

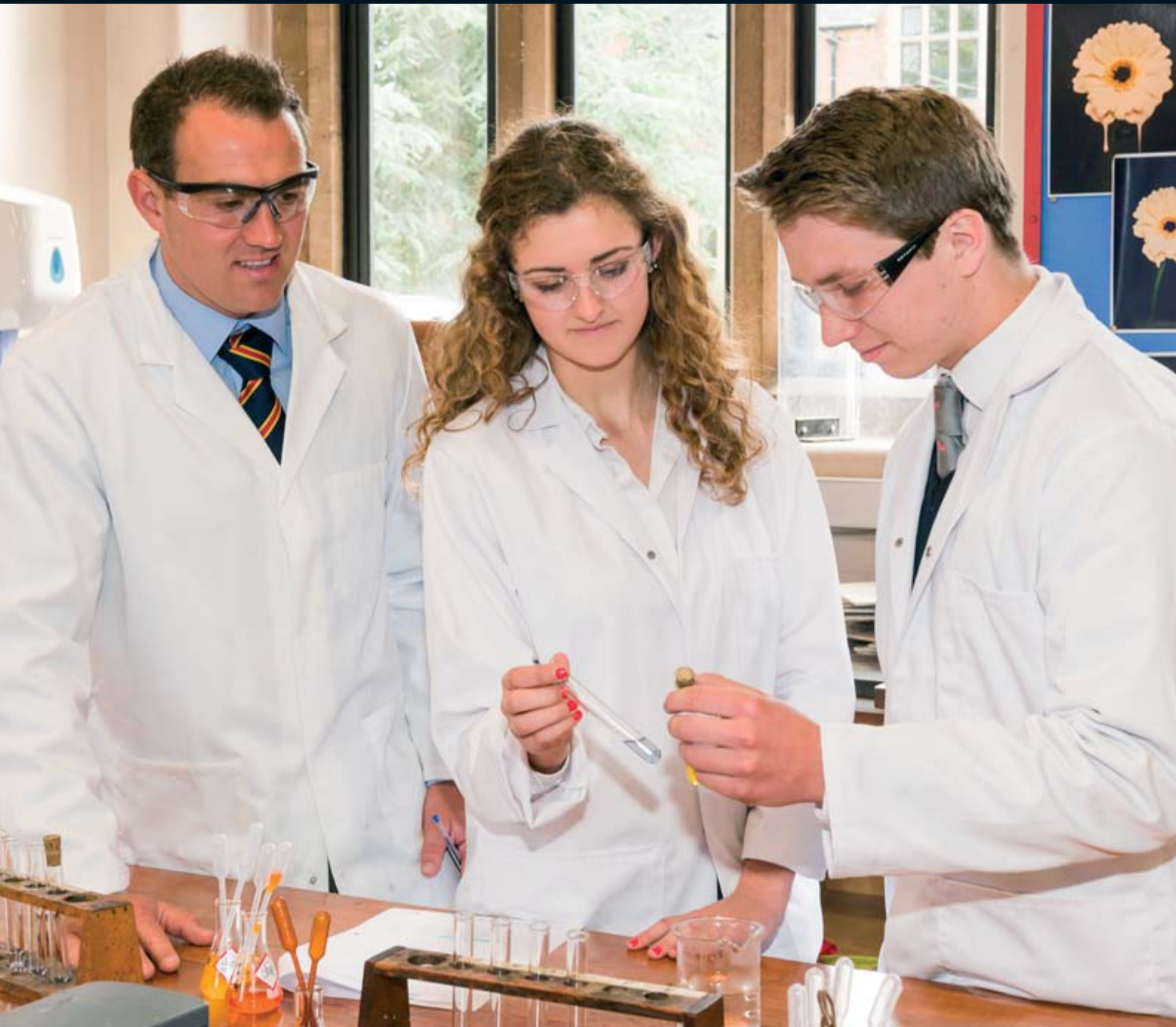


Blundell's

DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

ISSUE No: 19



Studying STEM



Some of the 2016/17 Monitors relaxing after two days of team building just before the start of the autumn term

The Monitors

The post of Monitor has existed at Blundell's since the earliest times, originally being concerned with keeping an eye on the discipline of younger boys and performing simple tasks around the School. Over time various privileges accrued to the Monitors, for instance they were permitted to cane younger boys and were able to appoint the Editor of the Blundellian. Their position within the School was put on a more firm footing in 1904 by the School Chaplain, Rev. C.G. Lowe, who preached a sermon on 'The New Monitorial System', in which he hoped the Monitors would 'find in duty, and not privilege, their truest service to the School.' He provided funds to give every Monitor a medal, which distinguished them from non-monitors, as did their distinctive green skull cap.

However, despite Lowe's reservations, the privileges increased: they were given their own room (now occupied by the Deputy Head Academic), they, and only they, were allowed to ride bicycles, and to walk around with their hands in their pockets, and during World War II each Monitor, and each Housemaster, was issued with a Lee Enfield rifle and ten rounds of live ammunition – in case of invasion! The more contentious 'privileges' which were open to abuse, such as being able to cane other boys and having the services of as many as three fags each, were curtailed in the 1960s. Nowadays, in more enlightened times, a Monitor's responsibilities are mainly concerned with acting as a role model for his or her peers and the younger pupils.

Mr M Sampson, School Archivist

The 2016/17 Monitors are Hugh Hamilton-Green, Imogen Sanders-Dutton (Heads of School), Caspar Montgomery, Annabel Cox (Deputy Heads of School), Hannah Carthew, Bertie Frankpitt, Francis Huntingford, Hannah Le Gassick, Jack Lockwood, Rosalie Sanders, Archie Stoneman and Bethan Wesley



Blundell's is a key West Country independent school which supports and guides young people to achieve their very best in whatever sphere they choose. Founded in 1604, this day and boarding school for boys and girls aged 11 to 18 is a vital community with a rich history and a great appreciation of the need to move with the times.

Blundell's School
Tiverton
Devon EX16 4DN
Tel: 01884 252543
E-mail: info@blundells.org
www.blundells.org



Head's Introduction

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." (George Bernard Shaw).

I am always fascinated by the way in which Science and its related technological subjects inspire us all. When we learn of a new scientific fact, it is almost as if a light bulb has switched on and we sit up and take notice. In some respects, the way Science drives progress, through trial and error, is the most basic of educational principles. In the search for scientific discovery, you must challenge what you think you know and then suspend your scepticism in order to test the theory. If a new result emerges, the ways of the old must then be discarded and progress made. It encourages us to be open-minded, to accept that we do not know everything and to see the value in the hard work and diligence of others. Those are all excellent expectations to have of one another.

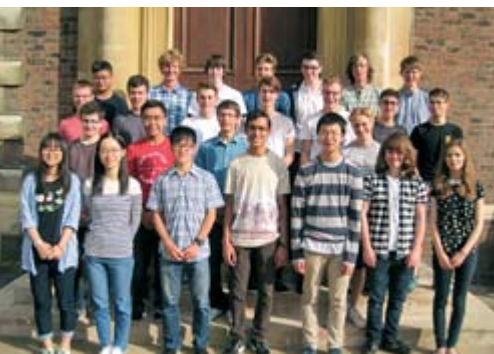
This issue of the Diary is primarily focused on the exciting activities and achievements of Blundellians past and present through the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). These departments are hugely successful in terms of examination results but we value their contribution to our community in a far wider context than that. You will enjoy, I hope, reading about the way that the Year 8s made their own path through their week long cross-curricular project this summer on 'The heart and being human'. The obvious links to Science were explored and then expanded as they looked into what that phrase meant right the way across the academic spectrum; in Art, History, Literature, Languages, Ethics and in many other areas too. This project not only allowed the pupils to choose their own path of study, but the OBs who so generously returned to the School to help and guide them brought two generations together in a really innovative and interesting way.

As always, however, there is a great deal more activity in this issue. It has been another very good year of Sport, Music, Drama and Adventure in and outside the classroom. We look forward to the forthcoming project with the prestigious London Chamber Orchestra which will reach a highpoint at our combined Spring Concert. As we move to working ever closer with Blundell's Prep School, this and many other activities and events will see us building a sense of progression all the way through the journey our pupils make, from ages two to 18.

This magazine continues to be a wonderful record of the busy and dynamic place that is Blundell's. Thank you to all who have taken the time and effort to contribute to it and I hope those of you reading this will be encouraged to attend some of the many events taking place this year.

Nicola Huggett
Head

Blundell's News



Toby with some of the other recipients of the Roentgenium

TOP CHEMISTRY AWARD

A number of Blundellians recently took part in the 2016 Cambridge University Chemistry Challenge, which aims to stretch Year 12 students interested in Chemistry and encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university. Toby Whitehead achieved the challenge's highest award, the Roentgenium; only 55 of the 7229 students who entered the competition reached this standard, placing Toby in the top 0.76%. To recognise this outstanding achievement, Toby was then invited to a residential project week at the University of Cambridge, designed to expand and enhance delegates' understanding of Chemistry and stretch their abilities even further.

Other school chemists who achieved certificates in the Challenge were Archie Stoneman, George Watson, Bethan Wesley, Ying Zhu, Rosalie Sanders, Kanyarat Rungtaveesak, Louisa Kitson and Georgie Frankpitt (Copper awards, achieved by 36.4% of entrants); Silver awards (13.7% of students) to Archie Fraser, George Hill, Francis Huntingford and Yuli Lyu, while Antony Lui and Jessie Zhu both achieved Gold (awarded to only 7.4% of entrants).



The PB Stones

The road works carried out during the summer next to the School have led to the rediscovery of the famous 'PB stones'. These white cobbles are the tangible evidence of an ancient Blundell's custom. They are first mentioned by a boy writing home to his mother in 1810, hoping for a flood at the School (then located down beside the River Lowman in Tiverton) so that "the waters will come up to PB at the gates, then we shall have a holiday." R.D. Blackmore confirmed this tradition in his novel Lorna Doone adding that the stones were in the pavement outside the entrance to the School green.

In October 1882, just months after the School moved up to its present site, the Lowman burst its banks. A small delegation of 5th and 6th formers went down to discover whether the PB stones were covered by the waters. Finding that they were, they returned and demanded a holiday – the Head Master granted their wish, but emphasised that this was not to be a precedent. In the following summer, the Mayor of Tiverton presented the old white stones to the School, and they were re-laid either side of the School gates by the Porter's Lodge. When the entrance was altered in 1932 the stones were laid in their present location.

Exam results

Hard-working Blundellians achieved some excellent provisional results during the summer. In A Levels, 41% of the results gained were at A*/A with 23 pupils gaining three A grades or higher and over two thirds of all grades between A* and B. There has been a very high rate of acceptance for Blundell's students into their first choice of university, including for Natalie Cotton who gained five A* grades to study Natural Sciences at Newnham, Cambridge and Eleanor Ansell who will join her there after achieving three A* grades to read Psychological and Behavioural Sciences at Homerton College. Euan Friend, Christopher Hamilton and David Yung all gained at least 3 A* grades and Emily Combe, Ang Gao, Elizabeth Morris, Bethany Squires and Edward Taylor achieved A*, A*, A or better in their results. Other popular university destinations include Bristol, Edinburgh, Imperial College and King's College London, while post A Level applicant Silvia Mills goes to St Hugh's College, Oxford to read Philosophy and Linguistics.

The GCSE results were also impressive with more than a quarter of grades at A*, equaling the School's best ever results of last year. Once again, more than half the grades were at A*/A Level and, in an improvement on last year, more than a third of the year group gained at least eight A* and A grades. The following pupils gained nine or more A*s: Imogen Cotton, Alfie Gardner, Megan Grant, Julia Huntingford, Will McIntyre, Bonnie Price, Kieran Smith and Samantha Unsworth-White. The top performing student, with an outstanding 12 A* grades, was Harry Olive.

Keep up to date with Blundell's news on



Facebook
(Blundell's School Community)



Twitter
(@BlundellsSchool)

and the website www.blundells.org



OLYMPIC HONOR

Honor Jones (Year 9) took part in the Dartmouth Regatta during the summer holidays and not only won a medal but was lucky enough to meet some of the sailing team recently back from representing Great Britain at the Rio Olympics. Honor has been sailing for five years and this was her fourth year competing in the junior sailing competition at the regatta. She sails a topper, which is a small single handed dinghy. There were eight races over the space of four days, which took place in the mouth of the river Dart and she finished third overall. To crown her triumph, she and her family, together with other yacht club members, were invited to meet 12 of the 15 strong GB Olympic team, including Giles Scott and Hannah Mills, who both won gold medals (in the Finn class and women's 470 race respectively) and Nick Dempsey who won a silver (in the RS:X class). They all signed autographs for Honor but there was even more excitement in store as she explains "At the end I was lucky enough to get a photo with Hannah Mills, whilst I was wearing her gold medal! It was an amazing experience."

CAREERS FAIR

.....
Blundell's is holding its first Careers fair in November for Blundellians, pupils from other schools, parents and visitors. We hope to have a wide range of businesses on hand to give advice and demonstrate the wealth of opportunities available to young people. For more information, please see page 27



The Year 9 SAS pupils and the Blundell's Pop Art Express

The Pop Art Express

Look out for the Blundell's Pop Art Express sculpture if you are in Tiverton during the autumn. It is part of the All Aboard! trail around the town and the surrounding area, which incorporates 21 sculptures, all miniatures of the GWR steam engine (the Tivvy Bumper) which is housed in

Tiverton Museum. The Blundell's sculpture was painted by Year 9 Special Art Status pupils who based their design on work by Warhol and Lichtenstein but with the Blundell's shield also included. It is located in Old Road and all sculptures on the trail will be in place until the end of October.

Amongst the exciting plans that the Music department has in place for 2016/17 is a year-long project with the London Chamber Orchestra, whose key instrumentalists will be running workshops with musicians at Blundell's and local schools. The culmination will be the Spring Concert on March 15th when the professional orchestra will perform alongside pupils from the Prep and Senior Schools, giving many of them a once in a lifetime opportunity to play with some of the best musicians in the world.



The London Chamber Orchestra Photo by Benjamin Ealovega

London comes to Devon

TOP AWARDS FOR BLUNDELL'S

A Good Schools Guide (GSG) subject award is highly prestigious and given to schools which have outranked all other English schools in their category for that subject. The award is based on a combination of factors including the popularity, performance and percentage of pupils taking the subject. We are delighted to report that Blundell's has this year won three GSG subject awards in the English independent schools category, for the best performance by boys and the best performance by girls taking Office Technology at GCSE and for the best performance by girls taking Design and Technology Graphic Products at GCSE (this is the second year running that this award has been won by the D & T department).

GCSE FULL COURSE



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) have a profound impact on our everyday lives and studying those subjects at school can lead to exciting, rewarding career options and enable pupils to be active citizens in an increasingly technological society

Blundell's is particularly strong in STEM subjects, with the recent exam results speaking for themselves. At GCSE, at least 90% of grades at Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths and DT were A*-C, with many percentages much higher (for example, 97% in Physics and A*/A grades at 70%); at A Level A*-C grades in those subjects was at least 80%, with some standout A*/A grades

including 75% in Further Maths and 70% in Chemistry. Year 13s who have just left the School are going on to read subjects such as Zoology, Psychological and Behavioural Science, Mechanical Engineering, Maths, Chemistry and Biomedical Science. Others have prestigious opportunities in the work place lined up, including Matthew Baughan who has an apprenticeship with Jaguar Land Rover and Chris Hamilton who will be spending his gap year working with Ove Arup (and also as an organ scholar at a nearby church).

Blundellians regularly achieve excellent results in various STEM competitions, such as the various Olympiads, and frequently go on to

represent the region at national events such as the Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools' Analyst competition (in which a Blundell's team have been national finalists for the last two years) and in the National Mathematics Challenge. The School has a very good track record of pupils receiving the much esteemed Arkwright Engineering Scholarships, awarded to high-calibre students after a rigorous selection process; the most recent recipients are Bobby Burnand and Harry Olive.

