

Blundell's Foundation



Pictorial

February 2000

The Colin Beale Hospitality Centre

Colin Beale died on 7th November 1998 after a life of service to Blundell's. He was in Cowley Lodge and School House from 1926 to 1930, the School Bursar from 1953 to 1973 and President of the OB Club from 1993 to 1998. He was a great supporter of all Old Blundellian activities, serving on the OB Club Committee, holding office as Treasurer of the Old Boys' Rugby Club and President of the OB Squash Club. For many years he raised a cricket side against the Old Boys during their cricket week. Very many OB's have benefited from his welcome and generous hospitality on returning to their old School.



Architect's design for the Hospitality Centre



Colin Beale (SH 1926-30, Bursar 1953-73, President OB Club 1993-1998)

It is fitting that the Old Blundellians are hoping to build a Hospitality Centre in his memory on Big Field at the Gym end of the cinder track. Impressive plans have been put forward and the School are proceeding with an access road during the Easter holidays 2000.

It would be a wonderful tribute to Colin Beale if we could go ahead with the building of the Centre during the summer holidays. The building will be a great asset to all visitors, especially Old Blundellians. We would be grateful for any contribution to help raise the final £80,000. Colin was a great supporter of the PETER BLUNDELL Society.

With a good response the building could be ready for use in September 2000. Smaller contributions of £15 can be made through the PBS Lottery. I should be pleased to send you any appropriate forms. All support will be greatly appreciated.

The drawings show a computerised image of the building designed by architect Richard Paige (OH 1979-84) of Nugent Vallis Brierley.



Ted Crowe

Head Master's Letter



Jonathan Leigh



St Aubyn's pupils



Library

The academic year 1999–2000 has proved to be a happy time. At the outset of the year we embarked full of the drive gained from our best ever A Level results and equal best GCSEs. Blundell's rise in the varied league tables was gratifying though they do not, of course, tell by any means all of the story. From the broad cross-section we have taken in five years ago it was a fine performance to achieve 31% grade A, 53% A+B and 75% A+B+C. This meant that nearly all the serious University offers which had been made were fulfilled and the valet of Summer 1999 went off well pleased with their results, anticipating further success at tertiary level.

The GCSEs were representative of a very large year group and we were pleased to increase our pass-rate A–C as well as boost the A*+A. It is a particularly large Lower Sixth Form who now go ahead to face up to the rigours of A Levels and they will have a tall order to emulate their predecessors.

Otherwise the September Term broke with 483 pupils and in January this is still the case. This is the biggest the School has been during the 1990s. Conversion rates for the new venture of St Aubyn's joining Blundell's in September 2000 look very promising whilst there is a steady flow of enquiries at all other levels. The foreign quota remains 10% and represents 24 different countries. The Germans are the biggest single national grouping with 14 pupils, though they are spread out across the different year groups of the School. As in previous years we also benefit from the presence of an English-speaking Union Scholar from the United States as well as a SOROS Foundation Scholar who comes from Bulgaria. We remain pledged to broadening the Blundellian international links and the increasingly active usage of the e-mail and our web-site is enabling us to reach new areas. For the first time anyone can remember we have two pupils here from Albania.

The overall success of the book appeal in the Library has been magnificent. Rather more than £14,000 has been donated and this is a great fillip to the Librarian's morale. Jenny Gordon, who occupies this post, has embarked on a careful programme of book buying and each book which is purchased contains a frontispiece which commemorates the donor. In an increasingly technological world it would be easy to forget books but it is clear that the Blundellian constituency of all varieties estimates that they retain a huge appeal and importance. Usage of the Library has increased many times over and there has been a gratifying surge of people borrowing books.

As the new century blasts off we are full of enthusiasm and drive on a whole variety of fronts and the continued broad support of all our different constituencies is hugely appreciated. Eight years into this Headship may I take this particular new year as a moment to reflect deep thanks for all that has been done since 1992 and in wishing all readers good fortune. We are anticipating our 400th anniversary with high hopes.

