

DATA MONICS

Blundell's

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# DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

Issue No: 9

169

FOR 6 WKTS

141

LAST MAN

Speech Day,  
Prize Giving and  
Leavers' Ball

LAST WKT

## Rising stars

Cricket at Blundell's



INSIDE:

Fun and games -  
It's a Knockout at  
School House

The Ten Tors -  
35, 45 and 55 mile  
reports

Blundell's in 1986  
A documentary of life at  
the School 25 years ago

Ofsted  
Outstanding  
2010|2011





## Commemoration Hymn

*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light*

*GREAT Lord of wisdom, life and light,  
Before the hills were founded  
Thy quickening breath dissolved the night  
And stirred through deeps unsounded  
Beneath Thy hand the formless earth  
And ocean rolled asunder,  
And in Thy likeness man had birth,  
Thy crowning work and wonder.*

*Through that grey dawn Thou calledst him,  
Untaught but not unheeding.  
His feet were faint, his lamp was dim,  
Yet Faith discerned Thy leading.  
Age after age and line on line  
Thy Book unfolded clearer,  
Till, like a flush of morn divine,  
Thy Son proclaimed Thee nearer.*

*His word from East to slumbering West  
Went out through all creation;  
Our far off island woke and blest  
Thy Name with adoration.  
We kneel where our forefathers knelt,  
They trod these courts before us,  
Unseen, though near, our hearts love felt  
Their blessings hover o'er us.*

*We Praise Thy Name for one and all  
Who founded for Thy glory  
Each ancient School, each Minster tall,  
To teach their sons Thy story.  
May we, like them, our Lamp display  
Of love and wisdom burning,  
Till twilight melt in golden day  
At our dear Lord's returning. Amen.*

**A.L. Francis**  
Head Master 1874-1917



The Commemoration Hymn by A.L. Francis  
is sung in Chapel every OB day



## HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION



I began my introduction to the School at the start of term assembly by saying what an exciting time it is to be here at Blundell's; we are still basking in the warm glow created by the strong praise we received from the OFSTED inspectors, the recently departed Upper Sixth recorded the best A level results we have experienced and the

school numbers exceeded 580 for the first time in the School's history. A new term not only brings excited new pupils but also a number of new staff arrive with plenty of enthusiasm and fresh eyes.

**Andy Southgate** has succeeded Nick Folland as the Head Master of the Prep School and **Damian Marshman** is the new Head of School House. **Clare Sherwood**, as Director of Studies, steps into the shoes vacated by Eve Jardine-Young, who left us to become Principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College, an appointment of which we are all very proud. All three have already made a tremendous impact, as have the other new members of staff. It has also been a busy time for the Bursary staff with the completion of the full refurbishment of Francis House and the building of the new fitness centre. As I read this back to myself I am aware that it may sound dangerously self congratulatory, if so I apologise because this is not my intention; what I am trying to show is a genuine pride for the commitment, enthusiasm and achievements of all in the Blundell's community and if I don't shout this loudly and often, then I suspect the modesty of those around me will preclude them from doing so.

*Ian Davenport*

**Ian Davenport**  
Head Master



Andy Southgate



Damian Marshman



Clare Sherwood







**Rupert Batting riding high**

Rupert Batting had his first experience of international competition as part of an U18 British Eventing squad competing abroad in Le Grand Compl  t CIC1\* held at Haras Du Pin, Normandy. He took his younger horse Not Another Friday under the support and guidance of Jane Peters, BE U18 Chairman and Caroline Moore, BE U18 trainer. Whilst they did their best dressage to date, they were still 15 penalties adrift of the leaders (92nd) after dressage. However, a superb clear round Cross Country, inside the time, on the final day, pulled them up 19 places to 73rd overall out of 114 starters. He returned from France to the news that he has again been selected to represent the South West, and Rupert's ambition now is to be long-listed for the GBR Junior Team.