There are many more STEM achievements recorded on the following pages (and also on the News pages) together with exciting and inspiring examples of how the subjects are taught at Blundell's.

Studying STEM



Mathematics controls more aspects of the modern world than most people realise, from iPods and telecommunications to investment strategies and the engineering involved in the jet engine. These developments depend on mathematical thinking and it is this essential skill which the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) seeks to promote through the individual and team challenges it organises. The challenges encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in the use of mathematics to solve interesting problems.

The Junior Maths Challenge is aimed at pupils in Years 7 and 8 and involves answering 25 multiple choice questions. Of the 250,000 entries to the challenge, around 7% of the highest achieve gold, the next highest 14% silver and the next highest 20% bronze. In this challenge, Hal Baker and Thomas Yeadon were both awarded gold certificates and Thomas was best in Year 8 and also qualifies for the Kangaroo, which is

Years 7 and 8 pupils with their Junior Maths Challenge certificates

the next stage in the competition; Laura Smith in Year 8 won silver and Oliver Sherwood achieved bronze and best in Year 7. There were also 20 other bronze certificates awarded.

The Intermediate Maths Challenge is for older pupils to Year 11 who again answer 25 multiple choice questions in exam conditions. More than 200,000 pupils across the country took the challenge and the top 21% in the country gain bronze (25 Blundellians), the top 13% gain silver (21 Blundellians) and the top 6% in country gain gold (nine Blundellians). The gold certificates were awarded to Redmond Sanders, Bonnie Price, Oliver Li, Cecilia Cheng, Aahil Mehta, Harry Charlesworth (also best in Year 9), Emily Squibb (best in Year 10), Archie Flack (best in Year 10) and Kexin Chen (best in Year 11 and in the School)



The Junior Maths Challenge team

TEAM CHALLENGE

Four students took part in the regional final of the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Team Maths Challenge. These are wonderful events which provide an opportunity for young mathematicians to demonstrate their maths skills in a range of activities including a cross-number, which is just like a crossword but with numbers, and a maths relay, which involves hundreds of students dashing around a large sports hall whilst doing maths! The team from Blundell's – Ellie Salisbury, Laura Smith (both Year 8) and Tilda Huntingford and Coco Lu (both Year 9) – performed extremely well, finishing a very creditable 4th out of 25. Equally, they were a huge credit to themselves and the School, demonstrating admirable levels of maturity and respect throughout the day. It is very clear that, if these four students are anything to go by, the future of Mathematics at Blundell's is in very good hands indeed.

Mr S Mault



For the love of Maths

The workbook of Old Blundellian Abraham Podger, written 1715-1717, which was shown to A Level Mathematicians at the Maths dinner

Mathematics is often dubbed 'The Most Hated School Subject'. But not so, it seems, at Blundell's. The Mathematics department is the largest, and arguably the best, with many students continuing Mathematics, voluntarily, onto A Level. I am one of those students.

I will admit that I spent my prep school* years as a 'maths-hater', dragging my feet to every lesson, and failing miserably at Mental Maths tests. However, at Blundell's, with inspiration and encouragement being thrown my way in equal measure, I found Maths lessons more engaging, tests easier and my confidence began to pick up. Surprising myself (and my parents!) with my GCSE grade, I decided to continue Mathematics at A Level.

I cannot say exactly what I like about Maths; perhaps the organisation of it, which contrasts nicely to my life, is what I appreciate. The process of methodically working through a problem to achieve the correct answer is never-endingly satisfying. Rules and methods can be applied to such a variety of problems, in such a variety of ways, meaning that the subject is always interesting. As you can probably tell, I have become a 'maths-lover'.

Each year, as a celebration of all the love for Maths, the School holds a dinner for A Level Mathematicians. As this year's dinner drew to a close, the real fun commenced. Mr Rivett, our guest speaker, delved into the realms of modular arithmetic, how it works and its uses. As part of this, we were fortunate to be shown an ancient book where calculations with large numbers had been made using modular arithmetic. It is opportunities like these, and the enthusiasm of teachers like Mr Rivett, which make the Blundell's Mathematics department so successful at changing the opinion of 'maths-haters', and inspiring the next generation of mathematicians.

Rosalie Sanders (Year 12)

**We should point out that Rosalie did not attend Blundell's Prep School!*



Addie Chai at the controls of the flight simulator

Pupils in Year 11 who have shown a talent in STEM subjects, particularly Maths, Physics and DT, were offered an exciting opportunity to fly a commercial jet simulator, housed at the Virtual Jet Centre in Chudleigh.

Captain Andy Wilkins of the centre, who trains commercial pilots, hosted the pupils, each of whom were able to fly the simulator for a 15 minute session amongst other activities whilst they were there. The pupils gained an insight into why the STEM subjects are so important in this sector. Captain Wilkins, who is a STEM ambassador, was pleased with how the visit went:

"The group from Blundell's all seemed to be actively interested in aviation and asked some very interesting questions. They enjoyed their time with us, especially flying the Boeing 737 800 series flight simulator.

We hope that they not only had a fun time but also learned about the airline industry. STEM is very important in our industry as it involves Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, all important components."

Jack Dummett, who participated in the day, was also offered a week's work experience at the centre.



At the Virtual Jet Centre



Studying STEM

Routes into STEM

Anna and Cara working on a car

Over the half term holiday, we were fortunate enough to attend a STEM course in Plymouth centred on engineering, run by the Engineering Development Trust. This consisted of a three day course focusing on the different routes into engineering and also visiting a place of work.

On the first day we attended Plymouth City College, which focused on the apprenticeship path into engineering. This concentrated on mechanical and electrical engineering and we engaged in practical work consisting of taking apart a valve and working on a car.

The second day, at Plymouth University, was centred on the degree route. On this day, we designed and built a prototype for an offshore wind turbine in teams. Having been separated, our competitive sides were fully engaged in this project as only one team would prevail. Unfortunately, it was Anna's team who lost, with a plumbob design, as their turbine suddenly sank into the depths of Plymouth University's wave generator. Cara's team were by far and away the winners as their efficient turbine generated their way to victory.

Finally, to give an insight in the workplace we visited Babcock's, a submarine engineering company. This was perhaps the day on which our best and worst sides were simultaneously engaged during the fun end of day activity that they had planned for us. To set the scene: we were set up in three teams (two boys' and one girls' team) and not having won an event yet, we sat determined, as the underdogs, to triumph. With steely grit and a competitive spirit we began a swift construction made of Lego, made investments, worked together as a team and helped each other. Against all odds, including a spillage of our cargo (the Lego), we managed to conquer, but were devastated that our prize was not food, but experience! Of course we recognise that disappointment can make us stronger and we both look forward to being able to utilise all the skills that we learnt over the duration of the course.

Overall this trip gave an insight into engineering, but also into the wider world of work. It was a truly enjoyable trip and we thank Mrs Olive and Miss Norman for enabling us to attend this course.

By Anna Sides and Cara Read (Year 10)



SOAP PROJECT

During the summer term, Year 7 were set the challenge of making and marketing a soap for the fictitious company 'Blundell's Pharmaceuticals' in their Chemistry and Maths lessons.

Their remit was to come up with a soap design aimed at a target audience of their choosing, create a name, logo and slogan, and packaging for their product. They then had to calculate how much it would cost to manufacture their soap, using the price of ingredients, material for packaging and overhead costs. Once they had their design, packaging and price, pupils were charged with marketing their soap, either by creating a poster, jingle or TV advert.

Needless to say, for the majority of pupils, making the soap was the most exciting part of the project.



The packaged soaps



Mechanics record

Some of the Year 12s who are studying Mechanics

A record number of girls have been studying Mechanics in Year 12, either through AS level or through their AS Maths and Further Maths courses. Fourteen girls opted for the subject and the Maths department puts this down to national initiatives to encourage women into STEM careers and also to the increasing popularity of Maths and Physics AS/A2 levels at Blundell's. Both departments actively encourage the option of Maths with Mechanics if Physics is to be taken at AS or A2 level.

When the girls were asked to reflect on their AS choices and career aspirations they recognised some of these points as can be seen from these quotes:

"I have enjoyed AS Maths more than GCSE...it also helps with other subjects especially the sciences"

"Maths is a good skill which can improve your problem solving"

"My advice is definitely do Maths even if only to AS level due to the different ways you have to think and the diversity with other subjects"

"I feel Mechanics 1 has significantly helped me with Physics, I would definitely recommend Maths with M1 if you intend to study Physics"

"I have found Maths fun, interesting and enjoyable"

"I have enjoyed setting out the pulley problems and the particle on a slope questions in mechanics"

The girls' career aspirations include Aeronautical Engineering, Pilot, Architecture, Radiotherapy, Physiotherapy, Chemical Engineering and Engineering generally, Nutritionist, working in public health or the food industry.

Mrs J Olive



VISITING THE LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

Eight Year 12 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to visit the incredible \$13.25 billion Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva during the summer term. The 27km experiment fires subatomic particles into head-on collisions at 99.9% the speed of light (a speed that is equivalent to orbiting the entire solar system about once per day!), in the search for answers for several unsolved problems in Physics.

The trip included talks from professional scientists and researchers working with the team (who are drawn from more than 36 countries) and a tour of the ATLAS and superconducting magnet facilities. It was an excellent opportunity to put the work that the pupils have studied on particle Physics into context and included a special detector that allowed them to actually 'see', for the first time, the muons and cosmic rays that they have learned about.



ANIMAL BREEDING PROGRAM

Axolotl bred at Blundell's

Blundell's Biology department has had great success this year in breeding both the axolotl and the giant African land snails, together with Mrs Brigden's tadpole tank which has produced numerous frogs for the Biology pond (of which the resident grass snake will make good use). This has been so successful that both land snails and axolotls, together with some of our extra fish (also a very successful breeding program), have been rehomed at various schools throughout Devon for others to enjoy.

A giant African land snail



Getting ready to take on some practical chemistry challenges

CHEMISTRY FESTIVAL

A team of four Year 8 pupils took part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at the University of Bristol, alongside other schools from the region. This one day fun event gives enthusiastic young students the chance to participate in practical chemistry activities. The Blundell's team of Thomas Yeadon, Elizabeth Curgiven, Michael Guglielmetti and Mariia Karpova competed in 'The Salters' Challenge', – a practical activity, for which no advance preparation is required – and then tackled 'The University Challenge', a practical investigation chosen by the university and came third!

Studying STEM

Main picture: Digging for invertebrates
Right: Max Mayor uses a toy tractor to grow seeds
Below right: Molly Joyner prepares her agar samples
Bottom: Izzy Leyshon finds a new use for a cycle helmet



ALL LIFE IS HERE

During the academic year 2015/16, the new Year 7 scheme of work was put into place in Biology. Each term had its own focus with each class taking its own route to discover 'Classification', 'Cells' and 'Plants'. Seemingly simple topics but through these we were able to look at everything from microbes used in different types of food production, extreme wild animals of Australia and even how to prove that plants actually bend towards and away from stimuli.

In the autumn term, all four Year 7 classes decamped to Goodrington Sands for a day of sea-life identification, rock pooling and invertebrate sampling. We used our experiences here to learn about invertebrates. Students then undertook a lengthy project discovering more about vertebrates by exploring an animal from each of the five classes, which they put together into a final piece. We were so pleased to hand out so many merits for

students work during this project, for individual pieces as well as the final projects.

The spring term saw us look at the structure of cells through observing our own cells under the microscope, making our own yoghurt and bread using micro-organisms, sampling key boards and door handles around campus to see which teachers had the 'dirtiest' work spaces by growing our 'swabs' on agar plates that we prepared ourselves using aseptic techniques. We finished this off with a 'Micro-organism picnic' where we ate food that was made with or by micro-organisms, including different types of bread and cheese, Quorn sausages (not a popular experience), yoghurt, doughnuts, 'wine' (grape juice) and 'beer' (ginger). We then delved into the world of gametes and genetics looking at how we form whole organisms from just two small haploid cells.

The first half of the summer term saw us dissect flowers to look at their internal



structures, devise our own methods of seed dispersal, investigate the conditions required by seeds in order to germinate into seedlings as well as how seedling shoots know to grow upwards and their roots downwards. We have tested the conditions that seedlings can and cannot grow under, 'upcycled' junk from our homes (and School House) and turned them into plant pots to grow plants and taken cuttings of plants to grow new plants from just one small leaf!

Miss K Wilson

SCIENCE CLUB

Around thirty pupils in Years 7-9 took part in Science Club, completing activities such as fire writing, slime and plastic making (including magnetic slime) as well as designing and (attempting) to make chocolate bars, complete with packaging which was supposed to withstand the heat of a warm country. There were also balloon cars, hover discs, static electricity with the Van de Graaf generator and numerous geology sessions including the thermite reaction. We hope to see as many students back again next year for some more experimentation and designs!

Right: Slime making **Far Right:** Experimenting at the Science Club





BRAIN DAY

Examining a sheep's brain

Biology and Psychology students were fascinated by a series of seminars given by Dr Guy Sutton of Medical Biology Interactive and assistant lecturer for Nottingham University medical school. The students also has the opportunity to witness a sheep brain dissection. The seminars were informative and engaging and Dr Sutton's passion for neuroscience was clear throughout. The students dealt with difficult and degree level material during the day and some took the opportunity to ask further questions.

These are the comments by two students on the day:

We began the day with an introduction into the brain, learning about each part of the brain and what it does. Dr. Sutton then began to go into detail about the individual parts of the brain, giving case studies to support the information. These stories and case studies were what particularly interested me. Hearing about real life stories of individual cases made me realise the extent and various causes of brain damage.

Tim Jones (Year 12)

My favourite lecture was on schizophrenia and how brain damage affects different aspects of our behaviour. I also enjoyed the sheep brain dissection and how in brain surgery, surgeons can stimulate different regions of the brain while the patient is awake, to perform particular behaviours. We also went into a computer room and looked at how different drugs affect people's behaviour, as well as the anatomy of the brain. This was also very interesting as I did not previously know how directly drugs affect the neurotransmitters within the brain.

Molly Horsey (Year 12)



Will Costa introduces 7P to the world of birds

ALL ABOUT BIRDS

Old Blundellian William Costa (P 06-13) came back to school to talk to Miss Wilson's Year 7 class (7P) on the topic of 'birds'. The class were studying birds as part of the research project into the five different classes of animal – fish, amphibian, reptiles, birds and mammals – and as William is a bird expert who better to hear from!

William has kept his own birds at home for as long as he can remember, hatching and rearing chicks from many different species. He helped Blundell's introduce their chick project a few years ago and has since completed a year as an avian zoo keeper, has worked in bird rehabilitation in South Africa and was about to spend the summer at Sylvan Heights Bird Park in North Carolina (USA). Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed all of the eggs, nests and feathers that William brought in and it was such a great way to learn new facts for their projects.

BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

This year the British Biology Olympiad paper, set by the Royal Society of Biology, was sat by a chosen few Blundellians with five awards achieved. Eleanor Ansell and Jennifer Mettam both achieved gold awards (top 6% of participants nationally), with Eleanor two marks away from competing in the British team selection and Jennifer just one mark away! Katy Stevens achieved silver (top 16% nationally) and Sophie Bateman and Frederick Lieb both received commendations for their excellent results.

PSYCHOLOGY AND MATHS DAY

How does your memory work? What would we be without it?

These are questions that Year 8 considered during a cross-curricular Psychology and Maths day. The day was a great opportunity to introduce them to some basic theories in Psychology, but also to see how descriptive statistics can be used with this kind of research in order to create hypotheses and draw conclusions.

