenetic pace of modern communication systems with the break down in community that lead to such a tragic end. The group created a visually exciting and moving piece of drama that gave the audience much to think about.



Flora Dickinson and Oliver Tobey ensured that the overall House Debating Cup remained in Westlake for another year when opposing 'This House Regrets American Independence'. Oliver also won the Best Speaker Trophy.



Christopher Hamilton Yr 10 won the Junior Best Speakers Trophy for Petergate.

The U6 who volunteer to get involved with the younger pupils from SH on a weekly basis, put on the style for the post SH Gut entertainment.

S African Tour

Will Thompson, Dan Pyle, Charles Fitzroy and Ben Steer (Captain) all enjoyed a fantastic cricket tour to South Africa playing for the Devon U15 Team. There were six highly competitive matches but also some time for sight-seeing.



Tate that!

Annabel Chatwin of Year 8 has won second place in a national art competition arranged by the Tate Gallery. The theme was 'butterflies' and the artist used ink and glue to make a stunning picture which is on display at Tate Modern. Many congratulations to Annabel!





This record number includes eight girls who will play for the U14s, as well as boys in the U14, U15 and U17 teams and girls playing in the U15 and U17 teams. Heads of Hockey Mrs Klinkenberg and Mr Bucknell said they were pleased that the players efforts had been recognised and added that this was fully deserved after all their hard work. Some of these players make up the very strong Blundell's U13 girls and U14 boys hockey teams recently crowned Devon champions. Both teams won the county tournament without conceding any goals and will now go on to represent Devon at the West of England finals.

Blundell's on a hockey high



Hockey playing at Blundell's is at an **all-time high** with 17 pupils selected to play for Devon in the county squads.

CANDYGRAMS



Year 12 Gorton House girls raised £350 for Crisis at Christmas by selling 750 candy canes to pupils who bought them for their friends in the School. Everyone who bought a cane wrote a message on a label which the GH girls tied onto the canes and then delivered the canes to the lucky (and surprised) recipients. This is the third year running the girls have sold candy canes at Christmas. The event was organised by the Head of GH House Katharine Sendell and she was helped by other House Monitors and girls in Year 12.



CAMPUS RELAYS

The annual Campus Relays were as hotly contested as ever with competitors of all ages hurtling around the main buildings at breakneck speed. There were a number of Stewards' enquiries but in the end nothing could stop FH retaining their overall title coming first and third, with Petergate in second and fourth. In the girls' race GH put one over NC for a change, coming in first and third.



BOOK AWARD

School Archivist Mike Sampson has won the Devon Book of the Year award for 'A History of Blundell's School'. Mike's book traces the School's past from its 17th century foundation in Tiverton to 2011, taking in notable alumni, the move in 1882 to its present site on the outskirts of the town, the change to co-education and much more within its 398 pages. Signed copies of 'A History of Blundell's School' are available from the school office at Blundell's for the exclusive price of £17.50. It is the second time that Mike has won the award, which is presented by the Devon History Society; he also took the prize in 2004 for his book, 'A History of Tiverton'.



ART FOR CHARITY

Judit Lam (Year 10) will be selling her stunning artwork in aid of charity. The artwork can be viewed in the FOBs Room and silent bids can be sent to devoffice@blundells.org. All proceeds will benefit Women of Worth, an organization that funds aid for women in India, and Erme Valley Riding for the Disabled Group. The full selection of photos can also be viewed on the website (under Academic/Art).





NATIONAL FINALS NEXT

Blundell's equestrian team are through to the NSEA National Finals, after taking part in a contest of skill, style and speed and beating off stiff competition over a course of show jumps and XC fences against the clock at Millfield. In the 75cm qualifier, Blundell's came home first and sixth, with competition so fierce there was little to choose between the placings. In the 85cm qualifier, they finished in fourth, with just one pole costing them first place. Tabitha Pring deserves a special mention for getting the best style mark (94%) in the whole competition, helping to secure sixth place individually. Blundell's now go forward to represent the SW at the Schools National Finals held at Addington Manor in October.



MOVEMBER

Twenty members of the Common Room became decidedly hirsute by growing moustaches during Movember and raised £3,700 towards Prostrate Cancer Research.



DON'T FORGET

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



HOUSE *shout*

The House Music evening was a wonderful occasion, as always, with a whole myriad of very polished performances. The external judge, Bill Slogrove from King's Bruton, concluded that GH were the overall winners with NC winning the House Shout – girls rule, this year!



Open Mic

The U6 girl group (above) consisting of Flora Dickinson, Elly Yard, Charlotte Routledge, Lydia Cree and Esme Lewis-Plunkett, along with many other groups, soloists and instrumentalists, recently contributed to a most enjoyable evening of relaxed musical entertainment in the Ondaatje Hall. The array of talent within the student body is always very impressive and with several previously unknown stars emerging this term, Mr Wynell-Mayow's Open Mic concert was a resounding success as usual.

Inter-House Tug of War



The old keenly fought heave-ho contest was won this year by FH with four wins, over OH's three and P's two. In the girls contest, NC gained revenge for their Campus Relay defeat by winning 2-0.



Westlake pre-GUT

Westlake get all spruced up in preparation for their last ever GUT night extravaganza



Surprise party

The final hurrah for Randall Thane came in the form of a surprise party, which miraculously was a complete surprise to him; a great deal of devious planning had gone into it. Previous Head Masters Jonathan Leigh (who had the wisdom to appoint Randall in the first place) and Ian Davenport both returned to give wonderfully humorous speeches recalling many shared memories from behind the Head's study door. After several presentations, including a Map Cabinet made by DT teacher Jerry Pilbeam from pieces of wood donated from the campus, and a superb meal, the revelry continued into the early hours at Westlake – a fitting end to an extraordinarily loyal servant to Blundell's.



Three Heads at Randall's leaving party

Heading off...

The Diary could not possibly allow Mr Thane to leave Blundell's without a final tribute to his fifteen years of unstinting service to the school as Second Master. After enjoying the shortest retirement ever, Mr Thane rose magnificently to the challenge of being Head Master for just the one term and from what we could all tell, he thoroughly enjoyed every single minute of it. He is often seen walking his dog in 10 acre field, but he is now lending his not inconsiderable expertise to advising other lucky schools on how to impress the various Inspectorate bodies. His humanity, good humour and unbounded enthusiasm will be greatly missed by all.

Guard of Honour at Randall's last Latin Prayer



KIT AID

Obsolete cricket and rugby kit from Blundell's is being redistributed to disadvantaged groups around the world. Ross Young, Director South West of the charity LV=SOS Kit Aid, took delivery of the kit from Shop Manager Sophie Stevens and some Blundell's pupils. Last year LV=SOS Kit Aid sent more than 28 tonnes of sports kit out to 20 countries and has distributed more than £2 million worth of kit since 2001. However, Mr Young said that there are still 50 countries on the waiting list, so it was great to have Blundell's on board.



SHOE BOX APPEAL

Blundell's School donated 107 gift filled shoe boxes to the charity Samaritan's Purse last term to be sent to children in Africa and Eastern Europe, with School House collecting 47 of the total. Organiser Mr Roffe-Silvester said the gifts included toys of all sorts and small stationery items, all of which would benefit underprivileged children at Christmas. Year 13 charity coordinators Milly Maunder and Lydia Cree were instrumental in motivating the pupils and thanked all those who had donated. They added that they hoped even more boxes would be filled next year.

Enterprise

We are all familiar with the highly successful multinational companies that were started up while their founders were still at university: companies such as Google, Dell Computers and, of course, Facebook. At Blundell's entrepreneurship begins even earlier; there are individuals who have their own businesses or are busy experimenting or inventing gadgets, while others are working together to come up with innovative ideas and practical products. Then there are those whose adventurous spirit takes them overseas to climb mountains or to work with young people in third world countries; activities which give them a different perspective on their own lives.

These pages focus on a few of those pupils and show that enterprise and endeavour are thriving at Blundell's. The School has a proud history of sending out pupils with such qualities into the world – who knows, there may be another Nobel Prize winner (Professor A V Hill), social reformer (D B Hobman), chemist (M W Travers) or adventurer and philanthropist (Sir P C Ondaatje) amongst those featured here?



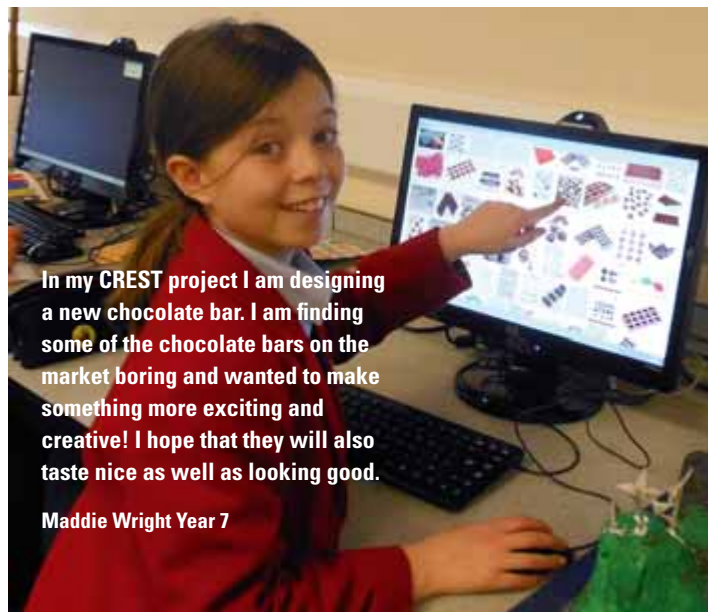
On the crest of discovery

Thirty pupils in Years 7 and 8 have enthusiastically taken to CREST, a project-based awards scheme for creativity in science and technology, certificated by the British Science Association. They are working on the Bronze award and were given three titles to base their projects on – 'Triathlon', 'Squeaky Clean' and 'Future Transport' – or to devise their own title. The pupils could then choose to concentrate on research, communication or a practical or a combination of all three. They have come up with some interesting ideas, ranging from designing chocolate to testing different washing powders and to finding the best material to wear when competing in a triathlon. They will be presenting their findings to pupils and parents at the end of the year.



I have chosen to do 'Squeaky Clean' and I am comparing cheap brands of washing powder with expensive brands. I have decided to look at my project in three ways, research, communication and practical. So far I have carried out one of my three practicals which involved getting three white cotton squares dirtied and then comparing washing powders. My experiment concluded that the most expensive one was the best and that the least expensive just cleaned slightly better than the water which acted as my control. I have also done some research into how cleaning products work. When I have completed all my experiments I will do a presentation. I am looking forward to telling everyone my results.