Archery has made a popular return to the SH list of activities – William Stark, Ed O'Brien, Tommy Burner and Ricardo Berenguer claim they meant to miss all the balloons!



Two Blundell's teams tackled the gruelling 125 mile DW race this year. In the Junior K2 class Dylan Davies and Gerald Augur finished 45th at Westminster Bridge in 23.41.32, and a staff team of Miss Doak and Mr Wynell-Mayow came 13th in the Endeavour class in 25.53.27.

## Devizes to Westminster

## Oxford European Forum



Alex Everett was lucky enough to be sponsored to attend the Oxford European Forum recently in preparation for his pending Oxford University application. It involved a week of intense instruction from a number of leading lecturers from prestigious UK institutions such as Oxbridge and LSE. The course aimed to educate students from across the country about the social, political and economic dynamics of contemporary Europe, with the added benefit of immersing students in Oxford University life through various extra excursions.

## The Russell



Winner: M. Peper  
1st Girl: C. Routledge  
1st Junior Boy: H. A. R. Charteris  
1st Junior Girl: V. E. Boylett

Berry Barker Balance Cup for Endeavour:  
E. R. Hedley-Dent

Right: Bradley Upcott-Fowler 2nd Senior  
Above: Charlotte Routledge 1st girl  
Main picture: Mrs K in action!



## REFURBISHMENTS

The cycle of boarding house refurbishment continued apace this summer with FH being the final boys' house getting the full treatment. All windows, furniture, curtains and carpets have been replaced and the boys returned to an unrecognisable FH! The building of a new fitness suite on the western end of the Sports Hall began in July. This is a much needed facility and will be available from the start of the January term, suitably kitted-out with a range of modern and challenging equipment. The new building also contains much needed toilet facilities, which will also be available to users of the sports hall and nearby Astroturf pitches, and also by parents and spectators in that region of the School grounds.



Top: FH common room  
Below: The Fitness Suite takes shape



## Devon Champions

The U14s scored an impressive 232 runs when they won the Devon Cup by 20 runs in a closely fought game against Devonport High. Dominic Bess, Jack Maunder, Dan Reed and Rory Thomas scored most of the runs with Dominic

(Captain), being declared MotM for his 45 runs and 5 wicket haul. The U13s were also crowned Devon Champions when they beat Exeter School by 6 runs, with Ben Phillips the MotM.



## U13 WEST HOCKEY FINALS

16 teams travelled to Millfield for the West of England U13 Hockey Finals. Blundell's played superbly to win their group, beating Taunton Prep 2-1, Truro 2-1 and Dean Close 4-2. They then lost narrowly to The Elms in the quarter-finals and finished a creditable 5th overall.

### SQUAD

Alice Smith (capt,) Louis Canterbury, Natalie Cotton, Courtney Nation, Emily Coombe, Amy Cross, Ellie MacPherson, Izzy Phillips, Lydia Gibson.



## The Rev flying high

The Junior Department's Falconry activity always proves to be a popular one with the pupils. They have the opportunity to learn how to fly a variety of birds, including a young Bald Eagle



## National Athletics

Michael Peper and Ben Clarke both qualified for the National Athletics Finals at Gateshead representing Devon.

## U18, U15 & U13 all Devon Sevens Champions

In the U18 Devon Schools tournament, Blundell's first seven started well, beating the hosts 44-0. In the next pool game they defeated Petroc B team by 38-0 before

winning again against Exeter College B. This saw them progress to the quarter final versus Torquay Grammar. This was a stiffer test but the team remained disciplined to record a 22-5 victory. The semi-final was against Exeter College first team, who are the academy for Exeter Chiefs. Despite some ferocious play the attacking flair of the Blundellians was rewarded with a four try to one victory 22-5. This sent the boys through to meet Plymouth College who are the academy for Plymouth Albion. The Plymouth side had an undefeated season in the fifteen aside season and their form showed. The game was well contested with Blundell's taking the lead. However, Plymouth never gave up and came back to level the scores. Excellent defensive work kept them at bay and Blundell's managed to score two more tries to seal a satisfying win and to be crowned the Devon Champions for 2011.