Jonathan Leigh

Jonathan Leigh



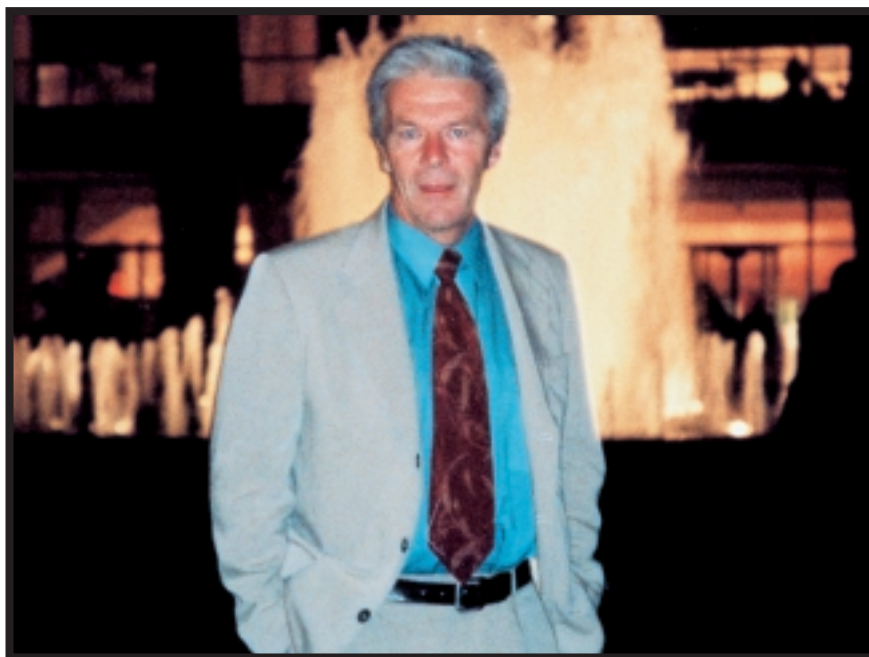
Message from Paddy Armstrong

The Foundation is now moving into its second year and has made great strides in terms of finding direction and making contacts. The centrality of the Foundation in co-ordinating all constituencies is the key to the future and this is appreciated increasingly by Old Blundellians and other friends of Blundell's.

Particularly pleasing has been the cooperation with the Old Blundellian Club. A regular exchange of database information is being established and we greatly look forward to helping with the Colin Beale Memorial Centre on Big Field. A Gaudy in September will be jointly organised by the Old Blundellian Club and the Foundation. The key to all this, as ever, is Ted Crowe whose encyclopaedic knowledge and intuitive understanding of Old Blundellians provides much of the momentum.

Contact with Old Blundellians and others is on the increase and Patricia Thompson is happy to act as a clearing house for news, gossip, opinion and fact. We are particularly grateful to those OB's who have contributed articles and would encourage others to put pen to paper.

The building programme at Blundell's continues apace with the new St Aubyn's going up and the Colin Beale Memorial Centre moving quickly forward. The School is in great heart and has had a wonderful sporting term with outstanding girls' hockey results



Paddy Armstrong

plus some of the best rugby sides for years. The 1st XV managed an unbeaten season with a very strong fixture list. Although change is often difficult to accept, it has been a pleasure to see girls and boys receive full colours from the Head Master in Latin Prayer and to be able to congratulate girls on extensive county representation.

Plans are being finalised for 2004 to celebrate the quatercentenary of Blundell's. By next year a programme of development focussed on 2004 with associated funding needs will be on the

Many thanks to all Old Blundellians who, following articles in the last Pictorial, have advised us that they have remembered Blundell's in their wills. Should anyone wish to discuss leaving a bequest to the School, please contact me at the Foundation Office.

drawing board. Please put forward your ideas about Blundell's needs for its fifth century.

Paddy Armstrong

Our grateful thanks to the following people who have so generously given to the Appeal, and also to those who have asked to remain anonymous.

Harry Acland Archie Adam Melissa Alexander (Adams) Henric Adey Clive Ainsley Norman Aish Dr Frank Akerman Eamon Akinoshio Martin Albrecht Mark Aldridge Chris Allanson-Bailey Peter Allanson-Bailey Michael & Belinda Allen Edward & Miranda Allhusen Miles Amherst Sir Ian Amory Ian Anderson Chris Arundell Mr & Mrs W C Asare Mr & Mrs R M Atherton Ivor Atkins Murray Aust Rear Admiral Jan Aylen Jonathan Aylen Douglas Aylward Gerald Baboneau Dr & Mrs Hugh Bacon Michael Badve Tim Baker-Jones Balliol College Jim Banbury Peter Banbury Alastair Barr Mr & Mrs A H Bartley Eric Batten John Batten Mr & Mrs Simon Beach David Beadle Colin Beale Edward Beard John Beard Mark Beard Mr & Mrs A C W Beard Mike Bedford Paul Bedworth Mervyn Bell Derek Bendle Norman Betts ...

Opening of the E.W. Chanter Memorial Laboratories



*E W Chanter (Master 1945-76, Housemaster
M 1946-58, SH 1958-71, Head of Science 1945-76)*

The new Biology and Physics Laboratories were completed on time and within budget on September 7th 1999. Pupils and staff are delighted with much improved working space and equipment.



... Mrs Ruth Binney (in memory of her father, E W Chanter) Mr & Mrs R Bisiker Angela Blackwell John Blackwell Sian Blair Commander Joe Blake
Commander Robert Blake David & Helen Blessley Brig David Block (and in memory of Adam Block) Nic & Lin Bloom Philip Bloy Roger Bois
Captain John Bolton Booker Food Services Mr & Mrs Colin Bosworth Jack Bradford Robert Breare Michael Briault Howard Bridge Richard Broad
Mr & Mrs G V Brooks Major James Brooksbank Michael & Pamela Browne Herr & Frau A Bruninghold Freddie Brunton Neil & Maggie Buckland
Mike Bull James Bullock Peter Burgess Dr Kenelm Burrigge James & Jennie Butler Bruce & Marilen Cadbury James Cairns Henry Carey
Jonathan Carter Graham Caskie Mr & Mrs Robin Chambers Dr Bob Champion Vivien Chanter Revd Derek Chapman Peter Chase
Lt Cdr Ben Chilcott David Chilcott Patrick Clancy Tony & Tessa Clark Chris Clarke Alan Clatworthy Norman Clatworthy Clive Clemens
Ken Cleves Myles Clough Tom Clough Michael Coles John Coles Dr John Collings-Wells Leonard Collings-Wells John Compton Denys Coombe
Bill Copeland John Corin The Very Revd Nick Coulton Robert & Patricia Cross John & Jane Crosse Brian Currie Sir James Dalrymple-Hay...





