

Blundell's Foundation and OB Club



Pictorial

November 2004

Celebrating Blundell's

Quatercentenary



Photographs in this issue are courtesy of Tim Dyke, Peter de Teissier, Alastair Deighton-Gibson, Leigh Menheneott and Andrew Nadolski.

INSIDE: School News • OB Reports • Celebrations • Exhibitions • Tours • Speech Day Report

The Director's Letter



It gives me great pleasure to write in the first joint publication put out by the Blundell's Foundation and the Old Blundellian Club. We hope you will enjoy this record of the quatercentenary year. The Old Blundellian Club organisation of a whole series of complex events has been quite remarkable, particularly OB Day and the Grand Ball.

The database – **Blundell's Online** – has been up and running for some time and OBs continue to register. If you would like to access the database but have lost or not understood the instructions, please contact Patricia Thompson.

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the 2004 Campaign and to Jonathan and Emma Leigh, who have served Blundell's so well for the last twelve years. At the same time we welcome Ian and Kate Davenport and wish them every success and good fortune for their time at Blundell's.

We have enjoyed welcoming over 1,000 visitors during the course of the year and hope that OBs continue to visit regularly. Blundell's has changed remarkably over the last few years from a 13 to 18 boys' school to a co-educational 11 to

18 school with a Junior Department and an Upper Sixth pre-University House. Together with a Day Care Unit, pre-prep and preparatory schools, the Blundell's community is now well placed to take Peter Blundell's vision on for another hundred years and more.

Paddy Armstrong
Paddy Armstrong

Letter from the Head Master

Kate and I, and of course our children Ella and Sam, have been bowled over by the warm welcome that we have received since we started at Blundell's a short time ago. So that I do not remain a mystery to many of you I thought that a brief biography might be of interest. I was born in northern Quebec, but after a short period of time we moved back to the United Kingdom and bar a period living in Switzerland (from whence my passion for skiing emerged) I have lived in England ever since. I was educated at a smallish boarding school, which was a wonderful experience for me; the warmth of the community and the friendships I made have stayed with me since. It was very important to me to seek a school with a similar ethos and in Blundell's I have found one of the best.

I took my first degree at Durham University and have had good links with various others either through further study or teaching, for



example as a tutor at Oxford University.

I started my career in the City, primarily for Investment Banks; but I saw the light and I moved into teaching in the late 1980s, first at St George's College in Weybridge and latterly at Radley College, as a housemaster and a Head of Department. I have a wide range of

interests, I have played and coached much sport (coaching the 1st XV and 1st IV at Radley). I have many other interests, particularly music, the fells and American political biography.

Ian Davenport

Ian Davenport

Letter from Jonathan Leigh



After twelve fascinating years of having the undoubted thrill of being Blundell's Head Master it has been a time of some wistful nostalgia, though much happiness, as Emma and I move on to our next challenge at Ridley College, Ontario. In particular, it was enormous fun to be at the helm at that great moment of pride we all felt as Blundell's achieved its 400th anniversary.

The school is set fair to sail on strongly in the century to come. Old Blundellians have been truly supportive of imaginative progress and the coming decades will see independent schools continue to adjust to the calls of a society which evolves increasingly fast. Blundell's greatest strengths lie in the mutual back up which all constituent parts of the school provide for each other.

Whilst thanking all who have been so helpful and friendly to us both, long may this wonderful community thrive. We will follow progress from the other side of the ocean with genuine fascination and, indeed, we hope to establish close links from over there between our two schools. It is great that this is already beginning with the visit of some Blundellians at half term this autumn. May Blundell's thrive and grow confident of its undoubted impact as a great centre of all-round education.

Jonathan Leigh

Pictorial Record of 2004 *Introduction*



Many constituencies make up the Blundell's community in our Quatercentenary Year; current students, parents, the Governors and Staff, the town of Tiverton and, of course, the five thousand living Old Blundellians. It is fitting that this Record is a joint venture between the Blundell's Foundation and the Old Blundellian Club.

School and OB events happily intermingled through the year with the Celebratory Parties in January, the London Dinner in the Drapers Hall, the Choral Concert in Exeter Cathedral and the highlight of OB weekend. A thousand people attended the Service in St Peter's with six hundred and fifty enjoying the Gala Ball. Fine exhibitions of Blundell's Art and Literature were held at the School in September. These and many more events, both sporting and cultural, reflecting the history and life of the School were the result of close co-operation between the School and Old Blundellians working together.

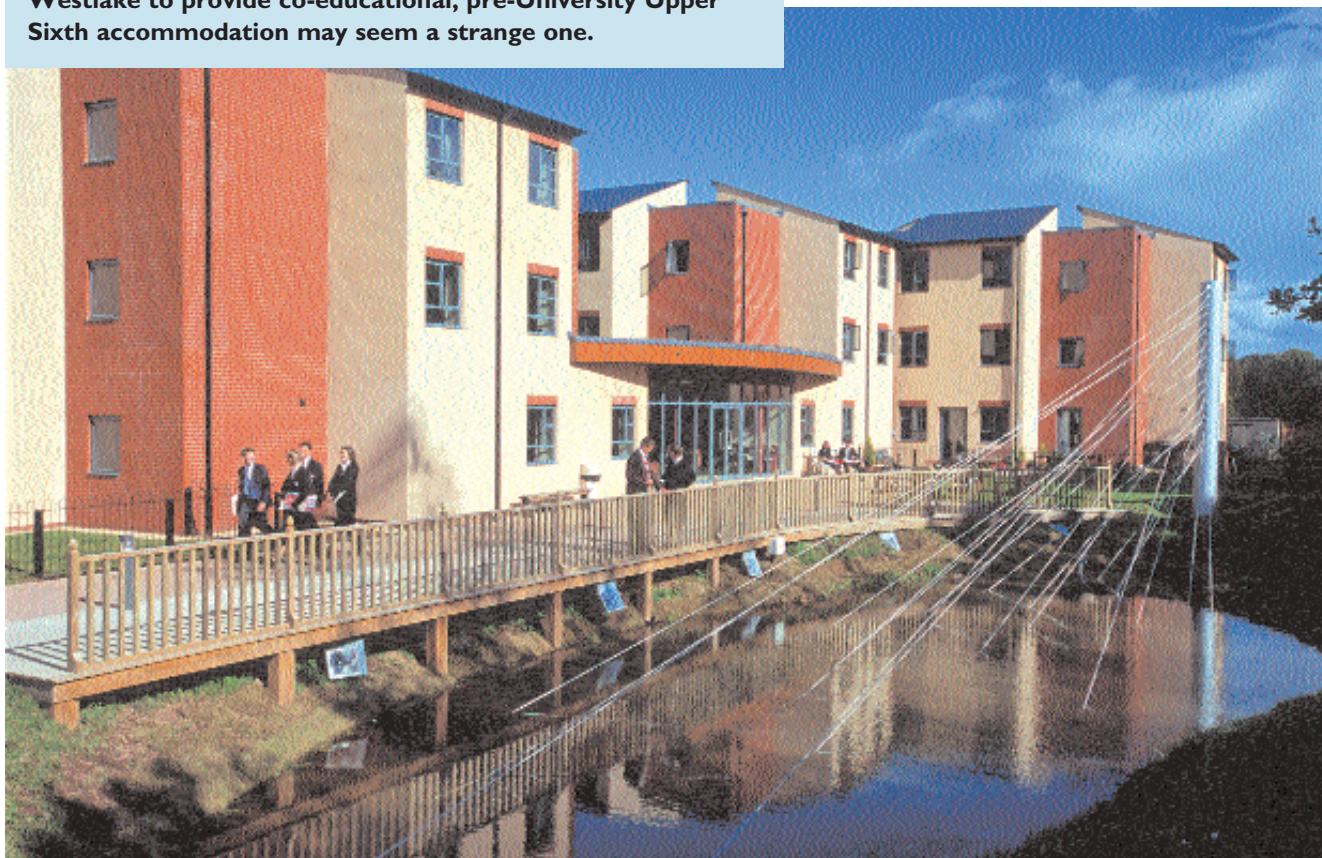
Many OBs returned to Blundell's for the first time for many years, renewing their links with the School and meeting old friends. The continuation of those links and friendships will be the lasting legacy of this year of celebration in the life of our great old School.