The Year 8s conducted their research into short term memory, specifically looking at how large it is and whether there is a difference between different types of data; in this case the difference between words (referred to as verbal span) and numbers (digit span).



The Growing Club

A keen and enthusiastic group joined the Growing Club and, as a result of their hard work and commitment throughout the year, they were able to sit back in the summer and enjoy the rewards of their efforts with crops of vegetables to take home. Starting with a rough overgrown, weed dominated plot, they cleared the ground and prepared the soil throughout the autumn and early parts of the spring term. They started some of the seeds off early in the greenhouse and by the start of the growing season everything was ready. Potatoes went in before Easter and then beetroot, lettuce, carrot, radish, beans, sweetcorn and tomatoes.

It's a pity the rabbits found out what we were doing but they will be in our sights next year! **Mr C Olive**

AMBITIOUS DESIGN



Studying STEM

Charlie Luxton's camping trailer

Design and Technology

The GCSE and A Level D&T students have again come up with some innovative and skilful projects as can be seen in these photos

Clockwise from top right: Tom Mortiboys, Barnaby Ames, Bethany Mettam, Ed Pawson, Ben Waller, Tom Morrison, Alex Lowmas



The camping trailer design for a 1972 VW camper van by Charlie Luxton (Year 13) is the most ambitious and rigorous Design and Technology project ever undertaken in the department. The design and manufacture of the trailer was completed in the two terms required by the exam board but represents more than 200 hours work. This was therefore also a very large extra-curricular commitment outside of normal lesson times.

Recognising Charlie as a very able pupil, I decided to act as a client for the first time for one of my pupils. By researching the problems faced when camping for long periods of time, Charlie designed a fantastic trailer that complements brilliantly the aesthetic of the 70s Bay whilst also being extremely functional. Form and function in perfect harmony. After completing a 3D computer model of his final design and being able to virtually test weight and stresses on the chassis, Charlie set about the huge practical task that lay ahead. This project would not have been possible without the experience and expertise on call in the D&T department. Mark Bowden is an expert in metal fabrication and Phil Crease in composites. Charged with this wealth of knowledge, Charlie set about welding the chassis and shaping the sheet metal to create the main sections of the trailer body. A wooden mould was also made to lay up a GRP lid and a clever folding mechanism designed for the tail gate. Finally the trailer was sprayed by an outside company to give it the professional finish it deserved. I doubt anyone would be able to tell that this was a school project.

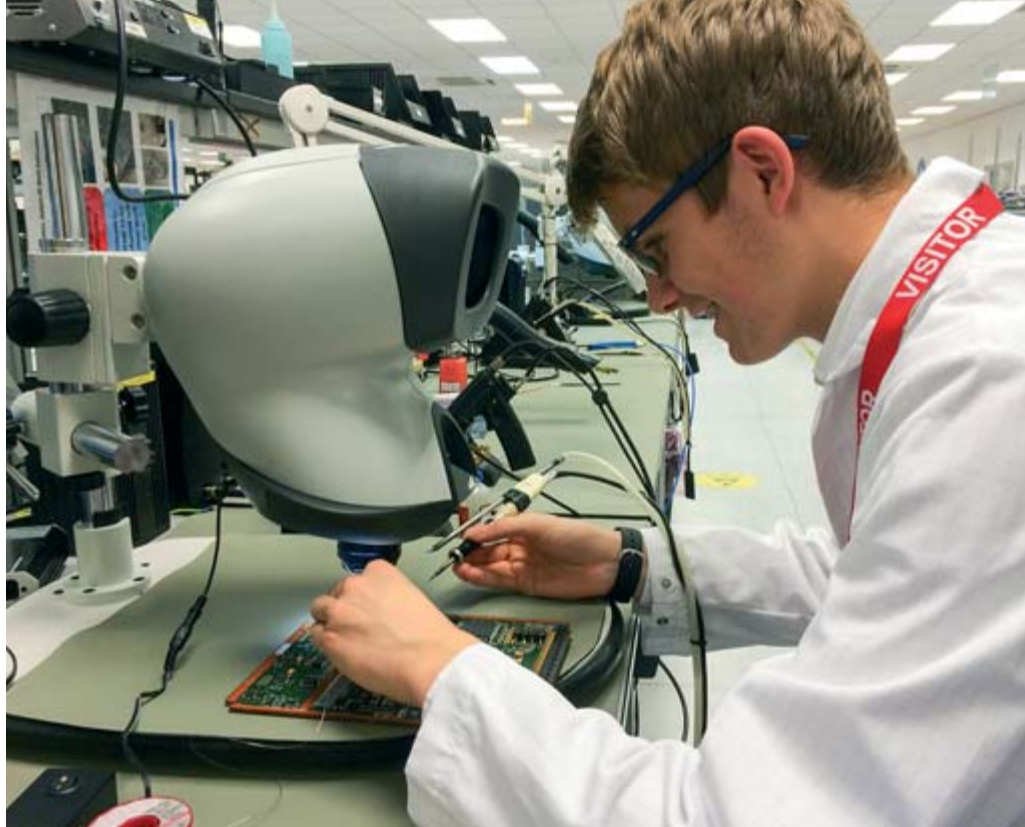
Mr B Wheatley

I chose to do my work experience placement with Ontic because I wanted to learn more about Electronic and Aircraft Engineering. Ontic manufactures aircraft components for companies like Boeing, Airbus and UTAS.

During my placement at Ontic, I had the chance to shadow some of the engineers working on components like fuel probes, fuel computers and various display instruments and dials. As well as watching, I was able to get involved practically as well. I was allowed to assist in the manufacture of fuel probes and got the chance to do some soldering under a microscope on a scrap circuit board of a fuel computer. I also learnt the importance of testing components manufactured by a company to ensure they will not fail when in use on an aircraft.

I am committed to a career in engineering but I have not yet decided which specific branch of engineering to go into as there are so many. I am happy I have had the opportunity to experience Electronic and Aircraft engineering at Ontic and I now plan to explore other areas of engineering to see which area suits me best.

Harry Olive



Working in STEM

POST-GCSE, THE YEAR 11S HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS AND SEVERAL OF THEM CHOSE PLACEMENTS BASED AROUND STEM SUBJECTS. THESE ARE THE REPORTS FROM THREE OF THEM.

For my work experience I went to the annual work observation week at the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Hospital. I chose to work here because I am currently considering reading medicine to become a doctor either in the NHS or the military.

During my work experience, my programme was packed, so we could make the most of our week. I had talks from physiotherapists, midwives and a reconstructive surgeon, who made me interested in the fine boundary between cosmetic and functional reconstructive surgery. There were visits to different locations and practical sessions where I learnt how to insert a breathing tube into the trachea and the lungs, perform infection control, and CPR assisted with a manual breathing ventilator. Finally to finish we did a mock ward, where I was a doctor practising a ward round, aided by a GP, on patients with various conditions from an ectopic pregnancy to recovering after an eye surgery.

I really enjoyed my week at the RD&E because of the wide variety of activities I participated in and it educated me about other less common areas of medicine. I am definitely more inclined to do further experience in a clinical placement.

Bonnie Price

Over the summer, I spent a week doing work experience with the NHS at Tiverton hospital.

I wanted to find out about what it would be like to work in the health sector as I'm considering studying medicine at university.

On my first day, I worked in the fracture clinic where I observed the senior doctors examining their patients and was taught how to analyse different x-ray images. My second day was spent in the echocardiology clinic, where the doctors use ultrasound to examine their patients' heart and blood flow.

I was then allowed into surgery where I observed many different operations. I found these days particularly interesting and was happy to find out that I'm not at all squeamish.

All the doctors at the hospital were very friendly and all genuinely passionate about their work and my placement really made me realise just how many different areas of medicine there are. I really enjoyed my time at the hospital and it's definitely encouraged me to pursue a career in medicine.

Imogen Cotton



Right: Bonnie with other students at the RD & E

In and Out of the Classroom



The Heart and Being Human

During the summer term, the Year 8s embarked on a week-long cross-curricular project to celebrate all they had learned about themselves and each other during their two years in School House. Working in their tutor groups, they looked at 'The heart and being human' when they were set projects on this theme from the different perspectives of academic subjects; for example, for Biology they focused on forming and recalling memories, for Design Technology robots versus humans, for Latin they considered the power of love and friendship in classical mythology, while Music examined music that made them feel alive and Maths and PE the heart rate. Each tutor group chose between six and eight projects to complete and their work was put on display for parents.

The Year 8s also put together presentations about all the different areas they had studied and how their skills in

investigation, teamwork and communication developed during the project. Finally, each group gave a presentation to their parents and tutors on 'Being human: our tutor group's School House Journey'.

An exciting element of the project was the opportunity for each group to work with an Old Blundellian mentor; recent leavers who had all been in School House during their time at Blundell's and who worked with the Year 8s throughout the week of the project. One of those mentors was Millie Blackmore (GH 08-15) who said of the project:

"I had the pleasure of working with Mr Lodge's tutor group; enthusiastic, helpful and kind. I was surprised with how well this group got on as friends and how they used the different talents within the group to contribute to and create their impressive projects (especially their song)! The week was an excellent idea, allowing them to reflect on their time in School House, how

Above: A Year 8 group gives their presentations to parents and tutors

they had grown, what they had learned and who they had met. It was also a chance for them to experience the freedom and independence they will be allowed in September, something that came as a shock to some OBs such as myself who didn't have a week like this when we were their age."



One of the groups with a display of their work



THE YOUNG ENTERPRISE TEAM

As reported in the last Diary, this year's venture by the Blundell's Young Enterprise (YE) group has been to design and sell a luxury range of copper pens, named Otzi after the ice man buried in the Alps alongside a copper axe. The group have had great success with their pens; at a trade event at Darts Farm the pens were a sell-out and the team were awarded first place and invited to sell their products at the venue.

At the YE County finals, the team had their business plans scrutinised, were interviewed and gave a presentation to an audience of Devon business leaders. They won the award for Best Company Trade Stand. Since the final, new lines have been introduced to the range of pens; contact Young Enterprise on youngenterprise@blundells.org for more information.

The YE team receive their award



Sixth form biologists enjoyed eleven action packed days split between the beautiful and exciting cities of New York and Boston. They made the most of some private behind the scenes tours at museums and scientific institutes, met some of the top researchers in their fields and visited many of the more cultural and 'tourist' sights in each city.



Main picture: At the BodyWorlds exhibition in the Discovery Center, New York **Top left:** Getting to grips with the equipment at Intrepid, the Sea, Air, Space Museum **Top right:** The Natural History Museum, New York **Above:** Admiring the views of New York from Top Rock

USA SCIENCE DISCOVERY TRIP 2016



Tom with other delegates

INTERNSHIP AT THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

An internship in the heart of Westminster at the Institute of Economic Affairs, during a time of much economic and political uncertainty – prior to the referendum – was not only fascinating but also intellectually stimulating. Time was spent in daily lectures from leading economic thinkers and PhD students involved in releasing cutting-edge research around topics such as the NHS, immigration and poverty. We were challenged in debates on Intellectual Property – Good or Bad? and Fiscal Policy – Austerity or Stimulus?

At a time when our country's fate regarding the EU has been consumed within the political outcry in Westminster, along with the turmoil of the media prowling the surrounding area for Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson (in particular), it was definitely a week to remember.

Tom Kennaugh (Year 12)

Learning from an author

Year 9 pupils had a very interesting time when author Tanya Landman gave them a talk and then ran a workshop on writing. Ms Landman won the Carnegie medal in 2015 for her historical novel *Buffalo Soldier*, inspired by the true story of former slave Cathy Williams, who disguised herself as a man and joined the army as William Cathay. Pupils from Uffculme School and Tiverton High School also attended the event.

Amongst the eager listeners were Mattie Hudson and Tilda Huntingford who said Ms Landman was very entertaining and down to earth:

"During the first half, she spoke about what she did before she became an author; she had lots of different jobs including being a mascot at a zoo and running a touring puppet show with her husband, but she was always interested in writing. Her breakthrough novel was *Buffalo Soldier*; she seemed quite surprised that she had had books published. She was thrilled that, after winning the Carnegie prize, her next book



would be published as a hardback! Someone told her when she was 13 that she had to decide then what she wanted to do with the rest of her life, but she said 'You don't have to – look what I have done'".

During the workshop, the pupils from the three schools were put into groups of eight and were given a series of questions to answer and had to come up with an engaging opening to a story such as imagining a horrific disaster.

Mattie and Tilda found the talk and workshop inspiring and useful, especially the overall message of not having to decide what you want to do for the rest of your life at age 13! Having said that, they are both interested in a career in writing: Mattie as a music journalist and Tilda on the environment (but to do other things first or alongside).

We will watch their future careers with interest but in the meantime, there is now a waiting list at the School library for Tanya Landman's books and the Year 9s are looking forward to her next one which will be set in Devon.

ANCIENT DRAMA FESTIVAL

Earlier in the year we, together with sixth form pupils from other schools studying Classical Civilisation and Latin, went to Warwick University to see the performance of *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes, an A2 set text. The university's Classics department was hosting an Ancient Drama festival, organised by Dr Michael Scott (the face of many classical programmes on TV).

In the morning we attended some lectures on staging *Lysistrata* and experiencing theatre in ancient Athens. These talks gave us a better understanding of both the play and the ancient theatre experience in general. We also had the opportunity to have a look around the university and speak to undergraduates studying Classics there.

In the afternoon, we saw the play itself which, for those of us who had not already studied it, was both shocking and hilarious. It was fascinating to see how a play written roughly 2000 years ago would remain hilarious and shocking to a modern audience. The production was thoroughly entertaining and was a good introduction to Aristophanes for those of us studying him next year in class.

By Grace Casely
and Hatty Nash (Year 12)

Classics and the Prep School

The Classics department is very proud of the links forged with the Prep School this year. A Latin/Classics club was started, open to anyone in Years 3-6, and a group of eight pupils have met weekly and have loved their study of different aspects of Latin and Classics. They have been introduced to basic Latin, looked at numbers and Roman numerals, learnt about the theatre, made masks, created play scripts, looked at gods and goddesses and made mosaics.

YEAR 3s GREEK DAY

During the summer term, Mrs Milne, accompanied by Grace Casely, Jenny Prevett, Hatty Nash, Josy Schulz, Alice Cadenhead and Charles Foster, helped out with the Year 3 Greek Day at Blundell's Prep School. The Year 3s had really made a great effort with their costumes. They began the day designing and painting shields, which would then be used in the afternoon for Hoplite training and to re-enact the Battle of Marathon. There was also a food tasting session and the pupils made their own flat breads with honey, cooked over the open fire. Next on the agenda was a taste of Greek Drama: a couple of scenes from *Frogs* by Aristophanes, adapted by Mrs Milne. The pupils had great fun dressing up in costumes and replica masks, and put on a highly entertaining performance.

During the afternoon, the Year 3s took part in a mini Olympics, with discus, javelin and running races. After this, the shields were reclaimed and battle lines were drawn. Pupils drew up in phalanx formation first. Then they divided into Athenians and Persians to recreate scenes from the Battle of Marathon. We even had our very own Pheidippides running to Athens (twice!). A great day was had by all and the pupils were still talking about it the following week. **Mrs R Milne**



GOODBYE TO MR D-G

After thirty five years of teaching at Blundell's, Mr Deighton-Gibson (Mr D-G) retired at the end of the summer term. Although hundreds of Blundellians are grateful to him for his teaching of Biology and Chemistry (and Geology for a while), they will also remember him with huge affection for the many other areas of school life in which he was involved, particularly in the sporting field(s).

