

# Blundell's Foundation



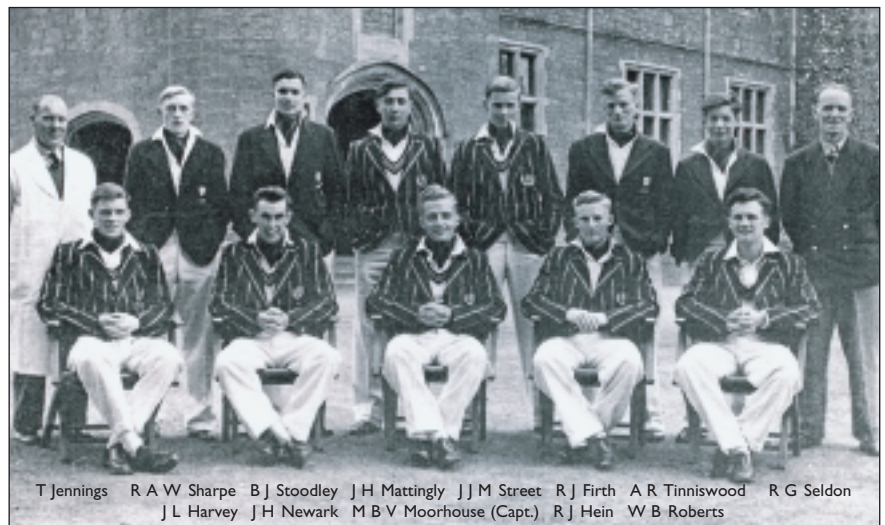
# Pictorial

June 2001

## The 1954 XI

In what is hoped to be the first of many such reunions the Blundell's 1954 cricket XI met at the Ondaatje Box in the County Ground, Taunton on Wednesday 2nd May to have lunch and watch the Somerset v Warwickshire Benson & Hedges Cup game.

A request by John Mattingly during my trip to Los Angeles for a photograph of the 1954 XI led to contact with Tony Tinniswood and the idea of a reunion



T Jennings R A W Sharpe B J Stoodley J H Mattingly J J M Street R J Firth A R Tinniswood R G Seldon  
J L Harvey J H Newark M B V Moorhouse (Capt.) R J Hein W B Roberts

*As they were in 1954...*



*...As they are now.*

R A W Sharpe B J Stoodley J H Mattingly J J M Street R J Firth A R Tinniswood  
J L Harvey J H Newark M B V Moorhouse W B Roberts

of the XI. Tony volunteered to research team members and a combination of the Foundation Office, Tony and myself produced 10 out of the 11 regulars in the side. Only Richard Hein, based in Australia and tied down by work commitments, was unable to be present.

Ted Crowe kindly agreed to allow the Ondaatje Box to be used, and organised an excellent lunch. Several other OBs came in and out of the Box during the day, some from the 1950s and others from later on. Behaviour was good, probably rather better than it would have been 47 years ago and the day was greatly enjoyed by all. A further reunion celebrating the 50th

*continued...*

... continued



*R A W Sharp enjoying the camera*

anniversary of the team and the School's quatercentenary in 2004 was proposed.



*The captain in full flow, J H Newark not interested.*

I would be interested to hear from any team/choir/play cast who would like to get together again. The Colin Beale Centre should provide an ideal venue for these gatherings, providing good facilities for entertainment and an opportunity to see developments at Blundell's.



*J H Mattingly showing due deference to V J Marks (not quite old enough to make the 1954 XI).*

## Head Master's Letter

It was excellent news that generous support of the plans to construct the Colin Beale Centre had resulted in raising enough money to endorse the project. Now we are only months away from a splendid new feature which will strengthen relations between present and past Blundellians to the entire benefit of the whole community. It is now up to the central management committee to make sure that we really do utilise it thoroughly effectively.

In November of this year the school will be going through the paces of its second full-scale inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. This time the scrutiny will include St Aubyn's as well. Now that they have been on our site for nearly a year we are starting to realise the opportunities which our conjoined status can bring. As soon as the inspection is over we will be able to advance a flurry of plans which affect the next phases of Blundellian development and look out at progressions which take us into the foreseeable future, well beyond that key moment of our 400th anniversary. Clearly a whole host of ways to celebrate that moment will be developed and all of us involved at the central core of running the school look forward to seeing as many people back here during the anniversary year as possible.

