



# Pictorial

January 2002

## The Third Blundell's Lecture

We were very fortunate to obtain the services of Christopher Ondaatje CBE (P 1947-51) to deliver the third Blundell's Lecture on Friday 9th November. Christopher is well known to the School as an Old Blundellian, Governor and philanthropist, but on this occasion he wore his 'explorer' hat and talked about the attempt of the eminent Victorian explorers to find the source of the Nile. Following in the footsteps of Burton, Speke, Livingstone and Stanley, Christopher travelled more than 10,000 miles during his trip. Detailed planning, based on 10 years research and original maps, produced a fascinating and challenging itinerary taking in Lakes Tanganyika, Victoria and Albert, as well as the mountains of Ruwenzori.

Born in Sri Lanka in 1933 to tea farming parents, Christopher was sent to Britain in the 1940s to be educated at Blundell's, starting a lifelong involvement with the West Country and Blundell's in particular. He has led a remarkable life. Christopher invested shrewdly in the fledgling Canadian stock market in the 1960s and 1970s, then fitted in stints as a publisher, author, Olympian, explorer, collector and philanthropist. He has been a committed cricketer and supporter of cricket all his life.

*continued overleaf...*



*The Business Man*

*Christopher Ondaatje (4th from left) with the Canadian 1964 Olympic Bob-Sled team.*



*Christopher Ondaatje with the victorious Glenthorne XI at Lynton and Lynmouth.*



*Paddy Armstrong*

## Director's Letter

December 2001

We are producing this issue a little earlier than intended to let you know the School's ambitious plans for the future.

Governors, Head Master and staff have been looking for the way forward for some time now and decided towards the end of last year that the projects described in the enclosed brochure are needed to reposition Blundell's ready for its fifth century.

There is now a tremendous confidence in the way the School goes about its business and this is reflected in this £5 million development scheme. Funding of projects is to be achieved by a combination of judicious disposals and a fundraising campaign to celebrate the quatercentenary.

The fundraising process has already begun. We are in the process of forming a Campaign Board, which will work with Foundation staff over the next two years. The plan is to spend 2002 approaching individuals on a one-to-one basis to establish a firm financial commitment before asking all Old Blundellians, parents and friends of Blundell's to contribute in 2003. This leaves the quatercentenary year of 2004 for celebration. The fundraising campaign should be complete and many of the projects described in the brochure will be achieved by 2004.

We have been very fortunate in securing the services of Sir Ian Amory as the chairman of the Campaign Board.

I travelled either side of summer 2001 and we now have Campaign Board members established in different parts of the world. The first Board meeting will be early in 2002. Details of the timetable for the campaign and progress to date will be available in the next Pictorial.

We hope you find the projects engaging and imaginative. Blundell's has come a very long way in the last few years. Greatly improved academic standards and a lengthening waiting list are a testament to the effectiveness of the changes to date. Please prepare yourselves to support the next leap forward.

*Paddy Armstrong*

*Paddy Armstrong, Director of the Foundation*



*Paddy with a pupil at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Canada.*

# Gaudy

**A Gaudy was held at Blundell's on October 13th for Old Blundellians between the ages of 26 and 36. As the photograph indicates, this is prime childbearing time and we were delighted to welcome 110 adults as well as 40 children. A sprinkling of staff, ancient and modern, produced an eclectic mixture with ages ranging from 0 to 70.**

St Aubyn's was a considerable attraction for many and was visited from 10.00am onwards. Drinks in Ondaatje Hall foyer followed for all age groups. Attempts to take a team photograph before lunch were thwarted by the Old Blundellians' inability to exercise any control at all over their children or, in fact, themselves in some cases.

The high chair booking went according to plan and all were seated comfortably in Big School for a buffet lunch. It was amusing to watch Old Blundellians introducing spouses to ex girlfriends/boyfriends at the same time as trying to control infants hell-bent on the biggest food fight in history. The Head Master and I have both learned that attempting any sort of address is impossible, but I think it is fair to say that lunch was enjoyed by all.

