



Blundell's

DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

ISSUE No: 16



Working together



Classic view

Field Days, amongst the most relaxed days of the School year, take place in the autumn and spring terms. Most of the pupils and staff journey off-campus, while others remain to take part in such activities as First Aid training.

One would assume the first Field Day was planned on a much smaller scale than today's event, but that was not the case - if anything, it was much more ambitious. Monday, September 26th 1983, was the day chosen for the grandly named Blundell's Expeditions Day, although, because of long distance travel, some pupils enjoyed the two preceding days as well.

No fewer than 23 trips were organised. All interests seem to have been catered for, and most means of transport used. Two groups ventured onto the water - one indulging in deep-sea fishing, the other sailing off the Devon coast. Exmoor and West Somerset saw various groups in the Doone Valley, the Quantocks and the Wimbleball area, while one intrepid band cycled to Winsford and back. More sedate Somerset locations were Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station and Montacute House. Museums were a popular destination, ranging from the Industrial Museum at Morwelham Quay to the London attractions of the Natural History Museum, the V. & A., and the British Museum. Budding astronomers visited the Planetarium, latent thespians toured the National Theatre and aspiring artists walked the galleries of the Tate. The colleges of Cambridge and Oxford Universities were reached and small groups went to the RAF Museum at Hendon and the Centre for Alternative Technology in Mid-Wales. More active Blundellians spent the weekend in the Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District, and the New Forest, while one small band spent an intensive day playing squash at Southampton. Phew!

Mr Mike Sampson, School Archivist



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

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HEAD'S INTRODUCTION



I am delighted to welcome you to the new edition of the Diary which follows the theme of 'Working Together'. We are, at heart, an incredibly rich community and just as any family, we enjoy being together and yet doing things separately. Both pupils and staff have an incredible range of different interests, enthusiasms and aspirations and this ensures that Blundell's is more than a collection of different individuals. The whole certainly is greater than the sum of its parts and in this issue of the Diary we are proud to focus on the ways in which we all work together.

There is no doubt that when you live as closely with one another as we all do, you can know each other very well. The House system creates that feeling of being a family away from home and I am sure you will enjoy meeting the Year 12 Heads of Houses who have all proved themselves to be inspirational leaders in their own right. They draw all members of their Houses together and in doing so, support the youngest members of the community, encouraging them to feel that they belong and that their own contribution is valued, never mind how old they are or how long they have been with us.

In addition, there are many other examples of how groups of Blundellians, both past and present, have worked effectively together. Our Year 13 School Monitor team really set an example to us all by promoting a week of 'Kindness and Tolerance' which was made relevant to each and every member of the School. There have also been many other connections this year between OBs and current pupils through the career mentoring programme and our current Sixth Formers are fortunate to have so much expert advice so willingly given as they look towards making those all-important university and career plans.

Whilst pushing ourselves forward in academic terms we try hard not to sacrifice the core elements of our community which make Blundell's so special. We actively teach about the necessity for generosity, resilience, self-control and optimism in life and these essential character traits are now enshrined in the new School House Diploma which forms the core of the Year 7 and 8 curriculum. The relationships between older and younger pupils are very much a major feature in the delivery of this. I am proud to say that Blundellians stand out from the crowd in the sense that they look to support each other and see their own success measured in the success of the team. They want to achieve as much as the next person but they will never sacrifice their moral compass for the sake of a quick win.

Finally, I am very pleased that in this issue you will also meet a number of our outstanding staff. Every member of our staff team brings a refreshing and innovative outlook combined with that all important sense of optimism and positivity that we value so much. I would like to thank all those pupils, parents, OBs and staff who have contributed to this issue. There is no doubt that working together is something that we do quite naturally; in essence, we wholeheartedly believe what Lyndon Johnson so eloquently suggested 'There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves.'

Nicola Huggett

Nicola Huggett
Head

Blundell's News

SPLAT! KA-POW!



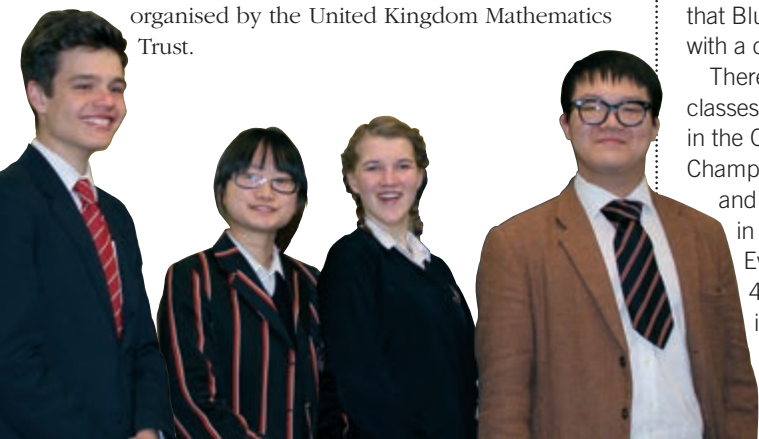
The gangsters took over Ondaatje Hall when School House presented 'Bugsy Malone', the play set in Chicago during the prohibition era. There were some terrific performances from the cast who had worked very hard on developing their accents and mobster



characters. They played to packed audiences on both nights and were assisted by older pupils behind the scenes and front of house; a great example of working together.

MATHEMATICIANS AT THEIR REGIONAL BEST

The Blundell's team of Lori Burian, Run Zhao, Beth Squires and JK Song won the regional round of the Senior UK Team Maths Challenge against 19 other schools and with 100% of all answers correct (for the first time ever in this local round by any team) and went on to take part in the National finals. This is the second year running that Blundell's mathematicians have reached the final of this prestigious competition, organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust.



The Blundell's Saxophone Quintet of Becky Brinkley, Zoe Hitchens, Natalie Cotton, Cai (all Year 12) and Jack Armstrong Williams (Year 9) made it through the heats to qualify for the semi-final of the National Chamber Music Festival organised by Pro Corda.



Super Saxes



Arena Eventing champions - again

Blundell's equestrians have retained the coveted title of Arena Eventing champions at the recent National Schools Equestrian Association championships. The team of Will Smith, Ed Barlow, Archie Hare and Didi Eaton competed against 19 other teams in the championships, which were held at Addington Manor in Buckinghamshire. The team all rode extremely well, with Will Smith being one of only four competitors to have a clear round, to take the title. This is the second year running that Blundell's has won this class, but with a different team.

There were great results in other classes, with Blundell's teams competing in the County Show Jumping Championships against 25 other teams and coming second, taking 3rd place in the Intermediate 95cm Arena Eventing Championships and taking 4th place after an exciting jump off in the Intermediate 95cm Show Jumping Championships.

THE BUILDERS ARE BACK!

This latest Blundell's project began during the February half-term with new extensions to Westlake to create new study bedrooms on additional floor levels, together with improved access and an extensive IT suite and research lounge for Upper Sixth students. It is scheduled to open at the start of the next academic year in September 2015. Other major work taking place this year is the refurbishment of North Close, following the revamp of Gorton House last year.



National finalists

The U14 Girls' Hockey team finished what has been a very successful season with a superb result at the Girls' National Hockey Finals. The finals took place at the new home of England Hockey in London's Olympic park and provided the most amazing arena for the girls to play in.

The girls had a tough group but with a win against Repton, a magnificent achievement itself, and two draws against Cranleigh and Framlingham they finished second and qualified for the 3rd and 4th place playoff. Here they met The Grammar School at Leeds who they beat 1-0 to finish the tournament as the 3rd placed team in the country and remained unbeaten throughout: a magnificent achievement.

The team were inspired by their fantastic captain Millie Atwell who was superb throughout the tournament, scoring in 3 goals from midfield. She was backed up by excellent team performances and all involved can be very proud of their accomplishment.



CHEMISTS ON TOP FORM

Blundell's chemists recently competed in two prestigious competitions run by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) - winning one and coming second in the other.

Three Year 12 pupils will be representing the West at the RSC Schools' Analyst national finals, having won the regional heat. The team of Chris Hamilton, Natalie Cotton and Beth Squires finished first in the Western Region and go on to the national finals at Aberdeen University in June to compete against schools representing the seven other regions. In the RSC Top of the Bench competition, the Blundell's team came second, after being tested on their chemical knowledge and practical skills. This national competition is for 14 -16 year olds and the Blundell's team comprised of George Hill (Y11), Alfie Gardner (Y10) and Anna Sides and Seb Albery (Y9).



Off to the finals, Chris, Natalie and Beth

OXBRIDGE SUCCESS FOR ACADEMIC HIGH FLYERS

Congratulations to the four Blundell's pupils who have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge universities. James Perring has an offer to read Medicine at St Catherine's College, Oxford, Ben Charles to read Law at Keble College, Oxford, Ed Nash has an offer to read Medicine at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge and Run Zhao to read Mathematics at Churchill College, Cambridge.



Prisoners praise play by Blundell's pupils



The prisoner (played by Cameron Falinski), restorative justice practitioner (Rory Brown) and father (Luke Ricketts) at their meeting

A play about restorative justice devised and performed by Year 13 pupils Cameron Falinski, Luke Ricketts and Rory Thomas at HM Prison Channings Wood was openly praised by the prisoners in the audience. The A2 Devised Drama students performed their play 'Crying For You' to an invited audience including 35 prisoners who are currently serving their sentences on The Recovery Community and five prisoners serving life sentences.

Based on a true story, the play was about 14 year old Jacob White who is murdered in a London Park by Michael Stevens, a boy from a rival school. Jacob's grieving father Graham is given the opportunity to meet his son's murderer in prison to try and get some

answers to the questions he has. Simon Hughes is the practitioner who facilitates this meeting. The three students, together with Clarissa Slade who designed the set, spent many hours researching the subject, looking at past cases and interviewing a prisoner serving a life sentence at HMP Channings Wood.

Amongst the positive comments about the performance was one from a prisoner who said that it had given him a reality check and had motivated him to change his life and to stay on track when he gets out of prison. The project was organised by Blundell's, HMP Channings Wood, EDP Drug and Alcohol Services and Make Amends, a project run by Torbay District Council, which has since asked the boys to perform the play in Exeter.



Working Together

The Heads of House after one of their regular meetings with the Head (left to right) David Loader, Arthur Friend, Eleanor Ansell, Georgina Scott and Henry Mules

Blundellians work together every day of their School lives: playing in sports teams or in an orchestra, being a member of a choir or the cast or crew of a play or taking part in one of the many academic competitions the School enters such as Maths challenges and top of the bench in Science. Alongside is the coaching, mentoring and monitoring by the senior pupils as they encourage and support more junior pupils. A team of Upper Sixth monitors visits School House on a regular basis to chat, play games, watch films together or drink hot chocolate (see front cover picture), forming a bond between the youngest and oldest members of the School. There have been some terrific examples of sport coaching; to name a few, Phoebe Thomas with young netballers, Joe Holbrook and Paul Riegel coaching hockey and Ben Oliphant-Thompson, a 1st XV rugby player, who last term coached Years 7 and 8 every week, demonstrating various techniques and watching them as they got the idea (he says there are some promising young ones coming through which is good news for Blundell's rugby!). The School is also lucky enough to be able to call on the experience and wisdom of current parents and Old Blundellians in a number of ways, not least when it comes to careers advice.

There are many more examples on these pages and throughout the Diary.

MEET THE HEADS OF HOUSE

The Lower Sixth Heads of House play a very important role in supporting younger members of the House and working with the rest of the monitor team to help in the smooth running of the House. Here the current Heads of House - Arthur Friend (Old House), Georgina Scott (Gorton House), Henry Mules (Francis House), Eleanor Ansell (North Close) and David Loader (Petergate) – describe their responsibilities.

AF I believe that the role of the Head of House is to welcome people into the House and make sure that the members of the House are as happy as possible. It is also the duty of the Head of House to try and set a good example and deal with small problems before they become major problems. The Head of Houses should be role models for the lower years to look up to and younger members should feel comfortable coming to the Head of House to talk to him about anything.

GS I feel that I am there for members of all years within Gorton House as a person that

they can come to with any problems. For the Year 9s I like to think of myself as someone they can have fun with as well as a being a role model for them. I try to represent GH in as many ways as possible and get involved in events such as Russell, tug of war, House Music and GH play.

HM I provide a place where anyone can come and talk with me if they need. I also spend time talking with the other members of the House, finding out what they would like to happen in the House. I also have the role of a House monitor,

meaning I do a duty night, where I supervise the Year 9s in prep, and make sure everyone is working and then put everyone to bed later in the evening. I also provide a link between the views of the House and Mr Hamilton, giving him feedback on the feelings of the House.

EA This year I chose to have a room next door to the Year 9s. This way it is easy for me to get to know them and notice if there are any upsets in the group. Mostly I stay out of their dynamics; however, being closer to the Year 9s helps me to notice if there is something I can help with. My role lies in helping the new members to settle in and in keeping the group content: mostly this means being openly available for the Year 9s to come and talk to me, and dealing with issues subtly.

DL A Head of House is somebody who anyone in the House feels they can talk to. Additionally if a problem in the House becomes persistent, then the Head of House should act on it, without always getting a teacher involved. The Head of Houses should be good at listening to younger boys and be approachable and then the problems which aren't noticed by tutors, house parents etc can be noticed and acted on by the monitors and Heads of House.

How are you helped in this role by the House monitors?