Future Pictorials will see us announce our plans and I hope people will plan well ahead. Nine years into this headship we can look back on a decade where we have progressed through quite considerable change but have also emphasised the values of our tradition which are such an important part of the combined make up of all Blundellians. As another academic year draws to a close we believe that we are about to launch another hundred or so Blundellians into the wider world who are genuine representatives of the best that this school can produce.



*Jonathan Leigh*





# Director's Letter by Paddy Armstrong

As Director of Finance I must say that the pace of change at Blundell's is fairly frightening. The completion of the St Aubyn's project on time is being followed by a new 5 year plan, currently being discussed by the Governors, details of which will follow in the next edition. Blundell's strong position has been achieved by judicious strategic planning and an acceptance that change is essential in a rapidly changing world.

As Director of the Foundation, it has been a great pleasure to see so many Old Blundellians over the last 6 months and to be able to share with them developments at Blundell's. Plans are being made to celebrate the quatercentenary and to fund the new facilities needed to keep Blundell's in the forefront of independent education.

As I appear elsewhere in this issue, I include these two photographs taken at the Old Blundellian dinner in Bristol on March 17th. First prize of an Old Blundellian tie will go to the reader able to name the most Old Blundellians and partners from the photographs.

We continue to expand the database and I do exhort you to let us know of any changes in your contact addresses. The more we can get on the database, the better the service we can provide to Old Blundellians and current pupils in terms of networking. If you are in Devon over the summer, do come in and see the new developments. For those of you unable to visit, we have

recently created a website to be found at [www.blundells.org](http://www.blundells.org) (click on Foundation). It is by no means entirely complete and we would be grateful for comments and material to add to it.

We are planning a Gaudy at the School for leavers between 1983 and 1993 on October 13th 2001 to coincide with the King's Taunton rugby match. Details will be posted shortly.

*Paddy Armstrong*

*Paddy Armstrong, Director of the Foundation*



# Hong Kong 1957–1981

by K B ROLFE (SH 1939–42)

**I left Blundell's in 1942, took a Chartered Surveyors' exam and failed it, so joined the Army in 1943. I left the Army in 1947, after an undistinguished career, including Normandy to the Baltic. Life was interesting part of the time, terrifying a little of the time and boring as hell for most of the time...**

It was then back to work and I took a correspondence course at the Government's expense to qualify eventually as a Chartered Surveyor. I then took a job as a Valuer in the Inland Revenue until 1957, when I answered an advertisement for a job as an Estate Surveyor with the Hong Kong Government. I suspect that I was the only applicant and was told that, whilst I was being offered a post with a pension attached, it was most unlikely that the job would last long enough for me to collect it!

However, it paid £100 per month with a low rate of tax (15% maximum), almost free accommodation (when available), tours of 4 years with 9 months leave, with first class cabin accommodation on P&O liners (meals included). What they did not tell me was that the job was for a Land Surveyor (which I was not), a fact that I only discovered some years later.

After 6 of the most alcoholic weeks of my life I was eventually deposited in Hong Kong in December 1957, a few days before Christmas, to take a job in the Crown Lands & Survey Office, for which I had no experience and which comprised basically the management of Crown land in the Colony (as it then was) and remained for the rest of the

British tenure, no matter how often the politicians changed the name of the Colonial Office.

Altogether I spent the next 25 years there, in a job I loved, among a people that I grew to admire more and more as the years went on, and whom I still hold in the greatest affection and awe. They must be the most hardworking and long-suffering people on Earth, not because they were ruled under a Colonial system but because they tend to be put upon and messed about to an extent which no other people would stomach, and still rise above it all. They make the best of whatever circumstances they find themselves in and an astonishing number make fortunes in spite of everything. I cannot now remember the number of Chinese whom I first met as virtually poverty-stricken, who eventually became rich beyond the dreams of most people in Europe; indeed from time to time I see the faces of some of them on my television to this day.

For some years I sold land in Hong Kong by public auction and, by the time I left, had disposed of some £400 million worth. One of the joys of working there was the fact that, having sold a plot of land, I could then see a huge multi-storey building under construction within a couple of years; the big problem then, as now I believe, was the number of people. In 1957 the population was around 3 million and by 1981, when I left on retirement, it was 6 million. By the way, I can only claim to have increased this original figure by 2!