The official opening takes place on Friday 18th February by David Jewell, the Chairman of the Blundell's Governors. An Old Blundellian (Petergate 1947–52), David was Chairman of the Head Masters' Conference as well as running Repton, Haileybury and Bristol Cathedral School. He has shown great interest in this particular project as befits an Oxford Chemist. Representatives of the Chanter family, including his widow Vivien, will also be present. Viv supported Ted admirably through his 25 years of Housemastering and 26 years of Physics teaching at Blundell's.

Christmas brought exciting news of further additions to Blundell's Science provision. The Wolfson Foundation has agreed to contribute £35,000 in part payment for a Molecular Biology Suite offering Genetics, DNA testing and Biotechnology to Blundellians and others: in addition Chemistry and Physics will benefit from electronic data gathering equipment, allowing immediate processing of experimental results. It is hoped that work on setting up these projects will be complete by June 2000.

Working for Sotheby's

by **PETER SELLEY** (Old House 1977–82)

"You work for Sotheby's? What a glamorous job..." people often say to me when I meet them for the first time, as they conjure up images of grand evening sales, record prices for Cezannes and Picassos, international jet-setting; and of course, the odd smuggling scandal thrown in for good measure. It all seems to be a heady mixture of beautiful objects, unimaginable wealth and drama, spiced up with the odd allegation of skulduggery (either on our part, or by our clients).



What's the truth? Well, of course, just as if you asked a former British Agent what it's like to work in the secret service, he would tell you that most of the work is very routine, perhaps almost mundane. Like him, however, I would say the job requires great application and hard work, performed against a backdrop – like every job or career in the world it seems, these days – of immense pressure, and punctuated with moments of extreme tension.

An international auction house like Sotheby's has to fulfil a number of primary roles: on the one hand like all multinational organisations we have to deliver revenue and profit, chiefly generated by our auction sales in New York, London and elsewhere (one day the French might let us do the same in Paris); on the other we have to maintain our reputation for expertise and integrity, as providers of authentication and specialist advice on what a precious object is, what it's worth, and how best to extract its full commercial value. Salesmen, scholars and diplomats (and charmers): we have to be all of them. And behind this, again like all major international companies, we have to have over-arching strategies about where the market is heading, where we should be heading, and how to cope with the greatest challenge – both opportunity and threat – to all businesses since the industrial revolution, namely the internet.

So what's my particular role in all this? I work in Sotheby's book and manuscript department, which comprises 18 experts, 5 administrators or secretaries, and 2 porters. Together we hold around 30 sales a year in New Bond Street, with a combined worth of around £20 million. Sotheby's was founded over 250 years ago solely as a book auctioneer (the business was not extended to other areas until much later), so we all feel part of a grand tradition. We hold more book sales than any competitor, and are fortunate in being able to offer twice-yearly sales in a number of key specialist areas: Travel & Natural History, Maps, Continental and Science, Children's and Illustrated Books, Music and (my own area) English Literature & History. Each area has a core team of two or more experts devoted to producing the goods in their own particular field. For instance, I am responsible with my colleague Dr Peter Beal for building the English Literature & History sales normally held in July and December every year. The period is 1500 to the present day (would I like to try that on Mastermind? I'm not sure...), and encompasses everything on the Literature side, from a copy of one of the first folio editions of Shakespeare's Plays to a prompt copy of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, or from a first edition of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* to a first edition of Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock*.

Continued ►

... John Dalrymple-Hay Mr & Mrs R Dalrymple-Smith David Dampney George Dampney Theo Dampney Nigel Daniel Mike Daniels
Andrew Dare Clifford & Valerie Dark Aubrey Davidson Chris Davidson Richard Davies Professor John Davis Dr Paul Dawson-Bowling
Peter & Amanda de Teissier George Derrick Michael Derrick Mr R J Dew Geoffrey Dingle William Distin Dr Bill Dixon Gareth Dixon
Cdr & Mrs P S Doyne-Ditmas John Drewett John Duffin Mr & Mrs P B Duncan Roy Dunn Michael & Pam Durrant Geoffrey Dutton
Deyman Eastmond Francis Eastmond Dr John Edgcumbe Patrick Ellerton Joseph Elliott Sir Roger Erskine-Hill Tim & Rosalind Eveleigh
Jeremy Eyre Sally Falconer (Duffus) Tim Farquhar Ben Feaver Richard Fellowes Thomas Ffinch Richard Ffrench David Fielding John P H Fisher
John W Fisher Martin & Jenny Fisher John Fox Wing Cdr Jeremy Fradgley Shirley Francis William Francis Michael & Alison Frankpitt
Murray French William French Friends of Blundell's David & Catriona Fursdon Gordon Gallagher William Gaskell Angus & Patience Geikie
Mr & Mrs K Gervase-Williams Mrs J M Gibbs Revd Anthony Gibson Michael Gilbert Richard Giles The Girdlers Company Anthony Gittins ...