**SQUAD:** J Lilly D'Cruz, B Goss, R Paxton, W Yard, T Ricketts, C Grainger, G Woofenden, T Cole, Z Bess, J Baughan



# Leather on WILLOW



## Last ball drama....



The U12 A and B teams had magnificent seasons, sweeping all opposition aside until the very last ball of the very last match, which the Bs lost to Tiverton by one run!

## A Summer of Cricket

### 1st X1

The 1st Squad have had another busy cricket season despite the ever-increasing demands of the examination programme. It was a veritable curate's egg of a year with some very fine performances amongst some rather lacklustre efforts. The better moments included wins over Filton Academy, Millfield A, Plymouth College, Bristol Grammar, Devon Dumplings and the Royal Marines; there was also a rare 20/20 victory over Taunton School to savour. However, once the U6 had decamped to the Med for their post-examination recovery, there were a couple of abject performances against Queen's and King's. The season ended with a Festival at Downside, where we beat the hosts, had a rained on half-game with Malvern College and lost to eventual winners, Rugby School. Zak Bess led the side well and was easily the leading run scorer; he was ably supported by Cameron Grainger behind the stumps. There were cameo performances by some of the senior players, Tommy Cole, Matt Hague, Ned Menheneott and Barney Goss and one can only muse as to how different things may have been if the bowling attack had contained the fully fit trio of Zak Bess, Matt Hague and Jack Lilly D'Cruz. There were many promising appearances from the young bloods, with Sam Wyatt-Haines and Jack Maunder, in particular, seeming to possess an abundance of talent.



# U15 Cricket Festival

The U15 cricketers once again enjoyed an excellent Festival against Eton, Marlborough and Uppingham, this time as hosts. On the opening day Sam Wyatt-Haines 169 and Jack Maunder 141 put on a fantastic exhibition of batting in a stand of 264 for the third wicket. Marlborough put in a brave effort by replying to the home team's 390 with 315 for 9 but were always behind the run rate. The home side then beat Uppingham by 52 runs. Sam W-H was again in the runs with 78 and this time he found good support from Alistair Chilcott 54 and Rory Thomas 51. On the final day Eton came out ahead posting a strong 267, however, Sam W-H gave them quite a scare in scoring his second century, but his 112 and Jack Grandfield's 52 saw Blundell's dropping 52 runs short.



# at Blundell's



## Cricket Awards – 2011



The Cricket Presentations Evening was a great success with Somerset and South African bowler Charl Willoughby joining us. He presented the awards and spoke extremely well during a Q&A session with parents and pupils. The Award winners enjoyed a trip to the Blundell's Box at Taunton to watch Somerset v Lancashire. The cricketers also took the opportunity to officially say goodbye to John Smith, the Head Groundsman over the past 17 years, with the presentation of a framed photograph. The evening ended with everyone enjoying a hog roast and socialising in and around the Beale Centre.

The Award winners enjoyed a trip to the Blundell's Box at Taunton to watch Somerset v Lancashire. The cricketers also took the opportunity to officially say goodbye to John Smith, the Head Groundsman over the past 17 years, with the presentation of a framed photograph. The evening ended with everyone enjoying a hog roast and socialising in and around the Beale Centre.