Annabel Chatwin Year 8



In my CREST project I am designing a new chocolate bar. I am finding some of the chocolate bars on the market boring and wanted to make something more exciting and creative! I hope that they will also taste nice as well as looking good.

Maddie Wright Year 7

We have really enjoyed working with our friends on this task. The hours so far have flown by. We have learnt a lot about our chosen subjects. Stephen is researching and making his own make of toothpaste. I however am doing future travel and I am making a solar powered kit car. This will decide if solar power is a legitimate source of power for the future. All in all it is really enjoyable! We are extremely pleased to have signed up and would encourage others to do so in the future!!!

Kieran Smith and Stephen Walton
Year 8

ENDEAVOUR

A leaf blower, a shower curtain and a piece of wood were the key components of a hovercraft built by Cormac Oliver (Year 10) at home, using the instructions his father found in a magazine. It took a couple of hours to make the hovercraft, using a jigsaw to cut the wood and duct tape to hold the skirt (shower curtain) in place. Powered by the leaf blower, the hovercraft could move short distances; it didn't 'hover' well on rough terrain but a water slide and the kitchen floor were more successful surfaces. Cormac modified the design instructions, not least by securing a chair to the wood so he could ride in style! He says that next time he makes one he'll use a thicker shower curtain as the cheap one bought for £5 wasn't up to the job.

Skills learned in DT came in useful for building the hovercraft and also in creating two rafts, which Cormac made from the base of an old bed, with plastic milk bottles (and for the second one chlorine barrels) for flotation and a bed sheet for a sail. Another of his creations which also used recycled materials was a sledge made from a broken chair and skis. Despite his aptitude for invention, Cormac isn't looking at this as a career option – he'd like to be a vet. But being able to produce useful objects from cast-offs is a valuable talent, whatever profession you take up in the future.



Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise is a world-wide charity and competition, devised to encourage young entrepreneurs. At Blundell's this year it proved hugely popular with more than forty pupils competing for only ten available places. Mr Horsington divided the forty into smaller, more manageable groups, and each group devised a product, to be pitched to the panel of 'Dragons' – Mr Horsington, Miss Turnbull, Mr Candler and Mr Mead – in a fierce Dragons' Den style pitch-off. The Dragons were ruthless and, after a rigorous grilling, the final ten were 'hired'.

Young Enterprise felt that Heathcoats would be the place to source our materials, due to the deep connection it holds with the school.

You would have thought that, following the invention of various products for the 'Dragons' Den' stage, the team would have no problem in concocting one product to pursue. Yet this was not the case. However, our proposed product, after a very trying few weeks of thinking and coming to no avail, is 'kiwicase'; an A4 ring-binder folder cover. The main features of this cover are that it will hold both folder and text-books inside and will be shower-resistant, to prevent various books, folders and sheets of paper from getting soggy. We've come up with this idea following the exceptionally bad weather conditions, under which circumstances tattered notes could be found strewn all over campus, having been completely soaked through by the torrential rain. A folder case was exactly what was needed within the Blundell's community, so it seemed that steps needed to be taken following such positive feedback from the market research.

kiwi case

The first stepping stone was the contact made with Heathcoat's factory. Sam Combe – managing director – and Tom Youngman arranged a meeting to illustrate our proposal. Young Enterprise

felt that Heathcoats would be the place to source our materials, due to the deep connection it holds with the school. The bond encompasses something extra to our product and the link is something we would like to be recognised if we were to go on further to enter the competition, as we feel traditional values to be important and at the heart of a business. Very kindly Heathcoats offered Young Enterprise a large quantity of neoprene-style material in order that we could get our feet off the ground. A prototype has been fashioned by 'wildlifesuppliers' and the folder cases are soon to be mass-produced.

The Young Enterprise team hope that some cases will be sold in the School Shop, using the chit system as with uniform. We also promoted the product at the Devon Enterprise Competition in Exeter where we were runners up and have been invited back to an innovation fair later this year. Holly Keevil L6

The web master



I can't quite pinpoint when my entrepreneurial spirit began but I believe it was around the age of nine when I decided that I wanted to earn my own money.

Being nine, my knowledge of business was limited, but I knew that people found it a pain to go to the bottle bank. So I started a Bottle Collection Service along with a friend. We printed out flyers and posted them through people's doors. We charged 5p

for small bottles and 10p for large bottles and if they had a large load we would do a special price of £3. Every Saturday morning we would drag an old garden trolley around the town knocking on doors. We didn't make a lot of money but suddenly I had the freedom of being able to buy things I wanted.

When I was 14 I started another business – an events equipment rental company, which provided sound and lighting equipment to events. I had saved up the money to buy most of the equipment and my parents lent me the rest and once the events came in I soon paid them back. This business was called Saturday Night Sound and it was the springboard to my next venture as I needed a website and decided to build my own.

I taught myself how to build a website using tutorials online. I started to really enjoy the website design and so started to make them for friends and family. I soon realised that this was now a business. I formed the company Oil and Earth Design and built the website (www.oilae.com); after this I started to get people wanting websites, just through word of mouth. I have completed over 20 websites, ranging from small businesses to schools and art galleries. I still enjoy designing the websites but it has definitely turned more commercial. I have to deal with lots of website quote requests, send out invoices and do mock-ups of sites. I manage to fit this around my schoolwork but I mainly push forward during the holidays.

I enjoy the technical aspects and the challenge of running my own business and I hope this experience will help me in the future.

Oliver Pritchard-Barrett Year 12 design@oilae.com



The jewellery maker



I was first inspired about four years ago by a friend's sister to try making a necklace and from then on I was hooked. I bought a few little beads and made a few more necklaces at which point my mum jokingly said that I should sell them. I made up some examples and she took them into her work – since then, I haven't looked back. I make the majority of my jewellery using glass beads; however, I often mix them with other materials such as silver and resin beads. Generally speaking, I sell the jewellery through word of mouth at various house parties where I also advertise a charity and donate a percentage of my profits. I have also had a stand at Blair Castle International Horse Trials and various other local charity events. In the future, I would love to make some of the glass beads myself and try my hand at silversmithing which looks fascinating having had work experience at a studio in Exeter.

Georgie Cummings
Year 13



The sheep mogul



I immensely enjoy keeping my small pedigree flock of Greyfaced Dartmoor sheep which I lamb, shear and fatten on our small family farm, in between doing my schoolwork. Recently I have developed my business and now provide my own lamb to private customers and leading restaurants in the local area. I also hand shear my flock and have the wool spun to make yarn for the farm's other business, Lily Warne Wool. Within this side of the business I supply shops and boutiques with my 100% pure Devon wool as well as handmade woollen accessories. Due to the small size of my flock, I feel it is paramount to use my flock to its full potential and ensure nothing goes to waste. I am able to do this through the selling of my lamb, breeding stock, wool, woollen accessories and sheepskin rugs. Stockists of my products include: Dandelion Boutique in Chudleigh and Filly and Bounder, Fore Street, Chagford. Please feel free to like the business on Facebook (Lily Warne Wool) and please don't hesitate to get in contact if you would like any further information.

Lewis Steer Year 13



THE DJ



For the past six years I have run the firm DJ ZEDLINE. As the name suggests, it provides DJs for a variety of private events such as birthdays, corporate parties and weddings.

At its inception there was a lot of focus on the market for children's parties; an area that was not particularly catered for in Devon at the time. In this form the company proved itself to be a profitable enterprise, and so through a programme of investment in a large inventory of the latest technology, we were able to expand to support the wide range of functions we DJ at today.

Clients, when planning events, expect a very high level of service and a high quality product that will keep them, and their guests, entertained. By only using modern cutting edge tools, such as fully digital sound systems and smart LED light shows, we can provide an experience that can be tailor-made for individual events to create a spectacular evening.

As parties are used to celebrate some of the most important days in people's lives, such as a milestone birthday or wedding, it is crucial that every small detail is taken care of to ensure a personalised and smooth running evening. Conducting client consultation meetings, sometimes months before the actual events, provides me with a vision of what the client wants out of the evening and allows me to advise on what we can do to help.

Being a DJ means not only being responsible for the dancing later on in an evening; more and more it means acting as a Technical Director for an event. We can provide those special touches to a party, such as star cloth ceilings and up-lighting for marquees, or dramatic outside lighting for guests to enjoy on warm summer evenings. The possibilities are huge and we aim to help the client create a design that is unique and really adds something very special to an evening.

Blundell's has helped nurture and develop the talents I use every day in running the business, with economics, maths and IT providing key tools that are called upon at every stage. Technical theatre has allowed me to hone lighting and sound design skills, as well as familiarise myself with the latest technology available on the market. This has, on many occasions, led to me purchasing kit that I have had the opportunity of testing and putting to real life use in the Ondaatje Hall, before commissioning into a client's projects.

This article only provides a brief snapshot of what I do; our website www.djzedline.co.uk gives a more detailed description of the services available to clients, via this I am directly contactable and look forward to planning your next big event.

Ollie Tobey Year 13



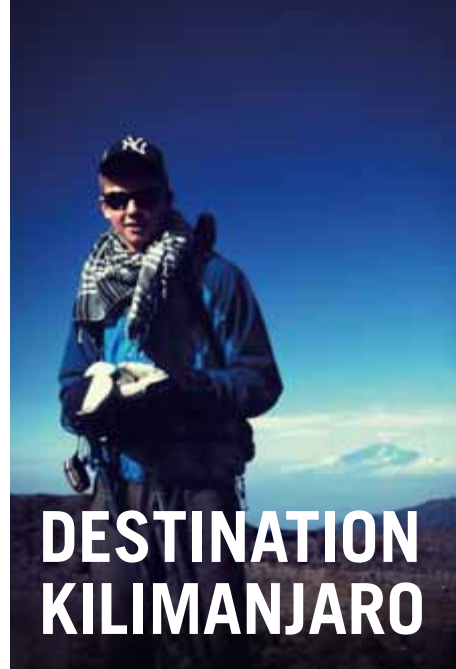
ENGINEERS OF THE FUTURE



Three year 12 pupils, Ollie Prichard-Barrett, Elliot Finch and Gabriel Cheung, spent three days at Plymouth University on the residential part of the Engineering Education Scheme. This is the second year that Blundell's has taken part in this brilliant scheme. The pupils are

assigned a partner company who set them a real design problem to work on. This year we are partnered with TDK-Lambda UK and are working with engineer Adrian Irwin. The boys have been set the task to design and make a bench top wind tunnel for testing power supply units under variable temperature and laminar air flow speeds. Having researched and completed an initial design before getting to Plymouth, the team was in a strong position to make the most of the facilities there to start construction of their wind tunnel. They worked very well over the three days, giving an excellent presentation of the work completed so far on the last day. They will continue to test and develop the product and also complete a written report by the Easter holidays. The assessment day is at the end of April where they will present their design and give a 15 minute presentation to a panel of experts.