Visits to Houses and new buildings followed, with a good few opting to watch the 1st XV beat King's Taunton on Big Field. It was good to see arrangements being made for the evening and meetings between Old Blundellians being planned for the future.

Details of this year's Gaudy will follow during the early summer.

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Christopher had addressed the Royal Geographical Society the previous week and treated us to a concise and coherent exposition of his subject, supported by some remarkable slides.

The lecture was preceded by drinks in the foyer of Ondaatje Hall and attended by invited guests, pupils, parents and staff. We thank Christopher for a most enjoyable evening.



*Christopher Ondaatje makes a point to David Bentata and others.*



*Emma Leigh makes her point to Christopher Ondaatje.*





*Please let us know if you would like contact details for any of those attending, that is:*

*Simon Ashfold, Robert Backus, Paul Bedworth, Thomas Bell, James Briggs, Katie Burdett, Spencer Burton, Paul Butler, Guy Carstairs, Tim Clapp, Mark Clarke, Georgina Cleverley (Kelly), Myles Clough, Juliet Coe (Tricks), Samantha Coe, Mike Coe, Tom Cooper, Ian Curtis, Simon Depoix, Gareth Dixon, Suzie Dunstan (Longrigg), Allegra Etheridge, Nigel Goodfellow, Mark Granger, Henry Hare, Tim Harms, Lisa Harms (Maunder), Tim Hassell, Sarah Heard, Richard Heeley, Edward Heeley, Shaun Hill, Andrew Hodson, Bridget Holden (MacKeith), Antony Howarth, Jonathan Humphries, Hugh James, Fiona James (Smith), Emily Jones (Browne), Amanda Kelly, Simon Lentern, Robert Lush, Jessica Lynch (Diplock), Edward Mallam, Richard Maunder, James McRae, Chris Penny, Simon Pridgeon, Marton Pugsley, Edward Roberts, Dominic Roughton, Emma Simes (Dench), Clare Sullens (Stanley), Claire Taylor (Saunders), Jonathan Turle, Richard Williams, James Wright, Kate Wright (Pyle).*



*Old Blundellians and families enjoy a drink before lunch.*



*Colin Beale Centre from Big Field.*

**The contracted work on the Colin Beale Centre was completed at the end of October, allowing Ted Crowe to hold a lunch on November 1st and the School Inspectors to use it as their base from 11th – 15th November. Since then several lunches have taken place and the Governors have used it as a meeting place.**

There are still parts of the project incomplete, such as the viewing platform, but these will be attended to as and when further funds come in.

The main room has a dramatic panoramic view of Big Field, including the 1st XI square, and the 1st XV pitch. Catering and bar facilities are at the southern side with Old Blundellian offices and meeting rooms on the floor below, accessed from the Corps Ground. The main room will take up to 40 people seated for a meal and up to 100 people for a reception.

The Management Committee of Ted Crowe (FH 1943-46), Chris Price (W 1940-44), Richard White (M 1954-59), Jonathan Leigh (Head Master), Mike Bull (Governor) and Paddy Armstrong (Finance Director) has met monthly during the build programme and will continue to meet termly. An operating committee under the Chairmanship of Richard White has been set up to look after the day-to-day use of the building.

Thanks are due to all Old Blundellians who contributed to this project. The design has produced a flexible, attractive and innovative building – one I am sure Colin Beale with his Bursar's hat on would have approved of.

*Ted Crowe dispenses pre-lunch drinks.*



*Maureen Reichwald and Jenny Park head the table.*





# 2002 Projects



*New Modern Languages side elevation with School House behind.*

The enclosed brochure will give you some idea of the projects planned for the near future. In 2002 Blundell's is aiming to improve the quality and quantity of School House accommodation by allowing it to expand into the Mathematics department. Mathematics then moves into the present Modern Languages block and Modern Languages gets new accommodation. As ever, these moves are dependent on planning permissions.