AF The monitors also set an example to lower years and help to keep rules in the House enforced. Once a week every monitor has a duty night where he has to keep an eye over the Year 9s in prep and then put each year to bed at their allotted times.

GS The House monitors are extremely helpful when it comes to aspects of the job that I feel I need more support with. House Music, for example, was organised by Becky Brinkley. There are ten of us and we are assigned to a night of duty every

week in the evening, sharing with one other monitor. During this duty night we supervise the Year 9s during prep, put all the years to bed and lock the House. Not only the monitors help me as Head of House, my whole year has been extremely helpful and very supportive.

HM The monitors are always on hand to help when needed and will also feedback to Mr Hamilton, and chat to the House, to make sure that everyone is happy

EA The first few weeks of the autumn term are really important for setting up the relationship between the Year 9 and the team of L6th monitors. Each evening during the week a different monitor is on duty; as well as supervising prep and doing lights out, this is a good time for us to come to know the new boarders individually. Different House monitors have closer relationships with different people in the House; this is really useful for dealing with any concerns we may have.

DL House monitors and the Head of House meet regularly and discuss what is going on within the House. From there we decide on how to solve problems and how to improve the House. The role of the monitor team is to enforce things in the House whether that be dealing with misbehaviour or organizing events such as House sports or weekend activities.

Give an example of how you have helped a younger member of the House or how you were helped when you were younger

AF I have lots of conversations with members of lower years in the House whether it's that I have a chat to them on the way back to House or I go into their dorms when I have a bit of free time. This allows me to get to know the members of the House better and also to see if there are any issues that need dealing with.

GS I witnessed a younger member break the rules within the House and I decided to talk to her and try to figure out why she had done this and how I could help her stop. Instead of telling her off I wanted to talk to her and make her feel confident that she could talk to me about the incident.

HM Earlier in the term, a boy was feeling very homesick, and I noticed this while on duty. As I have been a full boarder since Year 4, I knew exactly how he was feeling and sat down and had a chat with him. By the end, he was feeling much better, and has come to see me about other issues since, and isn't afraid to do so.

EA I was lucky enough not to have any personal fallout or problems in year 9 so I did not have the need to go to the monitors for help. Nonetheless - probably without realising it - they helped me simply in the confidence and ease in which they went about what they did. I was keen to get to know this amusing and engaging group of older girls. They kept the boarding nights entertaining and the atmosphere light, helping me to settle into my new place.

DL The monitors and Head of House were very welcoming when I joined. When you are in Year 9, it can sometimes be a bit daunting being surrounded by lots of older boys but they always helped me and gave me confidence that I had someone to speak to, if I needed it.

The Heads of the Prep and Senior Schools discuss Kindness and Tolerance Week

KINDNESS AND TOLERANCE WEEK

As a more positive slant to national Anti-Bullying Week last term, the Heads of School, Millie Blackmore and Tom O'Brien, and the monitor team launched Kindness and Tolerance Week to Senior and Prep Schools. This how they described the initiative in Latin Prayer:

'The aim is to improve how we speak to one another and also how we react to what people say to us. The approach is launched this week, but will hopefully continue throughout the school in future. We believe that it is the small things that will make a huge difference, for example, holding the door open or even giving a smile to those you previously would not have.'

A kindness and tolerance twitter account was created which everyone was encouraged to follow and there were many tweets of random acts of kindness, from carrying books to making toast or tea for friends, clearing up the House to putting plasters on wounds. School House had their own assembly on random acts of kindness and kindness cards were given out with the idea that the card was passed on to recipients and then 'paid forward' so that the circle continued. SH also discussed a number of related themes and stories during the week.

Millie and Tom encouraged the Prep School to give a designation to each day of the week and the ones they came up with included a Smile day, Cheer up a sad person day and Help your mum day!





What's Up Doc?

To put yourself through the process of applying to study Medicine at university is no mean feat. The autumn term is packed, with the intense academic programme plus early UCAS applications, EPQ presentations, preparation for interviews and Mr Baily's grilling in Medics sessions! Three of the four medic students this year also had to go through the arduous process of the BioMedical Admissions Test. So a wonderful talk from Drs Unsworth-Whites was timely and inspiring.

Mr Unsworth-White is a Cardiologist and Mrs Unsworth-White an anaesthetist and they gave the potential medics a fascinating talk on their roles and their views on Medicine with some excellent tips on how to prepare for the application process. Mrs Unsworth-White also brought in some props to help explain her role. This was all after a full days 'doctoring', and Mr Unsworth-White raced up to Blundell's immediately after cardiac surgery!

CAREERS ADVICE

With the help of a Year 11 organising committee the range of Careers Lunches has been expanded. Among the speakers to date have been Lewis Steer (FH 06-13) who gave an excellent presentation to Year 9s and above on Starting your Own Business based on the company Lily Warne Wool he runs with his mother - passion, a story, making use of social media and hard work were his top tips for success; Joe Smith (FH 2000-07) who gave a fascinating talk on his life as a civil engineer to a very large audience; and David West (NC 66-70) who gave a real insight into the highs and lows of his time spent in the legal profession as a barrister. OB Professor Simon Lewis (OH 59-64) visited the Art department to talk to the seniors about futures in the creative arts sector.

Lewis Steer gave a talk on Starting your Own Business about Lily Warne Wool

At the Property and Agriculture evening, mentors from the Blundell's community, such as current parent Nigel Bishop, gave invaluable advice to Sixth Form pupils (see Development Office pages for more information).

Sixth Form scientists helped the Year 7s analyse their findings at the Criminal Scene Investigation Day (more details about this on page 14)



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

As has now become a Blundell's tradition, the Upper 6th students help to welcome the Year 9 students into the 'Big School' with a couple of events in the autumn term. Firstly, there is a mentor get together when the Year 9s are invited to have a chat with the Upper 6th students who were in their Houses previously. This proves invaluable as an ice-breaker, and the mentor Upper Sixth are brilliant in settling the minds of the youngsters. Questions ranged from 'how long have you been at Blundell's' to 'what's the naughtiest thing you got away with in your boarding house when you were in Year 9?'

This was followed up by the Year 9 Quiz extravaganza organised by the mentors. Each of the Houses provided teams with many a glass of fizzy pop being drunk. It proved a tense affair with a team from OH coming through as victors. Much fun was had by all - especially on the 'Guess this tune' round. From this the Year 9s confidence grew and the Houseparent's have visits from the Upper 6th students coming back to their old boarding houses during the year



*Above: Ben Charles makes his case for Mr No Neck Foulter
Right: Judge Paul Waterworth sums up*

Moot

Current parents and an OB were integral to the success of Blundell's first ever moot, organised by Ben Charles last year. This is his report.

A moot is essentially a mock court trial in the appeal phase. There is no fact finding and the six 'advocates' argued over a decision made by the original trial judge in a tort case.

The case was about a rugby player (Mr Talent) who had been rendered quadriplegic after a collapsed scrum and he was seeking compensation due to losses from negligence. There were three parties: Oscar Mustard and Emilie Cunnington representing Mr Emerging Talent (the injured rugby player), Rowan Carew and Giles Taylor representing Mr Shrill Whistle (the inattentive referee) and Holly Keevil and myself representing Mr No Neck Foulter (the aggressive rugby player who was the opposing number to Mr Talent). The original decision was that Mr Whistle was 70% liable whilst Mr Foulter was 30% liable for Mr Talent's injuries and each 'advocate' had ten minutes to argue why this decision was either correct or incorrect in law or fact and explain why.

After an hour of mooting, where many fantastic arguments were made, the winning team was Oscar and Emilie; and so the

original trial judge's decision remained unchanged.

The experience of organising an event from scratch was challenging yet also extremely rewarding and I hope that the moot can perhaps become an annual event. However, I also received a lot of support and so I would like to thank the barristers James and Daya Rees (current parents) and Richard who helped the 'advocates' with the law and submissions, Judge Paul Waterworth (NC 58-62) for writing the case study as well as adjudicating the contest, our clerk and timekeeper Ella Morgan and the mooters themselves for being so reliable and making the process a lot easier. The catering staff and porters were also extremely kind in providing refreshments and organising the Beale Centre into the Court of Appeal respectively. Finally, I would like to thank Mr Berrow for reminding me of many different and important factors that I needed to consider whilst organising the event.

I really enjoyed the whole event and I hope our audience did too.

Ben Charles (Year 13)



Oscar Mustard and Emilie Cunnington prepare to defend Mr Emerging Talent

Working for Others



Kissing It Better

Blundell's has linked up with Kissing it Better (KiB), a charity which is about sharing simple healthcare ideas and harnessing the energy of the local community to make a difference to the care of patients and their carers within hospitals and care homes.

The students, from Year 11 upwards, visit Margaret Allen House in Tiverton every week when they either work on a project with one of the residents or participate in a different activity such as making cards and bunting or scrap booking, with the ideas coming from the students. The visits have proved to be a great success as these photographs and positive comments show:

'Thank you so much for bringing your wonderful student volunteers to Margaret Allen House last week... Your girls were fantastic, warm, spirited, fun... great company.'

'The girls were truly amazing with the residents. I was very humbled to see the easy, confident way in which they dealt with the ladies' various disabilities. It was also gratifying to witness the way they chatted, drawing out memories, experiences and opinions. I was proud to be associated with them.'

'Thanks so, so much for everything you have done for KiB this year - the Blundell's projects really are outstanding. We value your support more than we could ever say.'



*Top: The Petergate choir also provided entertainment
Above: Alexa Butler and resident Jane decided to start a memories scrapbook, a wonderful collection of thoughts, memories and doodles and a record of their weekly conversations.*

The students also provided the entertainment at the Christmas party with Ella Davenport singing beautifully, Molly Horsey organising a Christmas quiz and Miss Norman providing refreshments. One resident commented that she couldn't imagine going to a better party or spending it with nicer people.

The students themselves also love the experience:

'As I go into the care home I feel a warm and friendly atmosphere'

'I look forward to going to the care home as I know the residents love our visits and I enjoy it too'

'I feel that the benefit of the programme for me is to see the residents happy and know that I'm helping them in one way or another'

MASC

I work for a local charity called MASC (Mid Devon Alliance for Special Children) with children from the ages of 12-16. I am fortunate enough to do work where I don't have to sit at a desk and write anything, I get to treat the children to a day where they are surrounded by people going through the same things as they are. Some of the children have autism, restricting them from normal, social activities; that's why every other Saturday, they can unwind and have fun or just relax. Because of their conditions, they cannot be in some of the classes with other children at school, they are taught separately, and we're there to help them with activities. I really enjoy my work; it gives me a great feeling that I am helping others who are less fortunate than I am and I am pleased that I can share with you what I do.

Grace Watson (Year 9) GH



MUSICIANS MAKE MONEY

A collection taken at the Big Band and Soul Band concert last term raised £312 for charity. The musicians were joined by renowned saxophonist Simon Allen, who had earlier given a Masterclass; he chose Macmillan Cancer Support as the recipient for the fundraising (more about Simon and this concert on the Music page). Musical Director Dr Oliver Leaman and some band members are shown ready to present the cheque to the charity.

HELP FOR HEROES

The girls in Gorton House raised more than £370 for Help for Heroes through a cake sale and collections taken at the end of their play. Bonnie Price held a Bake Sale which brought in £62, while the play 'Seven worst break-ups of all time', directed by Sophie Bateman, raised £315. Two cheques were handed over to Dave Hart, who was injured in Afghanistan, but Help for Heroes helped him retrain as a teacher.





UPDATE ON THE LAOS PROJECT

As reported in the last Diary, twelve Year 11 pupils will be travelling to Laos in the summer to take part in Community Learning International's Cultural Exchange program. CLI promotes development aid through village based projects that have a positive impact on education, water and income generation.

Mr Menheneott who is leading the School's work with the charity went to visit Laos in November to find out more and to see what the Year 11s will be doing whilst there. He met Alex Robb-Millar, the Old Blundellian who is a volunteer for the project and was shown various projects, including the two library boats which travel along the Mekong River and its tributaries, taking books to more than a 100 villages which can only be accessed by river; without this service the children would never have any books to read. Mr Menheneott said that he was impressed by just how much the young people he met valued education as the means for them to overcome poverty and obtain a good job. In the school that he visited, there were sixty children per class with one teacher, and the pupils have to stay in very basic accommodation in order to attend school (the distances are too great to travel in daily),



Top: Children reading books from a CLI library boat
Above: The first group of Year 11s going to Laos
Bottom: The Blundell's logo for the Laos project (Laos is also known as the Land of a Million Elephants)

taking their own beds, having to deal with leaky roofs and no bathrooms or lavatories. Blundell's efforts will be focused on the local area around Nong Khiaw and whilst they are there, the Year 11s will be working on the library boats and building better school facilities. The whole School, not just the pupils who are going, is fundraising for this project and several events have already been held (including the Comedy Night and Home Clothes Day) where all or part of the proceeds have gone to the Laos project to provide these much needed facilities. If you would like to donate, please see the Development Office page on the website (there is Laos Project link under initiatives in the left hand column). The related Facebook site will be updated regularly with information; this is an ongoing project in which current and future generations of Blundellians will be involved. There will be a full report on the Year 11s trip in the next Diary.