Pupils in Year 8 were so keen on a similar scheme for their age group that 20 of them signed up for the Go4SET initiative, also developed by the Engineering Development Trust. The scheme is designed to stimulate the interest of young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and open their eyes to the exciting future career opportunities in these areas. The Year 8 volunteers will be divided into three teams and choose a project, where sustainability is the key component. Then over a ten week period they will work with a mentor and a company researching, developing ideas, models and displays, culminating in a presentation to the assessors. The Go4SET initiative was launched at the Flybe Training Academy in Exeter in March.



DESTINATION KILIMANJARO

During the February half term week my father and I joined an expedition of 26 people to climb the world's highest free standing mountain in aid of charity. During the trip we trekked through a number of different climates, from the hot and sticky rainforests to the snow covered summit of Mount Kilimanjaro where it reached a bitter -18°C .

Altitude causes people to lose their appetite as the body can't digest food properly; I ended up losing 10% of my body weight over the seven days walking. In order to avoid the serious effects of altitude, we were required to walk very slowly to allow our bodies to acclimatise to the low oxygen levels. This meant that a day's walking would normally be around seven to eight hours long. At the end of each day we camped in small tents under the most amazing stars!

On the night we were going to climb the summit, we left our camp at 11.30pm after only three hours sleep in order to reach the 5800m Uhuru Peak before sunrise. This last push to the 'roof of Africa' was the hardest mental challenge I have ever experienced due to the freezing temperatures and biting wind. Despite a number of severe headaches and nausea among the group, all bar one of our expedition made it to the top – a much better ratio than is often the case and a testament to the quality of our guides.

Together my father and I raised just under £5000 for our chosen charities Regain (providing support and equipment for tetraplegics) and C-Group (helping the rehabilitation of injured Royal Marines).

I would thoroughly recommend this experience; however I am not planning to do it again myself!

Tom Michelmores Year 12

With AS levels out of the way and the summer holidays stretching ahead, Elliot Clark-James decided to take an independent trip to Uganda volunteering for a charity called The Kids League, which aims to help children and teenagers improve their lives through sport. He admits this is not something that anyone who knows him would have expected him to do, but he was inspired by a television drama set in the continent and thought that going there would be a better use of his time than lazing around. He had to get himself to Kampala, which was the first of many incredible experiences. Once there, Elliot got the chance to coach and play with children from many different backgrounds including those with disabilities and children who have had their lives torn apart by war. He also helped out in life-training sessions which educated the young people about health issues.

Elliot says his time in Africa changed his outlook; seeing real poverty first-hand and not having the basic luxuries he has in England such as hot water and electricity on demand has made him appreciate his own life and see the bigger picture. However, what had the most impact on him was that, in spite of all the hardship he saw, Africa is a continent full of potential with so many positives rather than the stereotypical negative image the continent has gained through the media. He also feels he grew up and learnt independence. He is now planning a gap year when he hopes to work in Rwanda with people who have and are still suffering as a result of the horrific genocide in 1994 and then study International Development at university.

Following GCSE exams, Tristan Free also spent some time in Africa during the summer volunteering for the charity Tanzanear in a school for the deaf on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He was working with children from five years old up to young adults of 21; many pupils do not finish school until their early twenties because they have to spend time at the beginning of their school career learning to sign and then may have to take years off to help at home. One of the challenges for Tristan was learning sign language himself – in Swahili! – and communication was often achieved by writing in the sand. He was organising the classrooms and supporting the teachers, sometimes taking over when a teacher was late. On one occasion he and three other volunteers found themselves in charge of some of the classes when the teachers went on strike because they hadn't been paid.

Like Elliot, Tristan says that his experiences have given him a different perspective on school and life in general. He is now concentrating on his AS levels with a view to eventually becoming a doctor.



Above: Tristan Free
Main picture: Elliot Clark-James

UT IN AFRICA



NICOLA HUGGETT

The Head

By **HOLLY KEEVIL** (YEAR 12)

Seated before me is the lady I know only as Mrs Huggett: an ex-rower, horse rider, marathon runner, self-confessed Jessie J fan, mother and now the first ever female Head of a 400 year old co-educational boarding school. We occupy her office, lined floor to ceiling with books, showcasing a table with a wooden bowl full to the brim of 'sweeties' which, I am told, exist in order to help both pupils and parents alike feel at ease. As I continue to interview Mrs Huggett, it becomes increasingly apparent that she is very much a 'people person'. For this reason, amongst many others, being Head of Blundell's suits her perfectly.

As this incredible woman gives me permission to voice record our interview provided it doesn't end up on YouTube, I can't help but be in awe of her, so evidently is she in harmony with her pupils. She tells me 'young people are so interesting', so being Head is her perfect job. I note that it is not one for the faint-hearted, as Mrs Huggett proclaims that 'it's very important for the Head to go to everything'. This is something she clearly feels a vital part of being Head, and true to her word, she throws herself wholeheartedly into absolutely everything. She self-deprecatingly says that, despite completing a London Marathon and being Captain of her college boat club and being a keen horse rider, she wouldn't say she was a 'skilled games player, although she's enthusiastic'. Enthusiasm is a quality glaringly apparent to anyone who chats to her and an attribute reflected in her Saturday afternoon activity – assuming the role of spectator at numerous matches. Yet her interests do not cease at sport; she declares that the House Music was 'absolutely fabulous' and that she loved every minute of it. Witnessing debating competitions, watching

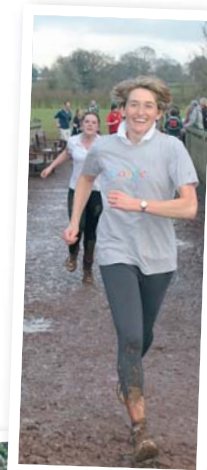
plays and joining pupils at meal times have also been part of her hands-on approach, as Mrs Huggett maintains that 'it isn't until you go to everything that you really appreciate what the students are doing ... and see how things fit together.'

The tapestry that is Blundell's life gathers for Latin Prayer on Monday morning, a daunting prospect for anybody who has to go up to accept an award of any variety. As a new Head, Mrs Huggett's mind was similarly occupied by the thought that 'the stage is very high'. She further revealed to me that for the

first four weeks of Latin Prayers not one of her jokes was laughed at. But in the fifth week it really felt like a major step had been taken when her jokes got a few titters from the ocean of pupils beneath her. Her determined 'the children will laugh' mantra had paid off. This determination is a quality which is not only apparent in Latin Prayer but in a great number of other areas as well, as Mrs Huggett is undeniably very ambitious for the School.

When asked what she most looked forward to about coming to Blundell's, she said immediately 'the challenge'. Mrs Huggett further goes on to label the role of the Head as a 'juggling act; each day is so different from the one before.' Excited about the challenge and variety of her new position, Mrs Huggett assured me that it has definitely lived up to her expectations. However, one thing she very eagerly awaits is a state of being which can only come about next year – knowing what lies ahead. Despite having described her first few weeks here as being 'like standing in the fast lane of the motorway with the traffic just coming at you', Mrs Huggett maintained that she has enjoyed every minute of it and has now started teaching World Studies to Year 10. She hopes that in this way she will learn more about the pupils, as she has by shadowing them and visiting the Houses; two activities she has relished and hopes to do more of in the near future.

Her future aspirations also include 'making sure everyone outside Blundell's knows that we are just as strong academically as we are in everything else'. Her ultimate ambition however is 'to make Blundell's really well-known nationally' because she is of the opinion that we are 'Devon's best kept secret'. Describing Blundell's as a 'hidden gem' which 'needs to be uncovered', it is clear that Mrs Huggett is very content in her position and will benefit us as a school enormously.



The performance had so many memorable moments that it is insidious to single any out. It was essential that Cliff and Sally, and Fraulein Schneider and Herr Schultz, went on a believable emotional journey and captured the sympathy of the audience in order that their fate was indeed tragic. Flora Shadbolt and Jasper Cattell worked tirelessly in rehearsal to deepen their understanding of the characters and to create appropriate moments of elation and tension. Equally moving was the portrayal of the older characters, Schneider and Schultz; Lydia Cree brought moments of genuine humour and pathos to her demanding role and Lawrence Gash was entirely convincing as the love-struck Jewish fruit seller. Their relationship was beautifully understated and the performances well crafted. Ollie Tobey created an Emcee reminiscent of Joel Grey's Oscar winning performance, delivering his lines with real panache; he alternated suggestive innuendo with a sense of sinister menace and the songs and dance routines, performed with real showmanship, were loved by audiences. Esme Lewis-Plunkett led the Kit Kat girls with great style and Flora Dickinson's 'tart with a heart' brought some light relief, whilst Sam Mills created suitable menace as the Nazi activist, Ernst. The production was held together by the wonderful stage band, under Mr Barlow's careful direction. Some striking lighting and apt costumes added to the impressive visual impact of the performance. FAB

Cabaret



'The production captured both the warmth and the growing social chill of 1930s Berlin: at its heart was the warmth of the central love story and the camaraderie of the cabaret club with its escapist decadence.'





School House refurbishment

By Damian Marshman, Housemaster of School House

When I received the telephone call from the then Headmaster, Mr Davenport, offering me the job of Housemaster of School House I was obviously incredibly excited and took it without a second thought. I put the phone down, told my wife, called my parents and even the in-laws to tell them all the good news. I was (and still am) incredibly proud of myself. That evening after the excitement of the day and my children finally in bed (at last) I sat down with a cup of tea (a true party animal) and spoke to my wife about our new job. It suddenly dawned on us that we hadn't really seen the House that we were going to take charge of. On the interview day we had both walked through the building but with the pressure that we felt about trying to show ourselves in the best light we barely took any notice of it. With that in mind the next day I e-mailed Mr Postle (the Housemaster at the time) and asked if he would show us around again. Of course the answer was yes and a few weeks later we went down for a more relaxed visit. It was on this day that I began to take in the enormity of the task ahead of me, but I knew that the job was going to be an exciting opportunity. It was explained that there were already plans to give the whole House a lick of paint and I was even more thrilled when I heard that School House was going to be fully refurbished in the summer of 2012.





'...The stars of the refurbishment, though, were the fantastic Blundell's School maintenance team. I was in awe of what these men did...'