This is all a tribute to a Colonial Government of great enlightenment,

**The final phase of the St Aubyn's move was completed on 2nd January 2001 when Day Care children moved into Mayfield.**



Baby bonding

who learned to interfere to the least extent, tried to ensure that crime was kept to a minimum and that Public Services worked efficiently, and that there were enough hospital beds and schools (for long periods almost half the population was of school age). Imagine any government of this country trying to cope with that one! All this was done on one of the lowest rates of income tax in any industrialised country.

To conclude, I am and always will be, proud of my Colonial Service, as I feel that I was able to make a contribution, however small, to one of the truly great economic and financial successes of post World War II.





# St Aubyn's

During the Christmas holidays toys had been refurbished, bottles prepared and nappies stockpiled ready for the arrival of nearly 100 children aged from 3 months to 5 years. The excellent and thorough preparation put in by Sharon Lock and her team of Nursery Nurses led to a painless move for parents and children. Baby buggies were soon to be seen about the campus and toddlers enjoyed their purpose-built new surroundings. First

Steps, as the Day Care Unit is named, got off on a very sound footing.

Feedback from parents and staff over the last few months has been very positive and there is considerable pressure on places. There are now over 300 children on the new campus. Transition from Day Care to teaching is carefully monitored by staff so that each child is able to proceed to a classroom-based environment at a rate



*No, you can't eat the toys*



*First Steps  
Formula 1 pit area*

appropriate to that child's development.

From initial approaches and legal agreement, through planning and building, to full occupancy has taken little more than 18 months. We now need to put plans and funds in place to replace the few temporary buildings with a new classroom block. This project represents Blundell's most significant development in nearly 400 years, with the possible exception of the removal from Old Blundell's to the Horsden site.





# Director's Trip to North

**14th February  
to 7th March**

First stop was the Mattingly home in Los Angeles. John and Linda made me very comfortable and arranged a dinner party with the Hippisley Coxes and Shelmardines. John's decision to change into cricket kit and full colour blazer late in the evening remains unexplained. A personal highlight was driving a 6-litre Jaguar from the Mattingly fleet down Sunset Boulevard.

On to Santa Barbara and Nicholas Dewey, who now divides his time between Oxford and Santa Barbara's remarkable micro-climate. Nicholas was able to detail Blundell's post-war history and I came away with a wealth of useful fact and opinion. Nicholas has since returned to Blundell's and I was able to show him our recent developments.

The long drive up the Pacific coast to San Francisco was interrupted only by a sleeping walrus, reluctant to move off



Nicholas Dewey in Santa Barbara.

## ...or Shirtless in Vancouver



Shelmardines, Mattinglys and Hippisley Coxes chez Mattingly in Los Angeles.

the road. I found Chris Emby in sparkling form and had news of Brian Brady and Bill Huffer. Chris is climbing the accountancy ladder with Ernst and Young in San Francisco and would be interested in hearing from OBs in his business.

A failure to clear one of my drawers in my San Francisco hotel caused me to arrive shirtless in Vancouver at 4.00 pm, with an OB drinks party scheduled for 7.00 pm. A quick visit to downtown Vancouver put things right and I made my way to Lois and Peter Woolley's house properly dressed. Lois is Ted and Viv Chanter's daughter and has lived in Vancouver for many years. A very pleasant gathering was followed next day by a short flight to Calgary where Simon Brooksbank and I put the world to rights over a long evening.

Toronto was the next step and several OBs took the trouble to meet me at the Royal York Hotel on two evenings. Murray Aust showed me the Toronto Cricket Club and entertained me in fine style. Jamie Scott has kindly agreed to be the OB coordinator in Canada and can be contacted at: [jscott@yorku.ca](mailto:jscott@yorku.ca)



John Haarer cheerful in Toronto.



A pensive John Willson at the Woolleys' house in Vancouver.



# America...

Blundell's has for some years had a pupil exchange with Bishop's College in Lennoxville. As I had two nights in Montreal I was able to drive through the snow to the school and was shown round by the present Blundell's exchange student. Although Bishop's is considerably smaller than Blundell's, it is now half way towards its target of £7 million as well as continuing with a substantial annual giving programme. Educational philanthropy is a way of life in North America.

Finally, to Boston, which was gripped by the worst snowstorms for 30 years. My movements were restricted by the weather, but a few contacts were made. After extensive de-icing and runway clearance I got back to England the day before a Governors' Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

Thanks to all who made me so welcome. Getting OBs together and putting people in contact with one another is a very important part of these trips, although I suspect that most people are aware that, with a quatercentenary in 2004, there is also a considerable fundraising element.