Red Roses raise cash

In what is now an annual event, the North Close girls sold red roses for Valentine's Day and their chosen charity was the Devon Air Ambulance Trust. The girls spoke about DAAT in their chapel service and worked very hard to sell 500 roses which raised £380 for the cause.

BRING AND BUY FOR THE RNLI

While walking her dog, Sprig on the Devon coastline, Rosalie Sanders and her family suddenly noticed that Sprig was no longer with them. The family searched the cliff tops for hours but eventually had to return home thinking the dog may have wandered off or perhaps even had been 'dognapped.' Rosalie turned her energy to making posters and spreading the word via Facebook (which turned into a huge appeal!).

Days passed without any word of the dog's whereabouts but on the ninth day, a RNLI crew on a training exercise spotted what they thought was a sheep up on the cliffs. It turned out to be Sprig who managed to survive by licking damp grass. Rosalie was so grateful to the RNLI and the crew that she decided to hold a Bring and Buy sale in School which she held over several days and raised £115 for the RNLI.

Rosalie (with Sprig) hands a cheque over to the lifeboat crew who saved Sprig's life



In and Out of the Classroom



New to Blundell's

Left to right: Jonny Clayton, Annabel Taylor-Ross, Sarah Davies, Cassie Francis, Paul Gordon

Whether they have many years experience or have recently come to the profession, teachers have many techniques to inspire and encourage their students. Of the new staff who joined in September, several have had varied careers before coming to teaching (including sailing yachts across the Atlantic and working as an engineer for Rolls Royce) and bring a fresh perspective to classroom teaching. Some of those new recruits reveal their backgrounds, their first impressions of Blundell's and what they think of it so far...

Jonny Clayton **TEACHES PHYSICS**

I studied Earth Sciences at St Peter's Oxford then worked in business journalism before joining the army where I was an officer for five years. I served in a reconnaissance unit, as a tank commander and travelled extensively around the world with the job. After leaving the forces, I moved to Devon with my family and began to teach Physics, not an obvious progression, but one which seems to be working well.

September seems a lifetime away now and I find myself, like the students, with an action packed timetable, from coaching rugby to preparing candidates for Oxbridge application, days out at science conventions or showcasing my lack of talent at charity events, there's not been a dull moment.

The House system is brilliant, allowing really strong bonds to be made amongst the students and staff. I'm very much looking forward to seeing all the big calendar events still to come - especially the Russell. I'll be chasing my House team round the course, no doubt.

Annabel Taylor-Ross **TEACHES GEOGRAPHY**

I studied Geography at Nottingham University - and can highly recommend it! After five years serving as an officer in the Army, I moved into international aid and development, working as a humanitarian co-ordinator in conflict zones for the United Nations, including Afghanistan, Northern Sri Lanka and East Timor. I gained a Masters in Conflict and Development from King's College London and, on moving back to the UK, I worked as a consultant for the Department for International Development and in the private sector, concentrating on countries emerging from conflict. As this work was not entirely compatible with family life, I retrained as a Geography teacher in 2012, and taught at Hampton School in Richmond, prior to returning to Devon (the county of my birth).

Teaching Geography in this part of the world is a gift. The local environment cries out for exploring. Students here are happy, friendly and thoroughly involved in as many activities as they can be, mostly outdoors.

Sarah Davies **TEACHES CHEMISTRY**

After studying Law at Trinity College, Cambridge I spent my early twenties dipping in and out of education and exploring living abroad while regularly asking myself the question: 'What should I do with my life?!' During this time I fell in love with the outdoors, the mountains and France. However, I frequently returned to the UK to study to, cheesy as it sounds, fulfil my love of learning (including studying a Masters in European Law, Equality Law and Criminal Law). Eventually, after a short stint working for the European Union in Brussels, which I could only describe as the best half year of my life, I resolved to put down some roots and decided Devon was the place to do so! I studied a distance learning course in Chemistry and a PGCE and taught at Torquay Girls' Grammar School before coming to Blundell's.

In all honesty, I stumbled upon Blundell's as a result of many friends, local to the area, who always recommended it as a 'fun place to work', and so the School and its biscuits at break time lured me away in only my second year of teaching. The School is full of busy people, from students and teachers to kitchen staff and groundsman. It is a hub of activity at all times and the best bit about it is that everyone seems to be enjoying themselves while racing to the next event!

Cassie Francis **TEACHES DT AND ART**

After studying Art and Design, I worked in a variety of art disciplines from ceramics and textiles through to publishing, gallery management and interior design. After a few years I went back to university to study Graphic Design, and embarked on a design career in branding and licensing, working in publishing with Peter Rabbit, Paddington Bear and Jacqueline Wilson and creating product designs for Horrible Histories, Marie Claire and even The Stig! Licensing took me all over Europe and the USA, but I decided I wanted to be based at home and started freelance designing, working with Oxford University, Henley Rowing Club and a variety of well-known car brands. We then moved to Devon and I completed a PGCE. I was teaching in Somerset before I moved to Blundell's. Although the School can be quite overwhelming when you first join, it's the friendliness of everyone, both the staff and the pupils that has been the biggest impression.

I'm absolutely enjoying every aspect of my time here at Blundell's, it's exciting, exhausting, confusing, friendly, supportive, all consuming, awesome, proud, funny, privileged, inclusive, wonderful, unique, and interesting!

Paul Gordon **ORGAN SCHOLAR**

Before coming to Blundell's I read history at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, while also being organ scholar. This involved playing for and conducting the choir in the three weekly services sung in the college chapel.

A common misconception is that, as an Organ Scholar at Blundell's, I spend all day playing the organ in the chapel, but I do get out to teach music in the Music Department, run the Advanced Extension programme in History and coach the U14 Footballers. My first impression of Blundell's is that it's wonderfully vibrant and happy place to work and live (in Petergate). There's always something going in the Music Department and the enthusiasm of the students in responding to musical challenges and opportunities is striking.

'...the enthusiasm of the students in responding to musical challenges and opportunities is striking..'

GREENPOWER



The Greenpower team of Max Berry, James Pike, Elliot Cole, Lars Fricke and Alex Thomas, led by Mr Bowden, had a great day at the first Greenpower race at Castle Combe last term. Greenpower is a national school's race competition for electric powered single seater cars where schools design and make their own cars and then race them on renowned circuits around the country, with the finals held at Goodwood.

The Blundell's racer had an incident-free outing and completed all three 90 minute sessions without a hiccup and considerably improved throughout the day. All of the team members drove in the races and quickly learnt the layout of the new track. Lars Fricke posted the quickest lap time of all of the Blundell's drivers, completing a lap in 5 min 18 seconds. We were very competitive with all the other schools, some of which have been racing and developing their cars for five or more years. The hard work that the Greenpower team have put into the car over the last year really showed and we were presented with the trophy for best newcomer. The overall results for the day have placed us around 125th in the national rankings with around 300 teams competing. The development of the car will continue in activities sessions and all Year 9-11 pupils are welcome to sign up. We hope to start work on our new chassis design for the next race series which starts in April.

We are very grateful to all our corporate supporters who are very kindly enabling this exciting project to flourish.



Spotlight on the Classics Department

The Classics Department teaches Latin from Year 7 to Year 13 as well as Classical Civilisation and Classical Greek at GCSE and A level. Pupils stewing over Latin conjugations may wonder just how relevant it is today - do they really need to know this 'dead language'? And how does the department overcome the pre-conceived idea held by some people that studying the Ancient World is tedious?

Oscar Mustard, who is currently studying Classical Civilisation for A level, interviewed Mrs Becky Milne (REM), the Head of Department, to find out more.

OM: It's amazing to see how many people are involved in the Classics Department in one way or another. What do you want people to take away from it?

REM: A love of the Classical World and an appreciation for it. But what people don't always realise is just how much Latin will help them and deepen their understanding of modern languages. So much of the lexical aspects of Latin provide the basis for French, Spanish, Italian and English. Equally, German uses cases as Latin uses cases. Latin is methodical and makes people aware of the fact that much of the grammar that we use every day as part of the English language owes its roots to Latin. We just don't realise it, because it's so natural.

OM: You said that an appreciation for the Classical World and knowledge of it was important, but why do you think that is?

REM: There are a lot of pre-conceived ideas that the ancient world is boring and dull, and that Latin and Greek are dead languages. There are also preconceptions that the 'Classics' are elitist. We're trying to dispel these myths. Really, we want to prove to students that Latin isn't more difficult than other subjects, it's just different. Also, you don't need a language to be able to study Classical Civilisation. In truth, studying Classics gives you these analytical and evaluative skills that really set you up for life. Employers and universities like to see Latin in a student's CV at some point - I think it shows that you are an extremely flexible, analytical mind that appreciates past cultures and complex connections. They are far from dead cultures or dead languages. In fact they are subjects highly favoured by universities and employers.

OM: Are there any more subtle advantages to learning Latin?

REM: Well, primarily it's an intellectual challenge. But ultimately what people overlook is that it is a deeply logical academic discipline. For some people, the fact that learning dead languages is somewhat similar to solving puzzles suits their particular academic attributes. My idea of Latin is that everybody can do it in some form. The number of different careers you can take on are huge. The other advantages are that the Classics provide students with cross-curricular links across subjects. Latin used to be a core part of the nationwide curriculum - you can see why.

OM: That's true - and also raises a question about why it isn't compulsory any more. Perhaps it is to do with the image of Classics? What do you think this department does to remove that potentially pretentious label that can be attached to the Classics?

REM: I think it does that by simply producing students who appreciate and love what they have studied. We try and get them to see that what we are trying to do is to show them that this isn't an elitist subject, and that actually it is a subject that can be enjoyed by everyone.

OM: And what about the fact that Latin can sometimes be viewed as intimidating and difficult? What do you think the main challenges are, and can students get past them?

REM: I think the main challenge is that the words in a sentence are not in a logical order. You have to work out the order and sometimes this takes a number of different approaches or attempts. There are also so many different grammatical points to consider when taking this into account. But almost all students can get past these challenges - it's simply a matter of noting patterns and spotting similarities. In many ways, Latin is like Lego or building blocks. You have different components and endings for words and these interact and fit together in different ways. I have a lot of fun with my Year 7s using colour coding and group activities to demonstrate this!

OM: What are the challenges for you?

REM: Well, the most challenging aspect of teaching Classics is that every child has a different brain. You have to be very adaptive to know that you will have to take a different approach with each individual. I've been here 13 years, and have since adapted and created new resources. I love anything different for the department; as soon as I can come up with something new or some novel teaching technique, that's the aspect I most enjoy. We are a small department, but we're so enthusiastic. We have grown in size since I arrived, but I think it is our passion that is most apparent. Our students really pick up on that, I'm certain.

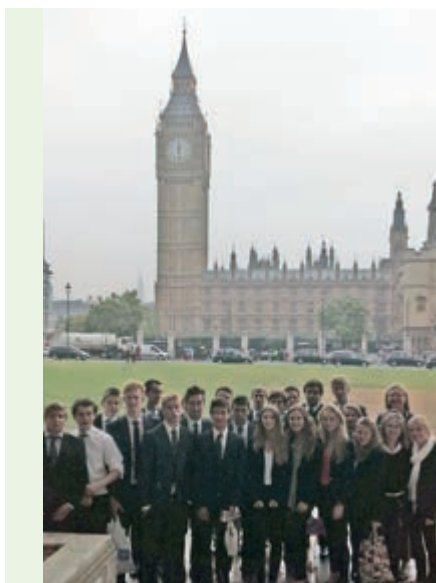
OM: So where do you see the department going in the future?

REM: My main aim is for the people who come into contact with us to enjoy their time with us, whether that is for two years, five years or seven years. I want them to take away a certain sense of achievement - these are not straightforward subjects and if they have found it challenging I want them to look back and see that they have taken on that challenge: that's the best possible reward for me and for them. Studying the Classics can be beneficial and enjoyable, and I really hope that every Blundellian can get involved with us at some point during their academic careers. There's also another exciting project that I want to extend - and that is bringing Classics into the local community. I want to involve local schools in the study of Classics; it would be fantastic to be a centre for southwest classics. It's an aim I'd really love to fulfil over the next few years.



A Case of Mistaken Identity

Onatti Theatre productions made a welcome return to Blundell's and this year performed 'Erreur d'Identité' for Year 9 in Big School. The play was performed by two native speakers who underwent numerous costume changes in order to portray several different characters in this hilarious play about mistaken identity and set in a rundown hotel in rural France. The students were called upon to participate, with Katherine Walton and Ed Olsen both getting up on stage to help out the characters. The students very much appreciated the opportunity to hear French being spoken in context and they found the experience very entertaining.



Politics trip to Parliament

In the autumn term, the Sixth Form Politics classes visited the Houses of Parliament for a tour and a law-making workshop. We arrived just in time for lunch and a few photos in an unusually quiet Parliament Square. Just the outside of the Parliament building was stunning - we couldn't wait to see the inside!

The tour began in the central lobby, showing us the four murals with the patron saints of the countries run by the United Kingdom government, prompting the question of what they might have done with St Andrew if Scotland's independence referendum had gone the other way! We also saw the area where

you can lobby the MP of your constituency to come and talk to you - we were tempted to leave a message for Neil Parish.

Next, we moved onto the House of Commons. First we walked through the 'No' lobby, where our guide explained how MPs vote on passing laws during a 'division' - if you wish to vote that the law should not pass, then you walk through the 'No' corridor; if you want to vote for the law, then you walk down the 'Aye' corridor.