Martyn Grose (FH 1947-52)



Westlake

To many Old Blundellians the idea of building a new Westlake to provide co-educational, pre-University Upper Sixth accommodation may seem a strange one.



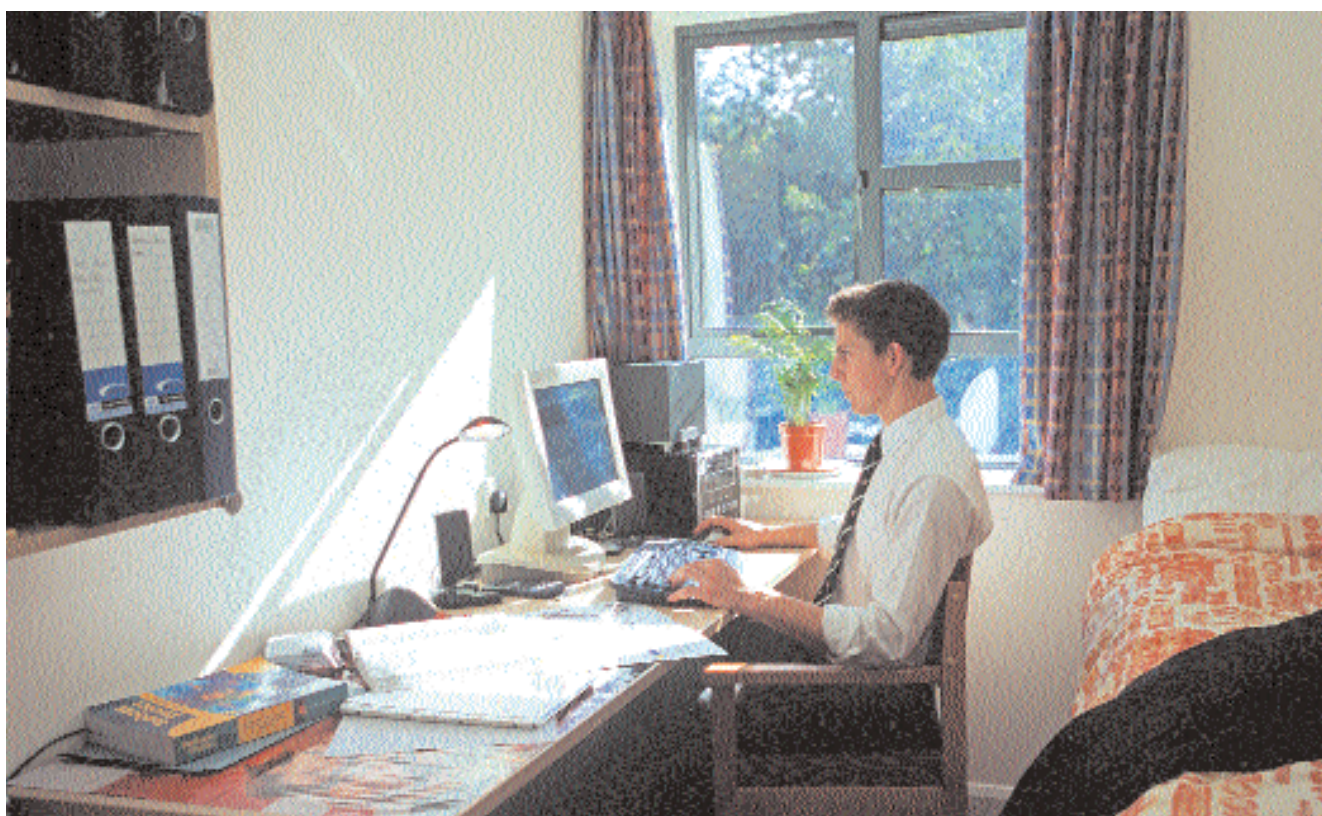
A level candidates these days are under far more pressure to achieve good examination results and need the space and time to concentrate not only on the actual examinations, but to research and complete the huge chunks of coursework now required for most A levels.

Jonathan Leigh's vision, backed by the Governors, was to create a House appropriate for present day A level candidates' needs and to act, in addition, as valuable preparation for University living. Funding for this project and other much needed capital works, including a new Modern Languages building, an extension to Gorton House and refurbishment of School House, could only come from a judicious sale. Tiverton has spread and encroached slowly on the western end of the Blundell's site. With the acquisition of 12 acres of playing field to the east beyond St Aubyn's, it made sense to dispose of the 4 acre Westlake site and House to free

up funds to deliver the projects listed above.

Westlake is now a purpose-built structure with accommodation for 90 pupils, Houseparents and three other resident staff, plus an excellent Sanatorium. This arrangement allows concentration of careers and university advice where it is most needed, as well as providing the right conditions for continuing improvement in an already excellent Blundellian academic performance.

This radical change, rather like the conversion of School House to the Junior Department some years ago, takes time to sink in. The building works well and Lower Sixth students are learning to take responsibility in the other Houses. Social, administrative and practical problems were ironed out during 2003/2004 and Westlake looks to have the potential to further progress the outstanding educational service Blundell's provides for its pupils.



Old Blundellian Receptions

Quatercentenary celebrations got off to a lively start with five evening receptions being held in various parts of the country. Attendance was good and thanks go to all those involved in the organisation of these events.