Throughout my first year I talked to a number of people about how to improve the facilities, appearance and layout of SH. Ideas were thrown around and eventually a plan was formed. On the first Monday of the summer holiday, the work began and even if my wife and I couldn't see it we could definitely hear it. The porters were like locusts going through the House. From top to bottom they emptied it in no time. I am sure if I was standing in the way they would have picked me up and taken me out too. Next, in moved the painters and from then on at a ridiculous hour in the morning they were there with brushes and overalls turning what was a drab worn down set of walls into a gleaming sparkling set of corridors. These men were excellent, efficient, polite and good company whenever I ventured into the boarding house. In fact my only complaint was that none of them supported a decent football team.

The stars of the refurbishment, though, were the fantastic Blundell's School maintenance team. I was in awe of what these men did. I struggle to put a picture on a wall, yet these men were building walls, plastering them and finishing them off in a way that made it feel as if it had always been like that.

The whole refurbishment took the entire holidays and even in the hour before the term was due to start we were frantically putting the final pieces of the House together. The end product though – new windows, new boarders suite, new lockers, new changing room, new day space, a far brighter fresher House – was a House I was now proud to show to present and prospective parents and a far more suitable environment for the students of Blundell's School. As one boarding parent put it in an e-mail to Miss Woolford (Pastoral Housemistress): 'Mum and I were very impressed by the SH refurb. Incredibly smart and the boarding part upstairs far more homely (which made it a bit easier for me to leave my 'baby' with you!!).

Damian Marshman omitted to say in the article that he gave up some of his flat in order to make the new layout of SH work



Some of the matrons who work at Blundell's

Meet the *Matrons*

When Year 13 were asked how the matrons have helped them as they have gone up through the School, one of them commented that a matron was like your mum when you were away from home. Except these 'mums' have the duties of a parent multiplied several times over because of the number of young people in their care. Lending a sympathetic ear, helping pupils settle in to school and being responsible for their health and well-being, taking them to the doctor or dentist, checking clothes back in from the laundry (all those socks!) and that they are in good repair, ensuring all pupils have 'thumbed' themselves in for registration ... these are just some of the daily and weekly duties of a matron.

The matrons work closely with Houseparents and liaise with the cleaners to ensure the smooth running of the domestic side of the Houses. There are thirteen matrons working in the seven boarding Houses at Blundell's and their qualities – including lots of common sense, tact, warmth, a sense of humour, practicality – are much appreciated by members of the House:

'Matron has helped me through hard times; it was nice to have someone to speak to who didn't feel like a teacher and she is so wise'

'Matron has helped me through hard times; it was nice to have someone to speak to who didn't feel like a teacher and she is so wise'

'Thanks to matron I never had to worry about an alarm clock or forgetting the free periods were for working or not turning up to the Russell'

'Gets chocolate spread for us, taught Rupert to iron, basically makes life easy'

Food looms large in the thoughts of these teenagers, and it is the matron's job to see that the fruit and bread arrives in time for break (on average, each House can get through 48 loaves of sliced bread and 182 pints of milk a week) but they also go above and beyond:

'She makes lush pancakes'

'She makes really good cakes'

Sandra Blackmore, head matron, sums up the duties of the matrons as 'the eyes and ears, to empathise and encourage' while two Year 13s said that five words summed them up:

'Kind, helpful, understanding, supportive, lovely'

'BLUNDELL'S HAS HAD A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE CZECH REPUBLIC, WITH THE CHOIR FIRST VISITING IN 1991 JUST AFTER THE VELVET REVOLUTION, AND WHEN IT WAS CZECHOSLOVAKIA'

Singing in the

CHOIR TRIP TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Blundell's has had a long association with the Czech Republic, with the choir first visiting in 1991 just after the Velvet Revolution, and when it was Czechoslovakia. Since then a very good relationship has grown with the Gymnazium in Jihlava, a large town east of Prague. This is where Smetana lived for a time and where Mahler grew up. There have been many pupils to Blundell's from the Gymnazium over the last 21 years and some have even stayed for A level. The choir has made several visits and there have been similar return visits by the Czechs.



This year, as has usually been the case, the choir stayed in Prague for a few days before going on to Jihlava. In Prague we were privileged to be able to sing in three churches – The Lady of the Snows, St Nicolas in the Old Square and in St Vitus Cathedral in Prague Castle where we sang in a service, having been able to practise beforehand in the Archbishop's palace, for which we were very grateful. It is always amazing to be able to sing in such unbelievable acoustics,



snow



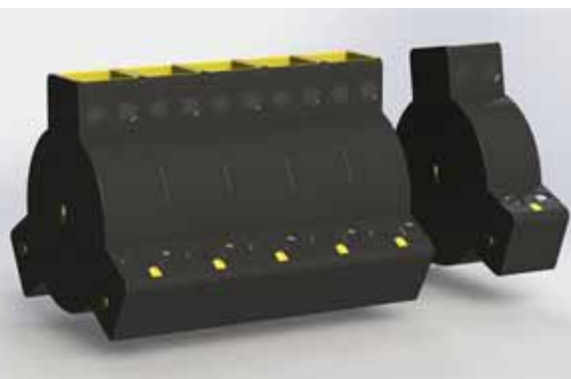
where the resonance seems to go on for ever. Because the Old Square hosts an extremely full Christmas market, this was a place visited several times and where, in the evening, the huge Christmas tree and other lights are spectacular. The Charles Bridge is another wonderful spot where buskers are evident and always to a high quality, be it jazz or playing wine glasses. 'We sung by the river and in the Square... it was cold (minus 13) but it was good fun. The cathedral was amazing' (Year 10). The crib with live animals was quite a draw too, not to mention the mediaeval clock with its extraordinary procession on the hour, for which the crowds number hundreds. The snow and extreme cold added much to the atmosphere.



In Jihlava we stayed at the Gustav Mahler hotel, a converted monastery, near the square and convenient for two church services on Sunday morning, singing to a combined congregation of almost 400, before our pupils were entertained by Czech families. 'Our Czech group were very welcoming... and it was sad to leave them at the end of the day' (Year 11). In the evening we all met up at the Town Hall for a concert with the Gymnazium chamber choir in the Gothic Room, to a large audience. 'In the evening we had a concert and there was a really positive vibe' (Year 10). Our final day was spent in the Gymnazium in the morning where the pupils were able to look round the school, and some of our staff were able to spend time teaching in the English department. 'Went to the school. Lovely time and met loads of new people. Sat in English, maths, physics lessons – all of them really friendly' (Lower Sixth). In the early evening we were privileged to be able to watch the local girls' formation ice skating team practise ready for their next competition; they are very successful competing at international level. 'The synchronised ice skating was amazing – evocative' (staff). In both Prague and Jihlava we were able to meet up with many Gymnazium pupils who had spent time at Blundell's and all were really pleased and proud of their connection – as indeed we are. AHB



Design Technology



Plugging away...

After really enjoying my Design and Technology GCSE course I decided to continue the subject onto A level. I started thinking about what problems I had encountered during the summer holidays that I could try and solve. One of these was when the family was outside in the garden and we were all doing different things which required power from an extension lead, run up the garden. But we were all too far apart to connect to the same extension lead, so we had to daisy chain extension leads together which was a hassle and also unsafe. So I thought why not have an extension lead that extended a power source and then extended it more, but in different directions?

Since then I have been working on many different ways to make this idea work practically and now have one that I think is almost perfect. For this, inside each of the segments is an auto-retracting reel which is connected to a waterproof socket that slots into the hole in the top of the unit. Each of the units can be bought separately (up to a recommended limit) and connected physically and electronically using a simple system of lugs and slots on the outside of the units. One of the units will have a plug that goes back to the mains power supply and another add on will be a handle which clips onto the exposed lugs, so you can carry all the reels in one easy go.

All the drawings have been done on a program called Solid Works and it's absolutely brilliant. I have been learning how to use it with much help from Mr. Bowden and can now produce these amazing renderings that look very realistic.

I am currently building a working prototype of my product, which will demonstrate the main principles of my idea and show how this product can save time and add safety to the workplace.

Oliver Pritchard-Barrett Year 12

Art

Art continues to thrive, with Special Art Status (SAS) pupils holding their own exhibitions and going on experiential trips outside the classroom. Recent trips have taken in the Barbican Photographic Show 'Everything Was Moving', the Saatchi Gallery, the bronzes at the Royal Academy and a day at Glamorgan University Art Department. Several visiting professionals have recently given workshops, such as Annie Smyth's Glass Sculpting and Simon Riley's Printmaking.

Main picture: Flora Miller Year 12

Clockwise below: Kate Sergeva Yr 11;
Ivan Leung Yr 10; Josie Vos Yr 13;
Alastair Johnson Ferguson Yr 7;
Esme Lewis-Plunkett Yr 13;
Ellie Hedley Dent Yr 13



Design Technology
Photography
Art

leading
edge

Photography



Rugby at Blundell's continues to flourish with an excellent season for all teams. Blundell's entered the U18s and U15s national Daily Mail rugby competition for the first time and both teams made very impressive debuts. More than 500 schools enter each knock-out and the U18s reached the last 32 and the U15s the last 16.

Blundell's Ru



Main picture: Alex Scott and Jack Dart watch Rory Trevelyan Thomas storm clear to score. **Left:** James Mann decides he doesn't need Harvey Scott's support. **Bottom left:** Jack Dart drops out. **Below:** Andrew Hamilton sets up Paddy Canterbury supported by Matt Handford and Ed Barlow

The U18 Cup side started their Daily Mail campaign by defeating Exmouth CC 38-8 but then faced the Academy side from Bicton College in the next round. The opposition played a physical game and attacked with big runners close to the break down. Fortunately this suited the Blundell's side, which has rarely been known to back away from tackling around the fringes. Once the ball was moved into open play the home backs, although smaller in stature, played with great pace and precision and scored several entertaining tries. A competitive game ended with a well-deserved 30-25 victory to Blundell's. That win brought Millfield's Competition side to Big Field and a decent sized crowd gathered for the big show-down. The 1st XV played some of their best all-round rugby of the year and as the game wore on their self-belief grew, resulting in a 27-18 win. Having reached the last 32 in the country, the U18 campaign came to an end in deepest Cornwall, when Truro School proved just too strong all-round, bossing the game and winning 33-22.



gby

The strength of the coaching at Blundell's and the determination of team members have produced a number of professional rugby players over the years, including recent England call-up Matt Kvesic



The 1st XV enjoyed a 50/50 win/loss season this year in their normal fixtures, recording wins against Bristol Grammar, Kingswood, King's College Taunton, Oratory School and Clifton College along the way. They were a relatively young side, well captained and lead from the front by Ed Mann, with his twin brother James always alongside him in the engine room; both boys prefer to play in the back row but selflessly stepped up to play in the front row whenever needed – thank goodness for the new Fitness Suite! Alex Scott lived on the edge as a terrier-like 7, as did the abrasive Andrew Hamilton at hooker. The other two L6 back row players Jonathan Reid and Harvey Scott showed great strength and a growing maturity, which augurs well for next year. Jack Maunder stepped up from the U16s when England weren't calling for him at scrum-half and old hands Jack Dart and Tom Woofenden showed much attacking flair in the backs. Some other L6 players showed promise, with Rory Trevelyan Thomas proving to be strong in the centre and Toby Pilkington quick and elusive at the back.