The main chamber of the House of Commons, where the debates take place, was surprisingly small. The guides explained what each area was, where the MPs sit, the speaker, the press and where the public ('strangers') gallery is.

We then moved through to the much more sumptuous House of Lords where they pointed out the same areas, as well as the woosack and the Queen's throne ... which isn't hard to miss as it's covered in gold! The tour ended in Westminster Hall, from where we all moved to the workshop area.

The workshop entailed several quizzes (buzzers and all), some role play (hats were obligatory!) and some learning about the stages a bill has to take to become an Act of Parliament. Overall it was a once in a lifetime experience and I am sure all the people who went were as fascinated as I was.

Izzy Phillips (Year 12)

Crime Scene Investigation Day

It was Monday 6th October 2014. Startled parents dropped their (less surprised) sons and daughters off next to SH...and a body bag surrounded by crime scene tape. Blundell's, it appeared, had once again become a CSI hub, with Year 7 pupils from Blundell's and invited schools drafted in to solve the murder of Mr Frubert Thomas Chu (commonly known as Fru. T. Chu), a food critic for The Blundellian Times.

Time for a lunch break; on the menu were a series of grossly named dishes - slow cooked human flesh (pulled pork with crackling), tomato and melting eyeball pizza (margherita pizza with mozzarella balls and olives), baked brains (cauliflower cheese) and blood drenched cupcakes, followed by chocolate covered edible insects and meal worms.

In the CSI HQ pupils were given the chance to make a necklace using DNA extracted from their cheek cells, which proved to be a very popular activity.

The afternoon session began in Physics, figuring out how the perpetrator by-passed the alarm circuit on Mr Chu's house. The discovery of a threatening note next to his body had pupils working in Chemistry, testing ink samples to narrow down the list of possible suspects. This done, pupils collected the final piece of evidence in Biology, testing for blood residue on the confiscated knives of the three remaining suspects.

The day concluded back at the CSI HQ where Sherlock Holmes (Mr Fisher again) revealed the identity of the killer and Mrs Huggett presented medals to the teams we felt had worked well together in an organised manner with minimal input from their 6th form guide.

The highlight of the day, to many of the Y7 pupils, was the Evidence goodie bag they were given before they departed, containing a

Pupils arrived to have their mug shot taken before entering the CSI HQ in Big School, where they were given a brief introduction by the Head and Sherlock Holmes, a.k.a. Mr Fisher; Mr Chu had recently written a number of highly critical articles about three local restaurants, and was due to eat at one the night he died. Police believe the murderer is from this restaurant. Pupils were challenged - with the help of the 6th form volunteers - to follow a series of practical clues to discover the identity of the perpetrator.

After donning the obligatory protective clothing - white coverall and safety spectacles - the pupils were taken over to the Science Department to begin compiling their case. First up was Biology and analysing the victim's stomach contents to determine which type of food he'd eaten and therefore which restaurants he'd eaten at on the fateful night. The location of the restaurant was clarified in Chemistry via the use of flame tests. Some keen investigation in Physics, analysing blood droplet sizes, gave an estimate for the height of the suspect.



Comments from pupils from one of the visiting schools:

'My favourite activity has to be the code cracking or the DNA necklaces. I must say your Sixth Form students were extremely helpful'

'It made me feel as though I was really a detective...The time and effort put into the day makes me feel really special'

'The whole experience really encouraged me to try harder in science as that is what helps you become a detective'

'I had great fun in all the experiments; my favourite one was the burning one when the flame turned different colours. I learned a lot from the day ...I have been inspired to read all about chemistry and forensic detective things'

'Everything was set up so well to the very last details...It must have taken you for ever and I am extremely grateful to you for everything. When I went home I had so much to tell my parents that my dinner went quite cold'

fingerprinting kit, magnifying glass and themed sweets and an envelope with their DNA necklaces and mug shots.

It took an enormous amount of organisation and preparation but, thanks to the enthusiasm shown by the many staff and 6th form volunteers, everyone came away having experienced a truly memorable day.



Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 proudly show their shooting certificates. All students achieved the qualifying standard with Ella Park, Emily Mettam, Serena Mundy, Isaac Low and Erica Park all achieving Marksman scores.

Blundell's Shooting Club

A very productive first half of the spring term has seen all the new 13 firers from Years 7, 8 and 9 achieving success using the BSA Cadet Scorpion Air Rifle. The CCF has also been focusing on shooting, achieving 42 passes with a mixture of grades including Marksman, First Class and Pass. So a busy term for those attending the recently reformed shooting club and CCF. The students have shown patience, determination and discipline in developing their marksmanship skills, as has been demonstrated by the excellent scores the students have achieved. Both the Tuesday and Thursday Shooting Clubs have been entered in a National Postal Event (when their targets are marked and submitted and placed within a peer grouping over ten shoots) and we await the outcome later in the year.

Students from Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 continue to improve their marksmanship skills, currently focusing on .22 with the Anshulzts and No 8 cadet rifle. Several members are also being trained on the 7.62mm Cadet Target Rifle; if sufficient progress is made they will attend a qualifying competition for the National Competition at Bisley in the summer.

During the autumn half term, French and Art students visited Paris, where they visited iconic sites, practised their French and tried French food. The artists visited museums as part of the 'conflict' topic they were studying and the linguists attended a language school. The group experienced a real mix of culture from negotiating a cheaper price for mini Eiffel Tower souvenirs to the expensive galleries and restaurants they frequented.





Cross curricular

Year 7 enjoyed an Art and Maths cross curricular morning, which involved drawing shapes using scale factors and translations. Each pupil also contributed to the design and colour of one large piece of work.

In a DT and Physics cross curricular morning, Year 9 were challenged to design and build a record-breaking car from elastic bands, pieces of wood, old CDs and bottle tops, working in teams. Amidst great excitement, there were two hotly contested races - the Guinness World Record race and the Blundell's race.



Hardcopy or #Hashtag?

Pippa Voss and Isaac Hydleman (both Year 13) spent an afternoon at the Houses of Parliament pitching their ideas on how digital technology can be used to increase youth engagement with Parliament. They were selected to represent Blundell's at the Hardcopy or #Hashtag? event, organised by the Political Studies Association following a workshop in Exeter, one of a series throughout the country held by the association. The afternoon in Westminster started with students from 15 schools and youth groups from around the UK displaying posters of their ideas, while a panel of experts and audience members had the opportunity to question them on their proposals. In a field dominated by a variety of very similar ideas for apps to inform and engage young people, Isaac's idea for direct public scrutiny of narrowly defeated bills and input into the legislative process through social media really stood out and he spoke confidently for the minute he was allocated. Aileen Walker (panel member and Director of Public Engagement for Parliament) was particularly interested in his proposal and he answered her questions convincingly. In the audience vote, Isaac's idea was the runner up in his group and, together with all the proposals, will be presented to the Speaker's Commission on Digital Democracy. The winning idea was to use established vloggers to spread political messages through YouTube.

Music and Film

Blundell's at the Movies was a highly entertaining evening with a huge variety of music played against a backdrop of film clips. The audience really appreciated how much work had gone into putting on such entertaining and high quality performances.



Who're you going to call? Ghostbusters!

Music

The Music department have had a busy year so far, delighting audiences with some fantastic performances and enjoying some wonderful masterclasses, trips and recitals themselves. New Musical Director Dr Oliver Leaman is looking forward to some more excellent music making during the rest of the year, with Fauré's 'Requiem', performed in Big School and the Chapel in March, being the next major event taking place.



Rehearsing with Simon Allen

Workshop and Concert

To celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of the inventor of the saxophone, Adolphe Sax, Blundell's musicians were joined by renowned saxophonist Simon Allen who has appeared at major UK venues, played live with singers such as Robbie Williams, Eric Clapton and Paul McCartney and on the 2014 Strictly Come Dancing tour. He gave a four hour workshop to the Big Band, Soul Band and Saxophone Sextet, working tirelessly with each group, teaching skills in jazz phrasing, articulations and improvisation. The resulting work from the afternoon was presented in a charity concert to parents, friends and staff in the Ondaatje Theatre and the new look Big Band impressed from the off. The Soul Band were also particularly impressive, featuring three separate vocal soloists and the saxophone ensemble provided a moment of laid back calm with intricate harmonies in a piece arranged by Simon.



Violin Masterclass

As part of the Two Moors Festival, award-winning violinist Agata Szymczewska gave a masterclass in the chapel. Three of Blundell's students played for her and she was full of enthusiasm and helpful tips as she shared her wisdom and expertise with them.



Simon Allen

For more Music news please see www.blundells.org/academic/music/events

The School Play

Lorna Doone

From the moment that Carver Doone and his henchmen confronted a group of farmers returning from market at the very beginning of the play, the capacity audience knew they were in for the epic drama they had been promised. Mist drifted across the stage and menacing sounds filled the theatre, as John Ridd senior refused to hand his hard-earned money over to the outlaws. Of course, this altercation ended in tragedy, with John being killed by Carver, thus setting a train of events which saw conflict between the two families and a growing romance between Lorna Doone and young John Ridd. As everyone knows, the course of their love doesn't run smooth; even up to the last it seems as if John will be denied his Lorna as she is shot at their wedding ceremony but (as another playwright said) all's well that ends well.



The actors were superb and received standing ovations at each of the three performances. Keira McMaster as Lorna was sweet and brave, Cameron Falinski as the young John heroic (in character and also for having a lead role in nearly every scene), his two sisters Lizzie (Emma Jackman) witty and clever and Annie (Lizzie Morris) warm-hearted and funny, Tom Hancocks as Carver Doone was suitably scary and Rory Clark as Tom Faggus a likeable rogue. Somehow Luke Ricketts and Sophie Bateman transformed themselves into characters much older than their years as Lorna's uncle Ensor and John's mother Sarah.

But all the actors made their mark and had memorable vignettes: Freya de Lisle as Betty, the Ridd's servant, gossiping and hitching up her embonpoint, Georgina Scott as Gwenny kindly but ready to lecture John for his tardiness, Ed O'Brien as Spank obsequious and cunning, Andrew Frampton as Judge Jeffreys magisterial and Henry Mules as Jeremy honest and reliable. Imogen Sanders-Dutton as Benita was a charming Spanish senorita and Alex Kitson appearing as wise (but devious) Counsellor Doone. Freddie Carew, Jonathan Lane, Rory Thomas, Adam Soul, Luke Hedley-Dent and David Loader were all convincing in the various roles they took on.

Equally impressive were the students who had worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the play such a spectacle - designing the set (Imogen Dickinson) or the lighting (Chris Hamilton; see his report) together with assistant stage managers Leo Dummett, Izzy Fitzroy, William Honey, Zoe Labdon, Ellen Trigger, Katharine Walton, Clarissa Slade, Olga Gavryliv and Jess Taylor.

The production was enhanced by School musicians entertaining the audiences before the play and during the interval and by the framed photographs of Exmoor taken by Sixth Form photographers displayed in the foyer and sold in aid of charity. Altogether, 'Lorna Doone' was a triumph and a magnificent event to mark the 25th anniversary of Ondaatje Hall.



Celebrating Ondaatje Hall

The production of 'Lorna Doone' was based on the book written by R D Blackmore, who attended the School from 1837 and who set early parts of the book at Blundell's, as the scene of hero John Ridd's schooldays. It was chosen to celebrate the first 25 years of the School's purpose-built theatre, Ondaatje Hall, made possible by the very generous gift of Sir Christopher Ondaatje CBE, OC, who attended Blundell's between 1947 to 1951.

The grand opening production in 1989 was Brecht's 'Caucasian Chalk Circle' (amongst the guests at the gala reception on the final night of 'Lorna Doone' were pupils and staff who had been involved in that first production). Ondaatje Hall became one of the jewels in the School's crown and a venue for many memorable productions and musical events. Several Blundellian actors and stage crew have gone on to professional careers in the theatre or related media, where they have often found that the professional skills developed at School stood them in very good stead in the real world.

LIGHTS UP

When I was told about the planned production of 'Lorna Doone', it seemed like the perfect opportunity to get started on an Extended Project Qualification. With that in mind, the director agreed to let me have full control over the lighting design. I have been heavily involved in many productions before, but this was the first time I was doing it completely myself, and it quickly became a fairly huge task!

With the research element of the play on the author and new lighting techniques, alongside the planning element of all the initial rig designs and artistic ideas, my summer was fairly well consumed by the initial stages of the project. Then, during the early weeks of the autumn term, I had to fully plan the rig and colour choices, before spending the entire half term week in the theatre rigging. I had to bear in mind, however, that this production marked the 25th anniversary of Ondaatje Hall, and consequently decided to light the outside of the building, to add to the significance of the event - a decision which added a substantial financial element to the project.



After my rig was complete, show week was approaching fast, and in the early rehearsals, despite them being long and tiring, it was great to see the final play and my rig in use. It really was an amazing production and I thoroughly enjoyed being part of it - it was a fantastic experience to design and build a rig from start to finish, combining my love for engineering and artistic design.