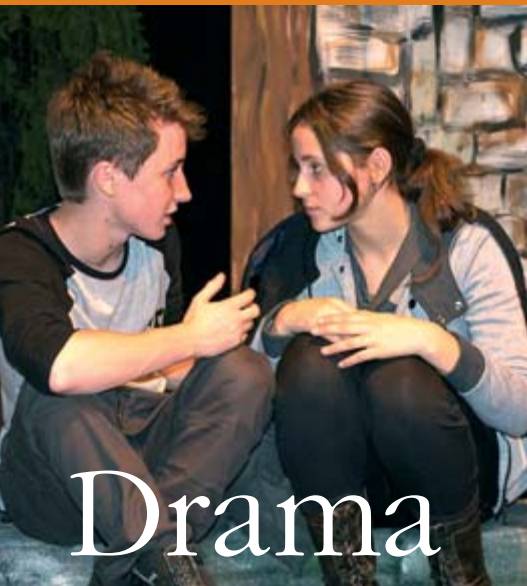
Rugby was a major part of his life at Blundell's; he was in charge of the 2nd XV for thirty two years and under his guidance the team had an unbeaten season in 2000. His knowledge of rugby, practical approach, humour and social skills were much appreciated on the many overseas rugby tours he accompanied. In addition, he was master in charge of hockey, ran the swimming club for seventeen years and a number of activities. These included the CCF Naval Section (with the late Jerry Pilbeam), the gardening club and memorably introduced many pupils to the delights of fly-fishing on the Exe (and when not on the river, was to be seen demonstrating and encouraging pupils to cast a fishing rod on the lawn at school).

Mr D-G was a tutor throughout most of his time at Blundell's, initially at Old House and latterly at Francis House. The interregnum in his long stretch as a tutor was due to a short spell when he was Housemaster of Milestones (then a House for day boys). He was hugely energetic in this role but it came to an end when the School acquired St Aubyn's Prep School, which moved into Milestones and the boys from there were integrated into the boarding houses.

Mr D-G was also well-known for his entertaining commentary at many Blundell's events including Blundell's Got Talent, Sports Day, the Blundell's One Day Event and the Russell. With his involvement in so much at the School and over so many years, Mr Deighton-Gibson will be much missed by Blundellians past and present. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement Mr D-G!



THE CREATIVE Arts



The star-crossed lovers Reuben (Victor Mills) and Jessica (Orlagh Noone)



STAR CROSSED

Senator Calder (Sparkle Menzies) takes Maria's (Roza Matuszyc) baby while henchman Reus (Owen Thomas) restrains her

In what is believed to be a first for a Blundell's production, the Year 9 and 10 play *Star Crossed* was entirely devised by the pupils and the Drama department. It drew on the central themes of star-crossed lovers and ancient grudges from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, but was set in the future. In this play, partners are matched by computer and first meet those selected for them under the watchful eyes of the Senator and the President and his wife, when they must perform a ritual dance. Complications arise when the Senator's son Reuben falls for Jessica, the girl selected to be the partner of Tyler, the President's son. Reuben and Jessica run away to live with the much-derided fugitives in the woods, hotly pursued by Tyler and his robot-like henchmen. It later emerges that Reuben is the son of two of the fugitives and tragedy ensues.

The young actors were excellent in a play that was moving, funny, chilling and romantic. As ever with Blundell's productions, the costumes and stage settings were wonderful, from the bleakness of the futuristic scenes (enhanced by some high tech wizardry), to the rustic woodland home of the fugitives.

Mrs Winsley, the play's Director, said: 'The cast were incredibly patient with the process [of devising the play] and generous with their ideas. The result was a very collaborative project which we hope the audience - the very first to see this new play - enjoyed watching'.

Inspiration from an Oscar winner

We were very lucky to have Jenny Beavan as the guest speaker at the second annual Creative Arts Dinner. She recently won an Oscar for costume design: a reward much deserved for the incredibly visual *Mad Max: Fury Road*, with its fantastic depiction of the clothing of a wasteland dystopian world. Named by Eva Wiseman as 'the most rebellious force in Hollywood', for wearing what she wanted to the Oscars rather than a £100,000 dress, Jenny was as charming as she was self-effacing, and her intellect and creative aptitude shone through in her speech.

I was totally blown away, as a fan of the film, of her explanation about the process for the research, designing and making of the costumes for *Mad Max*, and her slide show detailing the inspiration, from Nigerian Hyena Men to discarded plumbing tools. However, apart from the incredible pictures from her year's work in the Namibian desert for the film, and her long history of working on films such as *The King's Speech* and *Sherlock Holmes*, what I found the most amazing thing about her was her passionate and down-to-earth nature. A great optimism was apparent, as well as a great investment in the value of hard work; she said that, while she was lucky to be where she was it,

did not come without being out of the comfort zone, which was great advice to the budding creatives in the room.

Though being able to speak multiple languages and knowing Helena Bonham Carter personally, over the cheesecake she wanted to hear more about us than to just answer our questions, and gave each who asked specific career advice, which was invaluable from such an esteemed professional. She has said that in her job she has wanted to 'be in the background' to people-watch in order to understand the dynamics of clothing and self-expression, but such an intriguing, well-travelled, utterly inspiring woman definitely deserves more spotlight, and we were honoured to give over to her the space in our own theatre. **Elizabeth Morris (Year 13)**



THE SCHOOL PLAY

Rehearsals have already begun for the next school play, an ambitious production of *Into the Woods*, based on the award winning Broadway musical by Sondheim and Lapine, which was subsequently adapted for the screen. The 2014 film had a stellar cast including Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, James Corden and Anna Kendrick. *Into the Woods* incorporates several fairy tales into the narrative and has plenty of roles for Blundell's many musical and acting stars. It will be performed in December.

THE CREATIVE ARTS



Music

Blundell's musicians have put on fantastic concerts and recitals over the last few months both in and out of school (some of the performances can be seen on the Blundell's Music YouTube channel) and have also enjoyed trips, tours and masterclasses from professional musicians. Many of them have had great success in musical competitions and in their Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) exams. There are some exciting events coming up this year too, including a year-long project with the London Chamber Orchestra (see more information on the News pages).

For this year's choir trip, 21 of us went to Vienna in Austria. It was an amazing experience, with the opportunity to visit and sing in some of Vienna's best landmarks.

Following an early start on the first morning, we arrived at the hotel only to be quickly turned around so that we could have a tour of the Vienna Opera House. It was fascinating to learn about the great tradition of opera in Vienna, and we finished with an impromptu performance in the auditorium itself! This was quickly followed by a visit to Mozart's House, another part of Vienna's great musical history.

Our first concert was an unaccompanied concert from the organ loft in the stunning Peterskirche, our main venue for the trip. The amazingly reverberant acoustic of the church made it a very memorable experience, despite the fact we couldn't actually see if anyone was listening. The following day, with a rest from singing, we made a trip to the Schönbrunn Palace, where the highlight was the spectacular view over the city, which made the long walk up the hill worth it!

For Easter Sunday, we sang for a service in the modern Dornbach church, with another great acoustic, and some really enjoyable singing. This was followed by a surprise Easter egg hunt, a highlight of the trip for many of us. We then attended a service in the Stephansdom, Vienna's Cathedral, where we witnessed some amazing singing and playing from the choir and full orchestra who were playing for the service. In the evening, we went to a jazz club in the city centre, which was a really fun experience, and a great alternative to the classical choral music!

Choir Tour to Vienna





Chamber Concert in Bristol

On the last evening of the spring term, 60 of the School's top musicians performed a chamber music concert in St George's, Bristol, a prestigious concert venue with an internationally acclaimed acoustic. The programme was incredibly varied, with music ranging from West Side Story by Bernstein performed by the Orchestra, the Gospel Sextet performing the traditional folk song Down to the River and the Chamber Choir performing a motet by Bruckner, to a composition by Callum Graham of the L6. Several of the Sixth Form were also able to perform solos, either with the Orchestra, Big Band or on their own. These included Natalie Cotton playing a saxophone solo in Dvorák's Symphony No.9 in E Minor with the Orchestra, Chris Hamilton performing a movement of Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No.2, Judit Lam performing a solo piano piece by Debussy, Rosalie Sanders and Alice Cadenhead singing a duet from Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, in addition to Ivan Leung performing Piazzolla's Libertango with the Big Band and myself performing the Adagio from Mozart's Clarinet Concerto. It was an incredible experience to perform outside of school and it was enjoyable to work with musicians from The Downs School. The concert was superbly received by the audience, all of the musicians involved greatly enjoyed the occasion and it will be remembered for years to come.

Rebekah Brinkley (Year 13)

Left: The chamber concert at St George's Hall, Bristol



We finished the tour with two more events in the Peterskirche; a service on the Monday morning and a final concert in the afternoon, with a variety of great pieces from both choir and organ. It was a brilliant way to finish off an amazing trip, which I'm sure will hold fond memories for all of us, so thank you to the Music Department for taking us!

Toby Whitehead (Year 12)

HAVE SAX, WILL TRAVEL

Congratulations to Jack Armstrong Williams (Year 10) who has been offered a place at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) on their Junior Jazz course. Jack is well known for his contribution to concerts both at Blundell's and in the wider community and has played at Ronnie Scott's famous jazz club twice as part of their Big Band in a Day programme. From September, he'll be travelling to London every weekend to play baritone, alto and soprano sax at the RAM and learn from some of the best musicians in the world.



The Big Band entertain before the formal proceedings of Speech Day

OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY MUSIC

Old Blundellian Day was enlivened once again in 2016 by the sterling contributions by the Choir, Chamber Choir and School Orchestra. Not content with merely accompanying hymns by Vaughan Williams and Parry, the Orchestra bookended the service with two pieces by Sir Edward Elgar. The charming Salut d'amour was played with great sensitivity and phrasing before the service, and the famous Pomp and Circumstance March No.1 filled the Chapel at the end. Not to be outdone, the Choir performed the mighty Trinity Te Deum by Eriks Esenvalds with great gusto and energy, blending well with the splendid playing by the brass sextet. The Chamber Choir then showed the tremendous progress they have made this year in performing Stanford's difficult and dramatic anthem For Lo, I raise up. Written in 1914 in response to the unfolding horrors of the First World War, the piece drew minds back to the sacrifices and bravery shown by those Old Blundellians who fought and died in that conflict. **Mr Paul Gordon**

THE CREATIVE ARTS

Art

It has been busy few months for the Art Department, with Special Art Scholars in Year 9 designing and decorating Blundell's Pop Art Express as part of the sculpture trail around Tiverton (see News pages), an exhibition covering forty years of photography at Blundell's and, of course, some wonderful pieces being created, including those by GCSE, AS and A Level students, some of which can be seen here.



Left: Bella Slade (Year 11) **Above:** Annie Hibberd (Year 13)



Left: Freya Slack (Year 13)
Right: Ivan Leung (Year 13)
Below right: Jordan To (Year 12)
Below: Eva Lloyd (Year 12)



Above: Imogen Cotton (Year 11)
Right: Alice Channon (Year 11)





Mr Goodwin with his portrait painted by Tobias Francis, at the farewell party put on by his photography students

A tribute to Mr Goodwin

Mr Goodwin is one of the longest serving teachers Blundell's has ever had. For 40 years (including part time work), he has ruled over the Photography department, teaching many pupils who have gone onto become fantastically talented photographers. I am lucky enough to be one of his students and am even luckier to have been taught by him in his final year at Blundell's.

Mr Goodwin has vast collection of cameras as well as a vast collection of stories especially from art trips, with his favourite being the trip to Amsterdam in the early 90s. It, of course, was a beautiful disaster and one that is always brought up by the Art department when telling stories.

Upon being asked the question "What got you into photography?", he replied "At my foundation course I tried everything. When there I had my first experience with working in the darkroom and, like everybody else, I fell in love with the magic of the photograph appearing. I didn't do a photographic degree, I did a fine art degree but I did specialise in photography. At the end of the degree, I was awarded their first Fellowship in Photography".

Time spent with Mr Goodwin as your teacher makes you realize how lucky you are. Art is a subject shadowed by academic subjects but Mr Goodwin made art and photography shine. He has respect for and from his students and the rest of the Art department staff and treasures all pieces of art made by his students. His devotion for traditional photography techniques has broadened his students' appreciation for photography and he has taught us skills which we will all take with us into our photography future!

Live long and prosper Mr Goodwin!

By Freya Slack (Year 13)

Forty Years of Photography

The exhibition organised by Mr Goodwin marked the span of his years teaching photography at Blundell's and is his last one as he retired at the end of the summer term (see more in the tribute by Freya Slack). Many of his past students have gone on to have successful careers as photographers or in related careers and accepted his invitation to have work put on display in Ondaatje for this celebratory exhibition. This is a small selection.



Joe Cornish (SH 71-75) is one of the most influential landscape photographers of his generation. He is also a prolific printer, writer, thinker, workshop leader and mentor and he has been a judge of Wildlife Photographer of the Year and regular host of the Natural History Museum's Understanding Photography seminars. He has shot freelance assignments for the National Trust since the late 1980s.



James O Jenkins (OH 89-94) is a professional photographer working in London for a wide variety of clients and publications and is the founder of Welsh collective A Fine Beginning. His photograph shows the last surviving handball ('Pel-Law') court in Wales; this was a popular sport in the country and was similar to squash but played with the open hand in the yards of pubs in front of spectators.



Richard Heeley (NC 80-85) went to film school after Blundell's and subsequently spent 13 years at the BBC, where he directed Top Gear and was instrumental in developing the now famous look of the 2002 re-launched show. He became a freelance director in 2008 working on a diverse range of shows and now works in the corporate sector.





BOYS' CRICKET

It was a mixed season for the 1st XI but there were some stunning wins against Millfield and Sherborne; in the former, Blundell's won by 109 runs with batting figures of 298 for 5 (Dan Pyle 136, Jack Lockwood 80 and Monty Crowe 50 not out) and bowling 189 all out (Dan Pyle 6-22). Against Sherborne, Blundell's won by 9 wickets, batting at 99 for 1, bowling 98 all out. The XI were also victorious against Queen's Taunton in a 20/20 match, Heathcoat CC and Truro School.

The 2nd XI suffered from various switches in personnel with the 1st XI and also matches cancelled in the second half of term. The 3rd XI Gentlemen had few wins but as always for this team, all that mattered was that the players enjoyed themselves and that the opposition appreciated the contest against a well-mannered and sporting Blundell's XI, captained by Henry Mules. The popularity of the gentleman's club has grown and once again we managed to field a 4th XI along with the Gentleman's 3rd XI which is a fantastic for a school of Blundell's size.

There were some fantastic highlights in 4th XI matches this season including, against Taunton School (which Blundell's won by 68 runs), a brilliantly held catch by Gordon Russell, great batting by Ed Pawson and bowling by Ross Harvey; another fantastic catch by Gordon Russell to give debutant Ken Beattie his first ever wicket in the match against King's College and a glorious 62 not out by Will Smith and possibly career defining 33 from Tom Hare versus Millfield.

Main picture: The 1st XI versus Millfield
Inset: The 1st XI cricket team

The U15A team started the season well with an excellent win against a tricky Taunton side, when Blundell's had a 9 wicket victory. The team then went through a slight dip in form, which lasted until the end of the year. Notable performances came from Owen Thomas who emerged as a deceptive medium slow bowler and Eva Lloyd who had a stellar year with the ball.

The U15Bs experienced more defeats than victories but their cricket improved during the course of the season. The highlight came with a remarkable performance away to Clifton College, when the U15Bs posted an intimidating 164-5 from their allotted 25 overs, with Jake Le Gassick scoring a magnificent unbeaten 107 from a mere 72 balls; there was also some excellent swing bowling from Archie Prideaux (2-18) and some clever leg-spin from Archie Finnigan-Kilby (3-14).