The U15s were feted as being a very promising outfit and they proved to be just that by remaining unbeaten throughout their normal season. Their Daily Mail run took them through to the last 16 where they were finally unseated by a street-wise High Wycombe 16-8. Along the way they defeated Exeter School, Park School, Richard Lander and King Edward's Southampton. In the forwards Will Scott, Charlie Luxton, Charlie Wilder and Will Thompson were always to the fore but it was in the backs that their try scoring threats largely lay. At fly-half the mercurial and enigmatic Ben Steer led everyone a merry dance, including his own team at times. Centres, Cameron Seymour and Ben Summers were always a threat showing both pace and strength, with Euan Friend and Austin White also being free-scoring in the open spaces. »



ENGLAND U16 CAP

Jack Maunder, having captained the South West, has been called up to play for the elite England U16 squad. He next plays against Italy U17s and Wales U16s, now that he has returned from his cricket tour of Antigua training with Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club Academy. Sam Wyatt-Haines was also sunning himself on that trip.

Andrew Hamilton has represented Devon at U17 and also the Independent Schools at U18. Harvey Scott, Alex Summers and Jack Webber also played for Devon U17. Other Devon representatives are Isaac Hydleman at U16, Cameron Seymour, Ben Summers and Charlie Luxton at U15.

Left: 'Now lads, if we score more than they do, we'll win'
Below: More fancy footwork from Ben Steer.

Bottom: Ben Summers powers away to score.





Top left: Alex Kilbride sets sail.
Left: Tom Kennaugh ignoring the support of Alex Kilbride and Will Klinkenberg!
Bottom right: Sam Talbot probably sells this dummy.

« The U14s enjoyed a remarkably successful season being largely untroubled until the very last game, when they went away to face a strong Monmouth side and held out heroically for a 7-5 win. They possessed too much pace, power and scoring potential in all areas of the pitch for most of their opposition. They were intelligently led by Hugh Hamilton-Green from the second row, whilst Archie Stoneman was quite exceptional as a fast, ferocious and tireless open-side. Will Klinkenberg became a formidably strong and mobile No.8 and Jack Lockwood tackled anything that moved at No.6. The tight five made tremendous progress during the season and were rarely out-scrummaged. In the backs they threatened from many positions, with Jake Atwell feisty at scrum-half, Will Vickery increasingly assured at fly-half and Tom Kennaugh strong and elusive in the centre. However, the main scoring threats came from the mightily impressive Sam Talbot and Alex Kilbride, who frequently proved too fleet of foot for opposition defenders.



Opposition	U15A	U14A
Exeter School (Cup)	Won 29-19	
Bristol Grammar	Draw 7-7	Won 50-0
Kingswood	Won 95-0	Won 50-5
St Peter's Exeter		Won 29-5
King's Taunton	Won 67-0	Won 50-0
Truro School	Won 56-0	Won 27-3
Bryanston	Won 23-7	Won 50-0
Park School (Cup)	Won 77-0	
Oratory School	Won 19-0	Won 46-18
Clifton College	Won 17-12	Won 50-14
Richard Lander (Cup)	Won 27-10	
Taunton School	Won 29-0	Won 50-0
KE Southampton (Cup)	Won 17-13	
Monmouth School	Won 32-5	Won 7-5



Will Carrick-Smith in action for Exeter
 Exeter Rugby Club/Pinnacle Photo Agency

RUGBY GREATS

Is there something in the water of Francis House? Amongst the many excellent rugby players who have passed through or still attend Blundell's, FH has had more than its fair share of outstanding sportsmen. The latest is Jack Maunder who, as previously reported, has been selected to play for the Under 16 England rugby training squad.

Jack is stepping into illustrious (rugby) boots; Will Carrick-Smith, lock forward for Exeter Chiefs is an alumni of FH (05-10) as is Matt Kvesic (04-07) who plays for Worcester (and has recently been called up to England's Six Nations training squad – see interview) and Dave Lewis (02-05) who plays for Gloucester, but will be joining Exeter Chiefs next season. In fact, there was one weekend last November when all three OBs were playing premiership rugby for their respective clubs, which is some achievement.

There are always exceptions, of course, and one of these is Richard Sharp not of FH but Westlake (56-60). In an article for The Guardian, current parent Robert Kitson writes of how in 1963 'England won the Calcutta Cup and the Five Nations after their quicksilver fly-half and captain [Sharp] scored probably the most elegant try ever seen at Twickenham' and that 'half a century ago there were few more admired sportsmen in the world.' The article includes a contemporary

newspaper report which described Sharp as lissom, beautifully balanced and having a languid grace. It also reveals that during his time at Blundell's he was head boy, captain of cricket and held the pole vault record. A real sportsman then, in true Blundellian fashion.



Dave Lewis
 playing for
 Gloucester

With thanks to Robert Kitson for allowing us to quote from his article which can be viewed online www.guardian.co.uk/sport/blog/2013/jan/30/richard-sharp-england-five-nations



Newtes A Rugby 2005 including Matt Kvesic (captain, centre front) and Will Carrick-Smith (second row, third from left)
Photograph by Ken Nicholls

Matt Kvesic *answers questions on his school days at Blundell's, about being a rugby professional and offers some advice to current pupils.*



How did playing sport at Blundell's influence your career in rugby?

It was a massive influence on my career. It was the first time I was properly coached and developed as a player. As a kid growing up, you just want to play as much as possible because that's what you enjoy, and Blundell's fixture list allowed me to do that, whilst playing quality opposition. I was able to test myself against other kids of the same age. It's where I developed my love the sport.

What are the highlights of your time at Blundell's, sporting or otherwise?

Playing Millfield School was a special occasion, and during Years 9, 10 and 11 we were very competitive and won in Year 10. I also enjoyed playing cricket and had the opportunity to go on the tour to India. That was a great trip and a good chance to go somewhere I may not pick as a holiday.

Describe your daily routine

If I'm training my day would be as follows:

I wake up around 7.30 and make my way to the club. We have breakfast at Worcester Warriors, and then I would do my individual prep, like strapping, physio or core strengthening. After that the team would do weights and units, split between backs and forwards. Lunch follows that and then we have team session in the afternoon. I will then do some top ups, like extra fitness or skills. It's quite tiring, but I can't complain. Not many people get to run around outside all day!!!

What was your reaction on being called up for the England squad?

I was really shocked. I was preparing to get ready to go away with the Saxons, and then had a call from Stuart Lancaster

[Head Coach for England Rugby] in the morning. He said I had been called up and would like me to start training the following day! It was a great surprise and I was really excited and apprehensive all at once.

What's the next step for you?

I'm just trying to keep my head down and keep working hard, playing for my Club whilst training at England Camp. Ultimately I would love to get a cap for England, but for me it's about trying to be the best player I can be. If I keep striving for that, then hopefully all the other stuff will fall into place. And to hopefully keep enjoying everything I do.

What message would you give to pupils at Blundell's who aspire to playing sport at the highest level as you do?

First thing I would say is, focus on your school work. Nothing is a guarantee and not everyone is lucky enough to get a break in professional sport. Making sure you have the qualifications is vital and you are fully prepared for any outcome. Biggest thing for me would be to listen and be open to all ideas from your coaches, fellow players and anyone with knowledge in your sport. Trying to learn and better yourself is key and you will need others to help you do that, something that Blundell's is very good at. Make sure you keep playing a variety of sports; you can learn a lot for other sports. And above all, make sure you enjoy it

Have you any role models that inspired or anecdotes from your old school coaches you can remember?

I wouldn't say I had a role model; there were many players I admired. I would try to pick out their best attributes and practise them myself.

Welcome



Thankfully it looks like the elements have calmed down after the flooding and snow that have besieged us recently. The pupils at Blundell's have enjoyed the snow with some very entertaining snow animals appearing around the campus.



The new Head is settling in very well, and despite being thrown an ISI inspection during her fourth week at the helm, she remained calm and inspired her team towards securing a very successful visit. It is hard to believe she has only been here for three months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for supporting the Development Office initiatives during the last year, attending events, providing much valued guidance for our pupils wishing to pursue various careers, sponsoring a number of our activities and of course donating to the Annual Fund and other fundraising initiatives taking place throughout the year. It is very much appreciated and really does make a huge difference to the School and its pupils, enriching their daily lives. A summary of the Annual Fund is enclosed with this edition of the Diary in case you haven't decided which project you would like to support. I really do urge you to participate to help us reach our goal of 2,012 supporters to the fund.



We are thrilled to be working in partnership with the Old Blundellian Club this summer to assist with the organisation of the traditional OB Day where we will be incorporating a special Gaudy focus on the 1950-1970 era. There are more details on page 33

Once again, thank you for your support as ever. Please do contact Emily or me if you would like any information about any element of the Development Office activities.

Amber Oliver

Amber Oliver

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Annual Fund

Your Participation is Blundell's future

The broad engagement of supporters who come together from different areas of Blundell's life, including Old Blundellians, staff, parents and former parents, enables us to enrich life at the School through the Annual Fund.

With this initiative, it is the number of individuals who get involved, rather than the size of donations, which is important. Last year, 50 new donors were kind enough to support our first Annual Fund. With nearly 8,000 individuals on our database, there is potential for this year's Annual Fund to grow even more and have an impact on other corners of Blundell's and to particularly embrace our goal of building on the 2012 Olympic legacy by securing 2,012 donors giving to this fund.

This year we have focused our projects on the House system after consultation with the individual pupils in the different Houses.

Please do support us if you feel you can, it is hugely appreciated and very much valued by the pupils educated at Blundell's.



Christmas with School House pupils



Blundell's at the Country Shows

Devon County Show 16th-18th May; Royal Cornwall Show 6th- 8th June; Mid-Devon Show 27th July; Honiton Show 1st August.

If you are visiting any of these shows, please pop by to visit the Blundell's tent at any time during the day. Refreshments will be available and we would love to see you. We will be hosting a cheese and wine reception at the Devon show on Thursday 16th 6.00pm to 7.00pm; Cornwall show on Thursday 6th June 5.30pm to 6.30pm and at lunchtime at the Mid-Devon Show.