■ The first was organised by Ted Crowe (FH 1943-46) at the Colin Beale Centre on 10th January.

■ Next came a Bristol gathering organised by Drew Whitefield (NC 1957-62) at Avery's on 17th January.



A full house enjoyed the evening at Blundell's in the Colin Beale Centre.



Drew Whitefield addresses OBS at the Colin Beale Centre party.



The Foundation Administrator concentrated hard.



A nearly attentive audience in Avery's Cellars, Bristol.

■ Frank Akerman (P 1953-58) arranged a reception on 23rd January at Embley Park School in Hampshire, by kind permission of David d'Arcy Hughes (FH 1958-62), Chairman of Governors at Embley Park.

■ On 30th January Mike Daniels (P 1945-50) arranged for the OBs to meet in the impressive surroundings of Plymouth Yacht Club.

■ Finally, Charles Abram (M 1959-64), in his final year as Headmaster, organised a gathering at St Peter's School, Lympstone.

Paddy Keane (SH 1975–80) suggested that to celebrate 2004 and the long history of the Russell, previous winners should be invited to run in this year's event at Blundell's on 6th March.

2004 Russell

An appropriate choice of companion to run the Russell.



The following OBs came for lunch and a select band completed the course in the afternoon.

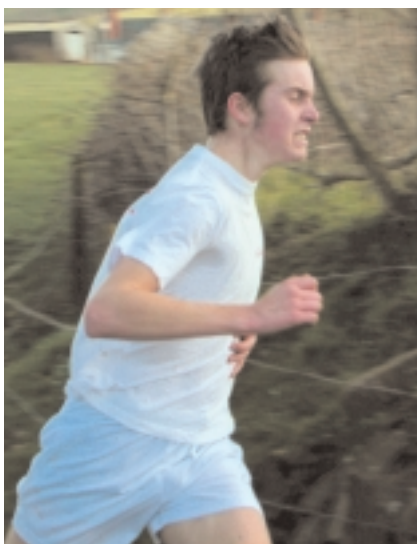
S. H. Gregory, L. D. A. Berry, F. Kingdon, H. H. Banbury, R. K. Giles, P. J. Ivens, H. M. Humphreys, C. J. Wingfield, N. Prowse, S. Prowse, R. Paine, S. Lockyer.



Parents and staff joined pupils for the quatercentenary race.

The course came as a surprise to many OBs who watched or ran on the day. The course most will remember lies to the north of Blundell's Road and involved an almost immediate river crossing. This was made impossible by the building of the North Devon Link Road. A new course starting at St Aubyn's and running up towards Newte's Hill to the south of the School is now used.

The course may have changed, but the challenge is still stiff.



A three-legged contribution to the Russell from Old House.



The 400th Anniversary Old Blundellian London Dinner

by **CHAD MURRIN** (FH 1969–73)

A total of 260 Old Blundellians and their guests celebrated this very special occasion at The Drapers' Hall in London on 12th March. This eagerly awaited event was long sold out and OBs travelled from as far afield as the USA and Australia to be present. The evening began with a reception in the Drawing Room and Court Dining Room, and then we proceeded to a magnificent dinner in the splendour of the Livery Hall.

Our distinguished guest speakers were introduced in turn by the Dinner Chairman, J. C. Murrin (FH 1969-73). They were Sir Anthony Kenny (formerly Master of Balliol College, Pro Vice Chancellor of Oxford University and a past President of the British Academy); Robert Fox, MBE (OH 1959-63, broadcaster and writer); and Jonathan Leigh.

Our special guests on the evening included the Master and Clerk of The Drapers' Company and their ladies, Dr John Jones (Dean of Balliol College), and Mrs Emma Leigh.

An attractive commemorative brochure was produced specially for those attending. In addition to setting out the sumptuous meal and wines we enjoyed, it included articles on Peter Blundell by Brian Jenkins and on Peter Blundell's connection with the Livery Companies, including the Drapers'.

Top: The majestic Livery Hall packed to capacity for the OB quatercentenary dinner.

Middle: Michael Shepherd entertaining guests at the London dinner.

Bottom: Top table at Drapers' Hall.



The David Japes Room

On Saturday 1st May we welcomed back to Blundell's a distinguished Old Blundellian, Mark Houghton-Berry (SH 1971-76) and his family, together with the charismatic, retired Classics teacher, David Japes (1966-95). David had taught Mark and many other Blundell's classicists in Room 7 at the top of the stairs in the main classroom block. Mark moved on to read Greats at Exeter College, Oxford and to win a rugby blue in the centre, despite playing his rugby at prop during his time at Blundell's.



Mark Houghton-Berry names Room 7 'The David Japes Room'.

David Japes with Blundell's Classicists, past and present.



Lunch in the Colin Beale Centre.



Emma Leigh, David Japes and Mark Houghton-Berry.

Mark named Room 7 the David Japes Room and unveiled a plaque detailing David's time at Blundell's. Plaques have also been placed in the room in memory of Ronnie Seldon (1924-70) and Geoffrey Lucas (1947-65). Blundellian Classicists past and present attended the naming ceremony and carried on to the Colin Beale Centre for a buffet lunch.

Devon Baroque

On Sunday 14th March the Devon Baroque Orchestra gave a concert in Chapel. The event was organised by Michael Durrant (Blundell's parent) and was preceded by drinks and canapés. An excellent concert was enjoyed by a delighted audience. The following programme was performed.

Charpentier:
Prelude from Te Deum
Dowland:
Lachrimae Antiquae
from *Seven Teares*
Flow my Teares
from the *Second Book of Ayres*
Muffat:
Armonica Trubato No. 5
Boyce:
Symphony No. 4 in F Major
Barlow:
Pro Patria Populoque
Handel:
Apollo e Dafne



The Internationally known Devon Baroque Orchestra.

Choral Concert in Exeter Cathedral



Andrew Barlow, Director of music.

The musical highlight of the quatercentenary year took place in Exeter Cathedral on Friday 30th April.

Exeter Cathedral provided a magnificent setting for the concert.

The Blundell's choir, augmented by Old Blundellians, made great use of the Cathedral's dramatic ambience to give a remarkable concert. Soloists were Old Blundellians plus the Head Master.



The audience gathers in Exeter Cathedral before the Choral Concert.



Michael Mates and William Godfree Concert

Michael Mates, MP (OH 1947-51) and William Godfree have for many years entertained audiences by performing a Flanders and Swann repertoire. They very kindly came to Blundell's on 8th May and entertained a full house in Ondaatje Hall, with proceeds going to the 2004 Campaign.

Programme

Transport of Delight; The Gnu; Too Many Cookers; The Elephant; Rain on the Plage; The Gas Man Cometh; The Sloth; Kokoraki; Vanessa; Misalliance; First & Second Law; Threesome; In the Bath; Ill Wind; Wompom; Song of the Weather; All Gall; Mopy Dick; Friendly Duet; The Hog beneath the Skin; Tried by the Centre Court; Bedstead Men; Have some Madeira m'dear; Slow Train; The Hippopotamus.