Team	Player of the Year	Clubman of the Year
U12B	Greg Cole	Will Klinkenberg
U12A	Christian Cabburn	Alexander Davidson
U13B	Christopher Hamilton	Miles Stimpson
U13A	Will Thompson	Dan Pyle
U14B	Ben Charles	Harry Ryan & Oscar Mustard
U14A	Dominic Bess	James Perring
U15B	Giles Taylor	Henry Barlow
U15A	Sam Wyatt-Haines	Harvey Scott
3rd X1	Ed Crawford	Ben Grayson
2nd X1	Richard Paxton	Otis Baxter-Wright
1st X1	Zak Bess	Tommy Cole



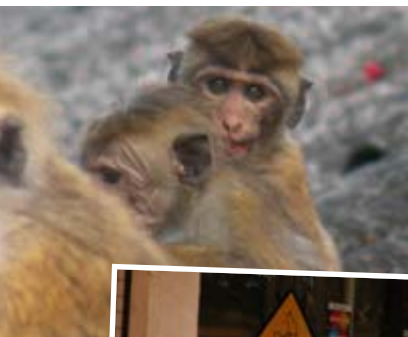


# *Sri Lanka tour*

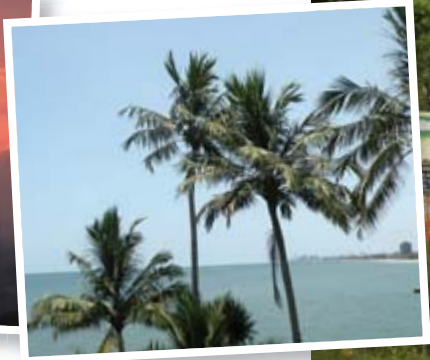
Meeting up at Blundell's on Friday 1st April, a select group of Blundell's boys gathered ready to embark on a life changing and eye opening adventure.

Although no one had forgotten anything important, much to Miss Burnett's delight, it did become very apparent that Hague and Baxter-Wright had mysteriously lost their eyebrows and strips of hair over night!

Arriving at Colombo Airport, Gary Abdoll began to show us why he was on the tour, by shaking the out-stretched hand of the passport officer. Not a good start, but we found there was more to come. Stepping outside the airport, we embraced what can only be described as the hottest, stickiest and most uncomfortable weather ever! As Toni Opatha, our tour guide, greeted us, the only thing on our minds was, 'do the Sri Lankans have air conditioning?' Much to our pleasure, the sound of the release of cool refreshing air from the air conditioning greeted us as the bus engine started. The next thing on our minds was, 'will there be a pool at the Hotel?' Again, our prayers were answered, and no sooner had we set foot on Sri Lankan soil and entered the hotel, we were headed for the pool. Unfortunately, the swimming pool







**WORDS:** Cameron Grainger Yr 13

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Otis Baxter-Wright Yr 13

wasn't used nearly as much as the likes of Goss and Menheneott Jnr would have liked, and we were taken aback the very next day when we were taken out for cricket practice!

It can be said the tour was very well balanced between fun and cricket, much to the credit of our resident celebrity Mr Turner, and tour manager Menheneott Snr. We had a very tough fixture list, and no game was easy by any stretch of the imagination. It is fair to say we struggled in the heat of Sri Lanka, getting through about a hundred bottles of water a day! In total we won 2, lost 3, and abandoned 1. The abandoned match was due to rain but nothing like the rain at home; it was a monsoonal thunder-storm. Naturally, being boys, we thought it a good idea to take advantage of the opportunity by having a good swim. No sooner had we started to leg it towards the sea, Miss Burnett hunted us down, and swiftly sent us to shelter. Probably just as well as in hindsight it wasn't the brightest idea Blundellians have ever come up with!

Throughout the tour, Miss B was keen that we learnt something about the geographical and cultural differences Sri Lanka has to offer. It has to be said that even Gossy (resident jock) was moved by the sight of the baby turtles. We also enjoyed our visit to the temple of the Tooth in Kandy, where it is said they keep Buddha's tooth. The trip to the market wasn't what we had expected, as it was the single sweatiest experience of our lives. Hagglng clearly wasn't a strong point for Gary Abdoll, who never really grasped the concept, constantly bidding higher than the asking price, or just not attempting to haggle at all! The cultural highlight of

the tour was, without doubt, seeing the elephants (although the tea factory and herbal garden were very much up there).