Working for Sotheby's – continued

(1938: but only really sought after in the rare original dust-wrapper). History might be anything from an important letter by Sir Thomas Fairfax written during the English Civil War to General Montgomery's hand-written address to the troops before the Battle of El Alamein; from the journals of John Harrison about the problem of longitude at sea to letters by Darwin about evolution. I have the privilege of handling many interesting books and manuscripts, whether ordinary (perhaps worth less than £200) or magnificent (and worth £100,000 or more). Just like any other business, however, we cannot depend on passing trade, or fortuitous consignments, in order to survive. These days, we spend as much (if not more) time on our client relationships before the sale as during or after it. We might have to track and even participate in the major collections or prospects in our own area of expertise for years (sometimes for decades!) with the hope of a major sale eventually coming our way. And cope if, by some quirk of fate totally out of our control, the sale goes to the opposition!

Great fun at times? Yes, so long as you can cope with the odd massive reversal of fortune and pull through to deliver a result at every sale season. It isn't, after all, a game without casualties as some collecting areas decline or sources of material dry up.

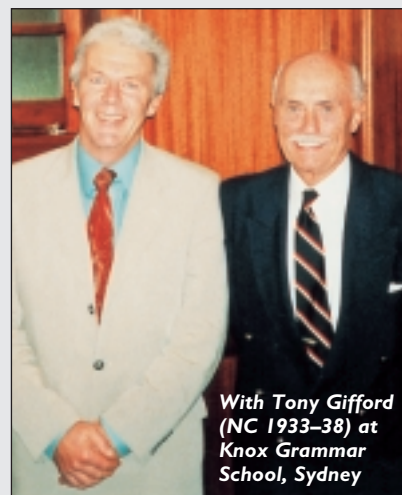
The odd foreign trip is an alluring prospect. In the past two years I have been to Paris, New York, Toronto, Amsterdam, Milan, Rome, and most recently, Venice. Of course before the deal is done (will they or won't they consign?) there is no time to really enjoy it. But when – and you have to really believe it's when and not if – the contract is signed and (say) your client invites you into their gloriously adorned apartment overlooking the Grand Canal for a quick drink to celebrate, you can stand back and think, Yes, this job does have its moments. And, perhaps, sometimes it really is glamorous...

Director's Tour... or

around the World



Paddy with Steve Caulfield at Alice Smith School, Kuala Lumpur



With Tony Gifford (NC 1933-38) at Knox Grammar School, Sydney

"I set out on 24th October 1999 to look specifically at overseas marketing, Old Blundellian contacts and developed Foundations in Australia and the USA. I returned on 14th November 1999, 29,000 miles later a much wiser and wearier man..."



John Allen (OH 1960-65) with guest, Nigel (W 194 SH 1975-80) at the Creese home, Melbourne



Roger Macklin (SH 1980-85) in Los Angeles



Chris Crompton (P 1968-72), Nick Hippisley-Coxe (P 1950-54) in John Mattingly's house, Los Angeles

... Colin Glendining David & Gale Glynn John Goman Robert Gorton Stephen Gorton Michael Goss Michael Granger David Gray Sir John Gray Wing Comm Peter Greig Maj & Mrs Michael Griffin Martyn Grose John Gunn Basil Haines Henry Hainworth David Halestrap Charles Hallows Trevan Hamblay Lt Col Alex Harper Graeme & Mo Harris Councillor Jack Harris Mr & Mrs J W R Harris Blair Harrison Chris Harrison Derek Harvey Major John Harvey Ken Harvey Richard Hassell Patrick Hatswell Lt Cdr Richard Hawkesworth Andrew Hay Dr David Hay Dagmar Hay Dr Michael Hayward William Hayward Charles Hearn Major Mike Heath Chris Higgins Ron & Julie Hill Andrew Hillman Tom Holden Roger Hollingshead Richard Holmes Arthur Holyoake Robert & Jeaninne Honstein Robert Hood-Wright Tim Hooper Robert Hopkinson-Woolley Lt Cdr John Humphreys Nick Hunkin David Hunt James Hunt Peter Hurford Lisa Hurtle Mr & Mrs A J Hutchinson David Hutchison Professor George Huxley John Huxtable Major Cecil Hynes Mr & Mrs G L Hynes Captain Michael Imbert Mark Irens Jonathan Ison Barry & Sally Jackson Peter Jackson Jane, Duchess of Somerset Andrew Jeffery David Jenkins Bill Jenkins David Jewell John Jones...



ld in 21 Days

Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo were almost exclusively marketing, but I did have a drink with Michael Carr (W 1969–73) and contacted Roger Bartholomew (M 1971–74) in Manila and Mark Tozer (P 1952–55) in Singapore. Mark has kindly agreed to coordinate OB's in the SE Asia area.

Sydney was next and Tony Gifford (NC 1933–38) looked after me very well, lunching me at the New South Wales Cricketers' Club and setting

up a day at the Knox Grammar School Foundation. My visit coincided with Melbourne Cup Day and I was privileged to join in the evening celebrations of winners and losers in Sydney. On to Melbourne for 48 hours and a hectic schedule organised by Nigel Creese (W 1940–45) retired Head Master of Melbourne Grammar School. Nigel and Val were tremendously hospitable and organised a drinks party for OB's at their home. Although South and

East Australia have a fair number of OB's, the distances to be covered for a dinner are vast. I hope to persuade a Melbourne OB to act as coordinator for OB's in the region. Melbourne Grammar School, Scotch College and Trinity Grammar School Foundations gave generously of their time and by the time I left Australia I felt I was getting to grips with my job as Foundation Director and seeing the direction Blundell's needs to go in.