Michael Mates and William Godfree in harmony.



Applause at the conclusion of a very popular concert.



Introduction by Canon Collins.



The choir in full flow.

Andrew Barlow, Blundell's charismatic Director of Music, had put Latin Prayer to music in a special composition for this concert. The following programme was enjoyed by a full house.



Soloist Siona Stockel.



Jonathan Leigh and Orlando Schenk, soloists.

Handel: *Zadok the Priest*
Gounod:
Messe Solennelle de Sainte Cécile
Rutter: *Gloria*
Barlow: *Latin Prayer*

Graham Caskie and Jonathan Leigh Concert

Over the years Jonathan Leigh and Graham Caskie have treated us to some excellent concerts, and the one they gave on 11th June was no exception.

Graham is an Old Blundellian (M 1980-85) and son of Donald Caskie (Bursar 1974-94). He has made a great success both as a teacher at The Purcell School and as a recording artist. He has regularly come back to Blundell's to perform and teach.

During his 12 years at Blundell's Jonathan Leigh has given Blundell's music huge encouragement and provided an excellent example by performing himself, despite the hugely time-consuming nature of his job. Graham's wife, Yoriko Wakabayashi, was the other pianist in the Mozart and the Gershwin.

PROGRAMME:

Schumann: *Dichterliebe*

Mozart:

Sonata for 2 Pianos in D, K448

Gershwin:

Rhapsody in Blue for Piano Duet



Graham and Yoriko.



OB Germany Dinner

There are now 155 Old Blundellians registered on the database as living in Germany. Preliminary enquiries showed enough interest for a dinner and on Saturday 22nd May 40 OBs, parents and friends gathered for an excellent meal in the Seehaus in Munich.



Jonathan Leigh welcomes guests.



Parents and pupils enjoying dinner together.

Max Kaub (OH 1996-2000), whose family had been instrumental in finding an appropriate venue, proposed the toast to the School. We were delighted to have Barbara Glasmacher with us and she proposed a toast to Jonathan and Emma Leigh. Barbara has provided us with many German students over the years and has been a great friend of Blundell's. The Head Master thanked everybody for coming from all parts of Germany and the evening continued well into the next morning.

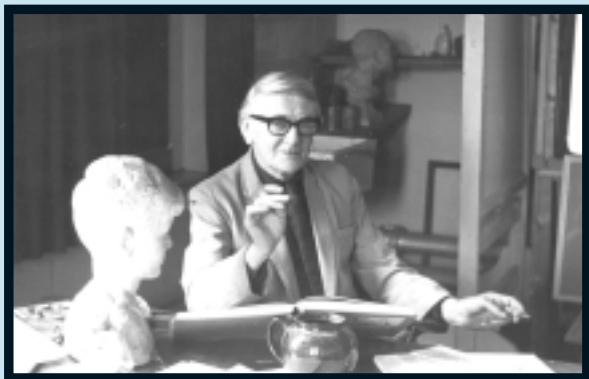


Four ladies participating in the "Biggest Smile" competition.



The Seehaus proved an excellent venue for the dinner.

Retrospective Exhibition of the Work of William Lyons-Wilson



William Lyons-Wilson.

Following an initiative from his son Rufus (M 1943-48), a retrospective exhibition of the work of William Lyons-Wilson was opened in Ondaatje Hall on 1st June 2004 and was enjoyed by many visitors throughout June.

William Lyons-Wilson taught at Blundell's from 1938 to 1968 and was a well-known artist in his own right, exhibiting at the Royal Academy as well as holding one-man exhibitions.

A book including historical background and many colour photographs of William Lyons-Wilson's works has been published and may be purchased from the Foundation Office.



Ash Thomas, 1960s.



Pegasus, 1970s.



Rufus Lyons-Wilson admires his father's paintings.



Old Blundellian Day



A long day began with a large gathering of Old Blundellians, Governors, Blundell's staff and pupils at Old Blundell's. Led by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Devon, Mr Eric Dancer CBE, JP, and the Mayor of Tiverton's party, over 700 processed through Tiverton, watched by a good crowd, and filled St Peter's Church to capacity. The congregation enjoyed an excellent sermon delivered by the Bishop of Exeter, The Right Reverend Michael Langrish.

The school assembled outside Old Blundell's.



The Chairman of Governors, Head Master and Lord Lieutenant of Devon discuss their route to St Peter's.



Three fit Governors approaching St Peter's at the double.



Teaching staff avoiding the Prince Regent on the way to St Peter's.



Above left: A full St Peter's church awaits the start of the service.

Left: The Bishop of Exeter and Lord Lieutenant of Devon process into St Peter's.

Above: Chris Price reads a lesson at St Peter's.



Back at Blundell's, preparations were in full swing for lunch, which was preceded by drinks in a giant marquee pitched on the field behind School House. Ted Crowe had arranged seating at circular tables and an excellent lunch was enjoyed by 450 diners. Speeches followed.



A sporting table waiting to be served.



A cheerful top table at lunch on OB day.

Table 14 enjoying itself including OB Treasurer Jonny Ison.



A panoramic view of the OB Day marquee.

continued...



Old Blundellian Day

...continued from page 15

Unfortunately, bad weather prevented any sporting activities during the afternoon, but OBs and guests were able to enjoy tea and further drinks on Big Field. The evening Grand Ball for 660 people was immaculately organised by Richard Peirce. Pre-Ball drinks and a casino were followed by a three-course meal and dancing. A magnificent firework display was set off over Big Field at 10.30 pm and OBs and guests departed after a full and excellent day at 2.00 am.



Right: A three-course meal was served during the Grand Ball.

Below: Old Blundellians keen to lose money at the tables during the Ball.

Bottom: Younger OBs warming up with a pre-Ball drink.



Younger OBs warming up with a pre-Ball drink.



Lt Kate Rackham (GH 1990-92) and Lt Cdr Anthony Rackham arrive for the Grand Ball.

OB Tennis on OB Sunday

Charlie Hamilton again organised an Old Blundellian tennis extravaganza and 48 players took to the courts for four hours tennis on OB Sunday. Peter Jackson (NC 48-52) and John Pollock (NC 48-51), the Blundell's first pair in 1951, took to the courts with considerable success 53 years later.

The school eventually ran out winners by 27 sets to 17. Please contact Charlie at Blundell's if you would like to play next year.



A full programme of tennis the day after the Grand Ball.



Blundell's 1951 first pair back in action.



A determined OB tennis player.

Old Blundellian Cricket Club v The Lords Taverners

by **CHAD MURRIN** (FH 1969-73)

As part of the weekend programme celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Blundell's School, the OBCC played a celebrity cricket match on Big Field on Sunday 4th July.