*"Hagglng clearly wasn't a strong point for Gary Abdoll, who never really grasped the concept, constantly bidding higher than the asking price..."*

We can all say we that have fond memories from our great tour; including Sam 'White-Hands' switch hit, the mountains of food on Bessy's plate, a century scored in a former test ground (admittedly against fifteen year old school boys), sweat and severe burning (Miss B!), Jamie Turner's non- stop banter, Toni 'OK chaps' Opatha, the fancy dress party (ending the tour on a real high), and being visited by monkeys on our last day in Kandy. As a group of lads we certainly came closer as a unit, and this would not have been possible without the time put in to organising the tour by Mr. Menheneott and Mr Turner. Many thanks also to Mrs Menheneott for volunteering to score in swelteringly hot score boxes. Miss B's contribution was no doubt a godsend to our 'celeb' leader, as she became Jamie Turner's baby sitter for the tour! As for Mr Holman, well, we hope he enjoyed the holiday! This tour will stay in our memories for a long time, and on behalf of all the boys, a big thank you to all!



#### Squad:

Zak Bess, Cameron Grainger, Matt Hague, Tommy Cole, Barnaby Goss, Ned Menheneott, Otis Baxter-Wright, Guy Clatworthy, Tom Ansell, Jack Dart, Gary Abdoll, Luke Williams, Ben Rose, Dylan Penberthy, Ben Hancock, Sam Wyatt-Haines.

#### Assistant Coach

Jack Lilly D'Cruz.





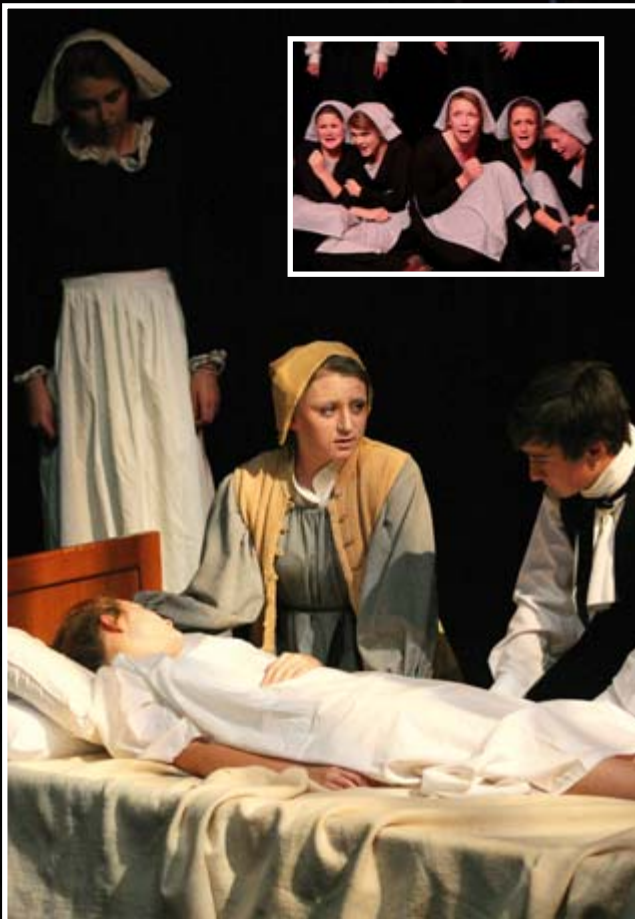
# ON STAGE

**From House Plays to Year productions, Drama at Blundell's continues to perform to packed audiences.**



## Alice

26 very enthusiastic and excited year 7s were quickly transported to Wonderland – with talking rabbits, cats, flowers, a laid back caterpillar as well as a Mad Hatter. Outstanding performances were given by Ella Davenport as Alice, Imogen Sanders-Dutton as the Cheshire Cat, Ennea Miller-Hunt as the Caterpillar, Jonathan Lane and Joe Norris as Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee, and stealing the show Ed O'Brien as the Mad Hatter. Huge congratulations and thanks to all involved in making this such an excellent production.