The U14As had some tough fixtures but worked hard and learned lessons, winning the last game of the season against Uffculme by 6 wickets. The U12A squad was strong in depth this year and had a target to win more than they lost, which they achieved by winning five matches, losing three and with three abandoned due to the weather. There were a lot of highlights, including Harry Huggett's maiden 50 to snatch victory against King's Hall, Finn Muirhead's six wickets against Queen's to turn a match on its head and a stunning catch from Josh Coe to win the Wells Test match, giving a fitting end to the season.



Jack Dart, Dan Pyle, Zak Bess, Dylan Penberthy and Dom Bess, the five former cricket captains
Photo: Rachel Tozer

FIVE PLAY FOR DEVON

Blundell's long connection with Devon County Cricket Club continues to thrive and this season five of the School's former cricket captains played for the county in a match against Wales (it would have been six had Liam Lewis not had teaching duties on the day). The Blundell's contingent played well in the game with the outgoing captain of cricket at the School Dan Pyle top scoring with 86 in Devon's first innings. Dom Bess, last year's captain who made his debut for Somerset 1st XI and England U19s this season, made 38 in the first innings and took three wickets. Jack Dart had scores in the 30s in both innings, Zak Bess took several wickets and Dylan Penberthy made 10 opening the batting on his debut.

GIRLS' CRICKET

On a beautiful sunny day in May, Blundell's Girls played their inaugural match against MCC Ladies; a representative team of women of all ages and abilities, which plays fixtures throughout the country to promote the sport. The philosophy is that whilst winning is always important, it is the taking part and playing the game in the right spirit that should be the over-riding factor. The teams were mixed to ensure an even contest, with Emma Jackman captaining one side and Judy Wilmot who has represented MCC Ladies more often, both as player and team manager, than anyone else, the other.

After their thirty overs the Wilmot XI had scored 133; pick of the bowlers was Emma Jackman who took 2 for 14 from 5 overs. The stand out innings was 51 not out from Eva Lloyd, who showed great maturity in her shot selection. In reply, opener Millie Attwell performed a similar feat, achieving her unbeaten half century with aggressive but controlled strokes, 32 runs coming in boundaries. The fielding side could not stem the flow of runs and the Jackman XI emerged victorious with two overs to spare.

Miss P Black



The girls' team and the MCC Ladies

The girls' cricket team were only able to play a handful of competitive matches this year due to other sporting commitments and the weather. These included a 20 over game against Taunton School, which Blundell's won thanks to great bowling from Lucy Walliker and attacking batting from Trixie Nicholson, and a match against Wellington School, which Blundell's won by 9 wickets, with Helen Jackman taking three wickets and Rosie Baker taking a wicket in her debut match. The girls once again demonstrated that they are a group of talented cricketers and a team to watch on the Girls' Cricket circuit.



U16 HOCKEY

The U16 girls' hockey team made it to the national championships at the Olympic Park, where they came fourth after some hard-fought games. Their first match was against Cranleigh, who were the eventual winners of the championships. Blundell's lost 5-0 but came back fighting for the second match of the day which they won 3-1 against Wellingborough. The first game of day two was a must win for Blundell's in order to progress to the 3rd/4th place match and it was against Framlingham. In a close encounter, Blundell's maintained a lead of 1-0. Their final match was against King's Bruton; the Blundell's team played excellently and was unlucky not to get a better result than the 2-0 win to King's. It was a great experience for the girls to play at Olympic Park and one they thoroughly enjoyed.

RUGBY 7s

The 7s season was largely successful for the 1st squad with highlights being the win at the Devon 7s, finishing runners-up at the Millfield 7s, reaching the semi-finals of the Bryanston 7s, and reaching the quarter-final pools and the second day of Rosslyn Park – putting us amongst the top 16 teams in the country.

The season began at Millfield where we finished the day in second place, losing 10-0 to the hosts in the final. Despite the disappointing result in the final, where we let ourselves down with a few too many mistakes, it was a positive start to the season with the level of performance improving throughout the day.

After the Millfield tournament, our next outing wasn't for a few weeks due to the poor weather leading to the cancellation of the Brecon 7s. At the Devon 7s, we came away as county champions, finishing the tournament without conceding a point.

The last tournament of the term was the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s for which we certainly saved our best. On the first day, we progressed from a tough group beating Sevenoaks (40-7), Stonyhurst (29-0), Trent College (29-5) and St Olaves (48-0). This set up a qualifier against Millfield 2nd VII who we beat convincingly 34-0. Progressing through the first day put us in one of four

quarter-final pools of four teams. Our pool was made up of Eastbourne, Bishop's Wordsworth, Cheltenham College and ourselves. The second day didn't quite go our way however, despite a big effort in the first game against Eastbourne, inaccuracies saw us go down 26-7. Following this we played Bishop's Wordsworth and despite a better performance we lost 14-12, but the game was one we felt we could have and maybe should have won. The result put us out of the tournament and was hugely disappointing. However we managed to lift ourselves to win against Cheltenham 15-12. The result was testament to the hard work and desire of the team no matter the circumstance and it was a nice way for many of us to finish our Blundell's rugby careers in the top 16.

The U16 VII had a good season with a strong showing at the Canford tournament. Unfortunately they failed to get out of a tricky group at Rosslyn Park, losing by close margins in a couple of games. The squad is talented with some key players being a year young this year which bodes well for next year.

The U14s had a positive showing at Rosslyn Park finishing 3rd in a tough group which included Millfield. The boys got good wins against Gravesend Grammar School and Welsh side Y Gwyndy

By Cameron Seymour (Year 13), Captain of VII Rugby



ATHLETICS

To start the season the athletics team held their own meet at the Castle Track in Taunton and, although this coincided with the Boys' Lutra Shield in Yeovil, both had a successful day.

In Taunton the girls had many notable performances including Trixie Nicholson in the javelin, who beat her opposition by more than 10 metres, Tash Finchett in the 400 metres, on return from injury, and Zoë Hitchens winning the shot put and discus along with many more successes of the day.

In Yeovil the boys put on a good performance for their first meet of the season. Arthur Friend won the 110m hurdles, leading by example. Karl Still, Will McIntyre and Ben Clarke also gave exceptional performances.

The Super 8s meet at Millfield School put pupils out of their comfort zones; however, there were again many brilliant performances. Ben Clarke jumped a height of 1.75m to take the win in the high jump and Arthur Friend won very comfortably in the 300m sprint. The Junior medley relay, comprised of girls and boys, ran a strong relay to come out 2nd.

The Track and Field Cup (the Devon round of the national competition) showed many young talents coming through. The Junior

girls (Years 7 and 8) finished 3rd with brilliant performances by Mia Butterfield, Mattie Kolowska and Maddy Cotton. The Junior relay team comprising Mariia Karpova, Lou Voisin, Zoe Dare and Megan Benson finished the day off with a strong victory. The Junior boys also had a successful day with Freddie Mercer gaining another Personal Best (PB) in the 800m. The Inter boys' team (Years 9 and 10) comprised of many cricketers and swimmers did superbly on the day and managed to snatch 2nd place. The Inter girls' team won the competition and, with the Junior girls, progressed to the regional finals where they finished 4th and 5th respectively.

Ten athletes at the Exeter Area Trials progressed through to the next stage of representing Exeter Area Schools against East Devon Schools. The Year 7s who attended this event also performed to a very high standard with several gaining 1st or 2nd places.

An Open meet at Taunton once again proved how top class our athletes are with 21 individuals gaining 1st or 2nd in their respected events. Bertie Frankpitt and Mantha Unsworth-White flew over the hurdles to both gain comfortable wins. Zoë Hitchens once again achieved a double victory in the shot put and the discus.



Main picture: Jenny Mettam on her way to winning the 1500 metres with Tabitha Pring

Inset: Lucy and Trixie at the English Schools Championships at Gateshead

Blundell's hosted the Prep Schools' Athletics Meet in which the Year 7 and 8 team won the Open Trophy, beating Mount Kelly, St Peter's, Stover and Exeter Cathedral School. In this, there were wins for Boris Ames (hurdles), Leo Dummett (100m), Freddie Mercer (1500m), Anna Maunder (800m), Mia Butterfield (200m), Eve Nugent (1500m) and the Girls' Relay, where the team set a new record at 52.7.

Six Blundell's athletes represented Devon at the South West Schools Championships when both Lucy Walliker and Trixie Nicholson took firsts; Lucy jumped a jumped a new PB of 1.66m (National Entry Standard) to become South West Champion in the Senior girls high jump and Trixie threw 38.98m to become South West Champion (for the second year running) in the Inter girls javelin. They were then selected to compete at the English Schools Championships in Gateshead in July. At this event, Trixie threw a new PB of 43.14m in the javelin to finish fifth (narrowly missing bronze) and Lucy finished 6th in the Senior high jump, jumping 1.66m to equal her PB.

By Alice Smith (Year 13) Captain of Girls' Athletics

For more detailed results of athletics competitions, please see the athletics page on the website.



CROSS COUNTRY

Luke Bartlett (429) in this year's Russell when he improved on his previous Russell time by 30 minutes.

When all that is on the agenda is running for an hour four times a week, you'd never believe that Cross Country would have a turnout of 40 plus, but yet week in week out it does. From year groups 11-13, over the course of two terms, we have run far and wide – Knighthayes, Halberton, over and beyond the top of Heartbreak Hill, we've done them all. You'd think that Mr. Bailey and Mr. Lecharpentier would hear endless groans and moans from the students as they climb Heartbreak for the third time that afternoon, but they don't. This is because the people who do Cross Country, in general, aren't there because it is the lesser of two evils, but for their own gain and interest. We have seen our physical condition improve in leaps and bounds. This was summed perfectly at this year's Russell Run, as Mr. Bailey was inevitably proud to see the Cross Country runners leading by example, showing how far they've come.

By Luke Bartlett (Year 12)

Luke won the Berry Barker Balance cup at the Russell, for having impressed throughout the XC season this year, regularly putting in 100% effort, leading the way in most sessions and with the best attendance at Cross Country by some way.

Sports Day

The Senior Sports Day took place in perfect conditions for athletics and five records were broken: Karl Still, boys' triple jump (12.10m); Ben Oliphant-Thompson, boys' shot (13.07m); Lucy Walliker, girls' high jump (1.61m); Lucy Walliker, girls' triple jump (10.08m) and Alice Smith, girls' javelin (32.20m). The Victor Ludorum was extremely close, with the eventual winner Arthur Friend but pushed by Karl Still. The Victrix Ludorum was Lucy Walliker.

Unfortunately, the weather was not so favourable for the Junior Sports Day, which had to be cancelled.

Top left: Karl Still in the 1500m
Top right: Bertie Frankpitt tackles the 100m hurdles
Middle left: Arthur Friend in the 400m
Middle right: Hamish Reading takes the high jump
Right: Bonnie Price ready for the triple jump



RARE HONOUR FOR ALICE

Alice Smith was awarded the rare accolade of being presented with the White Jacket. Historically, the White Jacket could only be worn by the captain of athletics, who must also have been awarded his/her Full Colours for one other major sport. In recognition of the wide range of disciplines for which Full Colours are awarded, the White Jacket may now only be worn by a girl or boy who has been awarded their Full Colours on three occasions in different disciplines (for Alice in athletics, hockey and netball: she was also captain of all three sports).





Tabitha and Bethan negotiating a portage



Francis and Dougal, DW and SW champions

GREAT WORK BY BLUNDELL'S PADDLERS

The Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, or DW as its known, is a major feature on the calendar for Blundell's Canoe Club and takes place over the Easter weekend. The race involves paddling for 125 miles from Devizes, Wiltshire to Westminster Bridge, London, along the Kennet and Avon canal and then the river Thames. Along the way there are 77 portages, where the crew has to carry their canoe around the lock and then get back in to continue paddling. After a full day of racing, the crews then have to set up their own tents; their support teams are not allowed to help them.

Two Blundell's crews competed in Junior Doubles of this year's DW: Tabitha Pring and

Bethan Wesley took on the challenge for the first time, having started paddling in the summer term of 2015, while Francis Huntingford and Dougal Glaisher were taking part for the second time.

At the end of day one, Francis and Dougal were in the lead, eight minutes ahead of their nearest rivals, an experienced pair from Fowey River Canoe Club, while Bethan and Tabitha were in 32nd place (out of 81 boats). The boys' held their lead at the end of the second day, although it was reduced to 3½ minutes. On the third day, the weather started to deteriorate and the decision was taken to halt the race that evening at Teddington due to severe weather forecasts.

It was also decided that the results would stand from the third day's race – so Francis and Dougal were placed first with a time of 15:03:21 (just 28 seconds ahead of the Fowey crew) and Bethan and Tabitha 42nd out of 81 crews with a time of 19:32:03 and the fourth girls' crew in – a fantastic achievement by both crews.

CANOE CHAMPIONS

A month on from the DW, school teams were back in action at the inaugural meeting of the South West Schools' Championships, organised and run by the region's racing clubs. The aim of the day was to promote racing in school canoeing within the area and introduce crews to both Sprint and Marathon ahead of the summer race season.

Teams from Canford School, Mount Kelly, Launceston College and Blundell's competed in both 500m and 200m sprints in the morning and completed the eight mile Hasler Marathon course in the afternoon. There was exciting racing throughout the day, particularly in the 200m knockout. Blundell's managed to secure both the Sprint and Marathon Team titles, with Francis Huntingford and Dougal Glaisher taking both individual events.



Ski trip to Italy

From our 14th floor rooms at the top of the hotel, we had a wonderful vantage point to look over the town and mountains. The view from the mountains surrounding Sestriere was even better, which added to the enjoyment of the week of skiing – despite the unpredictable conditions ranging from bright sunshine and fresh powder to opaque fog and slush almost reminiscent of Devon's winter. With a number of classes to suit ability, the skiing was amazing.

The incredible scenery was only one of many highlights of the trip. Others included the evening activities, for example tobogganing and tubing, in which Millie Attwell succeeded in jumping the fence and sliding into the next field. We also got a chance to swim in an outside pool in the evening and properly appreciate the temperature difference between the air and the water!

We spent much of our spare time wandering and exploring the picturesque Italian town and adding crepes to a generous diet that included much pasta and hot chocolate. A fantastic trip!

Julia Huntingford (Year 11)



Swimming

SWIMMING AT BLUNDELL'S IS HAVING A RESURGENCE! PUPILS ARE POSITIVELY CHOOSING SWIMMING AS THEIR SUMMER TERM ACTIVITY AND THE SWIMMING TEAM IS GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH. THE 2016 SUMMER TERM HAS BEEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN RECENT YEARS AND THE FUTURE FOR SWIMMING AT BLUNDELL'S IS LOOKING VERY POSITIVE INDEED.

A new team of teachers took over the coaching of swimming in 2013 and have carefully devised a training programme designed to improve the swimming of every single individual who opts for swimming (not just those who want to be considered for the team), whilst providing comprehensive stroke technique and fitness sessions to give those who represent the team the best chance they can when competing in galas.

The first initiative was to introduce a variety of training sessions concentrating on a specific stroke, a specific technique or skill or on stamina. These are selected and written on whiteboards for all swimmers to follow during a training session. The second initiative was to generally raise the profile of swimming in the School; a new swimming kit was introduced which has really given the team a pride and identity in representing the School and we introduced ties for the boys and pin badges for the girls in line with other sports. This summer we have also been granted permission to award Full Colours to the Boy's Captain, Edmund Leung – the first time swimming colours have been awarded for many years. The third initiative was to

have purchased a good supply of equipment to enable every pupil to train at their maximum potential – this has included fins and kickboards. The result of these initiatives is a group of pupils who really feel that they have made a good decision by selecting swimming as their chosen summer sport and are given the best chance to maximise their own swimming ability and techniques.

A typical swimming session is either 30 minutes or 45 minutes long and consists of

a warm up and a main set before a warm down. Group and individual coaching is given throughout the training time to ensure that every pupil has access to the best help and advice possible – the coaching team believe that this is vital for everyone, and feedback from pupils tells us that we are getting it right!