The OBCC is very grateful to Nick Irens (FH 1960-64), who was instrumental in arranging for the Lords Taverners to come to Blundell's. The Taverners were formed in 1950 and are the official national charity for recreational cricket.

The Taverners XI was captained by former England Test cricketer Mike Gatting, and included the usual blend of personalities from the worlds of sport and entertainment. Amongst the visiting players were rugby union greats J P R Williams and John Taylor, Mark Austin from ITN News, and former Test cricketer Jack Birkenshaw (Leicestershire and England).



Mike Gatting prowling in the covers on Big Field.



Jack Birkenshaw flighting the ball for the Lord Taverners.



OB Fives players in action.

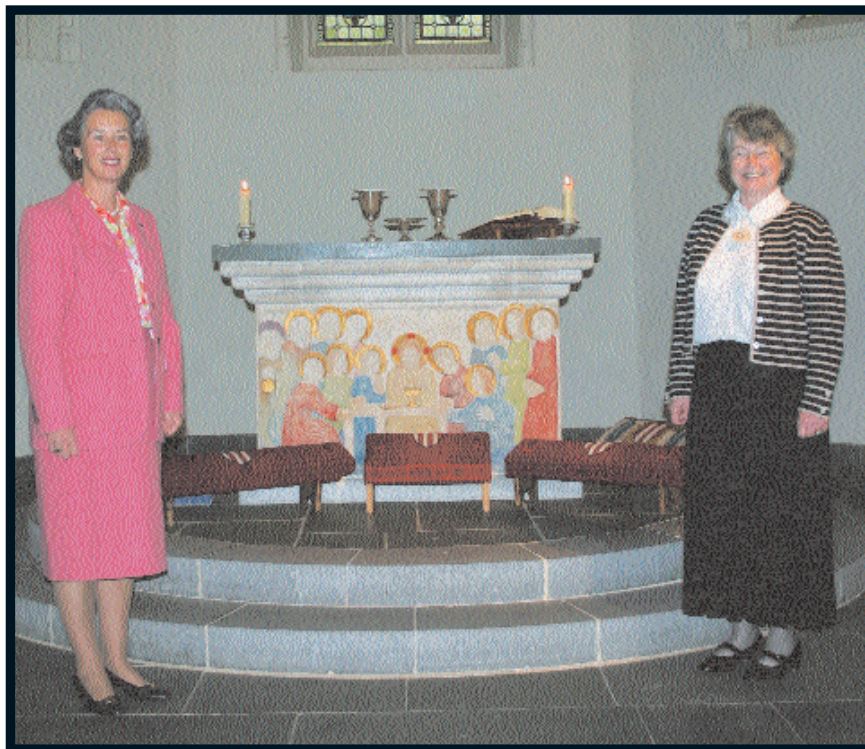
Blundell's Chapel Kneelers

by GISELA BANBURY

Some time ago Emma Leigh invited me to have a look around Blundell's Chapel. When she asked me what I thought of the kneelers, all I could say was 'they need recovering'. And that was the start of the kneeler project.

Emma arranged finance, volunteers and meetings. I organised canvas and wool. I drew up the design, simple enough to be worked by beginners, but not boring to stitch. The wooden bases of the kneelers must have been made by boys over a number of years, and each boy seemed to have used a different measuring stick. The overall proportions varied from 14 x 18 inches to 4 x 93 inches. The design had to be adjusted accordingly.

Our meetings at the Colin Beale Centre were great fun. Ted Crowe looked after us with tea and cake, Emma made sure everybody was kept informed and supplied with materials and I found that my 'pupils' were very quick learners. They worked so hard, even taking the embroidery frames on holiday with them. After the stitching was completed Emma organised the upholstery.



Emma Leigh and Gisela Banbury with recovered kneelers.



Recovered kneelers grouped around the Gill Altar.



Detail of the kneelers designed by Gisela Banbury.

What had started as a small scribble on an odd piece of paper was turned into splendid kneelers with the help of parents, grandparents, Old Blundellians, staff and friends. It was a lovely project to have been involved with.

2004 Cricket Tour

Following an outstanding season in 2003, and to celebrate Blundell's quatercentenary, a cricket tour to Goa was planned. Although known primarily as a holiday destination, with a liberal sprinkling of 1960s hippies who forgot to move on, Goa has a strong cricketing tradition and the standard of the sides encountered was high.



Blundell's touring XI psyched up to take on the might of Southern India.

Seven matches were played with three won and four lost. The tour was ideal as a preparation for the school season and was greatly enjoyed by pupils and travelling staff.



A legside ball about to be despatched.

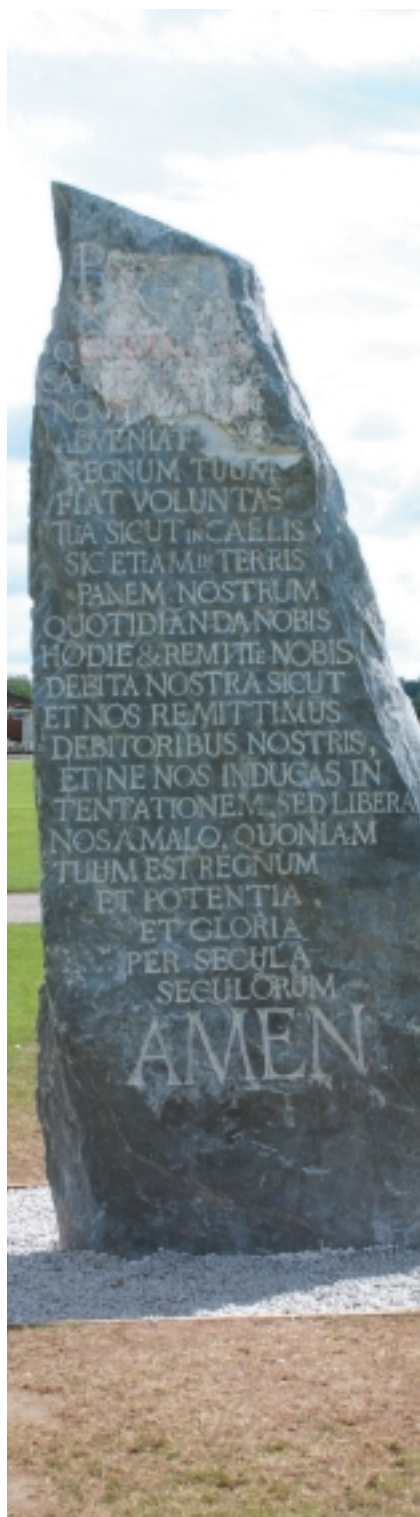


*What is he appealing for? ...
It was nowhere near my bat and much too high for l.b.w.*



Pupils and staff wearing tour T-shirts in Goa.