## The Crucible

The chilling story of the Salem Witches saw Barney Chambers excelling as the tormented John Proctor, morally tempted by Katharine Sendell's luscious Abigail Williams, but finding his integrity and love for his inhibited wife Elizabeth (brilliantly understated by Corren Kvesic), until he is able to accept martyrdom for his "goodness" with the saintly Rebecca Nurse (Brianna Wilder). In the courtroom scene, the possessed girls turn on their judges in mass hysteria, terrifying Proctor's servant Mary (movingly played by Freya de Lisle) into retracting the evidence that they are 'only pretending'. Michael Bennett's haughty Judge Hathorne and Dale Fletcher's seedily pompous constable Ezekiel Cheever added to the impressive atmosphere.





## The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

The Year 8 play this year was fantastic! The age of the cast did not affect the acting skills at all. Many people said that the cast were incredible. Every character within the play was believable and made the audience feel like they really were in the land of Narnia. The four children were very convincing; at times it was hard to believe that they all actually weren't related.

On Friday night disaster struck an hour before the doors were due to open. The dwarf was feeling sick; Lucy and Tumnus were overly emotional and the whole cast were exhausted. However, 'the show must go on' and so it did, with style, enthusiasm and applause from the audience.

In conclusion I think that Year 8 were outstanding and every pupil involved should feel a sense of pride. However a lot of credit should definitely be given to their wonderful director Miss Fordham. She kept the cast going even when people were at their lowest. A very big well done to all involved, this was an experience I hope everyone will remember for a lifetime. **Kiera McMaster Yr 8**



## House Plays

OH managed to put on a fine show of dramatic and comedic talent with a production of the classic 1970's sitcom 'Are You Being Served?' directed by Charlie Craddock and Joe Wander. There were convincing performances from Tom Youngman, Oscar Roberts, James Deans-Sidgreaves and Rory Trevelyan Thomas.

GH's play was 'How to succeed in high school without really trying' written by Jonathan Rand. Directed by Ellie Casely, the three main roles of The Agents were played brilliantly by Maddie Parr, Lydia Cree and Ciara O'Kelly.

FH tackled 'Some Treasure Island', where Tim Beckett's Jim Hawkins seeks adventure and the famous treasure. Barney Chambers (Squire Trelawney), James Hawkes (Mrs Hawkins), Tom Stuart (Ben Gunn), Julian Harrison-Ramirez (Long John Silver) and Alex Holme (Captain Smollet) all put in impressive performances. Ben Wonnacott, Bradley Fowler and Elliot Handscomb were simply hysterical as the 3 cannibals.

NC put on 'It's not you it's me' under the direction of Vicky Paine. It followed a series of scenarios where courtships ended abruptly and was performed faultlessly on both nights - it was short, succinct and full of outrageous laughs, with star performances from Eolande Diaz-Phillips, Esme Lewis-Plunkett and Flora Dickinson to mention but a few.









**Once again the houses did battle on the Amory track at the end of the Summer Term and everyone enjoyed some keenly fought events.**

#### Senior School

In the girls competition NC exacted revenge on GH, having lost the Duckworths, they won the Athletics 144 pts to 129. FH, having lost the Russell to OH, hit back by running out comfortable winners with 249 pts with P second with 191 and OH narrowly third with 187. Unsurprisingly Michael Peper won the Boys' Over 16 Victor Ludorum and Tessa Ryder won the Over 16 Girls' Victrix Ludorum. In the U16 Boys' competition, Jack Webber triumphed and Torzie Boylett won the Girls' equivalent.