Blundell's Prep School is delighted to be running the crèche at the Mid-Devon Show this year. We will be welcoming children aged three to seven years who will be able to take part in an array of fun activities under the care of our experienced and friendly Pre-Prep staff.



GOLF DAY

**Blundell's Charity Golf Day,
Dainton Golf Course
30th August 2013**

Please 'Save the Date' for our annual Blundell's Charity Golf Day which will be held at Dainton Park Golf Course again this year. We all had a superb day at last year's event and we are looking forward to it again. The format will be similar to last year with a bacon bap lunch during registration followed by a shot gun tee off time and ending with an evening meal and raffle. Please mark this date in your diary and start gathering a team.

WESTERN FRONT PILGRIMAGE

**Proposed Old Blundellian Club pilgrimage to the Western Front
April 24th to 28th 2014**

Some 200 OBs lost their lives and countless more were wounded in the First World War. With the centenary of the start of the war just a year away, it is proposed to investigate what interest there may be for a pilgrimage to Ypres, the Artois and Somme regions ahead of the expected deluge of visitors from across the world.



The trip would be led and coordinated by Tim Courtenay (OH 54-59) who operates as an individual battlefield guide under his logo 'Battlefields of Remembrance'. Tim, a career Royal Marine, has been taking visitors to European battlefields for over ten years and has some 3,000 clients to his credit. The initial draft programme is available to view on the Development Office website (under forthcoming events).

In order that preferential accommodation can be secured, please give an early indication to a.oliver@blundells.org if you are interested in coming on the tour. Tim is happy to provide additional information to any interested parties on tkcourtenay@talktalk.net



HOUSE OF COMMONS

**London Tour, House of Commons
11th October 2013**

Curious to see what happens behind closed doors at the House of Commons? Join us for a private tour followed by a buffet lunch by very kind invitation of Neil Parish, MP for Tiverton and Honiton. Invitations will be going out to those in the London area but if you live in another part of the country but would like to attend please email the Development Office.

GARDEN TOUR

**Garden Tour
and Lunch
Reception at
Greenway
House and
Garden
14th May 2013**



Join us for an opportunity to tour the cherished holiday home of the famous author Agatha Christie. The house contains many of the family's collections including archaeological finds, Tunbridgeware, silver, botanical china and books. We will be inviting supporters from the South Devon area but if you would like to join us please email the Development Office as places are limited. The day will commence with a private tour of the house and gardens followed by lunch and a chance to meet the Head Nicola Huggett.

1604 SOCIETY

**1604 Society Lunch,
Blundell House 14th June 2013**

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' will be hosted by Nicola Huggett in Blundell House. If you would like to know more about the 1604 Society please don't hesitate to contact Amber Oliver. Many thanks to our 1604 Society members for all their support.



Healthcare professional, Sarah Ansell GP (current parent) offers advice to pupils seeking a career in Medicine.

Events



Colin Beale Centenary Lunch

Colin Beale was born on 1st December 1912. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth, his widow Sue Beale organised a lunch for members of the Beale family and friends in the Colin Beale Centre on 1st December 2012.

Colin sadly passed away in November 1998 after a distinguished career in the Royal Navy, returning to his alma mater in 1953 as Bursar and Clerk to the Governors for the next 20 years. He then continued working in a post which later became called Registrar, was Chairman of the Peter Blundell Society and Chairman of the Old Blundellian Club. The Colin Beale Centre, on the edge of Big Field, was completed in 2002.

A good turnout for lunch enjoyed the occasion together with excellent food and wine. Beales through the ages and friends mulled over old times well into the afternoon as Colin would have wished.



Medical Reception and Lunch

More than one hundred professionals gathered together at a medical related reception in October which gave OBs, parents and former staff members the opportunity to meet old friends and colleagues. Current pupils interested in pursuing a medical career gave our guests a tour of the School, including the Science buildings, where they were delighted to see chemistry teacher Andy Mead conducting various experiments. The pupils were very grateful for all the advice gleaned from the day.

We were delighted to welcome special guest John Shepherd (FH 61-66) and his daughter Emily to speak about their experiences within the medical profession. Archivist Mike Sampson produced a wonderful exhibition of medical related materials from Old Blundellians. Our most sincere thanks go to Tim Forster (NC 71-76) from Medical & Financial Ltd for sponsorship of the event.

Following on from the success of the day, a healthcare career advice evening took place on 11th March, when our pupils got a chance to talk more on a one-to-one basis with 11 different healthcare professionals. See page 32.



RECITAL AND CONCERTO CONCERT



Old Blundellian Graham Caskie (M 80-85) came back to Blundell's to perform a superb piano concert. He played the Debussy Preludes Book One and the Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1 to a very appreciative audience in Big School. His music was full of atmosphere and melody. The School orchestra conducted by current Musical Director Andrew Barlow joined him for the second half of the performance and they played in harmony together almost as if they had been on tour for the past year.

BLUNDELL'S SYDNEY RECEPTION



Ali Deighton-Gibson (Biology Master 1981-current) and his wife, Penny (Librarian 1998-current) met with Old Blundellians Jack Hunt (P 2000-07), Guy Capper (SH 74-79), Sam Calder (SH 71-72) and David Airey (W 71-75) in Sydney, Australia. They enjoyed a few drinks by the Sydney Opera House. Ali and Penny would like to thank the OBs in Australia for their very 'warm' welcome. For more on OBs in Australia, see the report by the Wooffs on page 36.

Overseas OBs that are visiting the UK are encouraged to get in touch with Blundell's School as we would love to show you around your old School and invite you to relive your dining hall experiences.



WESTLAKE QUIZ

As has now become traditional, members of Westlake were entertained in the Colin Beale Centre by the Old Blundellian Club for a Quiz Night. It is appropriate that, as the next generation of Old Blundellians, the U6 became familiar with the OB headquarters.

Westlake tutors set up all sorts of sophisticated visual aids for the different quiz rounds, food and drink was dispensed at regular intervals and Peter Klinkenberg, Housemaster of Westlake, introduced CBC staff and talked about the benefits of club membership for leavers.



The Hare and Hounds team after crossing the finish line

HARE AND HOUNDS ALUMNI RACE

The Annual Hare and Hounds Alumni Race took place in December on Wimbledon Common in Southwest London. This year's team included Alistair Knight (NC 70-74), Giles Stimson (NC 60-65), Anthony Jacques (SH 62-66), Justin Reynolds (SH 86-91), Will Holland (P 86-91) and Mark Norton (P 78-83). This was no run for the faint hearted. The run up the field from the Lowman after going down from Gornhay may have been deep sometimes, and cold on many occasions, but the constant slippery mud as the OBs went up and down and left and right, picking over roots and ducking beneath the branches presented a special challenge on the race course. Who would have thought this of Wimbledon Common? The race times ranged from 40 to 50 minutes which for the conditions was very creditable. This year's race is on 14th December.

Captain Giles Stimson in the final leg of the race



Events

Governor and OB James Bullock (P 81-86) talks with Deputy Head Bart Wielenga and wife Lara along with OB Sarah Durant (GH 96-03) and husband Max

London Dinner at the House of Lords



We were very fortunate to be able to have our annual London Dinner at the House of Lords on 20th November by kind permission of Baroness Wilcox, mother of OB Simon Davenport QC (P 76-82). We are very grateful to her for enabling us to experience this wonderful venue. We dined in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace and were delighted by the wonderful sights of London, such as the London Eye, on view throughout the meal.

Below: Emily Roffe-Silvester and Amber Oliver get ready to greet 100 Old Blundellians in the Cholmondeley Room at the House of Lords.

Above: Nicola Huggett talks to Ben Wrey (W 53-58) about his time at Blundell's. Chairman of Governors Cedric Clapp (P 60-65) presents Baroness Wilcox with flowers as a thanks for hosting the event.



After dinner, Cedric Clapp (P 60-65), Chairman of Governors, spoke about Blundell's, mentioning both the success in the classroom and on the sports fields. He was followed by the new Head, Nicola Huggett, with her first official speech on behalf of Blundell's!

Everyone enjoyed seeing old classmates and making new friends and a number of guests indicated they would like to come to the next dinner, which will be held at The Oxford and Cambridge Club on 8th November.



Above: Nicola Huggett talks a little about her plans for Blundell's and ends with a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt 'A woman is like a tea bag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water.'





Winter Lunches

For many years Winter Lunches for Old Blundellians and friends have taken place on the second Wednesday of every month from October to March in the Colin Beale Centre. Pre lunch drinks begin at 12.30 followed by a three course meal. Master of Ceremonies Mike Daniels then introduces the after lunch speaker. He/she is usually an Old Blundellian and topics covered are wide ranging including travels to exotic parts of the world, history of local railways and Blundell's based anecdotes.

We were privileged to have Blundell's new Head, Nicola Huggett, speak at the February lunch about her vision for Blundell's. Old Blundellians were very keen to meet Blundell's first female Head and to hear what she had to say. A full house of 48 sat down for lunch with several more on the waiting list to attend. Nicola gave an erudite and impressive address which can be heard by clicking on the link on the OBC website.

If you would like to speak at a Winter Lunch or just attend, please contact Janet or Paddy at the CBC.



OB committee member Mike Daniels (P 45-50), welcomes Nicola to her first Winter Lunch

This was by far the most popular Winter Lunch to date with many on the waiting list to attend, a first for our Winter lunches!



Twaddlers

A group of Old Blundellians, now 36 in number, has eschewed Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn to set up its own social networking group. This followed a successful 50th anniversary dinner for the 1962 cricket XI and the sad occasion of Christopher Palmer's funeral. Masterminded and led by Peter Price, Twaddlers are clogging up one another's mailboxes at an alarming rate.

The first 'Twaddle' appears to have been sent on 11 Jan 2013 entitled 'Tiny details in the Great Scheme of Things'. Since then several hundred Twaddles have been written and new Twaddlers with knowledge and experience of Blundell's in the 50s and 60s are invited to join. Bylines have included:

'Whatever happened to Christopher Palmer's Blundell's boater?'

'The Russell Run'

'France 6-Wales 16'

'Ancient Ramblings'

'L'Humeur Rome 2013'

'The Major's Medals'

'Hippo Gibb's Blundell's Scrap Book'

'Mike's phantom try and his Commander 'Big Wilf''

Please visit the official School Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn sites and connect with OBs and share a memory from your time at Blundell's #blundellsmemories

The Old Blundellian Committee

The Old Blundellian Committee meets four times a year in the Colin Beale Centre with an agenda covering any items members wish to raise and with the Head in attendance. Lunch and further discussion follows. We are delighted to have attracted some younger OBs on to the committee and hope that more can be persuaded to join.