*Jon and Ali Moorhouse discover Marmite in Vancouver.*



*Bishop's College in the snow.*



*Nick and Joyce Sharp enjoying a drink in Toronto.*



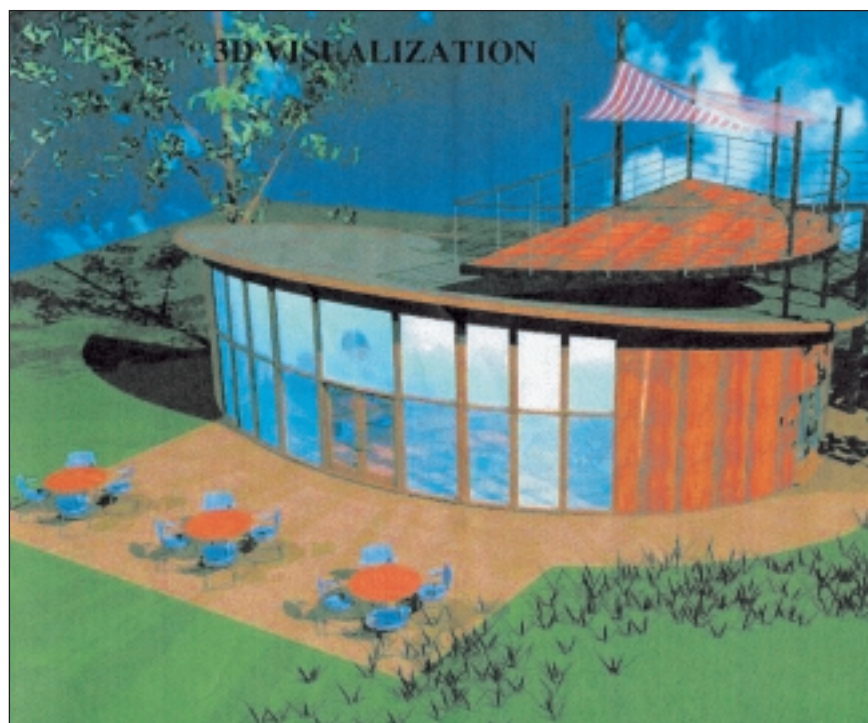
*Prof. Jamie Scott and the Director checking Canadian wine quality!*



# Colin Beale Centre

The great news that the fundraising target had been achieved was shared with Blundell's Governors at their Spring term meeting. Legal agreements with the builder and between the School and Old Blundellians were completed in time to make a start at the beginning of the Easter holiday.

The access road to the Centre was completed in time for the Summer term and has solved the Blundell's Road traffic jams caused by pupils being delivered and collected at School House. With the Porter's Lodge entrance closed to traffic and the chapel entrance little used, the whole business of leaving or entering Blundell's has been put on a much safer footing.



*The finished product – artist's image..*



*Digging up the cinder track.*

Work will proceed slowly through the Summer term, limited by public examination constraints, but the arrival of the steel supports at the end of June will herald the beginning of frenetic activity over the Summer holiday, leading to completion at the end of September.

At present, funds do not run to the provision of the viewing gallery, but the design of the building allows its addition at a later stage. The management committee (Ted Crowe, Chris Price, Richard White, Mike Bull, Jonathan Leigh and Paddy Armstrong) is monitoring progress and expenditure, as well as setting up a framework for use of the Centre.



*New access from Blundell's Road.*





# Incorporation, the Scheme and Governors

Radical changes have recently taken place in the Governance of the School.

Blundell's status changed on 1 September 2001 from a Charity to a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee.

Preparation for this move took two years and involved extensive correspondence and form filling. Prior to the change any Governor was personally liable for claims resulting from negligence, such as failing to diagnose a pupil as dyslexic twenty years ago. The new arrangement limits the Governors' liability and thus makes the unpaid and usually thankless job rather more acceptable. Blundell's has retained charitable status which allows reclamation of tax on deeds of covenant and gifts.

At the same time the Scheme, which is the set of rules written by the Charity

Commissioners for the Governance of Blundell's, was rewritten to allow for coeducation and the wider age range of pupils taken in. The Governing Body was slimmed down to a maximum of 16 members with a reduction in the Representative Governor members. A retirement age has been brought in and a rotational arrangement is in force to ensure change and continuity.