## School House

Originally converted for 90–100 children aged 11–13. School House is now bursting at the seams with over 120 boys and girls. Work will begin during the Easter holiday 2002 to create a second large common room, improve and relocate changing and showering, rationalise and refurbish boarding and flexi boarding arrangements. This will be done by taking over the Mathematics classrooms and relocating day pupils' changing areas.

The first phase of School House improvements is complete. The area many of you will remember as Beale's Tip, directly to the south of School House, was levelled, drained, covered with a layer of topsoil and seeded. This will allow School House to play rugby, hockey, football and cricket on an attractive pitch adjacent to the House.



*John Brigden entertains pupils with stories of his time as a prop forward.*



*The new School House pitch – previously Beale's Tip.*



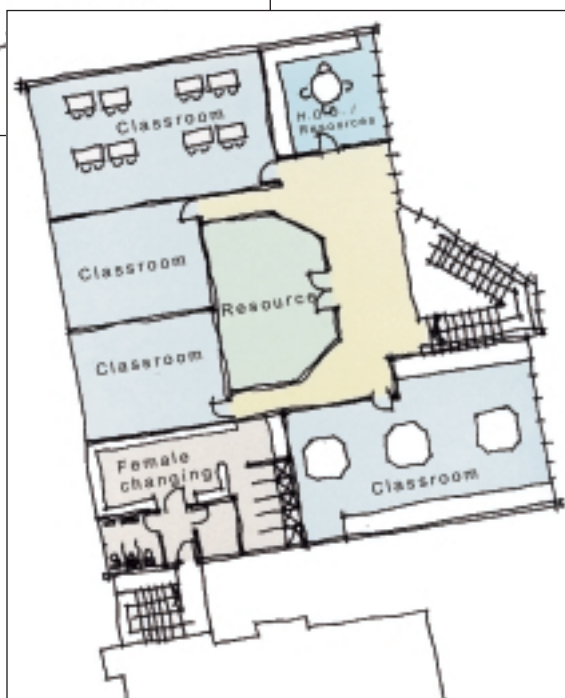




Modern Languages – ground floor.



New Modern Languages elevation from Big Field.



Modern Languages – first floor.

## Modern Languages In Addition

The relocation of the Mathematics department creates the need for a new Modern Languages block. It has been decided to remove the single storey staff changing areas from between the current Modern Languages block and the Gymnasium. This is probably the least attractive Blundell's building and occupies a prime site. It will be replaced by a two-storey state of the art classroom block purpose designed for the teaching of modern languages. Final plans are being drawn up by the architects and it is hoped to complete the project by September 2002.

The new building will also incorporate staff and St Aubyn's day changing areas.

It is also hoped that work will begin on a Head's House for St Aubyn's on the grass to the south of Milestones. This will greatly improve security on that site and give the Head greater opportunity to offer pastoral help to pupils, see parents formally and informally as well as bringing his family into the heart of the school.

The extension to Gorton House is planned to take place as soon as possible. Rather like School House, demand has exceeded space. Rationalisation of existing space including provision of a decent tutor's flat and further accommodation for girls to the north of the House are the main targets of this redevelopment.

## New Head for St Aubyn's



Nick Folland, the new Head of St Aubyn's, with his family.

# Wedding on Whistler

by JONATHAN MOORHOUSE (W 1980–84)

Recently, a letter came to our door in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Blundell's emblem on the envelope gave away the origin. Paddy Armstrong was visiting North America and was organising a Blundell's reunion in Vancouver, and would my wife and I attend?

I departed Blundell's seventeen years ago, and apart from a few Ted Crowe OB cricket weekends and a few catch up beers in the interim, I hadn't seen Paddy for many a moon. So leaving my cheque book at home, as I had heard of the fundraising talents of the Foundation, we set off.