The season is intense, with the first competitive gala normally scheduled after about one hour back in the water and all galas are normally over by the half-term holiday! It is therefore a hectic (frenetic?) time with considerable demands on the team swimmers to train over a very short time period. This year they have responded superbly well with victories at Sherborne (against five other schools), King's Taunton and home against Wellington. Our only defeat was against Queen's Taunton but the losing gap was considerably smaller this year so progress is being made and it was good to hear that the coach herself recognised the progress that Blundell's has made over the past two or three years! Our achievements are especially notable, given that we currently only swim during the summer term whilst the other local schools all have indoor pools and train all year round.

We have hosted two home galas this year with Maynard School and Wellington Senior Squad and have also tried to introduce more galas that involve the swimmers in Years 7 and 8 – they are, after all, the very future of Blundell's swimming. They have swum well and there is considerable potential!

The future of Blundell's swimming is now secure and there is much to look forward to. Blundell's has some very talented swimmers who are putting us on the map as a School to take seriously when it comes to swimming. We still have great plans and hopes; we will not let Blundell's down.

Miss H Youngs

Top left: The Years 7 and 8 gala

Below: The senior swimming team



Welcome

It has been a busy few months for the Development Office and the Old Blundellian Club, hosting events both at Blundell's and at venues in London and overseas, raising support for bursaries and school projects, and developing networks to provide guidance and advice for a variety of careers. We are very grateful to all those who choose to support Blundell's in so many different ways.

We were delighted that many of you contributed towards helping us purchase the fantastic new scoreboard on Big Field, on which we can show match scores and also photographs of pupils across the School participating in numerous activities, as we did on Speech Day (pictured right). The slideshow of snapshots of the Upper Sixth taken during their years at Blundell's, shown on the board at the Leavers' Ball, was also much appreciated.



We have once again been able to use the unique venue of the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines at Lympstone through the generosity of the current Commandant, Colonel Kevin Oliver. Following on from our Old Blundellian Dinner there in November, we had a

tour (pictured above) and lunch for our 1604 Society members to thank those who have informed us that they intend to make a gift in their will to benefit Blundell's. We also held a cocktail reception there for the members of the Sir Francis Popham Society, which encourages long-standing members of the Blundell's Community (such as former governors, OB Club committee members and other supporters) to remain in contact and up to date with Blundell's activity.

Old Blundellian Tim Courtenay (OH 54-59) led our third Battlefield Tour in May to view the Battlegrounds of Waterloo and Ypres; we were delighted to see the memorial plaque at St George's Chapel in Ypres as part of our visit. Thank you to those who most generously supported this element of the Memorial Project for Old Blundellians who fought in the two world wars and other conflicts. A full tour report appears later in The Diary from Christian Brook (W 78-83).

I would also like to thank all the representatives of the Friends of Blundell's Social Committee who have continued to be a huge support at a variety of social events during the last year, including the Leavers' Ball and who have hosted individual House and year group meetings, together with the regular termly coffee mornings.

We are currently updating our database: please do remember to update us with your latest contact details if you have changed address recently.

Once again, thank you for your support for all the various activities, initiatives and events.

Amber Oliver

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



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



Jessica Riley
Development PA
Tel. 01884 243262
devoffice@blundells.org

SOCIAL MEDIA



Catch up with the latest news and event details on Blundell's Twitter account (@BlundellsSchool) and Facebook (Blundell's School Community).

Current Activities and Events

Life at Blundell's 30 years ago

In 1986 Andrew Nadolski, then a young art student, arrived at Blundell's to produce a photo documentary of life in a typical boarding school. He spent two months photographing many aspects of School life; pupils, teachers and the army of support staff who keep Blundell's running smoothly. Now, 30 years later a book of the photographs is being published. Featuring more than 100 images, *Boarding School - Blundell's 1986* is an affectionate look back, capturing the essence of a school at the end of an era before the exciting years of modernisation and full co-education. The images of a smoke-filled, male dominated common room, study rooms complete with Samantha Fox posters and rows of baths in the boarding houses are a marked contrast to that of life at the School today.

The book also features an essay by recently retired Ali Deighton-Gibson who was one of the younger teachers then at the School.



Top: Front cover - Rows of baths in a boarding house
Above: Monitor stopping traffic to allow pupils to cross the road

The book will be launched at an evening reception in the Beale Centre on 4th November 6.00pm - 9.00pm. Please contact Paddy or Janet in the OB Club for further information.

BLUNDELL'S CAREER AND MENTORING PROGRAMME

Blundell's is hosting its first Careers Fair on Thursday 17th November, 3pm-6pm, which will be open to students from the School and local schools, parents and other visitors. It will be an opportunity for the young people to focus on the myriad of opportunities available to them for an exciting future. We hope it will open pathways or reinforce aspirations as they meet employers face-to-face. We also hope that you would like to share your enthusiasm and knowledge of your 'career' at this fair; please contact the Development Office if so.

The School Career Mentoring Programme is designed to help both current and past pupils with career advice in specific industries and career paths. The guidance offered by mentors has been invaluable to the decision making process for pupils and Old Blundellians who are either starting out in the world of work or who are seeking a change of career. We encourage OBs, past and current parents, governors and supporters from all stages of life to participate and become involved in this programme.

If you would like to offer your services as a Blundell's Mentor, please contact the Development Office. If you are looking for advice in a specific industry or career, please select the industry category on the website to view possible mentors.

James Bullock Memorial Fund



As many of you are aware, James Bullock sadly died in September of last year. He was a great Blundellian who distinguished himself during his time here from 1981-1986, before going up to Cambridge as an undergraduate at Sidney Sussex, a college with strong historical links to our School. Thereafter he embarked on a highly successful legal career. By the time of his untimely death at the age of 47, he was one of the UK's most prominent tax lawyers, with a global reputation, and partner and member of the leadership team at Pinsent Masons, the prestigious international law firm.

He was – and for him just as importantly – one of our governors with an enthusiasm and dedication that

reflected not only his love of Blundell's but his commitment to education and educational opportunity. The James Bullock Memorial Fund was created in James's memory to assist deserving candidates going on to university with the costs associated with their higher education.

Three of our pupils were recently awarded support from the trustees of the fund: Rami Holzman for the James Bullock Memorial Scholarship and Zoe Hitchens and Ellie McPherson for the James Bullock Memorial Exhibition prizes and our congratulations are sent to all three pupils.

We continue to raise funds for this and if you would like further information about supporting the fund, please contact the Development Office at devoffice@blundells.org

Food, Drink and Hospitality Professions Evening

Saturday 1st October



Guy Bentley

We are delighted to be hosting this reception in Big School for members of the Blundell's Community who are involved with the Food, Drink and Hospitality professions. It is our pleasure to welcome Guy Bentley (FH 72-76) to give us the benefit of his knowledge in this field.

Guy was recently appointed as CEO Worldwide of Glion Institute of Higher Education, a world-leading hospitality business school with campuses in Switzerland and London. Prior to that, he acted for more than eleven years as CEO of Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School in Australia, during which time he partnered Blue Mountains programs with institutions throughout Thailand, Malaysia, Chile and Mexico. He has been a leader in education and hospitality management in Australia and the United Kingdom for more than 25 years. He publishes academic and industry papers and regularly speaks at hospitality management and tourism industry conferences. If you would like to join us for this reception, please contact the Development Office to reserve your place.

DUBAI RECEPTION

Thursday 27th October

Please join us if you are in the Dubai vicinity for our Blundell's Community Drinks Reception at the YNOT Bar in the InterContinental Dubai Marina Hotel on 27th October between 6.00pm and 8.00pm. All Blundellians, parents and supporters welcome; please indicate your availability to attend to devoffice@blundells.org

FIREWORKS DRINKS RECEPTION

Tuesday 1st November

Please do join the Friends of Blundell's Social Committee Fireworks Drinks Reception in the Beale Centre during the pupils' fireworks evening between 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Please contact the Development Office if you would like to come.

THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY AND CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES

The Blundell's Business Directory is an opportunity for OBs, past and current parents, staff, sponsors and well-wishers to advertise their business to the Blundell's Community who we hope will use this as a starting point when requiring a service or looking for a particular provider.

We have a wide range of corporate sponsorship opportunities across the School for individual projects, activities and events both on site and at venues around the country. If you would like to know more about these opportunities, and/or wish to take part in the Blundell's Business Directory, please contact the Development Office at devoffice@blundells.org or call 01884 243262 for more information.



Last year's Hare and Hounds runners (left to right) Mark Norton (M 80-83), Giles Stimson (NC 60-65), Tom Babbington (FH 94-99)

HARE AND HOUNDS ALUMNI RACE

Saturday 17th December

Calling all runners for our 7th Annual Hare and Hounds Alumni Race at Wimbledon Common, London. This popular annual race has been hosted by Thames Hare and Hounds Cross-Country Running Club for 55 years and the course of five miles is a shortened version of the Blues Race course. All ages are welcome; seventy year olds compete with eighteen year olds and the fastest time is usually close to 25 minutes, with the back markers nearer 60 minutes.

The entry rules are simple: a team of unlimited numbers may enter, but they must all be genuine alumni of their school. Guest runners are welcome – whether partners, friends, parents, staff, current pupils, children, grandchildren – but cannot score as part of our team. This is a chance for you to compete for Blundell's against many other local schools. If you would like to enter the race please register your interest with the Development Office.

Regular Giving Fund

Please support our Regular Giving Fund which is focusing on projects across the School in the individual Houses, some departments and the Prep School. The School is not able to achieve all of its goals from fee income alone and, whilst some planned developments can be financed from the annual surplus, the Development Office provides essential support in funding enhanced facilities and in the provision of scholarships and bursaries.

The Regular Giving Fund provides extra equipment for use in a wide variety of areas of School life, including academic provision, sports and extra-curricular activities. These additional resources help to ensure that Blundell's remains able to provide the best possible fully rounded education to all the pupils: please do support if you can.



Recent Events

OB Committee members Richard Swarbrick (M 77-82) and Nick Soul (W 85-90) bonding with young OBs

Old Blundellian Day

OB Day began with the Annual General Meeting of the Old Blundellian Club in the Beale Centre. Notable items were the election of Richard Swarbrick (M 77-82) as Chairman and Paul Waterworth (NC 58-62) as President. The meeting thanked Paul for his service as Chairman and Martyn Grose for his service as President.

Kate Wheatley (nee Pyle GH 87-89) preached and OBs enjoyed some excellent music from the School during Chapel. Pre-lunch drinks in the Beale Centre were provided by the Thurlestone Hotel as was the wine at lunch. The OB Club is most grateful for this and encourages readers to investigate this excellent establishment.

Tables of Magpies, Battlefield Tour participants, NC OBs of the 'fire' generation, girl sports captains and others enjoyed Nicky Klinkenberg's inspirational, President of the Day, address after an enjoyable lunch.

Following her OB Day involvement, Nicky Klinkenberg has volunteered to advise the OB Committee on induction of leavers to the OB Club and to host gatherings of young OBs on behalf of the Club. This will be invaluable bearing in mind Nicky and husband Peter's ongoing involvement in Westlake.

Old Blundellian Day 2017 will be Saturday 17th June and will include a School v

Magpies shoot. The OB Committee is delighted that David Fursdon has agreed to be President for the day. David was on the Blundell's teaching staff from 1979 to 1984, was a Governor from 1984 to 2011 serving as Chairman for the last 11 years and after completing a stint running the CLA is now the Lord Lieutenant of Devon. His wife, Catriona, was a tutor in GH (1980-92) and and their three sons are OBs. David was also a Westlake Tutor and ran the 1st XI captained by Hugh Morris (W 76-82).



Top: North Close likely lads from the 80s

Above: The Deputy Mayor entertains the Head

Below: Governors and ex-governors led to the buffet by Sarah Maunder





London Casual Drinks Reception



Top: Michael Shepherd (FH 66-72) and Peter Price (W 58-63) very pleased to get their drinks



Old Blundellians enjoyed drinks, canapés and early evening sunshine at The Lodge adjacent to Apsley House, Hyde Park Corner, courtesy of James Goff (M 75-79). We are very grateful for his support as host for this event during the last five years.

Thanks also to the Sullings family for making everything work so well on the day. About 80 OBs of all ages dropped in, with the hard core moving on to a local hostelry at about 10pm. We are lucky that an invitation to the same venue has been offered for next year - keep an eye open for the date.

GAUDY

THE JONATHAN LEIGH ERA

It was a great pleasure to welcome back Jonathan Leigh as our Guest Speaker for the Gaudy for those who had attended or worked at Blundell's during his time as Head. We are delighted that Jonathan and his wife Emma continue to be very much a part of Blundell's; former pupils were thrilled to see them again and hear some reminiscences about their time here and adventures since leaving the School.



Prep Parents (former and current) enjoying the memory lane display

BLUNDELL'S PREP SCHOOL 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

Pupils who had attended the Blundell's Prep School participated in the 10 Year Anniversary celebration in June, playing a mini 'It's a knockout' competition for their former Houses, enjoying some light musical entertainment and speeches from Holly Nugent (Year 8) and Rory Clark (Year 13).



Natalie Murphy

THE RUSSELL VETERAN RACE

Congratulations to the Old Blundellians, parents and guests who took part in the Russell in March, braving the usual muddy conditions. This was the 136th year that the event has been held (although that figure is open to debate). The winners for each category were:

Under 40

Russell Adams (guest)
Natalie Murphy (guest)

40-50

Stephen Wray (guest)
Rachel Palmer (GH 90-92)

Over 50

Phil Spencer (current parent)
Kate Gardner (current parent)

New OB Club Chairman

Richard Swarbrick (M 77-82), the new OB Chairman, joined the Royal Navy after School on a university bursary sponsorship and subsequently flew and served in a range of warships and commanded in the Fleet Air Arm. Over 25 years, he saw a varied range of operational experience (including, amongst others, the Adriatic/former Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland and The Gulf), as well as Joint and RN staff jobs. He took early retirement from the RN, whilst on the First Sea Lord's Naval Staff in 2008 to join the NHS, as a commissioner. He now has the national lead for key aspects of armed forces health, especially for people joining, moving within and leaving the armed forces.

Richard wants to build on the successful and mutually beneficial relationship between the OBs, the School and the Governors. The OB Club includes former pupils from the Senior and Prep Schools, as well as being open to all former staff and he feels the OBC must be relevant to all age groups of OBs. The OBC will continue to develop, provide and be involved in a range of social, cultural and sporting events, both at Blundell's and across the UK (and, through the OB Ambassadors, abroad). He wants to encourage all OBs to be involved and where an event is happening near you, to come along and meet old school mates and staff and use the unique networking and social opportunities the OBC affords.



Rachel Palmer



Russell Adams



Annual Golf Day



The Annual Golf Day was held at Dainton Park Golf and Country Club near Newton Abbot, again attracting members from across the Blundell's Community. Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to welcoming you to Teignmouth Golf Course in the spring; date to be announced.

Top: Lee and Louise Mayor (current parents), Max Mayor (current pupil) and Richard Marker (supporter)

Left: OB Andrew Jeffery (W 61-66) and his team

The winners at Dainton were

1st Team Prize Crocker Team: Chris Crocker, Domingo Tjournaland, Martyn Hare, Jeff Dealtrey

Best Gentleman: Jeff Dealtrey (supporter)

Best Lady: Louise Mayor (current parent)

Best OB: Graham Howe (M 67-72)

Best Parent: Lee Mayor (current parent)

Best Supporter: Richard Ford

Best Current/Formal Staff: Peter Klinkenberg

Best Junior: Max Mayor (current pupil)

Nearest the Pin: Louise Mayor

Longest drive Ladies: Jacqui Vincent (supporter); **Mens:** Peter Klinkenberg

Putting Competition: Richard Ford (supporter)



Cricketer's Lunch

A lunch celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Old Blundellian CC playing in the Cricketer Cup Final was held in May. This coincided with the School playing the MCC and featured an explanation by Grant Dee Shapland of the workings of the Ted Crowe Room at the County Ground, Taunton. Many cricket reminiscences, both fact and fiction, occupied the afternoon and early evening.