The full Governing Body now meets termly, as do the Committees, which have been revised to include Finance and

General Purposes, Academic and St Aubyn's groups. David Fursdon continues to Chair the Governing Body, Robert Breare runs the influential Finance and General Purposes Committee, Ann Mayes and Judge Bill Taylor look after the Academic and St Aubyn's groups respectively. Contact between School and Governors is on the increase, with the Head Master and Director of Finance enjoying particularly frequent discourse.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all current and past Governors, many of whom are Old Blundellians, for the time and effort they put into the School.

## Current Governors:

Mr E D Fursdon	Sir Ian Heathcoat Amory	Mr R R A Breare	Mr M I R Bull
Mr B M Currie	Rev A R Gibson	Mr C W M Grose	Dr J H Jones
Mr P J Lough	Mrs A C Mayes	Mrs S Robinson	Mr R N Swarbrick
Judge W E M Taylor	Cllr N Thom	Mr B W Wills-Pope	Mr P C Ondaatje



Photo: Ermina Passananti

## Poems

by R I P BULKELEY (FH 1954–58)

### Memory

The children know about pots,  
have dug their clay in local stream-beds  
and pedalled for the thrower's wheel.  
But here inside a riven hillock  
at the end of a lane in Somerset  
some giant Forty Thieves  
have scattered the shards of their magical  
ambush.

One child deliberately shows  
how they are thicker than the hand is  
wide  
that dutifully enjoys  
its exercises in calligraphy  
and basic forms of rhetoric,

but somehow knows  
that this was not a day to be squeezed  
into the weekly letter home  
which competes with Matron's stretched  
out cocoa  
and the stale buns that Sunday ends with.

Fifty years later it is time.  
Although the place has been erased,  
the brobdignagian shards have lost nothing  
apart from an unusual smell he knows was  
there  
but cannot resurrect.  
And his schoolmaster is expecting  
a valedictory composition.

### Quietus

The dog-fox never was designed  
To inhabit our unhallowed ground.  
It coughs its little, lonely noise,  
to which no other fox replies,  
from unrelenting star to star  
for hour after frozen hour.

Its matted mask contaminates  
the dawn's metallic casting-nets.  
But now the groundsman's fork  
and knife  
are polishing his bacon off;  
he finds his cudgel, cap and gun,  
and pulls the heavy gauntlets on.  
Tonight we'll sleep the moon away,  
the groundsman, and the fox, and I.



# Holiday Activities Courses

**For the first time Blundell's offered holiday activity courses over three weeks of the Easter holiday. A total of 110 people took part and the feedback has been sufficiently positive to justify courses for six weeks during the summer.**

A combination of a desire to make the best use of school facilities throughout the year and a perceived need to provide specialist, general and adult courses persuaded the Governors to accept a proposal from Mr James Norman to get the ball rolling. With three children currently at Blundell's and one a recent leaver, James is well placed to identify what would be attractive to children and adults.



*What do I do next?*

Families with two working parents need young children constructively occupied during the long school holiday, with the provision of a meal at lunchtime and before evening pick-up. Budding sports stars want specialist coaching, and those who have reached the Holy Grail of retirement may be looking for instructive and interesting hobbies.

China repairing, Bridge, cricket, climbing and an assault course were among the many activities offered on the campus for appropriate periods. Marketing the courses has



*Tennis on the Astro.*

moved into a more professional mode and a brochure detailing the summer courses available can be had from Frances Jenner (01884-232311) at The Bursary, Blundell's School, Tiverton EX16 4DT. Alternatively, James Norman can be contacted directly by telephone at 01884-821954 or by e-mail at [JamesOrganics@aol.com](mailto:JamesOrganics@aol.com)



*James Norman instructing on the assault course.*



*Your finger seems to be stuck to the plate.*

## Quick Footnote

The Blundell's team won Tiverton's first-ever dragon boat race on Sunday 7th May. This was held as part of the Tiverton Spring Festival. The team consisted of students and teachers and John Brigden, Head of Junior School and non-rowing team captain, said team spirit won them the race. We didn't think it would be skill!