I left Melbourne on a Friday after an early lunch and arrived in Los Angeles in time for breakfast on the same day, having flown for 14 hours. Fortunately John Mattingly (P 1950–54) had organised an OB drinks party at his home in Studio City for that evening and jet lag was washed away by draft Budweiser at the Mattingly residence bar. Roger Macklin (SH 1980–85), Nick Hippisley-Coxe (P 1958–63), Rob Sawyer (former parent) and Chris Crompton (P 1968–72) also enjoyed John and Linda's hospitality.

New York was the final destination and I was able to contact several OB's by telephone as well as being entertained by Rafael Aviner (FH 1973–78) and Jan to dinner at a restaurant where the waiters periodically broke off to sing operatic arias. Robert and Jeaninne Honstein arranged for me to visit Foundations in the Princeton area. Their son Robert Jr was an ESU



Paddy with Raf Aviner (FH 1973–78) in New York

scholar at Blundell's and is now studying at Yale. The Lawrenceville School, with 700 boys and girls aged between 14 and 18, has a Foundation and Alumni office employing 27 staff with a salary bill of \$1.5 million, but last year \$27.5 million was raised for the School. I wonder how far Blundell's can go down this route! The highly developed educational philanthropy in the USA and to a certain extent in Australia, will take time to establish in the UK.

A very worthwhile, if arduous, trip. Lots of contacts made and leads to be followed up. Foundations in the UK are in their infancy. Two important functions remain in my mind. Maintaining and updating a comprehensive database to assist OB's and friends of Blundell's to network and contact one another to mutual social and business advantage. Establishing planned giving to support capital development at Blundell's.



0–45) and Val Creese, Eric Jal



P 1958–63), John Mattingly

... Dr Dymoke Jowitt Robert Julier Osama Jumeau Maurice Keen Ted Kellock The Reverend Paul Kelly Col Philip Keymer Ian King Nick & Maggie Kingdon Paul & Linda Kingdon R H Kingdon Robert Kingston Davies Patrick Kirk Tony Kirk (in memory of brother Stephen) Peter & Jackie Kirvan Charles Knocker Brian Knowlman Major Charles Kreiser Peter Lacey Mike Lamb Theodore Landon Edwin Lansdale Richard Lanyon Wing Cdr Leonard Laughton The Revd Joe Laville Roger & Ann Lazarus Nigel Leader-Williams Mike Lee Jonathan & Emma Leigh John & Beverley Lennox William Leyds Geoffrey Lillie Tim Lintott Dr Colin Little Miles Lloyd Dr Ioan Lloyd-Jones Ned Lloyds Malcolm & Sharon Lock Anthony Longbourne Ray Longman Ted Longman John Ludgate Robert & Penny Luther Gp Capt Hugh Lynch-Blosse The Revd Roger Lyne Lawson & Shane Lyon Dr George Mackie Gordon Maddock Edward Magill Captain John Marrack David Marshall-Lee Paul Martin Arthur Mason Graham & Effie Mason The Masters' Clubroom Dr Malcolm Mathew Peter Maunder Richard Maunder Lady Maxwell (in memory of her son Robert) James Maxwell Geoffrey May Henry Maynard Aiden McCauley ...





A Sailor's Tale

by **LIEUTENANT KATHARINE RACKHAM** Royal Navy
(née Babbington) (Gorton House 1990-92)

"Join the Navy,
see the world
differently", the
recruiting logo of

the Royal Navy couldn't be more accurate. In the six years that I have been with the Navy (two of which were as a bursar at Edinburgh University) I have visited 26 different countries, from Singapore to Trinidad, Iceland to the Falkland Islands. Each stop brings its own challenges whether it is painting an orphanage in Georgetown, Guyana or holding Defence Industry days in Abu Dhabi. In short my feet haven't really touched the ground since I joined up.

I was attracted to the Navy for the very opportunities that I have just mentioned but also the chance to do it in a military environment like no other, at sea. Driving a 3000 tonne warship is a challenge in itself, and the reason I joined as a Warfare Officer. As a junior officer my main job at sea is bridge watchkeeping. For the period that I have 'charge' of the Ship I am responsible for executing the Navigator's plan to get us from A to B, running the Ship's programme and keeping the Ship and the Ship's company safe. All watchkeepers have a secondary administrative role and then several smaller jobs. In addition every officer is also responsible for the welfare and career development of a group of ratings. There is never a dull moment.

As for being a female in the Navy, well it isn't really an issue. You are

judged on your ability to do your job rather than your sex. In my last job, I was for a time the only female onboard which caused no greater problem than having to apply suntan lotion to my own back! There are now only two branches that are not open to females, mine clearance diving and submarines but this may well change in the future.

The enormous variety within this career has got to be one of the most enticing things about it. This year for example I have spent five months in the Adriatic on a minehunter, HMS SANDOWN, as part of multinational NATO force clearing up unexploded ordnance dropped in the sea from unsuccessful bombing runs in Kosovo. Having left that Ship in the autumn I joined HMS SOMERSET (a type 23 frigate) in the Falkland Islands to gain some navigation and warfare experience before starting my next job as the Senior Watchkeeper on HMS GLASGOW in the New Year. Whilst in the South Atlantic we were involved in an exercise with the Argentine Navy which was the first time since the 1982 conflict that the two nations' armed forces have worked together.