Christopher Hamilton (Year 11)

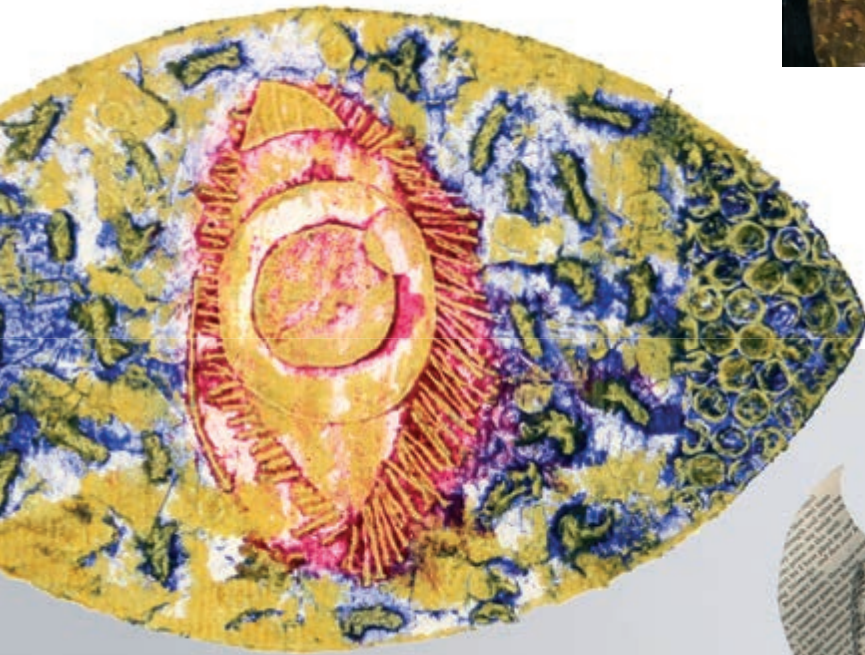


Art

The Art department have entered a record number of artwork by students from Year 7 upwards for the prestigious 2015 Saatchi Gallery/Deutsche Bank Art Prize for schools. These are some of the entries.



Mariia Karpova (Year 7)



Christabel Yan (Year 10)



Frankie Hartley (Year 10)



Alix Mountbatten (Year 11)



Judit Lam (Year 12)



The cover for the souvenir programme for the School play 'Lorna Doone' was designed by Imogen Dickinson, who was also the set designer. Her design was sold to a parent, with proceeds going to the North Devon Hospice.



Rex Southwick (Year 13)



The corridor between the Dining Hall and Big School is used as an extra gallery to exhibit art, such as these batik wall hangings by Year 7, 8 and 9 Special Art Status students.



During their Creative Art Week, Year 6 pupils from the Prep School enjoyed trying out new skills with the Senior School Art department.



Jack Maunder, who is an England U18 scrum half, in possession in the 1st XV's match against Sherborne
 Photo courtesy Alexander Davidson/ www.alexanderdavidson.co.uk



Rugby

End of autumn term report

We have had a very successful term of fixtures, once again putting out two teams per age group throughout the School every week. Most teams on average have played almost 15 matches this term and, despite injuries, inclement weather and just sheer exhaustion, the Blundellian grit continues to shine through. We have not had to cancel a single match and this is a great testament to the players' determination and we must thank the coaching staff, as well as the hard work of the grounds team.

The 1st XV have had notable wins including those against Bryanston, Truro School Plymouth College, Whitchurch (at Cardiff Arms Park) and Taunton School. In our final match of the season

against a very strong and unbeaten Monmouth side, we battled on to the very end despite serious injuries, finally finishing on a credible score of 12-24 to a side who had beaten everyone including Millfield and Stowe this season. The 2nd XV and 3rd XV have had notable successes, the 2nd team only losing two matches all season.

This success has been echoed down the School. Under 16As also had some excellent wins under Mr Roffe-Silvester's expert coaching and the Under 15s have also dealt a number of blows against hard opposition. The Under 14s have faced many challenges with a variety of long term injuries within the team. However, they have never lost their fighting spirit, like all our teams.

Tom O' Brien, Head Boy



The U16 Sevens squad, winners of the Wellington Sevens Tournament

Left: Three Year 8 pupils were lucky enough to attend a masterclass with Rob Baxter, the Head Coach at Exeter Chiefs RFC, last term. Theo Rees, Joe Hancock and Joe Horsey toured the changing rooms and gym at the Sandy Park stadium before taking part in the coaching session with players from other schools. Although the other players were from Years 10 – 12, the three Blundell's boys more than held their own in all the drills against the bigger boys and came away with some great ideas to use in their School matches. The event was organised by Westerly BMW.



1st XV match away against Sherborne.
Photo courtesy Alexander Davidson/ www.alexanderdavidson.co.uk



The Under 16s play Truro at home

Isaac Hydleman, who plays for Bristol Academy, in the rugby sevens match against Millfield
Photo courtesy Alexander Davidson/
www.alexanderdavidson.co.uk



Arthur Friend makes a break for it in the rugby sevens match against Millfield.
Photo courtesy Alexander Davidson/
www.alexanderdavidson.co.uk

For detailed rugby scores, please see the rugby page on the Blundell's website

Rugby Sevens

When the 15 a side season finishes at the end of the autumn term, the Blundell's players still have every opportunity to develop their rugby skills and enjoy rugby competition in the shortened version of the game, rugby sevens.

Every pupil, whatever their ability, can opt for sevens training as one of their activities. From this group, selection occurs for the numerous sevens tournaments at all age groups that the School enters. Over the last two years we have played in 26 tournaments (a number were lost to the weather last year); Blundell's won ten of these and were runners up in three. Highlights in 2014 have been wins for the U18 sevens in the Bryanston tournament, the U16 sevens at the Canford tournament and the domination of the Devon Sevens by our U15 and U13 teams who have continually won or been runners up in this

tournament. So far this season Blundell's have played in five tournaments and won four of these. The U13 sevens have won the St Peter's and Blundell's tournaments, the U16 the Wellington school tournament and the U18s were winners of the Devon Sevens. Although we have not won the illustrious Rosslyn Park sevens since 1981, Blundell's teams continually make it past the group stages, always competing at the highest level against the best teams in the UK. Along with Mr Gabbitas, Mr Yapp, Mr Fairclough, Mr Cox and Mr Saunders, the sevens coaching is supported by Exeter Chiefs players who regularly visit to help coach as part of their own coach education programme. Regular visits from Karl Rimmer, Will Chudleigh, James Hanks, Matt Jess and Hayden Thomas have all added greatly to the development of our sevens players.



Netball

The Netball 1st team: Back row (L-R) Eleanor Ansell, Ennea Miller-Hunt, Lucy Walliker, Annabel Sexton
Front row (L-R) Ellie McPherson, Millie Blackmore, captain Phoebe Thomas, Georgia Bricknell, Alice Smith

PLAYER PROFILE

Phoebe Thomas

Phoebe Thomas was recently awarded Full Colours for Netball in recognition of her dedication to and achievement in the sport. She is an extremely talented player with excellent technical skills and her versatility on court has meant that she has played in a number of positions within the team. Phoebe is a natural defender and when she plays Goal Defence she picks up interceptions effortlessly. The level of intensity of her play is outstanding and her determination and tenacity can often leave the opposition at a loss as to how to play against her. Phoebe also plays netball at a high level out of School. Last year she played for Team Bath within the National Performance League, a league made up of nine U19 teams from across England. This year she is playing for Exeter Netball Club regional 1 Team in the Regional 1 League, the highest level of competition available to clubs wishing to compete in the regional structure. Her experience and love of the game has really raised the belief and positive atmosphere within the senior squads. She offers coaching and helpful guidance to younger squad members and there is no doubt that she was hugely influential in the success of a relatively young and experienced squad last season.



By Phoebe Thomas, Captain of Netball

The netball season commenced with a competitive match against King's Bruton School and, despite being played outdoors in January, it appeared that pre-season training had paid off as all the senior teams secured convincing victories. The season has continued as it began with only a minor setback against a strong Taunton side.

As the season has progressed the training has become more complex and challenging, requiring high levels of skill and concentration. We have focused particularly on feeding the attacking circle using a range of passes and tactics to deceive defenders. Lucy Walliker has developed into a confident and crucial player in the attacking circle, working well alongside Ellie McPherson, Eleanor Ansell and Millie Blackmore to form a strong attacking unit.

Defensively we have focused on working the ball down the court as well as our transitions from defence to attack. As centre, Alice Smith plays an essential role in this aspect of play and her ability to effortlessly transfer between attack and defence is excellent. Ennea Miller-Hunt has also emerged as a key defensive player making countless interceptions and turn overs alongside Georgia Bricknell whose communication and defensive support are heavily relied on by the whole 1st VII.

All the girls have taken on a motivated and dedicated approach to training and this has reflected in their match performances. The 1st VII have had a particularly strong start to the season with notable performances against West Buckland and Exeter

School. All the players have taken on positive and determined attitudes; their ability to adapt quickly to drastic position changes and to always fight to the end has been superb. Annabel Sexton has recently made her well-deserved debut for the 1st VII in which she made considerable contributions to both attacking and defensive play.

The 2nd VII and 3rd VII have also had a very successful beginning to the season. The 2nds performance against Wellington, in which they secured an impressive 39-4 victory, was fantastic. The 3rds have also experienced success with well-deserved wins against Exeter School, Wellington and King's Taunton. The 4ths have also enjoyed the beginning of the season and their versatility on court as well as their undeterred positivity remains remarkable.

The junior teams have also begun the season strongly. All the U15 teams won convincingly against King's Taunton and prevented Taunton from exceeding more than five goals. Similarly, the U14 A and B teams defeated strong West Buckland sides while the U13s and U12s experienced impressive victories against Wellington School. The U15 and U14 A teams have also played against the 1st and 2nd VII in training. Both teams held their own and remained calm and focused demonstrating their maturity and confidence.

The rest of the season looks promising and we are looking to continue as we have begun. I really enjoy playing and training with all these girls and it will be incredibly sad when the season ends.



Girls' Hockey

End of autumn term report

The girls' 1st XI has continued to develop well under the guidance of our new coach Mr Jones and they have secured wins over the like of King's Taunton, Bryanston and King's Bruton. The team have been mature in their approach to training, fitness and games and, having struggled to put the ball in the net at the start of the season, finished off with 29 goals.

The other girls' teams have had a good season and we have been hugely impressed by the grit and determination of the 2nds, 3rds and, of course, Miss Wilson's 'mighty fourths'. The 2nd team had several notable wins including winning 8-1 against West Buckland and 6-0 against Wellington, and finished the term in style with a 3-0 win over Bristol Grammar. The whole team played really well and worked hard, as they have done all term.

The U15A and U14A have only lost three matches between them all term and we are once again Devon Champions at U14 level. The U15s under Mr Horsington's enthusiastic guidance beat Bristol Grammar School 3-0 in a thrilling last match. Across the whole season they have scored an amazing 43 goals, conceding just seven! The U14s spent the season largely unbeaten and came runners up in the West Finals and therefore earned themselves a play-off against Queen's College, Chester to reach the nationals [and subsequently got through to the finals this term, see report in the news pages].

Millie Blackmore, Head Girl and Captain of Girl's Hockey

The U14s in action



Millie Blackmore, Captain of Girls' Hockey

For detailed hockey scores, please see the hockey page on the Blundell's website

Boys' Hockey

There have been a number of successes in the boys' game this term, with both the U14s and U16s reaching the County finals and progressing onto the West Finals. A full report will be in the next Diary and details of matches can be seen on the website