Top: Wyeths and Wilsons all set to watch cricket

Right: Mark Portsmouth (FH 70-76) at lunch



Above: Sarah Douglas, Guest Speaker Tom Rainey (OH 02-07), Kathryn Henderson (NC 03-09)

Blundell's Black Tie Sports Dinner

The Sports Dinner was held to celebrate the sporting achievements of the year at Blundell's. Old Blundellians, current and past parents, along with staff and pupils, came together to hear from our Guest Speaker Tom Rainey (OH 02-07).



Tom's speech gave us a brief insight into his preparations and persistence to complete his trans-Atlantic rowing adventure in memory of his father Luke Rainey (OH 70-72). Tom's trip was hugely successful and he and his rowing partner broke four Guinness World Records during the row and he has raised more than £100,000 for the Brain Tumour Charity. Tom put huge emphasis on the importance of team work, which is something embedded in so many of us and inspired us about how we can use that in the future as productively as he did. The speech was followed by an entertaining charity auction with Mr Lockwood (current parent) as the auctioneer.

This year the dinner raised more than £4000 towards the Blundell's Video Scoreboard Appeal and Blundell's Sports Bursaries. **Emma Jackman** (Year 13)



WINTER LUNCHES

There have been a wide range of speakers for the Winter Lunches, including Paul Waterworth (NC 58-62); Barry Dawe, the Head of CCF and Outdoor Pursuits; Rob Kitson, Rugby Correspondent for The Guardian and current parent; Brian Jenkins (Master 65-92); and the Head, Nicola Huggett, bringing us up to date with forthcoming examination changes. If you would like to come to any of the Winter Lunches which generally run on the second Wednesday of the month between September and March, please do contact the OB Club at admin@obclub.co.uk to get the latest list of speakers and register your interest.



The winning team

Just as the school year ended, the David Shepherd Cricket Trust (DSCT) took over Big Field on a perfect summer's day to hold the Great Cricket Picnic. It was good to see Blundellians and OBs playing for the corporate teams (with wicket maintenance and scoring kindly provided by Mr and Mrs Menheneott respectively) and to watch the many keen young cricketers competing in the U9 matches. A fantastic array of cakes was produced for the cricket tea and a barbecue followed the games. The event was organised to raise funds for the DSCT which aims to help more young people to play and enjoy cricket and to help talented players become future stars of the game.



Securing our Future

Those of us who have benefited from the Blundell's experience know how enriching time at the School has been, and how it has shaped our lives thereafter. There can surely be no better way to show our gratitude than to ensure that the same experience will continue to be open to future generations.

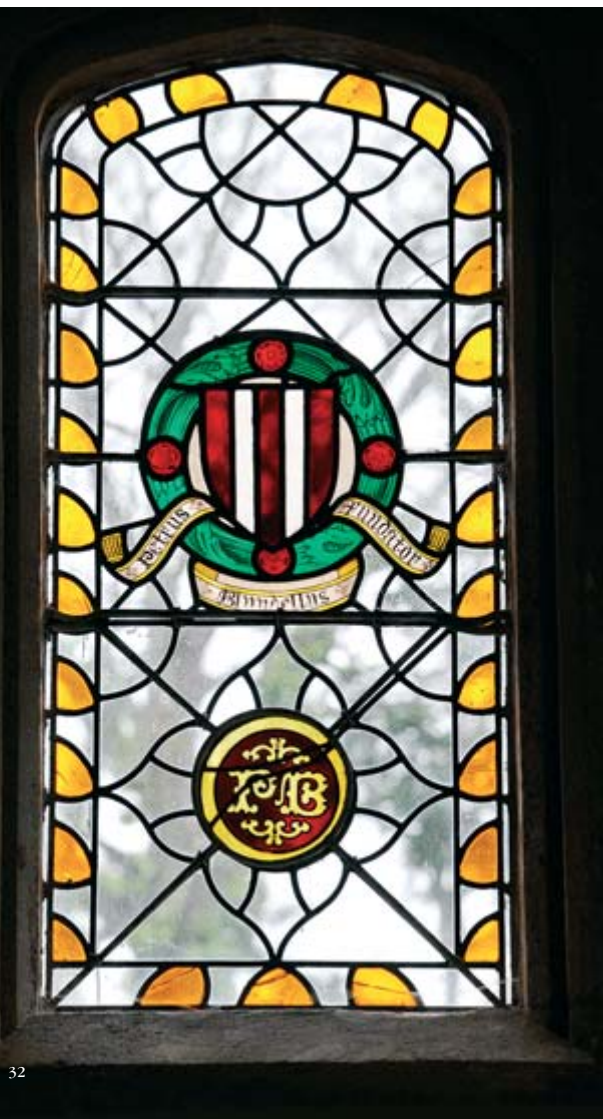
Blundell's rich academic, sporting, cultural and social programme gives pupils a unique opportunity to develop the skills and qualities on which their futures will depend. We believe that an all-round education not only serves individual development but is also increasingly valued within the world of work, where teamwork, imagination and service are central to many of today's most successful enterprises.

The School is thriving and pupil numbers are buoyant as an increasing number of parents become aware of the excellent breadth of opportunities that we offer. Although we are successful, we are not complacent and continuous improvement is essential. For this to happen we need your support.

Blundell's was established as the vision stemming from the generosity and foresight of Peter Blundell himself, who left most of his vast estate to found a school which has grown into the School that still carries his name today. For more than 400 years Blundell's has given several thousands of boys and girls the best start in life.

For many, the opportunity to make a donation in their lifetime is very limited. A 'Gift in your Will' can provide a more suitable opportunity to make a contribution to the school and help secure its future for generations to come.

If you would like any additional information please do not hesitate to contact Amber Oliver, the Development Director on 01884 232324 or via email at a.oliver@blundells.org or by writing to her at The Blundell's Development Office, Blundell's School, Blundells Road, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 4DN.



News of Old Blundellians

A Family Venture

BY JAMES FROST (P 79-84)

When in the sixth form, in 1983, I participated in a wine course given by Mr Mathews (former Blundell's Head of Music). It was a fascinating introduction into the world of wine and a good excuse for some mid-week drinking – but I would never have dreamt that one day I would be a wine producer.

With little desire and ability for university I went into the army. After some years of tanks and horses, whilst stationed with my regiment in Germany, I met my wife Ann. We went on holiday to her family property in Portugal, which they had left after the revolution in 1974. This property was an 18th century estate called Quinta de Sant'Ana, at that stage (in the early 90s) a sleeping beauty waiting to be restored to its former glory. We moved there in 1992 with the given task of selling it or making a business out of it – a solution was required! The early years were busily spent in renovating the buildings one by one, welcoming paying guests and developing a catering business to serve banquets in the converted estate 'factory'. The businesses went well, enabling us to buy the Quinta and provide a wonderful home to bring up our family of seven boys.

My main interest was always in the wine; when we arrived the vineyards were in a terrible state, with poor and unsuitable varieties. I made some extremely rough wine in the first year and vowed to never make the same mistake again! The big change was from 2004 onwards when we employed a winemaker, started to rip up old vines, plant new varieties suited to our climate and soils, modernise the ancient wine cellar and aim for the best quality. Medals and high Parker Points followed. We are now producing 60,000 bottles per annum and selling into the niche market of top restaurants, wine shops and hotels, exporting half of the production. It is hard work and always a challenge, but it must be one of the most rewarding jobs in the world!

www.quintadesantana.com

Quinta de Sant'Ana



Gordon Swaine
(W 33-38)

Left: Gordon Swaine March 2016

Right: Photo of Gordon taken by fellow Westlake house monitor, Oliver Perks



One of the more pleasurable aspects of my job is meeting with our Old Blundellians and hearing their reminiscences about their time at Blundell's and what they have been doing since their days in Tiverton. I had one such meeting with Gordon, probably our oldest Old Blundellian earlier this year.

Gordon was born in Penang and sent to Blundell's after attending a prep school in North Wales. He remembers many of his early days enjoying drama and classics and was Head Boy in his final year at School during which time he secured a History Scholarship to Oxford. His love of writing probably started at Blundell's when he wrote the introduction to Gorton's book. After a period in the Army he went into the publishing world and subsequently formed a group of poets, having several of his own books published. His greatest friend was Oliver Perks (W 34-38) with whom he enjoyed many holidays and cycling trips in Europe. Others included Michael Sambrook and Jack Fairhurst, (all sadly now deceased). He married in 1947 and has two children and two grandchildren.

Gordon is still very interested in all aspects of writing and has kindly given permission for us to reproduce some of his works (particularly *A Harem Tale* published in London Magazine in 1996) on the OB website under the 'Where are they now' section. **By Amber Oliver (Development Director)**



James Frost has kindly offered to produce a Blundell's wine if there are enough people interested to make it viable; please contact Amber Oliver to register your interest.



The Adventures of Chris Davidson (FH 47-50)

Chris has fond memories of his Anglo-Brazilian heritage and of his years at Blundell's, which managed both to anglicise him and to develop his interest in the science stream. He left school at the end of his L6D year to develop his technological education part-time at the Mid-Essex Technical College in Chelmsford, whilst serving a four year student apprenticeship at The Marconi Company. In 1954 he was accepted as a graduate member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, just before he was called up for UK National Service, a benefit which excused him from later exposure to military service in the Brazilian Army. He was commissioned into the Technical (Signals) Branch of the Royal Air Force and assigned to work on Ground Radar Systems, returning to Marconi on completion of his service for further post-graduate specialisation in telecommunications.

Chris had always harboured ambitions to spend much of his working life overseas, and he began that lifestyle with a posting to Cairo shortly after transfer to his company's installation staff. In Egypt he found himself to be only the second UK national to be allowed into the country after the 1956 Suez Crisis. Subsequently he went on to work for Marconi, ITT, and International Aeradio, on residential engineering management assignments in the UK, Africa, the Middle East, the Indian Ocean (he met Zissa, his wife, in Mauritius), the Far East

and South America. He also visited over 40 countries on short term trips related to his work, and almost as many again as a bonafide tourist. His assignments mostly rooted back to his STEM background, though the softer skills of patience and diplomacy were requirements for many of his tasks. He believes that to the extent that he gained these skills at all he must have absorbed them at Blundell's, coming from the high standard of ethics that the School always promoted. In sum, life has dealt him a good hand enriched by many adventures and challenges along the way.

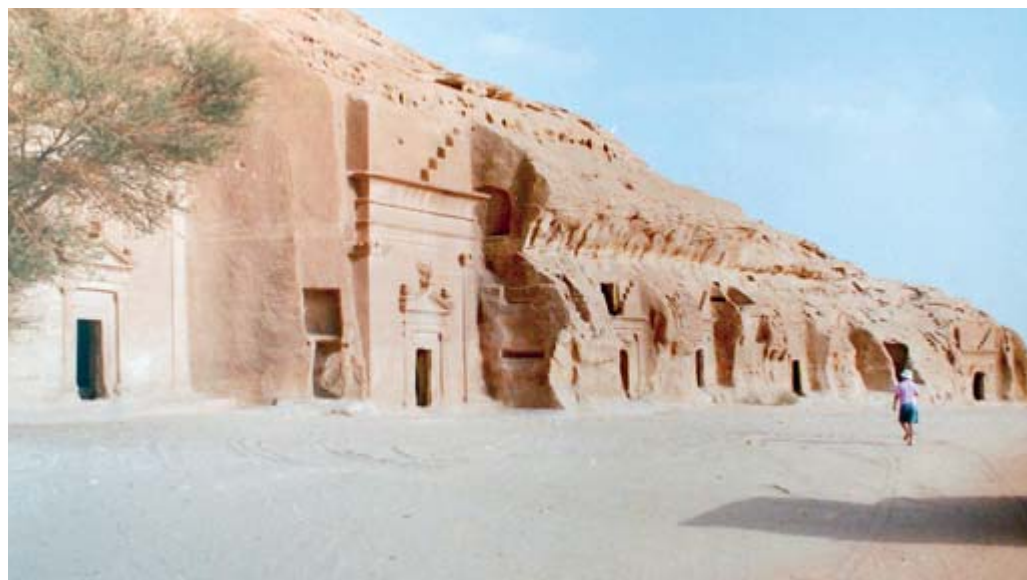
Expatriate staff get to retire early, and he did so from Riyadh in January 1991, just days before the Scud missiles landed there

at the start of the first Gulf War. It could have been "deja vu" for him, as he and Zissa had been posted to Baghdad back in 1963, on their first trip together, where they were promptly curfewed in their small house for two weeks as a kind of extension to their honeymoon! Meanwhile the Iraqi Air Force were slamming missiles into the presidential palace across the Tigris, and the Iraqi Army were mopping up over-zealous youths bent on changing the order of things. History does repeat itself!

Life as a retired expatriate, of course, has been very different for him. Initially he became a Citizens Advice Bureau advisor for a few years in Henley-on-Thames, but the lure of the sea soon led to a move to the Solent where they live today. Their voluntary work switched to being more community centred and continues in this vein for Zissa; but it is sailing that has been paramount for them both. They owned a Norfolk Smuggler (a four berth gaff rigged cutter) for many years in order to cruise UK coastal waters from the Wash to the Lizard, making several diversions to Normandy and to the Channel Islands; and they also made passage through the Canal d'Ille et Rance, for five Seasons based in the Vilaine River from which to cruise in the Morbihan and around the adjacent Biscay coastline and islands down to La Rochelle. Nowadays they are back to dinghy sailing in the creeks behind Hurst Castle, and Chris last year completed a ten year stint as a trustee of their home club at Keyhaven. Earlier this year they escaped the UK winter on a return cruise out of Avonmouth down to South America, passing by Cape Horn on an appropriately gusty day. The Falklands were pretty breezy, too, and the penguins a delight.

The moral of this tale? Consider an engineering career if you want to see the world at the expense of others. It can be very fulfilling in so many ways, given just effort and a modicum of good fortune.

Above: Chris and Zissa Davidson Below: Madain Saleh in Saudi Arabia





What one Old Blundellian did to celebrate his 80th year

BY COLIN WOOD-ROBINSON (OH 49-55)

Since taking a course in Primate Evolution at Cambridge nearly sixty years ago, seeing the great apes – especially gorillas, has been top of my bucket list. Reading Dian Fossey's *Gorillas in the Mist* and George Schallers's *The Year of the Gorilla* only reinforced that desire. I had a knee replaced by a stainless steel one a few years ago (a result of rugby at Blundell's?). I suggested to my surgeon that the fulfilment of this dream was now unlikely. "I don't see why you should not go gorilla trekking" he replied. So in June I set off with my wife and a couple of friends for Rwanda.

After a few days excellent bird watching in the south-western Ngungwe National Park, we headed north to the Volcanoes National Park on the border with the DRC and Uganda which is the home of the Mountain Gorillas. We were lucky in that we only had to trek for an hour or so on each of two consecutive days before we saw gorillas. Some of this trekking involved our guides



cutting a path through the jungle with machetes and avoiding giant stinging nettles and driver ants.