The Hummerstone Slate



Latin prayer on the west face with Big Field in the background.

On Friday 2nd July at 10.00 am a piece of Delabole slate was delivered and cemented into the centre of the grass quadrangle outside the Chapel. Over the next few days, pupils, Old Blundellians, parents and staff assisted monumental mason Gabriel Hummerstone (FH 1980-85) in carving a Latin Prayer on the west face and IAM on the east face.

Gabriel has gained a national reputation as a monumental mason and was able to involve large numbers of pupils in the creation of this memorial to 2004 before putting the finishing touches to the slate himself. This pupil involvement takes the School back to the days when the Gill altar was created jointly by Blundellians and Eric Gill.

The completed slate was dedicated by the School Chaplain during a School Chapel service.



The completed east face.



Gabriel Hummerstone at the east face of the slate.



Dedication of the slate by the school chaplain.



School Fête 2004



Dancing round the maypole in Ondaatje Hall.

Thanks are due to Emma Leigh for organising the School Fête over a twelve-year period. It was unfortunate that the weather was bad and the Fête had to go indoors, but so efficient was Emma's organisation that the weather impacted little on the income or the enjoyment of the afternoon.



The tug of war was fiercely contested.



St Aubyn's pupils were given the afternoon off to attend the Fête.



Face painting proved very popular.

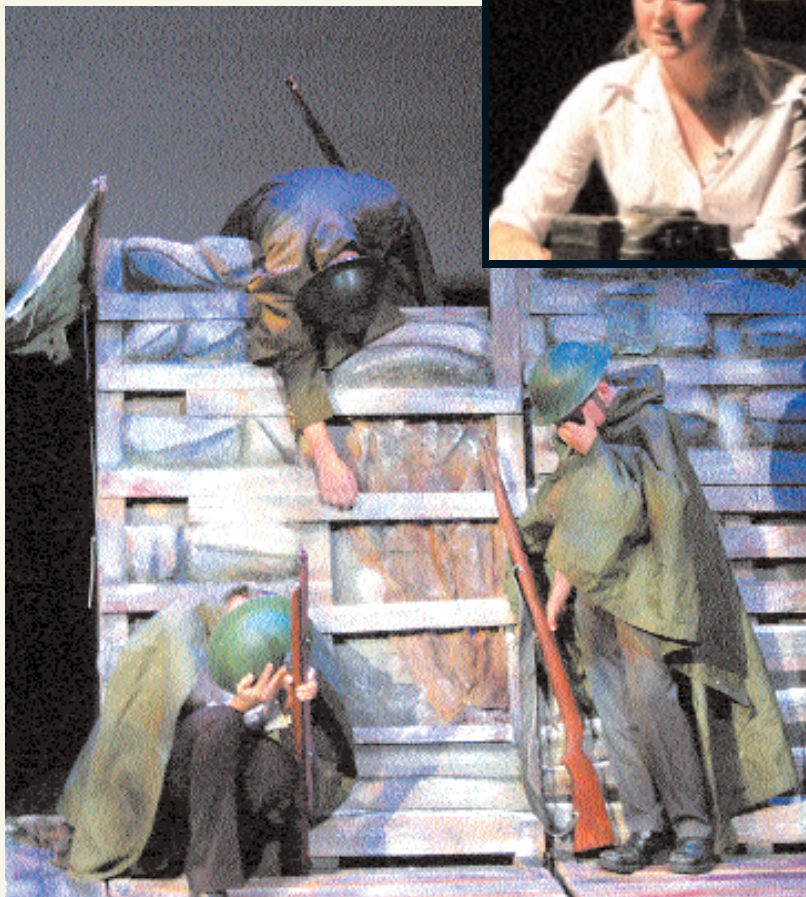
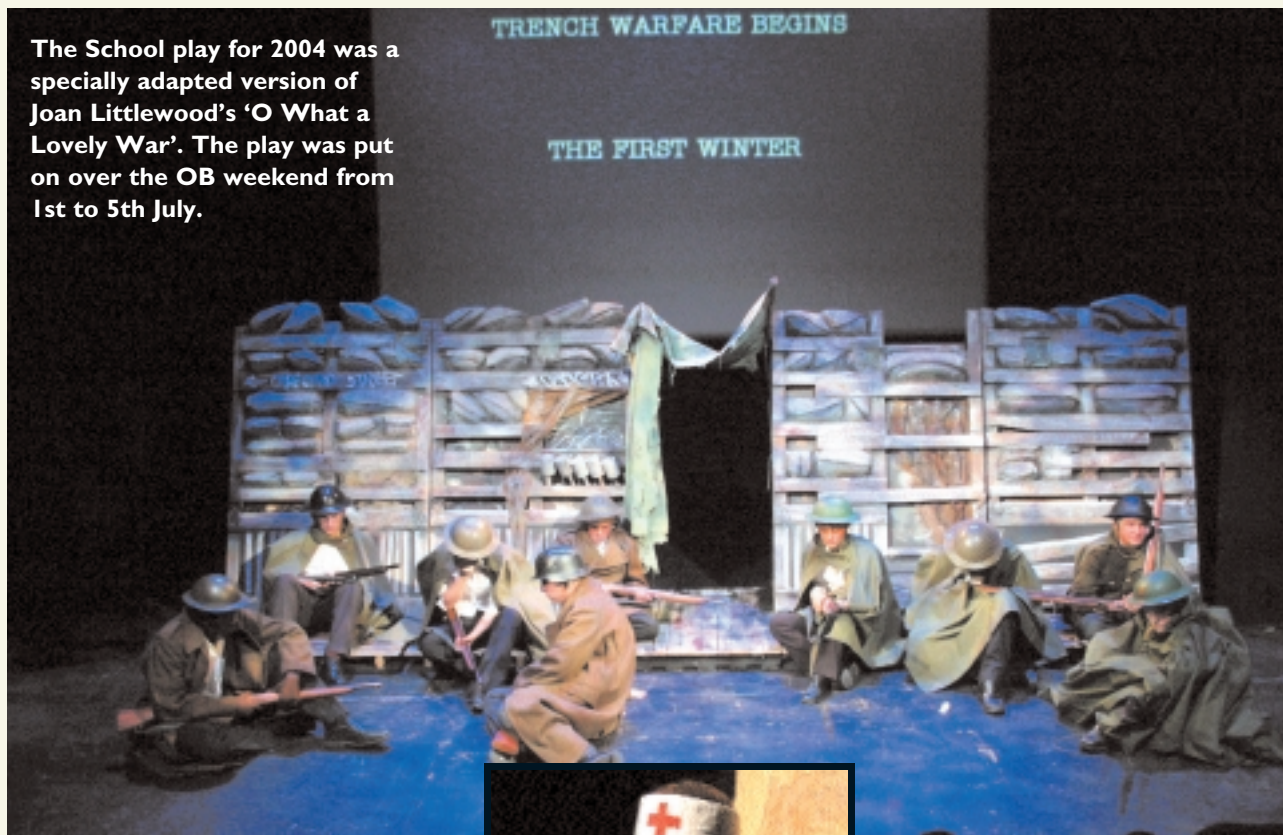


The Fête committee presents a cheque to Devon Air Ambulance.