On the slopes

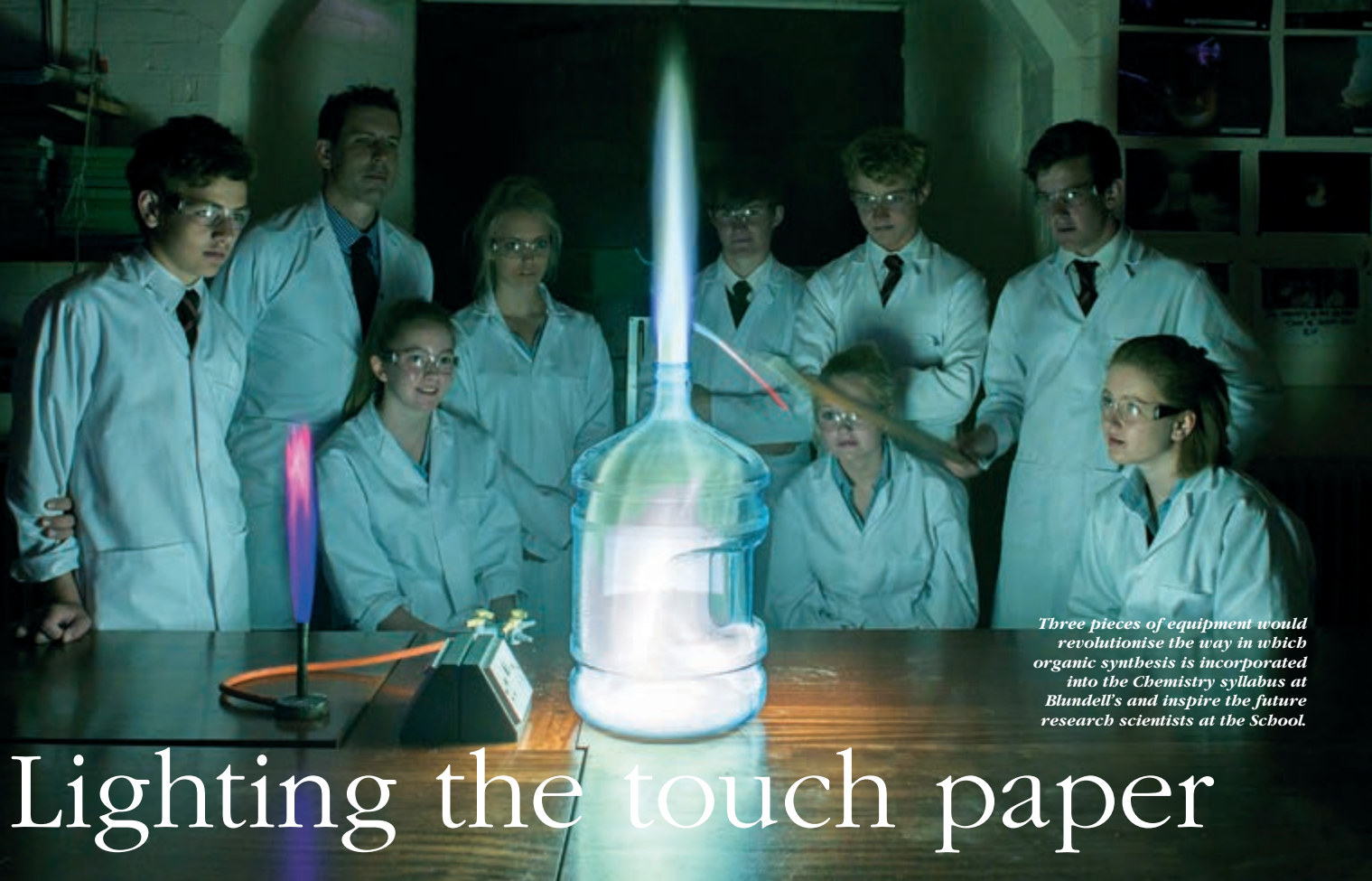


Blundell's performed amazingly at the Independent Ski and Snowboard Championships in Les Deux Alpes during the Christmas holidays, in their first foray into the competition. Led impressively by captain Dan Thorne, Blundell's first team, which also included Lori Burian, Bella Slade, Ben Clarke, Freddie Carew and Simeon Kunzi, managed an incredible second place out of 29 teams from 12 schools in all three events: Giant Slalom, Slalom and Parallel Slalom. Notable performances came from Bella Slade who won the Girls' Giant Slalom and came second in the Slalom and Lori Burian, who recorded the third fastest Giant Slalom time from 180 competitors. There were also courageous efforts from several students learning to ski for the first time and who gained ESF qualifications. Most pleasing were the glowing reports from ski instructors, organisers and visiting parents on how well the Blundell's students acquitted themselves both on and off the slopes.

Basketball



The Blundell's basketball team (nicknamed the 'Blundell's Bulls') have had an absolutely outstanding season, showing some major improvements across all skill areas this term. Ivan Leung captained the team to take on established squads from Taunton, Wellington, West Buckland and QE Crediton and he consistently impressed coaches from all opposing teams with his athletic rebounding and unblockable lay-ups. Freddie Hiney, a new addition to the squad, became the top scorer of the entire season with some impressive shooting, Lori Burian was our fastest player on offence and defence, and the entire team pulled together to achieve some fantastic victories against West Buckland and QE. Blundell's hosted its first basketball tournament this term, at the end of which the other coaches awarded Blundell's the title of 'most improved team for the 2014 season'. Looking forward, the team hopes to take on some new challenges from some of the powerhouse teams in the South West next year.



Three pieces of equipment would revolutionise the way in which organic synthesis is incorporated into the Chemistry syllabus at Blundell's and inspire the future research scientists at the School.

Lighting the touch paper

Over the years, supporters of Blundell's have helped fund bursaries and special projects that enhance facilities at the School for current and future pupils through the Annual Fund. Much as it would like to, the School is not able to achieve all its goals from fee income alone and so the fund plays a vital role in providing extra equipment and resources. Last year, generous donations to the Annual Fund helped fund additional bursary places and assisted with refurbishing projects in the Houses.

For 2015, the aim of the fund is to provide academic enrichment in every department. We want to ensure that, through the most creative use of our funds, we can light the touch paper of excitement about a subject in every pupil, so they will want to study it in more depth, thus ensuring that their academic results open the doors to the career of their choice. Projects to be funded

are many and varied and include portable equipment to enable enhanced teaching of the IT elements of Mathematics, help with the costs of Modern Language trips, extra support for STEM subjects and the introduction of individual study pods. More examples can be seen on this page. In addition, providing talented young people, who are restricted by their means, with much needed bursary support remains a focus of the Annual Fund every year; donations to this cause have changed the lives of a number of children but we would like to help more.

OBs, parents, grandparents, friends, governors, staff past and present are invited to support Blundell's through the Annual Fund in a one-off gift or spread over the year. The School is immensely grateful to all who help; together they make a real difference to what can be achieved. For more details about the exciting projects planned and how you can help, please contact Amber Oliver in the Development Office.



The Design Technology department is keen to introduce a computer controlled machine that cuts wood in three dimensions from computer aided designs so that pupils can experience modern manufacturing methods

To foster a team spirit, we would like to purchase specific performance clothing for sport and the extra-curricular programme such as Ten Tors, Blundell's Ski team and various water-based activities.



We would like to develop a Biology research area where practical investigations and fieldwork can be carried out by all year groups, from Year 7 study of photosynthesis and genetics to U6ib ecology. The area would include flower and vegetable beds to test the effects of various fertilizers, a wildlife section and a greenhouse



Welcome

The spring term is well underway with excited and busy pupils embracing all it has to offer. As you know, Emily Roffe-Silvester left the Development Office at the end of last term but she has acclimatised well to the weather in Australia and is living life to the full near Melbourne. I am delighted that Xiomara Pattison who joined us in September has settled into life again at Blundell's, although this time on the staff rather than as a pupil. Xiomara was at Blundell's between 1996 and 2003 in Thornton House, the first girls' house, so already knows a lot about the School. She has a background of employment in Development for a number of education establishments and lives in Tiverton with her partner, another OB.

I am eternally grateful as always for the continued support by the Blundellian community for the host of initiatives undertaken by the Development Office. This year's Annual Fund focuses on Academic Enrichment with academic aspiration at the heart of Blundell's today as it has always been. Each of our featured projects add value to the individual departments to help support our aim to drive ambition for pupils to achieve their very best and enable them to develop character and resilience to face the challenges of today and open doors to the careers of their choice. Thank you for your support in 2013/14 which enabled us to complete so many of the Home from Home projects in the Houses and Prep School.

We have recently launched our Legacy campaign; if you would like to know more about the difference a 'Gift in your Will' could make to Blundell's, please request a copy of our latest information about this vital income stream. Many of our Bursary/Foundation pupil places are possible because of the support given through bequests.

The support of our corporate partners is much appreciated and a list of those who have helped in 2014 can be found in this issue of the Diary. We are particularly grateful to all those who sponsored the souvenir programme for the play Lorna Doone, which was staged for the first time at School to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Ondaatje Hall and was based on the novel by OB R D Blackmore. Many of the sponsors were able to join us at the Gala Reception on the final evening.

We are delighted to be staging our first Gorton Lecture on Friday 20th March, on the eve of the OB Sports weekend, with Exeter Chiefs Head Coach Rob Baxter as our first speaker. This will be followed the next day by the annual Blundell's Sports Dinner when we will be entertained by Henry Olunga, cricket player and opera singer. I am sure the sporting weekend extravaganza will as always bring together the Old Blundellian community with current pupils and our parent and supporter body.

There are a number of other stimulating events coming up, including a trip to the Battlefields of Normandy in May led by OB Lt Col Tim Courtney and a dinner at Balliol College Oxford, also in May. More details of events can be found in the following pages. I am also delighted to report that the Friends of Blundell's Parents' Social Committee has already had some very successful get-togethers, with many new faces becoming involved with the School. My personal thanks go to all those who have very kindly offered to help with this initiative.

Thank you again for your support. Please do contact us in the Development Office if you would like to know any more about any of our initiatives, partnership opportunities and forthcoming events.



Amber Oliver

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Development Office Initiatives

Parents' Social Committee

The Social Committee is up and running and has been very active in its first term of operation. Our first reception was held on the evening of the Senior Campus Fireworks when many parents dropped into the Beale Centre for an informal social gathering whilst the pupils watched the fireworks. Several specific year group or House coffee/mince pie and mulled wine receptions took place just before Christmas.

We started the New Year with our first coffee morning in the Beale Centre which was very well received with 30 or so parents coming along. We aim to hold these on the first Wednesday morning of each term and also on additional dates when you may already be coming to School to pick up your children. The dates will all be published in the School calendar but the remaining one for this term will be between 3.00pm and 4.00pm in the Beale Centre on Friday 27th March.

We held a 'Back to School' disco at the beginning of February in the Heathcoat Cricket Club pavilion, when all enjoyed harking back to the days of the 80s disco era. Keep a look out for other exciting events which will be circulated in due course.

Due to popular demand we now have individual House and year group parent representatives who are co-ordinating year/House contact sheets; do please contact them (details on back page) if you wish to be included in the mailings.

Regional/Year Group/University Representatives

Would you be willing to assist recent leavers or other Old Blundellians in your area/year group who are thinking about attending your university with advice, guidance and local knowledge? We are keen to create a directory of individuals who would be willing to act in the above capacity, help us with circulating information about relevant events and generally be a point of contact. Please email x.pattison@blundells.org to register your wish to volunteer.

Jersey and Kenya

Nicola Huggett and Amber Oliver will be hosting a casual drinks reception at the Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel, Jersey, between 6.00pm and 8.00pm on Wednesday 29th April. Old Blundellians, current, past and prospective parents and pupils are welcome; please register your interest with the Development Office.

Bart Wielenga, Second Master, and Amber will be in Kenya from Thursday 11th June until Sunday 14th June visiting Pembroke College for the Independent Schools Fair. If you would like to meet them whilst they are visiting, please do contact the Development Office

Blundell's Monopoly

Who hasn't enjoyed playing Monopoly, the fiercely competitive, fast-dealing property game? We hope that this much-loved game will soon be available in a bespoke Blundell's version, where the streets, stations and utilities of London are replaced by buildings at the Senior and Prep Schools. You could land on and buy one of the boarding houses or Ondaatje, the Beale Centre or Big Field. It's your chance to own a little piece of Blundell's; or at least while the game is in progress!

We anticipate that the Blundell's Monopoly boards will be available from September 2015 (making them an ideal Christmas present) but order now to reserve and ensure your set. Please order by **1 May 2015** by completing the form below and sending to the Development Office. Each set costs £29.95 with profits going to support projects at Blundell's.

Blundell's Monopoly order form

Name:

Address:

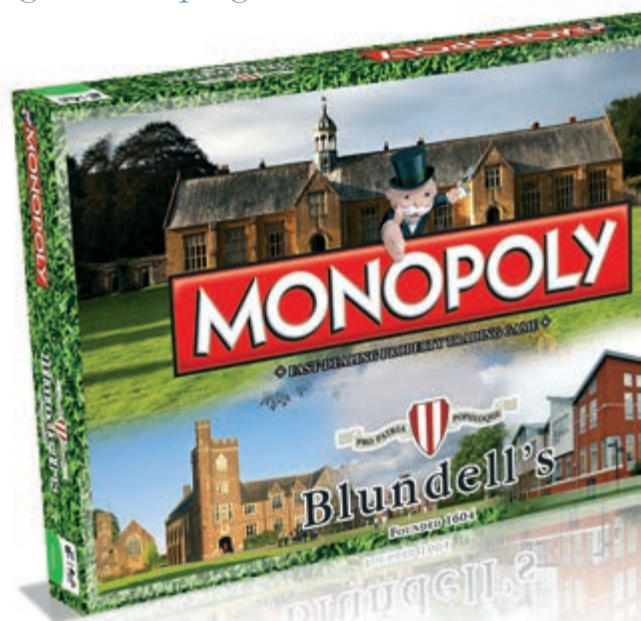
Postcode

Tel No: Mobile No:

Email:

Please reserve me a Blundell's Monopoly Board game; I enclose a cheque for £29.95 plus postage* (see below) made payable to Blundell's Foundation.
*postage rates UK £5.00; Europe £7.00; rest of the world £9.00.

It's your chance to own a little piece of Blundell's; or at least while the game is in progress!



Forthcoming events



Rob Baxter

Gorton Lecture

Blundell's welcomes members of the Blundell's community to the inaugural Gorton Lecture which is taking place on Friday 20th March. We are delighted that Rob Baxter, the Exeter Chiefs Head Coach, has agreed to be our first speaker for this event which we hope will be enjoyed by Old Blundellians, current and past parents, pupils and other supporters of Blundell's, together with members of the local community who may also wish to attend.

Rob played for Exeter Chiefs for 14 years, ten of them as captain. His efforts in establishing Exeter as a strong Premiership side were recognised when he won the 2011/12 Director of the Year award at the Aviva Premiership awards, having also been nominated for the honour the previous season. We very much look forward to welcoming him to the School.

The evening will commence with light refreshments at 6.30pm with a presentation by Rob at 7.00pm followed by an opportunity to ask questions. We are certain this is going to be a very popular event and entry is by complimentary ticket only. Please contact Carole Francis on c.francis@blundells.org to reserve your tickets. Please note there will be no entry to non ticket holders and we request that tickets are picked up prior to the event because we are anticipating a large audience for this event.