Any member of the Club can propose agenda items and contact details of committee members are available on the OBC website.



Over 25 pupils interested in pursuing a career in healthcare gathered to hear about a number of different professions including physiotherapy, veterinary medicine, the ambulance service, dietetics, nursing and medicine. The mentors gave an overall picture of their careers, weighing up the pros and cons and touching on the skills and qualities needed to pursue a particular path. Our pupils now have a much clearer idea of what it takes to become a healthcare professional but mentor James Chaffe (FH 01-06) summed things up with his comment: 'Hard work, determination and team work is needed to pursue any career in healthcare and don't forget to pay attention in Chemistry lessons!'

Due to the popularity of this event, we are hoping to offer similar career evenings in an array of different industries. If you can offer advice to our current or recent leavers please register your interest with the Development Office. Our next Careers evening (Monday 10th March 2014) will focus on property and agriculture and will follow on from our Property and Agriculture Reception Lunch taking place on 19th October.

Above: Current parents, Mr and Mrs Unsworth-White talk to Ed Nash about pursuing a career as a medic.

Below: Veterinarian & current parent Martyn Whitehead (M 77-83) gives an inside picture on life as a Vet.

ERC Five Year Anniversary lunch

To mark the fifth anniversary of Ted Crowe's death, the OB Club and Peter Blundell Society hosted a lunch specifically for supporters of the ER Crowe Memorial Fund which was founded in the spring of 2008. Many of Ted's old friends, pupils and colleagues gathered to remember Ted.

Chairman of the Peter Blundell Society, Chad Murrin (FH 69-73) spoke about Ted and how his exuberant personality and legacy has lived on at Blundell's. Nicola Huggett gave an insight into some of the pupils at Blundell's who have benefited from the ER Crowe Memorial fund. We hope many more pupils will benefit from the ERC fund in the future; if you would like to contribute or find out more, please contact Amber Oliver for the latest information.

Top right: Jonathan Webber (NC 71-76), Sylvia Stagg, John Stagg (M 39-43) Roy Webber (NC 42-45) & John Gunn (M 44-49) (left to right)

Right: Old friends, Nick Geach (M 51-55) & Ben Chilcott (W 51-55) talk about Ted



RUSSELL RUN & BLACK TIE DINNER

This year's Russell Run saw more than 35 Veteran competitors, the biggest turn out to date. The excessive mud and hilly terrain made the run very tough this year but we are pleased to announce the following winners: Under 40 Robert Backus (OH 86-91); 40-60 John Glaisher (current parent); Over 60 Ian Maple (M 60-64); Ladies Winner Georgina Geikie (supporter)

After the race we were pleased to host the first Russell Run dinner and welcome our guest speaker Dr Christopher Twigge-Molecey (P 60-65) who flew over from Toronto to attend this event. Chris is one of a handful of Blundellians to have won the Russell four times, once as a Junior, once as an Intermediate and twice as a Senior. More than 130 guests attended the black tie dinner followed by an auction, the proceeds of which will fund projects at Blundell's with a particular emphasis on 'hardship' cases.

We are very grateful to those from the Blundellian Community who offered prizes for the auction and would particularly like to thank Andrew Pool (W 57-60), William May Somerville (current parent), Mr and Mrs Blackmore (current parents), Robert Kitson (current parent), The Old Blundellian Cricket Club, Peter Price (W 58-63), Scott Robinson (NC 91-94) and Phil Attwell (current parent) for their support and all the guests who very kindly bid on the auction lots.



Above: Simon Lockyer (SH 86-91) and Nicola Huggett at the Russell Dinner

Below left: The veteran Russell Team

Below: Jonathan Robinson (W 60-64) and his son Scott Robinson (NC 91-94) talk to guest speaker Christopher Twigge-Molecey (P 60-65) about their time at School





Old Blundellian Day

Old Blundellian Day will take place on Saturday 15th June 2013. As usual we will be delighted to welcome all OBs; however, for the first time we are working with the Development Office and incorporating a Gaudy for those who were at Blundell's between 1950 and 1970. In addition to lunch we will be offering evening refreshments in the Beale Centre.

We are delighted that Robert Fox (OH 59-63) has agreed to be President for the Day. The Rev David Hamer (Chaplain 73-2001) will preach and the lesson will be read by Robert Beale (M 59-64). Tickets for the day are available from the OB Club (Mon, Wed, Thurs 9-1pm) admin@obclub.co.uk or from Emily Roffe-Silvester in the Development Office; telephone 01884 243262 or devoffice@blundells.org

Invitations to those at Blundell's between 1950 and 1970 will be sent shortly.

If you have any items of memorabilia for the exhibition being prepared by the Archivist, these can be sent to Mike Sampson or emailed to mjs@blundells.org

PROGRAMME

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 Clifton 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	Evening Reception in the Beale Centre

An Old Blundellian golf day has been organised at Tiverton Golf Club on Sunday 16th June.



Robert Fox (OH 59-63)

Robert Fox has been a professional reporter, commentator, author and broadcaster for over 40 years. He has reported from the front in the Falklands conflict of 1982, the Middle East, including Iraq and the Palestinian territories, Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan. He has specialised in military and defence matters, security and foreign policy, terrorism and organised crime for nearly 20 years.

After leaving Oxford with an honours degree in history in 1967, he worked as a staff reporter and correspondent for the BBC and Daily Telegraph in London. He is currently defence correspondent for the Evening Standard and contributor to the Independent on Sunday, the Tablet, the New Statesman and Il Sole 24 Ore of Milan. He broadcasts frequently for the BBC, Sky and Radio 24 in Italy.

His books include Eyewitness Falklands (1982), a personal account of the Falklands Campaign; Antarctica and the South Atlantic (1985); The Inner Sea - the Mediterranean and Its People (1993); and Camera in Conflict, an anthology of war photography (1995). He is currently working on War and Truth, a study of reporting and history and a four part anthology of eyewitness reportage Eyewitness to History.

Old Blundellian

Weddings

Since girls joined Blundell's in 1993 there have been romances and weddings amongst Old Blundellians. Many of the weddings have taken place right back where the romance started, at School. With Valentine's Day just behind us we take a look at a few of the weddings that took place between these 'School Sweethearts'.



Andy Chambers and Robyn Stephenson

Robyn (gap student 2003 and teacher 2009-10) and Andy (W 1993-1998 and teacher 2003-2004) got married in South Africa on 16th April 2011 in typical Dartmoor wintery conditions of horizontal rain and 10C (the first rain they had seen for 18 months!)

We also had a blessing on 4th June 2011 in South Devon, in typical South African summer conditions (30C and sunshine) attended by many OB's including Tim Chambers (W 95-00), Jon Day (P 93, W 94-98), Tim Way (W 93-98), James Coleman (P 93-98), Luke Banks (W 95-99), Lucinda Rumbold (NC 95-98), Julie Gordon (NC 03-10) and several Blundell's teachers.

Brian Fitzherbert and Clio Hynes

Brian Fitzherbert (P 95-00) married Clio Hynes (GH 98-00) at Blundell's Chapel in 2007. Tom Fursdon (P 95-00) attended as best man, Jaye Cowle (nee Hynes GH 94-96) as Matron-of-Honour, and ushers included Tom Cowle (W 91-96), Ed (P 85-90) and Harry Fitzherbert (P 83-88). Brian and Clio met at Blundell's aged 16. Weekends at university were divided between Cambridge and York until they moved to London together to start their careers. Brian trained as a barrister, while Clio worked in magazine and website publishing. Last year, they returned to Devon where they now live with their baby boy, Tom.

Angela Gordon and Tom Clarke

Angela Gordon (NC 96-00) married Tom Clarke in Blundell's Chapel last April. They were married by Angela's old Housemaster, the Rev David Hamer. Angela's parents are Peter and Jenny Gordon, Houseparents of Westlake (97-10) and Peter is Head of Mathematics at Blundell's and Jenny, the Librarian. In attendance, amongst others, were the bride's sister, Julie Gordon (NC 05-10), and brother Barry (W 99-04).

Angela and Tom are officers in the British Army, both Captains, and both currently serving on their second tours of duty in Afghanistan.



Tom Cowle and Jaye Hynes

Tom and Jaye Cowle met at Blundell's almost 20 years ago and have been together ever since, marrying in 2005 in North Devon with Jaye's sister, Clio Fitzherbert as bridesmaid. Following their time at university, Tom and Jaye moved to London to pursue their careers with Tom achieving his ambition as a cricket journalist and Jaye travelling the Caribbean in her role as Head of Sales and Marketing at Caribtours. After the arrival of their first son Owain in 2008 and then Toby just 18 months later in 2010, Tom and Jaye moved back to the West Country and have settled near the coast in Cornwall. Jaye has gone on to set up her own company, Major Marketing, specialising in Search Engine Marketing and Tom has just been appointed Account Director at DCA PR.

Sebastian Prowse and Hannah Willmer

Sebastian Prowse (NC/P 92-97) and Hannah Willmer (GH 95-00) met on OB day at the School's 400 year anniversary celebrations. Their first 'date' was a tour of Old Blundell's, given by the unlikely cupid figure of Charles Noon. They were married by Reverend Hamer in the school chapel in 2009 – with too many OBs in attendance to list! Currently living in Richmond, Surrey, with their two children Clementine aged two; godfathers Rupert Barker (W 95-00) and John Banbury (W 92-97) and Elizabeth aged seven months; godparents Iain Franklin (W 92-97), Philippa Sexton (GH 97-00) and Gabrielle Cadbury (GH 95-00).



Mark Wooff and Janet Frankpitt

Mark Wooff and Janet Frankpitt were married in the school chapel on the 11th July 1987 having met at an informal school reunion held at the Hartnoll Hotel in Tiverton in 1984. Having built their first home in Tiverton, they now live in a converted farmhouse at Gaddon about a mile from Uffculme. They have three children: Katy (23) who graduated with a degree in Architecture, Ben (20) who is serving in the RAF and Sebastian (17) who is in his final year at Blundell's. Mark continues to work in construction but can be found in his spare time tending his vegetable patch and Janet is now the Old Blundellian Administrator and also works in catering as she has a passion for all things culinary!

Christian Brook and Alex Brownlow

Although Alex and Christian were at School together and had mutual friends they can't remember ever speaking to one another. It wasn't until 21 years after Alex and Christian left Blundell's that they met (at the wedding of two other Old Blundellians!) Christian says 'I was almost down on one knee within 24 hours!'