A huge variety of entertainment was on offer, including the Tiverton Majorettes, face painting, ferret racing and a dog show. The Fête was opened by Jonathan Leigh. Proceeds, which amounted to £3,853, were passed on to the Devon Air Ambulance.

“O What a Lovely War”

The School play for 2004 was a specially adapted version of Joan Littlewood's 'O What a Lovely War'. The play was put on over the OB weekend from 1st to 5th July.



Fiona Baddeley, Blundell's Director of Drama, adapted the script and, whilst retaining the spirit of the original, she replaced the anonymous soldiers of Joan Littlewood's production with Old Blundellians who served their country. The few OBs whose fate was played out before audiences were taken representatives of the nearly 200 Old Blundellians who gave their lives in the Great War and of the many more who survived maimed or mentally scarred by their experiences.

This adaptation to celebrate Blundell's quartercentenary was just another fine example of the sterling work done by Fiona in Ondaatje Hall. She makes full use of the building and facilities in the ten or so plays put on each year by the School. Old Blundellians are more than welcome to attend performances and a programme of events in Ondaatje Hall is available from the Foundation Office.



The School Feast



To commemorate the quatercentenary, a School Feast was held at 7.00 pm on 8th July. The Hogarth etching on the home page of the OB website of a ticket for the 1,740 School Feast indicates an entirely different style of event to the one we enjoyed in 2004. The idea of the entire Blundell's community sitting down to a meal, however, has not changed.

The school gathers outside Ondaatje Hall before the Feast.

Invitations were issued from Peter Blundell to all pupils, teaching staff and non-teaching staff, requesting dress to be formal and in the School colours. An eclectically dressed group of about 750 gathered for drinks on the grass in front of Ondaatje Hall to propose two toasts to the School delivered by the Head Master and toastmaster from the balcony of the Governors' Room in Ondaatje Hall.



The Head Master proposing the toast to the school.



Grace in the Dining Hall before the Feast.

The Feast was served in both the Dining Hall and Big School and was much enjoyed by all. Pupils and staff then repaired to Houses for further celebration.



Above: Teaching, non-teaching staff and pupils enjoying a drink together.

Left: One of the serving areas for the Feast.

Below: A panoramic view of Big School.



Speech Day 2004

Speech Day moved off Big Field and into the large marquee, used previously for OB weekend, situated on the field behind School House.



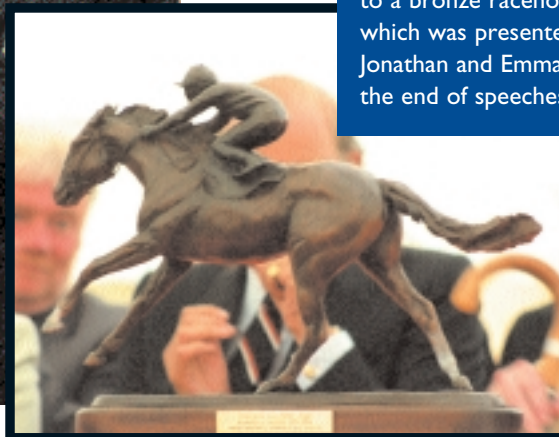
Governors and staff partners on their way to speech day.



Dr David Starkey presents the prizes.

The prizes were given away by Dr David Starkey, the eminent Tudor historian, who appears regularly on television in this country and the USA. Dr Starkey taught Jonathan Leigh at Cambridge and it is fitting that such a distinguished historian should be guest of honour at Jonathan's final Speech Day.

The Blundell's community contributed to a bronze racehorse, which was presented to Jonathan and Emma at the end of speeches.



2004 Rugby Tour

Blundell's quatercentenary rugby tour was to South Africa for three weeks in August. Norman Ridgeway, once again, organised the tour and set a demanding series of six matches in addition to sightseeing and renewal of contacts with South African schools.



Synchronised line out lifting.

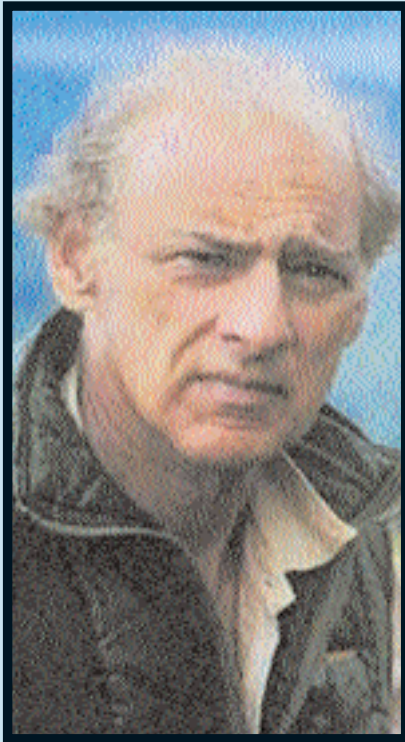
The squad came together for a week of pre-tour training at Blundell's and improved dramatically throughout the tour. Three close matches were lost, Blundell's won two games and performed very well against Paarl, possibly the strongest South African school, in the final match before going down with honour.



Blundell's on the burst.



Sir Christopher Ondaatje Lecture

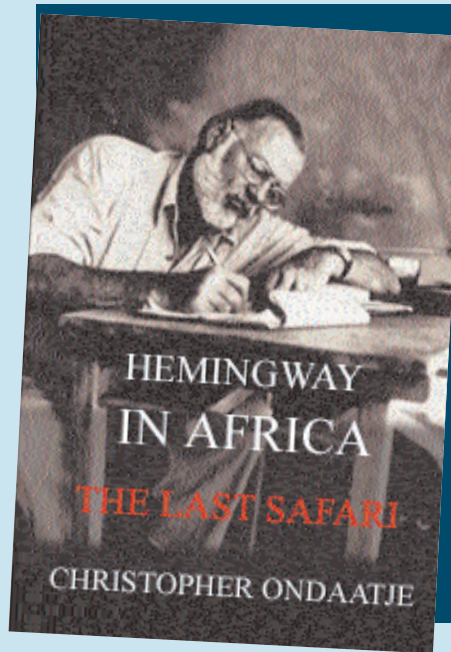


Sir Christopher Ondaatje.