Old Blundellian Sports Weekend 20th and 21st March 2015

On the back of last year's success we are again concentrating the traditional OB fixtures into one weekend, to also include the Blundell's Community Sports Dinner (details below). It is our hope that players and their families will want to play in the matches on Friday and Saturday and attend the dinner on Saturday evening. Please also note that the inaugural Gorton Lecture with Rob Baxter takes place on Friday evening; tickets must be applied for in advance and further information is given on the left.

If you would like to take part in any of the fixtures please contact Janet at admin@obclub.co.uk

The details as follows:

Friday 20th March

5.30pm Fives v School
6.30pm Hockey v School
7.30pm Refreshments in the Beale Centre

Saturday 21st March

2.00pm Football v School
2.00pm Squash v School
3.15pm Netball v School
4.00pm Refreshments in the Beale Centre
7.00pm Black Tie Dinner and Auction in support of Blundell's Sport



Blundell's Community Annual Sports Dinner

The 2014 Sports Dinner

The annual Blundell's Black Tie Sports Dinner will take place during the OB Sports weekend on Saturday 21st March in the Dining Hall in Big School to raise funds for the forthcoming Rugby and Hockey sports tour to South Africa and for bursary assistance for pupils within the sporting arena. This is becoming a very popular event and we do hope that you will be keen to gather your friends together to enjoy an evening celebrating Blundell's sport during the last academic year.

We are thrilled that our guest speaker will be Henry Olonga, the former Zimbabwean test

cricketer who made his international debut in 1995, becoming the youngest player to represent Zimbabwe. Together with tales of his cricketing achievements, he will also delight us with an operatic aria or two. Copies of his autobiography 'Blood, Sweat, and Treason: Henry Olonga - My Story' will be on sale during the event.

The evening will commence with a drinks reception at 7.00pm in Big School with carriages at 11.00pm. Tickets are available from Carole Francis or the Development Office at £35 per head to include the drinks reception and three course evening meal. A cash bar for the sale of wine and beer will be available throughout the evening.



Old Blundellian Day

Saturday 20th June 2015

The theme for this year's OB Day on Saturday 20th June is Music. Blundell's has a long and rich history of excellence in this field and OBs will be familiar with Jazz Hall, Eric Suddrick, Paul Matthews and Andrew Barlow. Many OBs are working in the music industry and we would like to see as many of them as possible at this event.

Andrew Barlow (Director of Music 1984-2014) has agreed to be the President for the day and we hope that those of you who benefited from his tuition and friendship will come back to support him on the day. Andrew and the OB Committee are working to adjust the traditional format of OB Day to include some music. It is anticipated that current

pupils and OBs will be performing.

There will be an exhibition of musical memorabilia in the Modern Languages Department. Further details will be published on the OB and School websites and the Facebook page. Tickets for the day are available from Janet or Xiomara at £30 per head to include pre-lunch drinks, lunch and tea. They will only be sold to OBs up until 1st May; thereafter the wider Blundell's community may purchase tickets, if available.

Those who attended the Christmas Eve service in Chapel will have greatly enjoyed the music provided by a choir of some 40 Old Blundellians who had benefited from Andrew's time and tuition. We hope to see a good many of you back on OB Day.

The provisional programme is:

10.00am	AGM of the OB Club, Beale Centre
10.00am	Music Exhibition, Modern Foreign Languages Department
11.00am	Chapel Service
12.15pm	Drinks with staff, Beale Centre
1.15pm	Buffet lunch, marquee on Big Field
2.00pm	Blundell's Cricket, Big Field
4.00pm	OB Tennis v School followed by refreshments in the Beale Centre
4.30pm	Afternoon tea, Beale Centre

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We are very grateful to all our sponsors who have supported events at Blundell's during 2014:

Hawkridge Farmhouse	Kia-ora Farm and Gardens	Stacks	Western Counties Equine
National Westchem	Cosway Soft Furnishing	Time Flies	Watt to Wear
Firewatch	Exe Valley Eggs	Tiverton Hotel	Seddons
Westford Mechanical	MJ Baker Food Service	Wotton of Tiverton	Westward Joinery
Jolly Vintner	Moorland Kitchens	TBC Coaching	Olympiad Hpower
Rhino Rugby	NJT Plumbing	Andrew Nadolski	Jotty's Emporium
Exe Valley Osteopathy	Recoco	Mercedes Benz	Thorne Farm Racing
Bearnes Hampton &	Satin Touch	Silclear	Jayphotos
Littlewood	South West Dairy Services	Knight Frank	Mayflower Kitchens
Blackdown Property Services	Spearings Coaches	Lumea	



Balliol Dinner

This year is the 400th anniversary of the first Blundell's pupil going up to Balliol College in Oxford and we are delighted to be celebrating this with a Blundell's community dinner, to be held in the Great Hall at Balliol on the evening of Friday 1st May. Please do join us for this wonderful occasion, tickets available from the Development Office are £65 and will include a three course meal, reception drink and half bottle of wine per person.

County Shows

Please join us on Thursday 21st May between 12.00 noon and 2.00pm for drinks and canapés at the Devon County Show and on Thursday 4th June at the Royal Cornwall Show, again between 12.00 noon and 2.00pm.

Normandy Battlefield Tour

Following the success of the Battlefield Tour to the Western Front last spring, we are venturing to the Battlefields of Normandy in May, led by our own Battlefield Tour Guide Lt Col Tim Courtney (OH 54-59). The tour will include an overview of the D Day landings and Normandy campaign of 1944 and visit the graves and memorials of the 12 Old Blundellians who were killed in this theatre of war. Due to the popularity of this initiative we are currently fully booked; however, we will report on the success of the trip later on in the year.

Recent Events

Sir Francis Popham Society Dinner



*The Sir Francis Popham Dinner
November 2014*

On Saturday 20th September, we held our inaugural dinner for founding members and their partners of our newly created Sir Francis Popham Society. We are very grateful to Cedric Clapp (P 60-65, current Chairman of Governors) for officially welcoming guests and demonstrating the longevity and health of the School through notable achievements.

The Society has been founded to maintain links with individuals who have given strong support to Blundell's in some way but who no longer engage with the School on a regular basis.

Sir Francis was the first named 'Feoffee' in Peter Blundell's will drafted in 1599. There were in fact 27 'Feoffees' named and they were charged with setting in place the rules and regulations that would be appropriate for 'the governance, maintenance and continuance' of the School (including the appointment and removal of 'the Schoolmaster and Usher') that was to be built in Tiverton. The term 'Feoffee' has since been replaced by the now more familiar term 'Governor' but the initial purpose of the office remains.

The initiative is intended as a way of acknowledging the generous support already given to Blundell's and the expression of a wish by the School to remain in close contact. By these means it is hoped that members will be kept engaged with the activity of the School, its progress and achievements at a higher level than would generally be the case. We look forward to welcoming guests to our next reception later on this year.



1970s and 1980s Gaudy Reception

Blundell's hosted its 1970s and 1980s Gaudy Reception on Saturday 6th September. The day commenced with a guest morning for prospective Old Blundellian families who were greeted by the Head, Nicola Huggett, who spoke about the many changes that have taken place at Blundell's since the 70s, albeit whilst ensuring that the founding ethos of the School has remained untouched. Following a drinks reception, more than 80 Old Blundellians and Former Masters, including their partners and children, were treated to a wonderful buffet lunch by our new Chef.

Nick Swarbrick (Master 64-97, Housemaster of Westlake 68-80, Second Master 76-97 and

Governor 00-06) was a delightful Guest Speaker and recounted stories of his time at Blundell's over the past 42 years. Mike Sampson, the School Archivist, also laid out an impressive exhibition from the 70s and 80s, allowing Old Blundellians to show their families photographs from their time at School.

We were delighted to have Former Master Charles Noon provide an exclusive School tour, giving comical insights into the antics of former pupils.

The day concluded with afternoon tea in the Beale Centre, offering the opportunity for Old Blundellians to further recall their time spent at the School. We do hope that many of you have made promises to remain in touch.

Hare and Hounds

The Annual Hare and Hounds Alumni Race took place again this year at Wimbledon Common in London. Alistair Knight (NC 70-74), Will Holland (P 86-91), Giles Stimson (NC 60-65), Simon Tang (OH 05-12) and Marcus Child (P 86-91) represented Blundell's in a courageous attempt for a trophy

A special thanks goes out to the runners and especially the team captain, Giles Stimson for organising the event and for taking photos. He will certainly be joining the team next year and would like to encourage runners from the Blundell's School Community to join the team and complete for the coveted winner's trophy!



Property and Agriculture Evening

In October we hosted a Property and Agriculture Career Mentoring evening. Mentors from the Blundell's School Community offered invaluable advice to current Sixth Form pupils via a short presentation, question and answers session and informal networking over light refreshments. The mentors provided general overviews of their individual professions,

insight into the personal qualities and attributes required, followed by tips on how to qualify and succeed within their chosen fields.

The evening was a resounding success with many pupils going on to organise work placements with individual mentors. We thank our mentors for their time and current pupils for attending and look forward to holding further careers related events in due course.

COLIN BEALE CENTRE

The Beale Centre has always been a 'work in progress'. We now think we have finished the job! During the 2014 summer holiday, the building was expanded and repositioned. Catering in a narrow curved kitchen which is also used to store tables was never easy and the extension to the kitchen simply made it larger.

The new footprint of the Beale Centre allows access to the kitchen without going through the main room and has a large paved area in front of double doors allowing food to be easily dropped off and picked up. Serving areas have been created and getting food out to those in the main room is now much simpler. The gentlemen's lavatory has now been moved from pole position in the corner of the main room to the back of the new extension.

A new meeting/reading/storage room has also been created in the extension which can be accessed without going through the main room or kitchen. The OB Committee is currently debating exactly what will be in the room, but it is certainly hoped that the Wisdens, bound Blundellians and other archival material of interest to OBs will be made more accessible to OBs via this new, attractive space.

The new extension on the Beale Centre



London Dinner



We were very fortunate to hold our Annual London Dinner at the Eyre Brothers restaurant in Shoreditch in November by kind permission of Old Blundellian James Goff (M 75-79). We enjoyed a drinks reception courtesy of James, followed by a three course meal, which included a delicious selection of tapas dishes.

While enjoying a glass of port we were delighted to hear from James Bullock (P 81-86 and current Governor) about the recent achievements of many of our pupils and the health of the School in general. Notably, that Blundell's has Devon representation at every sport at every level, including the captain of the Devon U15 girls' cricket team, a very popular and growing sport at School amongst the girls. We also heard about the fantastic refurbishments which took place over the summer in Gorton House and North Close.

We thank James for his informative, entertaining and humorous speech and are grateful to him for taking the time to speak to us. Thank you to everyone who attended and we look forward to the next London Dinner to be held in the not too distant future.

Don't forget

Reports and more photographs of recent events can be seen on the Development Office and Old Blundellian pages of the Blundell's website www.blundells.org

News of Old Blundellians



Ibby Lanfear (GH 93-97)

After school Ibby completed a gap year working as a teacher in France and Borneo and then studied English Literature and History of Art at York University. She went on to do a three year post graduate Diploma in the Conservation of Easel paintings at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. During her studies she worked in Amsterdam, Maastricht, Westminster Abbey, for private conservators and Christies. After qualifying, and a placement with Historic Scotland, she has carried out work for institutions such as the National Trust. She married in 2007 and had three Old Blundellians as bridesmaids. Ibby has recently established her painting conservation practice in mid Devon - if anyone has any paintings that need conservation or restoration she can be contacted at ibbylanfear@hotmail.com



An OB in Antarctica

By Colin Tyler (FH 54-58)

A holiday in Antarctica? What could have been the attraction to visit the remoteness, wilderness and solitude of this inhospitable region? Perhaps it was those heroic stories of our South Pole explorers, made famous by Shackleton and Scott, or perhaps it was merely the challenge of getting there, doing that and returning with the customary 'fridge magnet.'

Whatever it was, years of contemplation were finally put into action and I flew to Argentina in November 2014, to board a German expedition ship heading for Antarctica via the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. The longer days of spring had arrived in the southern hemisphere. The ship (8,300 gross tonnage / 143 passengers) had the highest ice class rating of 'E4' and it carried 14 rigid inflatables with outboard motors known as zodiacs, permitting landings in the remotest of locations.

The first stop after three days gave us half a day in Port Stanley, where an open air of pure 'Britishness' and the existence of friendly pubs, offering superb fish and chips, gave it a homely feeling! Then it was onto South Georgia, two days away, where over three days in various locations, we were able to appreciate the beauty of the glaciated high mountains and impressive concentrations of bird and seal colonies, all of which were surprisingly approachable in their natural habitats. The colourful King penguins, watching over their chicks in 'the kindergartens' were an interesting sight, with their proximity to the giant elephant seals.

We visited a former whale watching station, now extinct but with rusting relics still providing interest to a bygone era. A visit to the Whaler's Church and cemetery, where Ernest Shackleton is buried, was a moving experience, reminding us of explorer Cherry-Garrard's quote: 'For scientific discovery, give me Scott; for speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen; but when disaster strikes and hope is lost, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.'