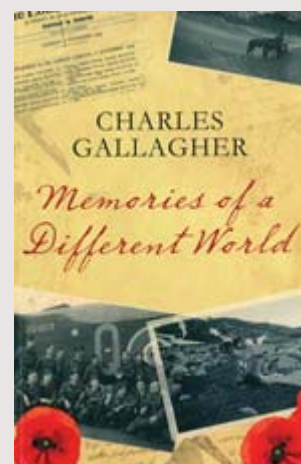
On both days we had wonderful views of these magnificent, gentle and sociable animals. Fourteen of them were visible at one moment. I was grabbed by a young male gorilla, in a friendly way I was assured, and had a massive Silverback (known to the guides as Mr Akarevuro) demonstrate his aggressive posture right in front of me before he brushed past my wife and then beat his chest – a spine-tingling moment. We also were very fortunate to witness the very rare sight of him mating with one of the females. The young ones were especially endearing as they behaved just like small boys – taunting each other and rolling about in the undergrowth.

What a way to celebrate a significant year of my life with one of the most extraordinary experiences I have ever had – an amazing privilege.

Top: Trekking through the jungle to reach the gorillas

Above: The Silverback Mr Akarevuro

Left: Colin watching the gorillas



Memories of a Different World

BOOK REVIEW BY MIKE WOOLDRIDGE (W 64-68)

It was an absolute pleasure to read *Memories of a Different World* by Charles Gallagher (SH 37-42) – the memories of an Old Blundellian who joined the RAF from Cambridge University Air Squadron in 1942. He trained in South Africa and served as a bomb aimer/navigator in 76(R) Squadron RAF on Halifax bombers in the latter stages of World War II. After the war he joined British South American Airways and recently spent a day with the current 76(R) Squadron swapping war stories.

Although the book is about a group of very young men training for war and then engaged on hazardous bombing operations over the Ruhr Valley in Germany, it is much more than a story of men at war. It is actually an extraordinary and colourful social history of life around the world and at war over 70 years ago. From troop ship convoys in the Atlantic, flying training in South Africa, operational conversion to Halifax bombers back in England, bombing operations over heavily defended German cities, civilian transport operations in India and Dakar, the book is full of colourful detail of these places and the people. We see a group of young men thrust by war into unfamiliar and often dangerous environments, but who are determined to explore new cultures and enjoy life as fully as possible. Extraordinary adventures, dramatic events and ridiculous situations are all described with great warmth, and also with appreciation for the many kindnesses shown to them by complete strangers.

This lucky crew, who survived their tour of bombing operations, when 55,573 young men did not, were bound together by great comradeship and sense of humour. These memories of a different world are both interesting and instructive today, and are a wonderful, inspiring and highly recommended read.

This book is now available for £7.99 plus post and packing. A part of the proceeds from sales will be donated to the Blundell's Bursary Fund. For more details, see www.memoriesofadifferentworld.uk



Battlefields Tour 2016

By Christian Brook (W 78-83)

We were off – a 7am prompt departure from Big School and the Third Alan Fradgley Battlefields Tour was underway. Thirty-one of us, carefully driven by the ever-reliable Steve Cash, set out in mid-May to learn more about the tumultuous events that happened at Waterloo, Ypres, Zeebrugge and Dunkirk.

The group comprised predominantly OBs who had been at Blundell's in the 1950s and 60s, who had been born during the Second World War or its immediate aftermath and had grown up in a Europe governed by peace rather than the horror of conflict. A group who were therefore as determined as any to pay their respects to Old Blundellians and all those who had fallen fighting against tyranny and oppression.

With Lt Col Tim Courtenay, ably assisted by Brig Robert Tailour, providing inspiring and insightful commentary throughout, it proved a memorable journey – both for the moving experience of visiting the battlefields and

cemeteries themselves and for the chance to meet a hugely likable cohort of former Blundellians.

Tim himself was one of four on the trip who were part of the 1st XV team of 1958. Now, 58 years later in 2016, here they were and still going strong. They even managed to dust down and wear their '58 vintage 1st XV caps, leading one other member of the party to question whether this was a Battlefields tour or rather an outing for the Professor Dumbledore Appreciation Society.

Arriving in Waterloo village on the first evening we enjoyed a wonderful meal accompanied by a healthy display of imbibing and camaraderie that set the tone for the trip. The following morning saw us set off for the Waterloo battlefield, an ascent of the Butte de Lion, a fascinating description of the events of the day from our special guest on the tour, Col Richard Preston, and a visit to Hougomont Farm, which has undergone an impressive restoration and now boasts an engaging visual presentation in the visitor centre.

The next day focused on the First World War in Belgium: the infamous Trench of Death and the raid on St George's Day, 1918 at Zeebrugge. The fury and mayhem of the events at Zeebrugge were, in particular, vividly brought to life by Tim, and his descriptions provided a powerfully gripping instalment of the tour.

The party then moved to Bruges for a cultural visit – chocolate shopping for me, but also gentle boat trips on the canals for some, visits to churches and galleries for others, and a glass of Belgian beer for most of us. It was also a chance to meet and talk to more OBs. There were the amusing reminiscences of the japes and scrapes of

school days and the enjoyable anecdotes from lives well led in the years after Blundell's.

The third day of site visits turned our attention to key battles and locations connected to the Ypres Salient. We visited Vancouver Corner at St-Julien and learnt of the heroic action of OB Captain Edward Bellew, who won a VC in 1915 for his determination in the face of overwhelming odds.

We also made our way to the German war cemetery at Langemark, which provided a notable juxtaposition with the Allied cemeteries. Langemark, with its canopy of oak leaves, was no less moving but was also eerie and austere, more an acknowledgment of the chilling sadness of conflict. The English cemeteries, bathed in light and tended with great care, felt more a reminder that love and kindness would be undefeated by the horrors of war. As if to emphasise this Tim told us of British cemeteries that were so arranged that the shadow of a rose would pass over the grave of a British soldier every day.

A visit to the Tyne Cot Cemetery and Visitors' Centre provided perhaps the most poignant moment of the tour. We had gone to pay our respects first and foremost to OBs who had fallen in the conflicts, but our attention had also landed on all the names on the gravestones, predominantly young men who lost their lives in their late teens or early twenties.

However, there were also many, many headstones that bore only the words 'A soldier of the Great War known unto God', Rudyard Kipling's inscription for all the soldiers who died and could not be identified. And those graves lay in their thousands – simply, without flowers or visits from family members. Tim chose one such



At Hougomont



Main picture: *The 2016 Battlefields Tour group*
Above top: *Christian Brook, Paul Waterworth and Ben Ainsworth ready to lay the wreath at Menin Gate*
Above: *First night meal*

headstone at the cemetery at Paschendale and recited a wonderful poem by Stewart French, a poet who had been on one of Tim's previous tours. The lines, entitled 'Some Mother's Son', expressed beautifully the sentiment we were all feeling:

*White tombstones by the thousands from
every race on Earth
And every one is for a son some mother
brought to birth
Beneath the Cross of Sacrifice and the
Great Crusader's Sword
Some stones have names engraved
thereon, their memory secured
But other graves hold unknown bones,
"A Soldier known to God"
You lie in serried ranks in death as you
rest beneath the sod
You did not start this dreadful war, but you
chose to face the gun
We may not know your name, my friend,
but you were some mother's son*

Next we travelled to Ypres to see the Blundell's plaque at St George's Church, and hear a dedication by David Albrecht, followed by the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. This daily act of homage draws audiences numbering in the hundreds and this evening was no exception. As the crowd fell silent, Tim gave a moving salutation to those we shall never forget and Judge Paul Waterworth, in his role as chairman of the Old Blundellian Club, laid a wreath remembering those Blundellians who have died in combat.

The last day of the journey saw us move to Dunkirk to learn about the evacuation of 1940. We first visited Cassel, one of the possible locations that gave rise to the nursery rhyme 'The Grand Old Duke of York'. Steve

drove us up to the top of the hill and he drove us back down again to the Peckel Blockhouse where Tim told us of the determined efforts of Lt R W Cresswell (Glos) to hold the fortification as the German troops advanced in 1940. We then turned our attention to the massacre at Esquelbecq. Again the tales of bravery were incredibly powerful. The massacre of 80 Allied troops was one of the most wretched acts of the war and the selfless heroism of those murdered deserves to be honoured.

The final visit was to the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Dunkirk, to pay our respects to two more OBs who were killed in the Second World War: Maj EBH Fitch and Maj JCC Richardson. Tim drew us together for a summation of our journey together and then followed a vote of thanks led by Paddy Waterfield, expressing our gratitude to Tim for all his work.

This was my first battlefields tour and I'm already looking forward to the next one – I highly recommended it to all OBs from whatever era. In particular to other members of the '58 1st XV – who knows there may even be enough to make up a seven-a-side team next time!

Many thanks again to Tim and Robert and also to Amber Oliver for all her efforts in making the trip run so smoothly.

Tim is having a well-deserved year off in 2017 but expressions of interest to a.oliver@blundells.org for a 2018 tour of the Closing Battles of the Great War.

We will remember them

We continue the list of Blundellians who gave their lives on active service during the First World War with those who died during the second half of 1916:

Acland, John Henry Dyke (SH 1895-99), aged 36
Allen, Geoffrey May (W 1908-12), aged 23
Ball, Richard Anthony (P 1907-12), aged 20
Beck, Theodore David Vodden (DB 1909-12), aged 22
Beddow, Cecil Victor (DB 1912-13), aged 19
Benson, George Agar Trevor (W 1910-14), aged 20
Butt, Frederick Claude (P 1910-14), aged 20
Carew, Coventry George Warrington (NC 1882-86), aged 45
Chapman, William Murray (SH 1902-04), aged 29
Cowie, Arthur William Spring (DB 1898-1904), aged 30
Cromie, Henry Julian (DB 1904-07), aged 20
Donnell, Arthur Patrick (W 1911-15), aged 18
Falkiner, George Stride (SH 1912-15), aged 19
Farquharson, Peese William Nesham (DB and P 1884-90), aged 44
Feiling, Hubert St. Lawrence (W 1901-03), aged 26
Fisher, Stephen Ambrose (SH 1905-09), aged 24
French, Robert Mason Jackson (NC 1907-11), aged 23
Fussell, John William Hugo (SH 1910-13), aged 19
Gage, Robert Hewett Rookwood (W 1906-09), aged 23
Gunn, Marcus Sinclair (P 1902-06), aged 25
Hay-Webb, Charles Robert Forbes (NC 1908-11), aged 22
Hinkley, Siegfried Thomas (DB 1909), aged 19

Hinings, Frederick William Crowther (NC 1900-06), aged 29
Jenner-Clarke, John William (OH 1912-14), aged 18
Knowles, Richard Cameron (OH 1910-14), aged 19
Leacroft, Ronald John Ranulph (W 1903-11), aged 22
Levick, Arthur Lascelles (P 1903-12), aged 22
Martin, Cecil Hampsen (P 1908-12), aged 22
McMichael, Michael William Annesley (OH 1909-13), aged 21
Norrish, Thomas Theodore (NC 1909-13), aged 19
Perkin, Philip Kenneth (DB 1905-10), aged 22
Peter, Alfred Edwin (W 1894-98), aged 35
Phippen, Henry George (OH 1904-10), aged 25
Read, Thomas Jeffrey (W 1896-1901), aged 33
Rogers, Henry Peverell (W 1909-14), aged 19
Roper, Eric Walter (P 1903-07), aged 26
Southey, Robert George Melville (P 1911-14), aged 19
Standbridge, Arthur Christian (DB 1904-08), aged 26
Sydenham, Humphrey (NC 1911-14), aged 20
Walsh, Percival (DB 1913-14), aged 20
Warden, Walter George (SH 1901-03), aged 30
Watton, Stanley Victor (DB 1904-08), aged 22
Wilkinson, John Frederick Whiteway (NC 1897-99), aged 32

Blundell's Community FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2016

25th Reichwald Tournament Beale Centre. [Contact: OB Club](#)

OCTOBER 2016

- 1st Professions Reception: Drink, Food and Hospitality**
Big School 12 noon - 2.30pm. Guest Speaker: Guy Bentley (FH 1972- 76). [Contact: Development Office](#)
- 12th Winter Lunch** Richard Shore (P 54-59) 'Berlin 1977 - 1979: A Personal View. A military community surrounded by its allies, an anachronistic oxymoron.' Beale Centre 12.30pm. [Contact: OB Club](#)
- 19th FOBS Parents' Social Committee Coffee Morning**
Beale Centre 11.30am - 12.30pm. [Contact: Development Office](#)
- 22nd Food, Craft and Gift Fair** organised by the Tiverton Friends Group of the Children's Hospice South West. Big School and Dining Hall 10.00am - 4.00pm (preview evening on 21st, tickets £3 to include refreshments; [contact Alison Nelson an276@uwclub.net for details](#))
- 27th Dubai Reception** The InterContinental Dubai Marina Hotel 6.00pm - 8.00pm. [Contact: Development Office](#)

NOVEMBER 2016

- 1st Fireworks Drinks Reception hosted by FOBS Parents' Social Committee** Beale Centre, 7.00pm - 8.30pm. [Contact: Development Office](#)
- 4th Book Launch** Andrew Nadolski's 'Boarding School - Blundell's 1986'. Beale Centre 6.00pm - 9.00pm. [Contact: OB Club](#)
- 9th Winter Lunch** Michael Hawes (OH 90-94). 'Collaborative Design, Public Art and our External Environment.' Beale Centre 12.30pm. [Contact: OB Club](#)
- 9th 'Blundell's on TV' Concert** Ondaatje Hall 7.00pm. [Contact: Main Office](#)
- 17th Careers Fair for pupils, parents and visitors** Big School 3.00pm - 6.00pm. [Contact: Development Office](#)

DECEMBER 2016

- 7th Winter Lunch** Andrew Barlow (Former Master 1984-2014) 'Blundell's pupils in professional music.' Beale Centre. [Contact: OB Club](#)
- 7th-9th Senior School Musical 'Into the Woods'**
Ondaatje Hall 7.00pm - 10.00pm. [Contact: Main Office for tickets](#)
- 17th Hare and Hounds Alumni Race**
Wimbledon Common, London.

JANUARY 2017

- Spring Gaudy Reunion (Exhibitioners, Foundationers and Scholars)** Big School 12noon. [Contact: Development Office](#)
- 11th Winter Lunch** Speaker TBC. Beale Centre. [Contact: OB Club](#)

FEBRUARY 2017

- 8th Winter Lunch** Speaker Robert (Bob) Wilson (NC 53-57) 'A family tea business in Ceylon'. Beale Centre. [Contact: OB Club](#)

MARCH 2017

- TBC OB Sport Weekend** Beale Centre. [Contact: OB Club](#)
- 8th Winter Lunch** Speaker James Halton, Assistant Bursar (Estates & Buildings). 'Site master planning'. Beale Centre. [Contact: OB Club](#)

MAY 2017

- TBC OBC Summer Cricket Lunch** Beale Centre. [Contact: OB Club](#)

JUNE 2017

- 17th OB Day** [Contact: OB Club](#)

Please visit the website for more information
www.blundells.org and click on **Development Office** or **OB Club**

CONTACT DETAILS

Development Office

Amber Oliver Development Director
Tel: 01884 232324 email: a.oliver@blundells.org
Jessica Riley Development PA
Tel: 01884 243262 email: devoffice@blundells.org

Main Office

Tel: 01884 232401 email: info@blundells.org

Old Blundellian Club

Janet Wooff OB Administrator
Tel: 01884 232010 email: admin@obclub.co.uk
Paddy Armstrong OB Secretary
Tel: 07799 066966 email: pa@obclub.co.uk

The Friends of Blundell's Parents' Social Committee year representatives

Year 7 Lara Wielenga
ljw@blundells.org
Year 8 Alison Mundy
alison@mundyveneer.com
Year 9 Helen Johnson-Ferguson
jfsquared@tiscali.co.uk
Year 10 Melanie Whitehead
whitehead37@btinternet.com
Year 11 Fiona Kitson
family.kitson@btinternet.com
Year 12 Annabelle Greenfield
annabel.greenfield@googlemail.com
Year 13 Vicky Fraser
vicky.fraser@hotmail.co.uk