On 10th September, 150 Old Blundellians and guests assembled for drinks and canapés in Ondaatje Hall to mark the opening of the Old Blundellian Literature and Art Exhibitions. Following was an excellent lecture delivered by Sir Christopher Ondaatje based on his new book 'Hemingway in Africa'. Sir Christopher has written a series of very successful travel books ranging from a search for his roots in Sri Lanka, through Burton in the Sindh, the source of the Nile, and now

Hemingway's exploits on his safaris in the Dark Continent. As always, this latest book is illustrated with stunning photographs taken by Sir Christopher.

It was a great pleasure to have published on the same day Robert Julier's catalogue of 34 Old Blundellian artists and John Hollands' book detailing 88 Old Blundellian writers.



The 5th Blundell's Lecture by Andrew Roberts

The historian, TV presenter and journalist, Andrew Roberts, delivered the Blundell's lecture, speaking to the title of his recent book 'Hitler and Churchill, Secrets of Leadership'. About 200 people made up of pupils, parents, common room and some local Devon people witnessed his forensic knowledge of this subject, which was particularly impressive when he came to answer questions posed from the floor. This was also the final formal Blundell's appearance of last Head Master, Jonathan Leigh, who chaired the occasion. Jonathan had taught Andrew Roberts at Cranleigh at the beginning of his career. Andrew Roberts last visited Blundell's in 1993, since when he has built a formidable reputation as one of Britain's best-known historians.



Old Blundellian Art Exhibition

Robert Julier (Art Master 1968-1991) obtained artwork from 34 Old Blundellian artists and put it on display from 10th to 25th September in the foyer of Ondaatje Hall. The last sentence gives no indication of the tremendous amount of effort and time that Robert put into getting the excellent exhibition off the ground and up and running.

The opening drinks party preceded the lecture by Sir Christopher Ondaatje and was shared with the opening of the Old Blundellian Literature Exhibition. The exhibition was well supported during its fortnight's run and several pictures were sold. Robert, with help from Ed Swarbrick (TH 1982-87) and Tim Julier (M 1971-76) has produced a catalogue detailing the artists and this is available from the Foundation Office at £5 per copy (£5.50 if posted).



Ben Spiers and Mary Julier at the opening of the Art Exhibition.



Frank Grenier, artist and ex-chairman of Governors at the opening.



Rufus Lyons-Wilson and Maggie Daniels discuss exhibits.



OB artists enjoying the exhibition.

Old Blundellian Literature Exhibition

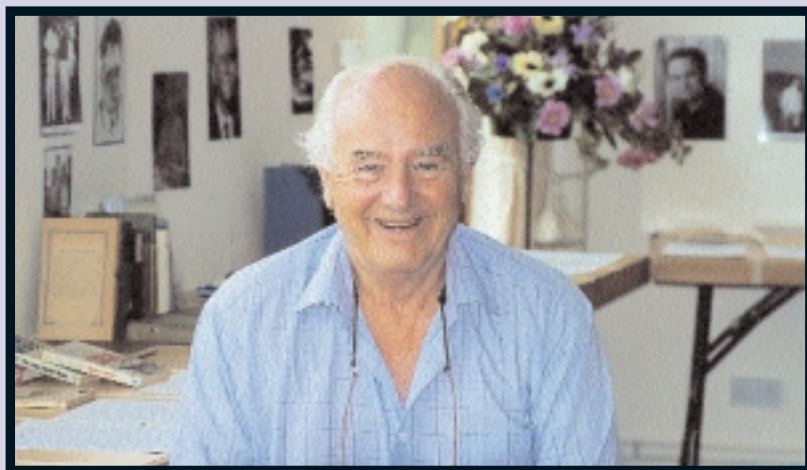
Coinciding with the Old Blundellian Art Exhibition, John Hollands (OH 1946-51) organised an exhibition of work by Old Blundellian writers in the Colin Beale Centre. This was launched on 10th September and John followed Sir Christopher's lecture with witty observations about Old Blundellian writers.

John wishes to thank all those who helped and, in particular, Ted Crowe. We all know that without John's inspiration, perseverance and sheer hard work this exhibition would never have got off the ground, and he is to be congratulated on his achievement.

The exhibition was supported by an excellent 90-page illustrated book

entitled 'Blundellian Writers 1604-2004' put together by John in his witty and articulate style. The book

is available at £5 (£5.50 if posted) from Sophie Stevens at the Colin Beale Centre.



John Hollands surrounded by OB literature in the Colin Beale Centre.

Gaudy (OBs 1955-70)

On Saturday 11th September about 70 Old Blundellians who were at Blundell's between 1955 and 1970 gathered for a Gaudy. This was quite a decent turnout bearing in mind the huge number of OBs who visited the School during the course of the summer celebrations.

An informal lunch was enjoyed, during which OBs had an opportunity to meet Blundell's new Head Master, Ian Davenport. The OB Art and Literature exhibitions were popular after lunch and the 1st XV, after their South Africa tour, produced an excellent display on Big Field with a comfortable victory over King's Worcester.

Details of next year's Gaudy will be published in June 2005.



OBs and partners enjoying pre-lunch drinks and lunch.



Beating Retreat

Several hundred spectators braved appalling weather to watch the Welsh Guards Beat Retreat on Big Field on 11th September.

Although rain and high winds made viewing and participating uncomfortable, the spectacle and music was thoroughly enjoyed.

The commentary on the Retreat was given by Alasdair Hutton OBE and the salute was taken by Air Chief Marshall Sir Michael Stear KCB, CBE, DL, MA, FRAes, RAF (Retd).

After drinks and canapés in Ondaatje Hall for invited guests, a good audience enjoyed a concert in Big School by the band of the Welsh Guards. All proceeds from the day went to the Star and Garter Association.



The Welsh Guards Beating Retreat on Big Field.



Some Forthcoming School Events and Dates for 2004/5

November 19



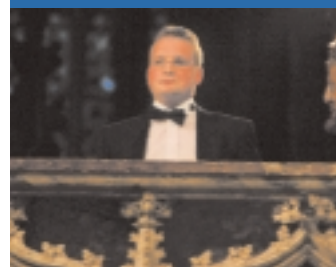
Guitar Concert

November 24-26



School Play

November 28



Organ Recital
– Julian Ross

December 10



School Concert

March 5, 2005



The Russell

June 25, 2005



OB Day

ODDS

Lyons-Wilson Exhibition

A catalogue containing 80 illustrations is available to complement the exhibition. The price is £11.99 inclusive of postage. Please contact the Foundation Office.

OB Art and Literature Exhibitions in 2004

There is a catalogue for each of these exhibitions at a cost of £5.50 each, inclusive of postage. Please contact the Foundation Office.

MESSAGES

Richard Dyett (M 66-72) and Anoop Kumar (FH 76-78) would like to hear from anyone who knew them at Blundell's. Their email addresses are on the [Blundell's Online](#) site.

Blundell's Foundation and OB Club



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