As we sailed on towards Antarctica, the increasing number of icebergs were tangible signs of our southerly direction. One of these merits special mention as on first sighting, it appeared that we were approaching land, which was only expected after another day at sea. In fact, it was an iceberg 21 x 7 miles in size and was being tracked by the US National Ice-Centre, with a designated name of B 17A. This was the remaining part of a split from the Ross Ice Shelf, in the year 2000, the other part of which had drifted in the South Indian Ocean, eventually disintegrating south west of Australia.

Our next destination was the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula, home to Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins; it was also an area where we had zodiac landings in the scenic locations of Paradise Bay and Neko Harbour on the Antarctic continent.

Finally, it was back northwards to Tierra del Fuego via Cape Horn and hence back to Buenos Aires by air, so ending a most enjoyable and inspirational 19 day adventure.



Island Hospitality

By James Francis (FH 91-95)

After the mandatory gap year trip to Australia with school mates, I had the compulsion to complete my education in the West Country and thus enrolled at Exeter University to study Business and Economics. Originally I had the intention of a life in the world of Finance but was persuaded by my father to follow him, and previous generations of the family, into the hospitality industry. Various projects took me from Cornwall to Scotland before we finally purchased the Star Castle Hotel on St Mary's, the main Island in the stunning Isles of Scilly, in 2002/3; a destination where my father had previously built an hotel some 15 years earlier. I felt exceptionally fortunate to be able to return to the Islands that I had remembered growing up on with such fondness. With its sub-tropical micro climate and a lifestyle firmly based around beaches, boats and everything marine, my wife Ella and I are very much at home and grateful to be able to provide a 'Scillonian' upbringing for our two children Sophie (4) and Thomas (2). It certainly is a wonderful and safe place for youngsters!

My father semi-retired in 2005 on to operating our commercial fishing interests and developing his new vineyard, leaving me to operate the hotel. We have subsequently added the iconic Mermaid Inn, St Mary's notorious social hub, to the inventory, which provides some interesting and different challenges to the hotel. On the subject of variety we have also developed business interests on the mainland most notably in the construction and development sector with S&S Construction Ltd, which was founded by my brother Simon (FH 92-97) and his schoolmate Simon Rowe (also FH) in Hampshire and Guernsey. I think both of the

boys were inspired to go into business in this sector by the late Jerry Pilbeam in their A level CDT classes.

One of the difficulties of living in a unique community such as Scillies is that you don't necessarily get to see old school friends all that often. However, it is a strong testament to the sort of friendships you make at a school like Blundell's that, when you do catch up with people, even if years have gone by, it just seems like yesterday since you last saw them. That said, there is a small Blundellian community on Scilly; the local reporter and paper shop owner Clive Mumford attended OH and currently has a granddaughter in NC. I have remained in better contact with the School itself. This is mostly due to my friendship, mainly through cricket, with Nick Folland and current Maths teacher and cricket master Rob Turner, with whom I play MCC cricket. I have been given the great privilege of captaining the MCC against Blundell's this summer and for the next few seasons and I very much look forward to being back on Big Field!

I am very proud of being an OB and definitely believe that an education at Blundell's, and schools like it, help to prepare you for a life in business. It inspires a certain confidence, teamwork and leadership qualities and a strength of character that comes from standing on your two feet and growing in these kind of communities, whatever sector you go into.

Being in the hospitality industry has also allowed me to give something back to the School and we have been delighted to be able to offer numerous auction prizes over the years to assist in fundraising for various sports tours that have taken place. I must say that these are now far more exotic and elaborate than I remember! Obviously this



Alan and Mark Beard

The last issue of the Diary included a report about Year 9 Latinists visiting the Roman Baths in Bath. What those pupils wouldn't have known was that the new walkway suspended over the Temple Precinct, which gave them such a good view of the monument below, had a link to Blundell's. It was built by Beard, the award winning construction firm which has Alan Beard (SH 46-49) as Chairman and Mark Beard (SH 76-81) as Managing Director. Alan was 17 years old when he started working for Beard as a trainee in 1950; he took over the company in the 1970s. Alan takes particular pleasure in identifying and nurturing new talent and mentoring senior staff of the future. He adopts a recruiting practice differing from the norm where each interviewee also has to interview him; he has found that is a great way to determine the scope of that individual and his/her suitability for Beard. He is currently writing a book to celebrate the company's history as it approaches its forthcoming 125th anniversary.

His son Mark has been Managing Director of Beard since 1999 with responsibility for the strategic direction of the business, health and safety, the environment, human resources and marketing. He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building and is a Chartered Environmentalist. In addition, to his duties at Beard, Mark is a Board Member for a number of organisations and is a guest lecturer at University of Reading and a member of the EEF National Committee.

St Mary's harbour with the sun setting behind the Star Castle Hotel



has also allowed us to introduce more people from the Blundell's family to Scilly and I look forward to increasing that number and welcoming new Blundellian visitors to Scilly in the future.

James would like to offer all readers of the Diary a 10% saving when they book at the Star Castle Hotel; please quote Blundell's when booking.

The Old Northern Russell

BY HUGH OLIVER
(SH 48-51)



A vintage Russell run

First, the long east west line of starters, stand in eager anticipation, in Gornhay field. THE GUN! The charge across and on down the steep incline, wild jumps down the muddy left bank, into the pebbled water of the Lowman, still a tangled riotous herd of runners to struggle up the right bank. Crossing the next field, the front runners begin to sort.

Before we enter the rutted, unpaved lane, we have to pass the stench of a sour stack of silage, so good to leave behind. Eventually the lane takes us north to Chettiscombe, where the course swings to the east and, puffing now, up the steep gradient to Pilewell, and turning south through the farmyard we are greeted by the familiar smell of dung and urine trodden into anaerobic mud by many hooves.

Here we plunge down, across red Devon clay plough land, with lengthening stride. Into Craze Lowman, past the mill, and turn east along the stream with six crossings, as the course bisects the meandering twists. Glad of each crash and splash of cold water, so on and on towards Great Gornhay, through the farm, then view the tennis courts, Francis House, beyond the finish.

There's another Russell run and I came 4th in 1951.



Ben Collins (FH 88-92) and Matt Pynn (W 1994-99) teamed up at the end of last year for a Christmas drink driving campaign. Since leaving Blundell's, Ben has embarked on an exciting career as a racing car driver, ranging from Formula Three and Indy Lights to competing in Le Mans 24 hour events. He also famously played the role of the Stig on the TV programme Top Gear for eight years, has been Daniel Craig's stunt driver in the latest James Bond movies and this year is set to race in the FIA World Endurance Championship - making him one of the world's most accomplished drivers. He has also turned his hand to writing, recently launching another bestselling book called

How to Drive: The Ultimate Guide, from the Man Who Was the Stig.

Ben's experience made him a fitting choice for this campaign for Matt, who heads up the Budweiser account at London based agency, Mischief PR. Budweiser fronted up the campaign which aimed to raise awareness of the importance of appointing a designated driver over the festive season, with one lucky consumer winning the chance to get a lift home with Ben Collins. Matt has recently worked on many award winning PR campaigns for the global beer brand, including helping them to activate three years of sponsorship of The FA Cup and last year's FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

The Blundell's Box at Somerset County Cricket Ground



The Old Blundellian Cricket Club is extraordinarily fortunate to have its own permanent corporate box at the County Cricket Ground at Taunton. This is called the Ted Crowe Room and is located on the top floor of the Ondaatje Pavilion. The room is a magnificent place from which to watch cricket and it also houses an extensive collection of cricket books and memorabilia.

The room is normally open on all days during the summer when Somerset CCC is playing a home game. Membership of the Ted Crowe Room remains open to all members of the Old Blundellian Club and, by invitation, to

others. Room members proposing to visit the Ted Crowe Room to watch cricket must book in with the Room Co-ordinator, Roger Isaac in advance. There are nearly 50 days' cricket at Taunton but there will be a few popular dates when the room is oversubscribed, so booking will always be on a first come, first served basis. Room members must either be members of Somerset CCC or pay the daily ground admission charge at the gate. The etiquette in the Ted Crowe Room is as relaxed as possible but members are asked to observe the points detailed on the OB website.

To book the Ted Crowe Room please contact Roger by email roger@tedcroweroom.co.uk or telephone 07971 171730.



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning*

We will remember them

From 'For the Fallen' by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)



The Highest Honour - Captain Edward Donald Bellew (NC 1894-96)

One hundred years ago, Old Blundellian E D Bellew was fighting near Keerselaere during the German attack on the Ypres salient. His actions during that battle, on 24 April 1915, led to him being awarded the Victorian Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. He is the only OB to have been awarded the VC.

After leaving Blundell's, E D Bellew went on to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst and then served for a short period with the 18th Royal Irish Regiment in England and India, but resigned his commission in 1903. He emigrated to British Columbia, where he worked as a harbour construction engineer in Vancouver and New Westminster.

When war broke out in 1914 he enlisted in the 7th Battalion, British Columbia Regiment, and was immediately sent to Europe. The Regiment was held in reserve near Ypres until the spring of 1915. As dawn broke on 24th April, Bellew, then a Lieutenant, found himself outside the village of Keerselaere during a German attack. Being the battalion machine-gun officer, Bellew

had two guns in action on the high ground overlooking the village. The enemy's attack broke in full force against the front and right flank of the battalion. The right company was soon put out of action, but the Germans were temporarily halted by Bellew, who had sited his guns on the left of the right flank.

Reinforcements were sent to help, but they in turn were surrounded and destroyed. With the enemy in strength less than 100 yards from him and no assistance in sight, Bellew and Sergeant Peerless, each operating a gun, decided to stay and fight it out. Peerless was killed almost immediately, and Bellew was wounded and fell. Nevertheless, he got up and continued to fire till his ammunition failed, and then the Germans rushed the position. Bellew then seized a rifle, smashed his machine-gun and, fighting to the last, was taken prisoner.

Captain Bellew was released by the Germans early in 1919 and returned to Canada. It was only while reading a Vancouver newspaper that he learnt that he had been awarded a Victoria Cross for his actions four years earlier. A set of his miniature medals can be seen in the Beale Centre.

It was only while reading a Vancouver newspaper that he learnt that he had been awarded a Victoria Cross for his actions four years earlier.



Artwork by Anna Sides (Year 9)



To continue the list of Blundellians who gave their lives on active service during the First World War, those who died during the first half of 1915 were:

- BEDDY, Rafe Langdon (OH 1901-06), aged 27
- BELEY, Wilfred (SH 1897-98), aged 35
- CAMERON, Evan Stuart (SH 1905-12), aged 21
- CRESSWELL, Alfred Ernest (OH 1889-91), aged 36
- CROMIE, Maurice Francis (DB 1904-07), aged 20
- HARDING, Lionel Cox (P 1909-13), aged 19
- ROGERS, Ronald Joseph (P 1899-1900), aged 31
- RUNDLE, Raymond Wallies (W 1909-13), aged 19
- STEVENS, Lothair Basil (OH 1907-13), aged 21
- STEWART, William Victor (JH 1909-10, NC 1910-14), aged 18
- STOCKER, Thomas Fuller (OH 1908-11), aged 20

Blundell's Community

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2015

- 18th Spring Concert** Faure's 'Requiem'
Big School and Chapel. **Contact: Main Office**
- 20th Gorton Lecture** by Rob Baxter, Exeter Chiefs Head
Coach, Big School from 6.30pm. **Contact: Main Office**
- 20th/21st OB Sports Weekend** followed by refreshments in the
Beale Centre, Blundell's School. **Contact: OB Club**
- 21st Blundell's Community Sports Dinner**
Guest Speaker Henry Olonga, Big School, 7pm.
Contact: Main Office
- 25th Charity Quiz** in aid of Crohn's & Colitis UK 7pm.
Contact: Main Office

APRIL 2015

- 24th Big Band and Chamber Music Concert**
Ondaatje Hall, 7pm. **Contact: Main Office**
- 29th Casual Drinks Reception** Radisson Blu Hotel, Jersey
6.00pm to 8.00pm. **Contact: Development Office**

MAY 2015

- 1st Oxford Balliol Dinner** **Contact: Development Office**
- 4th-8th Battlefield Tour** of D-Day landings
and Normandy. **Contact: Development Office**
- 21st-23rd Devon County Show** with a Canapé and Drinks
reception on 21st from 12 noon to 2.00pm.
Contact: Development Office

JUNE 2015

- 3rd 1604 Society Lunch** **Contact: Development Office**
- 4th-6th Royal Cornwall Show** with a Cheese and Wine
reception on 4th from 12 noon to 2.00pm.
Contact: Development Office
- 20th Old Blundellian Day** featuring OB Music.
Contact: OB Club
- 23rd-26th 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'** Years 9/10
Ondaatje, 7.00pm. **Contact: Main Office**

JULY 2015

- 3rd Speech Day**
- 3rd OB Current Parents Lunch** Beale Centre.
Contact: OB Club
- 25th Mid-Devon Show** Knightshayes.
Contact: Development Office

AUGUST 2015

- 29th-31st Old Blundellians and Family Annual Camping
Weekend** Blundell's School. **Contact: OB Club**

SEPTEMBER 2015

- 20th Riechwald Tournament** **Contact: OB Club**

CONTACT DETAILS

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Parents' Social Committee

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THE COLIN BEALE CENTRE

The Beale Centre is available for use, free of charge, to all members of the Old Blundellian Club for social events. Bookings can be made through **admin@obclub.co.uk** or **01884 232010**.

Catering and bar facilities can be provided.

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