Lois and Peter Woolley were hosting the get-together at their beautiful ocean view home in West Vancouver. As we entered the residence, I heard a voice from the past. "Bloody hell, he looks exactly the same!" The smiling tanned face looking back at me hadn't changed either, except for a shock of white on top. We shook hands and for the next few hours caught up on the past. My side of the story went like this:

After a stint of shipbroking in the city, I found a perfect contrast in the sun and surf of Australia. Alas, twelve months passed too quickly and I returned to replenish my bank account, or not as the case may be. The career I had chosen was organising large sporting events throughout the UK to raise funds for Help the Aged – a non-profit organization. After three years working ten hours a day, seven days a week, and as the events were always held on weekends, I decided enough was enough. I longed for a change.

As an avid skier, I booked a ticket to Whistler, British Columbia, and found Eden.

On Boxing Day in 1992, after a very 'merry Christmas', I thumbed a ride into Whistler Village, approximately three kilometres south of my chalet, for a hair of the dog. The driver of the largest 4x4 vehicle I had ever seen was blonde, beautiful, and the local doctor's daughter...

With my ski instructor's qualification in my hand and a few hundred memorable ski days under my belt, I returned to Bristol with the 'chauffeur', Alison. We were married in September of 1995 just

our sunglasses for fear of blindness; so all photos resemble a 'Blues Brothers' wedding without the pork pie hats.

Working and living in Whistler is a contradiction, so when a friend arrived and offered us a five-week sail through the Caribbean isles on his new 50-ft hunter yacht, we couldn't quit our jobs fast enough. Both my parents were in the Royal Navy and finding myself alone at the helm through the night during a storm gave me a great appreciation of what they did, not to mention life itself. We had the time of our lives sailing from St Thomas



*Jonathan and Alison on Whistler Mountain (yes, they are wearing skis).*

as my father was donating one of his kidneys to my brother, my brother's wife was giving birth to their first, and to top it all off, my mother married Major General Derek Horsford of the Gurkha regiment.

We decided to return to Canada and renewed our vows on the peak of Whistler Mountain, as we had always planned.

It was a picture perfect day, although at 7,000 ft, in 95° conditions, wool morning suits and black and gold silk dresses were a challenge. We were unable to remove

to Antigua and the diving equipment on board meant both worlds were explored to the hilt.

We begrudgingly returned to Canada and now happily reside in downtown Vancouver.

I am lucky enough still to be in touch with many Blundellians throughout the world, many of whom have enjoyed a few weeks skiing in Whistler with us. I continue to return to my roots, but feel I have made a new home in Canada. I look forward to many more reunions, Blundell's 2004 is one.





# Letter from the Head Master

The Autumn Term 2001 saw Blundell's go through the process of a full school inspection. This is something which now happens once every six years. Ten inspectors spent the best part of five days here, whilst a further six had a good look at St Aubyn's School since they are, of course, also a mainstream part of our Governorial foundation. The results will be published on the website as soon as the report is made fully official. In the event we were thrilled to be given a very good bill of health. It was splendid to have our rolling programme of plans fully encouraged and endorsed and the inspectors laboured the point that we were a very, very special school where the ethos was real. In particular, our pupils were given an outstanding chit for their demeanour, and the close understanding achieved between staff and pupils was much commented upon.

Following the retirement of several long-serving members of staff this was a transitional term whilst new faces settled in. In the event they have all done very well and have adapted rapidly to the expectations and traditions of Blundell's.

They, too, will be part of our plans which have been carefully developed over the last year. Now we have a genuine forward momentum to take us through 2004 and well beyond. In subscribing to the entire blueprint the Governors are showing great faith in the vision which can take us ahead as a school fit for modern times.