Being a Royal Naval Officer is a fantastic job and way of life and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far. There are always new challenges to face, new places to visit, new people to meet and I have definitely seen the world differently.

The Relocation of St Aubyn's

After months of planning and administration, the first sledgehammer swung in Milestones on 4th January. John Smith Construction began the first phase of this major development which is



to transform Milestones and the Sanatorium into a home for the 7 to 11 year age group of the St Aubyn's empire. New access, car parking, newbuild for Day Care and pre-prep, plus a few temporary buildings will follow between now and September 2000.

Early declaration of fee arrangements for St Aubyn's at Blundell's has led to a very high transfer rate of pupils to the new site. It looks as though, once Day Care movement takes place in December 2000, over 250 pupils could be moving to the new site. Will the school shop be selling nappies and will Norman Ridgway be seeking Under 5's rugby fixtures? The next issue of the Pictorial will include photographs and details of progress as completion of work approaches. Old Blundellians interested in places at St Aubyn's on its Blundell's site for children aged 0 to 11 should contact the Registrars as soon as possible.

... Brian & Diana McDowell Archie McNair Michael & Alison Melville-Shreeve Tod Merson John Merson Peter Merson Mr & Mrs D Midgley Denis Miller Mr W J Mills John Milton David & Frances Mitchell Peter Mitchell Dr & Mrs P B Monahan Stuart Morrison Matthieu Moss Simon Munro Andrew Murfin Francis Naish Colin Narburgh Dr & Mrs P J Nightingale Revd A Nind Philip Nind Sir Arthur Norman Stuart Nourse The Oakdale Trust Michael Oakley Christopher Ondaatje Major Tim Owen Stan Packman Jonathan Palfrey Chris & Jennifer Palmer Sir John Palmer Keith Palmer Robert Pargeter Mr & Mrs Richard Parker Susan Parker Tim Parker Peter Parkhouse Richard Parkinson John Parson Andrew Parton John Parton Dr Simon Parton John Partridge David Passmore Gilliam Payne Sasha Peake Rodney Peal Bryan & Jo Pearson Robert Peirce Douglas Penny Patrick Penny Rupert Perkins Geoffrey & Carina Persey Peter Blundell Society John & Sonia Pether Mr C D Pike Edwin Pike David Pillar Admiral Sir Wm Pillar GBE, KCB John Pollock Graham Pool John Pool Kenneth Pool Leonne & Elena Pope Richard Portsmouth Arthur Poulton Derek & Sue Powell Dr Claire Preston Chris Price Dr Herbert Price Robin Price ...



Perils of a Concert Pianist

by **GRAHAM CASKIE** (Milestones 1980–85)

It would seem that in order to make a name for oneself these days as an instrumental soloist it is almost impossible to avoid the uncompromising, merciless gladiatorial arena of the concours, the *wettbewerb*... the international competition. Participation is unsettling with so much hanging in the balance on the outcome of a relatively small amount of live performance. Major events are generally held over the period of about a fortnight and comprise three solo recital ('knock-out') rounds and a final concerto round with orchestra. This is a considerable amount of repertoire to prepare and have ready at the drop of a hat, but it is advisable to plan well



Graham Caskie

ahead and be thorough, even if you feel the odds are against you progressing past more than round one! At the 1997 Epinal Concours I was consoling myself (in some style I might add), resigned to the thought I felt sure to be knocked out following my final recital round, only to receive the news (around midnight after the jury's extended deliberations) that I was through and scheduled to rehearse with orchestra the following morning in Montbéliard. A pot of strong coffee at my side, I literally worked on the Beethoven C minor Concerto through

the night... I didn't win this one, but I learnt a valuable lesson.

I envy the athlete who can focus on their specific objective in order to *win* and do it time and time again as part of his or her profession – for a musician the competition and the winning is merely a means to an end. So having survived the apprenticeship the real challenge then begins. Within the profession itself the 'competition' is thankfully more healthy and realistic in its perspective, but it would seem maintaining a strong interest in *live* classical performance is a major undertaking since even with the biggest of celebrity 'names' it is tough for leading promoters to fill concert halls. The 'fidelity' of modern technology and a vast and easily accessible catalogue of CDs presents ever more serious competition for the art of live performance. There are of course a great number of first-class modern recordings, but digital recording has, in my opinion, given producers and artists such unlimited flexibility of editing and 'mixing' that too often so much of the spontaneity and excitement of original performances is lost due to less than expert tinkering. More worrying still, for some the very nature of the recording seems to be almost preferable to the experience of the real thing; the energy, tension, risk and unpredictability, not to mention the visual aspect of a live performance, would seem to be less attractive than a clinically flawless document, which they can dip into and scroll through whenever they like. The choice to go to a concert hall or theatre does

require a *commitment* to concentrate for a sustained period, but the rewards are far greater and profoundly enduring.

Later this year I will be joining forces with Reginald Thompson (my teacher in my last year at Blundell's) to give a two-piano recital in Big School. Our programme comprises some of the most remarkable works for two pianos and piano duet, by Mozart, Brahms, Schubert, Ravel and Lutoslawski – I do hope you will be able to make the commitment to be there!