## Pete Bouquet (M 1963–65)

**I left Blundell's in December 1965, and started an apprenticeship with a Liverpool shipping company trading to West Africa. At that time Britain still had a merchant fleet, and I was lucky to be trained before it all disappeared. During my early years at sea, from personal observation, it was becoming increasingly obvious to me that pollution of the whole marine environment was steadily increasing, and no-one appeared to be giving it much thought – or trying to do anything about it.**

In early 1978 I saw a news item on BBC television; a group of people had a ship, they wanted to do something practical about the problem, and they wanted professional seamen to help them. This ship was called Sir William Hardy, and had been a British Government research trawler based in Aberdeen; the group of



We successfully protested and prevented the killing of Fin Whales by placing ourselves in small inflatable boats between the harpoons and the whales. Although this Greenpeace tactic is familiar now, this was the first time it had been used in Europe, and the resulting film footage was dramatic enough to interest news channels and thus further publicise the plight of the whales.

I took over as Captain when we left Iceland; our voyage continued to the Spanish whaling grounds off Cape Finisterre, and we protested at a nuclear waste dumpsite in the Atlantic, southwest of Ireland. In the autumn we were in the Orkney Islands to prevent a seal cull, and at this point Greenpeace began to become more widely known.

Due to personal reasons I was unable

to resume working with Greenpeace until 1985. I returned as Captain on the first Greenpeace voyage to Antarctica, where we eventually set up a base and called for the protection of the entire continent from commercial exploitation.

1985 was the year that the French blew up the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour. It opened our eyes to reality; to the fact that a Government would stoop to that level, committing murder in the process, to prevent peaceful protest. Greenpeace changed forever and grew in size, strength and became more hardheaded and focused. Membership, support, sympathy, donations and

goodwill poured in from around the world. Today we have offices in 29 countries, with over 3 million members; three operational ships (two of which are icebreakers) and we are the only truly global environmental campaigning organisation.

I don't have any regrets. I'm past fifty now and never achieved success in terms that would have been desirable to most of my peers. Times have changed and Greenpeace was only a small part of the vanguard of that change.

I would like to quote part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year address.

*"We want our grandchildren to leave this earth better than they find it – but children born today risk doing more to damage the planet than nurture it..."*

*A child born in a wealthy country is likely to consume, waste and pollute more in his lifetime than 50 children born in developing nations. In fact, our energy-burning lifestyles are pushing our planet to the point of no return... Those who have suffered badly in recent floods need no reminder of the fragile ecological balance of our world. It may not be time to build an ark like Noah, but it is high time to take better care of God's creation. Indeed, in my view this is a challenge humanity must not ignore."*



*MV Rainbow Warrior's last trip.*

people were calling themselves Greenpeace. I joined the ship in March of that year and we repainted and overhauled her in London's West India Dock and renamed her Rainbow Warrior – in honour of a legend of the Kwagiutl people of western Canada, who were involved in the early years of Greenpeace in Canada.

We sailed from London (amid much amusement and derision from the locals) in April, and after calling at ports in the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Norway, we refuelled in Lerwick and were on the whaling grounds of western Iceland by June.



*MV Rainbow Warrior now.*

## Some Forthcoming School Events and Dates for 2001

June 22



School Concert

June 23



OB Day

July 6



Speech Day

July 6



Summer Ball

July 9-12



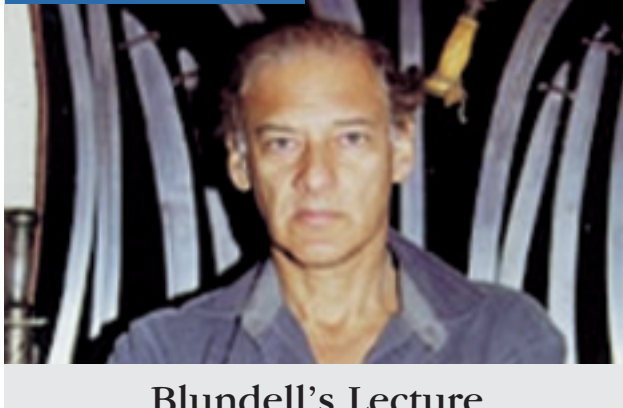
Cricket Festival

October 13



Gaudy

November 9



Blundell's Lecture  
by Christopher Ondaatje CBE



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## Old Blundellian Articles

We are extremely grateful to K B Rolfe, R I P Bulkeley and Pete Bouquet, for their contributions to this issue. If you would like to write on a subject of special interest, do please let us know.