Education has changed very dynamically in the course of the last decade and the repositioning of Blundell's has been both a necessity and now its life-blood for the future. I do hope that Old Blundellians will like our plans and see them as a vital combination of forward thinking, combined with retention of the best aspects of the school's traditions.

Term concluded with our traditional very fine Carol Service and the Choir touring Paris to sing in Nôtre Dame, La Madeleine and the British Embassy, amongst other venues such as Paris-Disney! The end of term had seen us able to reflect back on a calendar year where academic records had once again been broken, music had been really strong as



*Mr Ewen Cameron, the Head Master and the Chairman of Governors on Speech Day.*

was the overall sporting record of the school for both boys and girls. In this last respect, the girls must be acknowledged as having really arrived and it was no mean achievement to be Devon Hockey champions both at U18 and U16 level. With over two hundred people having registered their children's names for the school during the course of this term alone, we are now able to pick up a pattern which can be developed to fit in with our planning.

*Jonathan Leigh*  
Jonathan Leigh

## Beating of the Retreat by the Scots Guards

**On Saturday 8th September 2001 the Scots Guards visited Blundell's to Beat the Retreat and give a Band Concert.**



*Simon Weston on the podium.*



*Distinguished guests pack the pavilion.*

The Band of the Scots Guards beat the Retreat as the sun set over Big Field on a pleasant autumn evening. The ceremony traditionally marked the end of a day's fighting, indicating that it was too dark to continue with battle. The Lord Lieutenant of Devon, Mr Eric Dancer, took the salute.

Simon Weston, who suffered horrific burns when his ship was blown up during the Argentinian conflict in 1982, spoke during the evening Band Concert in Big School. The proceeds of the day were shared between the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal Star and Garter Home, of which Mr Weston is a Vice President. Also taking part in the evening was Alasdair Hutton, the former BBC newsreader, who commentates on military occasions such as the Edinburgh Tattoo. Other



*Scots Guards beating the retreat on Big Field.*

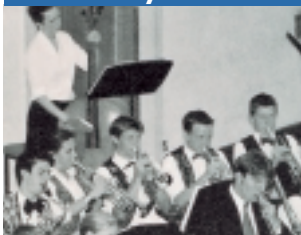
honoured guests included Blundell's Governors.

The 1st XV occupied Big Field for the early part of the afternoon, defeating Truro School comprehensively. The field was then rearranged to allow the Retreat to take place at 6.30pm. Guests then enjoyed refreshments in the foyer of Ondaatje Hall prior to the Band Concert at 8.00pm.

A good sprinkling of pupils enjoyed the Scots Guards' visit, which raised £4,608.

## Some Forthcoming School Events and Dates for 2002

**February 8**



**Big Band Concert**

**February 25**



**One from the Heart  
Theatre Company**

**March 9**



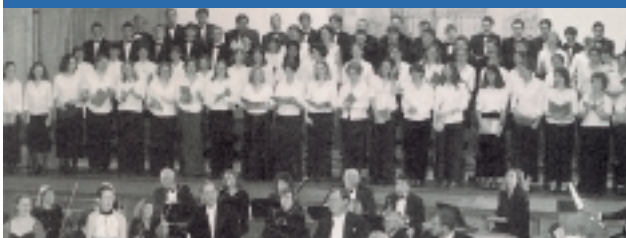
**The Russell**

**March 16**



**OB Dinner**

**March 22**



**Choral Concert**

**June 1**



**School Fête**

**June 29**



**OB Day**

**July 6**



**Speech Day/Summer Ball**

**July 9-12**



**Cricket Festival**

Tim Motion (SH 50-54) would like to hear from anyone who has a recording of Handel's *Messiah* which Blundell's choir performed with orchestra in the School Chapel and Exeter Cathedral in about 1951. Please contact the Foundation Office.



## Blundell's Foundation

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## Old Blundellian Articles

We are extremely grateful to Jonathan Moorhouse, for his contribution to this issue. If you would like to write on a subject of special interest, do please let us know.