The Allegri String Quartet November 1999

Last November, Blundell's was privileged to host perhaps one of the finest quartets in the world, the Allegri String Quartet. Their performances are invariably highly acclaimed wherever and whenever they play. Comments such as: 'Superlative technique.... deep musicality in all the players.... a fusion of four individuals into a singular dynamic communicability which is deeply mysterious' (Robert Pascall) are not unique. The players' musical intimacy was self-evident in their programme, which included quartets by Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven. The response each player gave to his colleagues in matters of melodic phrasing, dynamics and musical understanding was indeed an education and a delight. The subtle influences of Haydn on Mozart (particularly in the last movement of the 'Hoffmeister'); the

Continued ►

... Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire Ian & Vicky Pugsley Peter & Barbara Pugsley Stanley Punchard Mr & Mrs R Purrington
The Revd David Quine Judge Edward Reece Dr Hugh Reed Chris Reynolds Peter Reynolds Douglas Rice Peter Richardson Mr J C Richardson
Dr Martyn & Alison Rix Philip Roberts Mr & Mrs W S Robertson Caroline Robson John Ross Jeremy Rossiter Colin Rowe Jack Rowe
Axel Rump John Russell Major Julian Russell The Revd John Rutherford Lt Col Geoffrey Sanders Prof John Sanderson Harry Saunders
Ray & Hilary Saunders Mr & Mrs R Sawyer Ian Seaton Neil Seaton Bill Seldon Rupert Selway Eric Shapland Lt Col Geoffrey Sharland
Colin & Hilary Shaw Dr John H Shepherd John A Shepherd Philip & Sue Shere Dr Richard Shore John Short Geoffrey Snell David & Jane Sole
Mrs John Sole Michael Sole Victor & Irina Sologub Nick Soul Dr Ken Southgate Julian Southwick Peter & Helen Spens-Black Gordon Spurway
John Stagg John Stanton John Steer-Fowler Giles Stimson Brig Crew Stoneley Julian Street Lawrence Stuart-Jones Mr P J Sullivan Gordon Swaine
Air Comm John Symonds Richard Talbot Chris Taxis Arthur Taylor Robert Taylor Simon Taylor The Rt Hon Lord Templeman Randall Thane ...





harmonic shifts of Schubert and Brahms in Dvorak's Op.34, and Mozart on Beethoven's Op.18 No.5 (he had earlier admired and copied out Mozart's variations and finale of the latter's quartet K464), contributed greatly to the depth and skill of the musical interpretation.

There was one other work in the programme which took the audience by surprise and was given a brief explanation by the Leader, Peter Carter. It showed also just how intimate music can be for both artistes and audience. It was the American, Fulkerson's 2nd String quartet which began with the players giving out a long note in unison at pianissimo level for 3 minutes, during which time each player focused his mind on the sound being produced. This time having elapsed, each player responded to one another with a suitably short, tasteful and original musical motif of his own at various intervals, thus creating a very personal piece of an improvisatory nature (shades of John Cage). Some members of the audience when asked afterwards for their reaction to this piece declared that they were intrigued by it, others that they felt involved in it, but all felt a certain peaceful satisfaction from the performance. It is this kind of satisfaction that makes us look forward each year to the Allegri String Quartet's visits to Blundell's. Long may they continue.

Reginald Thompson
(Piano Tutor at Blundell's since 1984)

Blundell's in War-Time

by DAVID HAY (Petergate1944–49)

"I'm all for the public schools" wrote Winston Churchill in My Early Life "but I don't want to go there again." He was Prime Minister when I went to Blundell's and had written those words in 1930 looking back to the Harrow of the 1880's. I look back from a far less lofty position but over a longer period and my sentiments echo his. I suspect the public schools changed less between the 1880's and the 1930's than they have in the last half-century.

Schooldays were emphatically not the happiest days of my life and I regarded them as a period to be endured rather than enjoyed. My elder brother had been sent to Blundell's to avoid the blitz as our house in London had suffered war damage and when the choice of school for me arose a V1 ("Doodlebug") landed close to our home in Hampshire and served as a powerful reminder of Devonshire's relative safety.

So on September 22nd 1944 I travelled westwards clutching my overnight bag to Exeter St David's and thence by Tivvy Bumper to Tiverton and a long walk in pouring rain over the Tin Bridge, up Blundell's Avenue and into Petergate by the "Dog Run". It is difficult to exaggerate the effect of the war on Blundell's life. Many of the masters were away on active

service, their places taken by older men like Mr. Gillespie and Dr. Aufricht and by women like Molly Dawson. In Chapel we prayed for the Old Boys who had been killed in action, 152 in all or between 2 and 3 for every month that the war lasted.

Some days we were packed into lorries and driven to Rackenford where we lifted potatoes as Blundell's contribution to the war effort. The food was intolerably dull but thanks to Lord Wootton and the gallant Merchant Navy we were never hungry. Bread was not rationed until after the war when shortages became worse and the winter of 1946/7 was the coldest since 1880/1 and there was a fuel crisis so we were told to wear overcoats in the classrooms. There was little domestic help in the war and so "House Duties" were added to fagging. The most exacting and unpleasant of these was stoking the ancient and decrepit Petergate boiler. If there was insufficient hot water after rugging a terrible retribution was visited on the unhappy stoker.