The Blundell's tradition continued with our marriage in October 2007, where Tony Austin (OH 78-83) was my best man (I returned the favour to him three years later!) and six other OBs were in attendance, including my brother, Guy Brook (W 73-78), Alex's brother, Charles Brownlow (OH 84-87), who gave her away and Jessica Lampard (GH 81-83).

We're now devoting our time to four children: Daniel (15) and James (12) – and the two children we've had together, Felicity (6) and Hugo (3). James is now in Year 8 in School House!



Mike Coe and Juliet Tricks

Mike Coe (OH 79-84) and Juliet (GH 82-84) were married in June 1990 by Rev David Hamer and with many OBs in attendance.

They now live in Somerset with their four teenagers. Mike works in Bristol in corporate finance and Juliet, who has worked as a full time mum, researcher and conference producer, is now working on her first novel; juggling family and work is a harder task than her former role as the first female head of school at an English public school! Mike (Captain of 1st XI at Blundell's) continues to play cricket both at club level and occasionally for the OBs and is actively involved in coaching locally and within the county.

For more information on family events, including births and deaths, please see the OB website.



FACILITY HIRE

Getting married soon? The Chapel and Colin Beale Centre are available for use to members of the Blundellian Community*. The Beale Centre is also a perfect location for meeting and social events. Catering and bar facilities can be provided.

*Special Conditions Apply

The global OB family

By Janet Wooff (GH 80-82)

Five decades of OBs: Janet Wooff, Mark Wooff, Nigel Seidelin, Tim Butcher and David Armstrong

Although I had taken a gap year after leaving Blundell's in 1982, my husband Mark had not, something he decided needed rectifying! We headed for the skies in autumn 2012 and our itinerary included Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Bali. In my role as OB Club Administrator, this trip was a good opportunity to meet up with some expat and resident OBs.



Andrew Harris (SH 71-75)

Our first stop was the 24/7 city of Singapore, where we met up with Andrew Harris (SH 71-75), who works in the re-insurance business. He treated us to lunch at the famous Tanglin Club, where he shared memories of his time in SH and provided us with tips for things to do and see in Singapore.

Next on our itinerary was Queensland, where we met Michael Roach (NC 51-54), who was a most charming host and provided us with the opportunity of tasting a fantastic goat curry! After leaving Blundell's, Michael had no plans for the future and so his father gave him a £10 ticket to travel to Australia. He regaled us with memories of his time racing cars in the fifties and then flying solo across vast stretches of Australia during his early flying career, relying purely on instruments for navigation.

Dinner with Michael Roach in Brisbane



Having flown to Adelaide, we met up with Ross Hill-Brown (W 69-74) in the famous Adelaide Market food hall for a quick Asian supper. We later picked up a campervan and drove along the Great Ocean Road to Melbourne, where we stayed with Julian Henson (M 75-80), his wife Mia and two children and had a very memorable night in an Italian restaurant with them and

Eric Jal (SH 75-80) and his wife Freni, when the men realised they had all played in the SH v Milestone House rugby final of 1979.

Flying across the Tasman Sea to Tasmania we met Chris Bishop (FH 56-61) and his wife Janette who kindly offered us the use of one of their Eco lodges in a stunning location by the sea. Chris, a retired GP, now fills his time looking after the holiday business as well as farming his wonderful Maine Anjou cattle. Driving south to Hobart we knew we were in for a good time with the next OB, Greg Sawyer (W 70-75) an avid rugby fan, as he had offered to 'pour copious quantities of Aussie red down our throats'!

Suitably sated we flew up to Sydney to stay with someone we had not seen since our wedding, Martin Heale (M 78-82), his wife Sarah and family. Martin has since started working for a private property investment company.

Martin Heale opening his memorabilia from the Blundell's Archivist





Treated to lunch at the Blue Mountains International Hotel by Guy Bentley

We spent an inspiring few hours at the Leura, Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School, as guests of the present CEO, Guy Bentley (FH 72-76). Guy left for Australia as a young man and worked his way up the hospitality industry to become the impressive business man he is today. He claims his success and ability to speak in public is down to Nick Swarbrick and the assistance he gave him during his time at Blundell's.

Having experienced some of the iconic sights of Sydney we headed to New Zealand. In North Island we stayed with OB David Armstrong (FH 47-52) and his wife Jen and had an unforgettable sail on David's yacht in Auckland harbour. It transpired that David and Mark had both been locks in the 1st XV and both had been captain of rugby, one in 1951 and the other 1981! A gathering of OBs from five decades was arranged including David, Tim Butcher (P 60-64), Nigel Seidelin (W 69-73) and ourselves from the 80s.

Our trip was a once in a lifetime experience with so many memories to cherish but the highlights will include the wonderful times spent with all the OBs we met and their fantastic hospitality. The OB family is a truly global one and we both look forward to extending our own hospitality to any OBs travelling to our small part of glorious Devon.

View from Chris Bishop's Eco Lodge Stanley 2012



The OB website has a wealth of information about OBs; see 'Where Are They Now?' page

Recent books by Old Blundellians

Mike Sampson, School Archivist



A PACIFIST AT WAR: MILITARY MEMOIRS OF A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR IN PALESTINE 1917-18

ed. by Philip McNair (DB 37-41)

This is the story of Donald McNair, a member of the Exclusive Brethren, who objected to being conscripted into a secular organisation against his will and his firmly-held principles. Nevertheless, he was made to join the Army, yet he took some delight in certain aspects of the War. There are detailed observations of the rail journey from England, through France and Italy, and of his time in Gaza and Egypt. The author portrays the futility of war; constant relocation for no apparent reason, and, when under fire, he writes 'this front line dodge is getting wearying'. The book is very well written with a marvellous use of vocabulary and is a fine antidote to the usual tales of derring-do.



BUSH DOCTOR: THE MEMOIRS OF DR FELIX P. BARTLETT

ed. By Jane Caiger-Smith and Dr Michael C. Bartlett (OH 48-53)

Dr. Felix Bartlett was an inspirational figure, a medical doctor in the 19th century when knowledge of infections and other conditions was still rather scarce. The book traces his life, beginning with a lively representation of his early days in Brixham and his schooling in Boulogne. There were odd experiences on starting as a doctor, coloured by serendipitous encounters and events. He moved to Australia and began to practice in Cowra, New South Wales, then a 'Wild West' community in the midst of a gold rush. Bartlett was forced to fight off successive epidemics, relying on very little equipment but huge amounts of hope and innovation, and he became a great success in his profession. The editors have put together a wonderful book chronicling life in the pioneering days of Australia, full of incident and humour.



UNITED KINGDOM by James O. Jenkins (OH 89-94)

This book is described as a photographic study of British customs, and features an eclectic assortment of the nation's (often odd and bizarre) customs and celebrations, of both ancient and modern origins. The volume is profusely illustrated with excellent portraits of participants of various events, and is intentionally not an exhaustive survey of all British customs, but a selection which has grabbed the photographer's eye. It serves not only as an entertaining contemporary glimpse into some of the country's eccentricities, but also as a record of practices, many of which are dying out. **James Jenkins will be at the Beale Centre for a cheese and wine charity book signing at 6.00pm on Friday 3rd May in aid of North Devon Hospice. £5 per guest. Contact Development Office.**



FOOTSTEPS THROUGH THE SALAD by Tim Wrey (W 50-55)

This wonderful book is dedicated by the author 'with lifelong gratitude to the man who taught me zoology, Joe Panther, the most exciting and inspiring teacher I have ever known.' Although it features profiles of the wildlife and natural phenomena of Auroville, an experimental community in southern India, it is by no means a dour catalogue of species and taxonomic details. It is a book written by a professed layman for other laymen, with a lot of humour and facts, not just relating to southern India. The substantial work is wonderfully illustrated with line drawings and coloured studies of the wildlife described.



MAKE HI TALK, ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN AND SOME OTHER PLACES by David Godfrey (FH 41-44)

This is a collection of anecdotes based on real events, designated by the author as 'true fiction', taken from his career in various police forces and security organisations. But James Bond it is not. The farcical side of upholding the law always comes to the fore, especially in the laid-back setting of the Caribbean. The book says much for the type of people employed in the police and security world. David has a unique use of the English language, which is augmented by knowledgeable rendering of Jamaican patois.

FUTURE EVENTS 2013-14

MAY 2013

- 3rd 'United Kingdom' Book Signing by James Jenkins (OH 89-94)** in aid of North Devon Hospice. £5 entrance. Beale Centre 6.00pm to 8.00pm.
Contact: Development Office
- 14th Garden Tour and Lunch Reception**
Greenway House and Gardens. *Places strictly limited*
Contact: Development Office
- 16th-18th Devon County Show** Cheese and wine reception on the 16th from 6pm to 7pm.
Contact: Development Office

JUNE 2013

- 6th The Light Bar, London Casual Drinks Reception**
6.00 – 8.00 pm.
Contact: Development Office
- 6th-8th Royal Cornwall Show** Cheese and wine reception on the 6th from 6pm to 7pm.
Contact: Development Office
- 14th 1604 Society Lunch** Blundell House
Contact: Development Office
- 15th Old Blundellian Day featuring 1950-1970**
Reunion for Old Blundellians and Former Masters.
Contact: OB Club or Development Office
- 16th Old Blundellian Golf Day** Tiverton Golf Club
Contact: Development Office

JULY 2013

- 2nd 'The Dead, The Dying & The Damned' by John Hollands (OH 46-51)** An Afternoon Tea and Talk on the Korean War, Beale Centre 2.30pm to 4.30pm.
Contact: Development Office
- 27th Mid-Devon Show**
Contact: Development Office
- tbc Cricket Reception**
Ted Crowe Room at Somerset Cricket Club.
Contact: Development Office

AUGUST 2013

- 1st Honiton Show**
Contact: Development Office
- 24th-26th Old Blundellians & Family Camping Trip**
Blundell's School. *Contact: OB Club*
- 30th Blundell's Charity Golf Day**
Dainton Golf Course, Devon.
Contact: OB Club or Development Office

OCTOBER 2013

- 9th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre**
Contact: OB Club
- 11th London Tour** – House of Commons.
Contact: Development Office
- 19th Property and Agriculture Reception Lunch**
Big School. *Contact: Development Office*

NOVEMBER 2013

- 8th London Dinner** Oxford and Cambridge Club.
Contact: Development Office
- 13th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre**
Contact: OB Club

DECEMBER 2013

- 11th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre**
Contact: OB Club
- 14th Hare and Hounds Alumni Run**
Wimbledon Common.
Contact: Development Office

JANUARY 2014

- 11th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre**
Contact: OB Club

FEBRUARY 2014

- 12th Winter Lunch at the Beale Centre**
Contact: OB Club

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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Old Blundellian Club

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