Fagging followed a code laid down in the School Rules, of which I still possess a battered copy.

Only the School and House Monitors had fags. I fagged for G.S. Pool (Petergate 1941–45) who on

... Andrew Thomas Raymond Thompson Paul Till Chris Tilley Martin Tinniswood Martin Tracey Cyril Tucker Cllr Mary Turner
Mr H M Turner Dr Chris Twigge-Molecey Denis Tyler David & Elizabeth Tyzack Maj Bernard Underhill Maurice Vickers
Viscount Amory's Trust Peter & Wendy Vlasto Philip Vowles Michael Wade David Walden Dr Harold Walker Nic & Linda Walters
Col Christopher Ward Lt Col Dudley Ward Peter Ward Mr & Mrs H Warman Chris Warren Lt Col Michael Warren Chris Waterfield
Paul Waterworth The Revd John Webb Robert & Elizabeth Webber Lt Col Chris Wells David West Westlake Roofing Martin Whitaker
Hugh Whitcomb Chris White John White Philip White Stephen White Dennis Wickett Myles Wickstead Dieter Wieneke Thomas Wilkinson
Geoffrey Williams Mr & Mrs C J Willmer Brian & Sue Wills-Pope James Wilson Robert Wilson Charles Winslade Jonathan Wood
Robert Wood Tony Wood Revd David Wood-Robinson David Woodliffe Alison Woolley and Lois Woolley (in memory of E W Chanter) Ben Wrey
Tim Wrey Harold Wride Mark Wyer.





David Hay

November 11th 1944 ran from inside the Blundell's '25' to score beneath the Sherborne posts. I basked in a little reflected glory as I had dubbed his boots before the match; that was to be my sole contribution to Blundell's great sporting tradition. Pool gave me five shillings at the end of term.

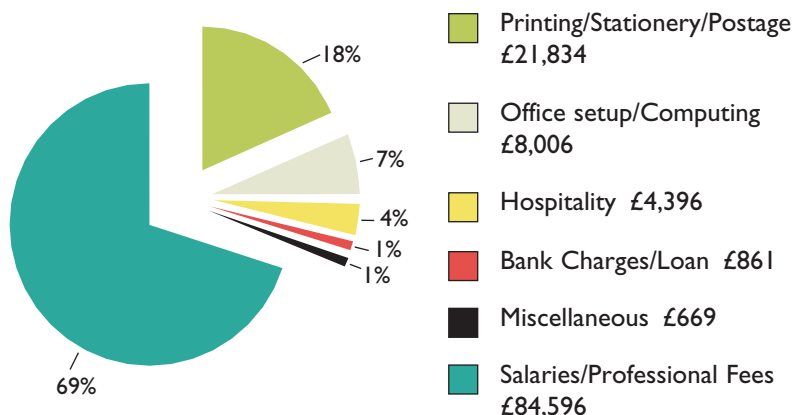
Victory in Europe coincided with the start of the Summer Term in 1945. The Head Master was surprised and delighted that we all returned. There was a bonfire on Mayfield around which we sang "The White Cliffs of Dover", "Lily Marlene" and "We'll hang out our washing on the Siegfried Line". Even the fags were allowed to stay up long after lock-up until the fire was a mass of glowing embers promising better times ahead.

Foundation Finances

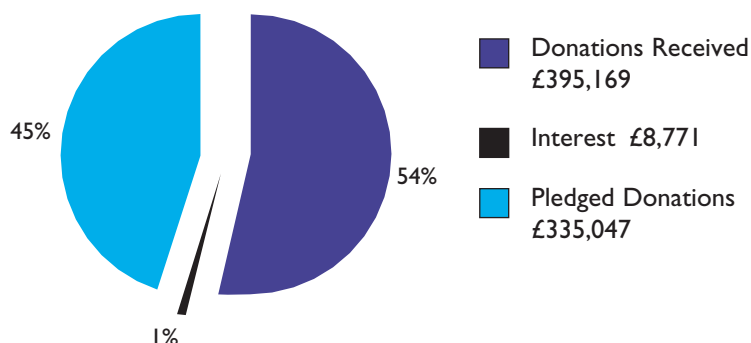
1st April 1997 – 31st August 1999

(Extracted from audited accounts)

Expenditure £120,362



Income £738,987



PROJECT FINANCES

Expenditure

Library/IT	£286,240
EFL Buildings	42,057
Science Labs	87,799

Funding

Cash Shortfall (31/08/99)	(£132,518)
Bank Loan	(£50,000)
Amount due to General A/c	(89,005)
	<u>139,005</u>
Balance at Bank	<u>6,487</u>
	(£132,518)



Some Forthcoming School Events and Dates for 2000

March 3  OB Dinner at East India Club	March 11  The Russell	March 12  Piano Concert	March 19  Annual Choral Concert: A Thousand Years
March 20, 21  Rosslyn Park Sevens	May 12-14  Ten Tors	May 27  School Fête	June 24  OB Day
July 7  Speech Day	July 7  Summer Ball	September 16  Gaudy	October 14  Caskie & Thompson 2 Piano Recital



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Old Blundellian Articles

We are extremely grateful to Katharine Rackham, David Hay, Graham Caskie and Peter Selley for their contributions to this issue. If you would like to write on a subject of special interest do please let us know.