**School House Sports Day winners**



**The School's Athletics Squad** again competed at the highest level. One highlight was their team victory at the Castle track with 174pts, beating Wellington School 165, Taunton School 155 and King's Taunton 117. Michael Peper produced one of the season's outstanding performances by winning both the 800m and 1500m at Millfield in the Lutra Shield.

Nine pupils represented Devon at the South West Championships, with Michael and Ben going on to Gateshead to the National Finals (*see page 3*).

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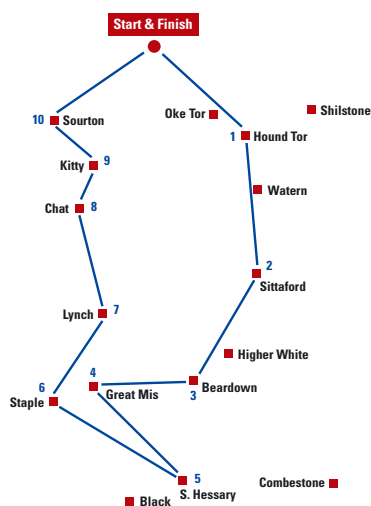
Michael Peper *SB 800m*  
 Tom Fayers *SB 110m Hurdles*  
 Tessa Ryder *SG 400m*  
 Katie Robbins *SG Shot*  
 Robbie David *IB 100m Hurdles*  
 James Hawkes *IB Discus*  
 Corren Kvesic *IG Javelin*  
 Ben Clarke *JB Javelin*  
 Bethan Reade *JG Shot*





# The Ten Tors

*Blundell's fielded one of their strongest teams in recent years and competed well in all three distances.*



Ten Tors 2011 route

## Ten Tors 35 miles

Ten Tors this year has been great fun with lots of raucous banter from the lads. The experiences on the tors was chilly to say the least, Jack Friend's intimate relationship with the compass managed to lead him straight in to a bog and of course Tristan Free's harassment by TV reporters are just a few of the memories that we have shared. But along with the fun were the hardening challenges that came with the training including storms and extreme heat. Both Breacon Beacons and the Ten Tors Event have been exciting and exhilarating but also exhausting and demanding. At the event we could not have been better placed than beside the Millfield tents.

On the day of the event we were woken early in the morning by 'Chariots of Fire' and headed to the start with the hundreds of other teams. A short prayer and the sound of cannon fire kick started the long two days. After walking for 13 hours straight we set camp on the crest of our 8th tor, and managed to get a few hours of sleep before the home straight. Overall we had a strong team including Dale Fletcher, Tristan Free, Freddie Morris, Bryce Clark and Tom Youngman and managed to come 3rd out of all the 35 mile teams while arriving in style with our fancy dress. But this could not have been achieved without all the help from the teachers, especially Mr. Guy who kept the moral high for the 'Lads on Tor'.

**Harry Bodington Yr10**





#### 45 mile team

Ten Tors training began in the grey, gloomy month of October with numerous day walks and even a camp over Halloween weekend. This sounds like enough to put anyone off but 12 students remained keen, always keeping the main event prominent in the back of their minds. Training continued throughout the Easter Term and even with exams looming dedication remained high. Finally the team of 6 was chosen after a training weekend in the Brecon Beacons and it consisted of Lottie Free, Will Mildren, Simon Tang, James Dean-Sidgreaves, Jamie Baughan and myself (Team Captain).

The event took place over 14th and 15th of May. The weekend finally arrived and we headed down to Okehampton Camp in anticipation of what was in store over the next 2 days. This began with the scrutineering process in which we waited 2 hours only to discover what we really needed to have in our bags, which already weighed a mere 16kg, was a triangular bandage! After this we continued to prepare for the challenge ahead, Lottie and Thea undertaking the daunting task of route planning. 5 o'clock the next morning we were woken by the sound of 'Chariots of Fire' echoing around the camp and the smell of bacon sandwiches and much to mine and Lottie's alarm, a tent that we had been 'cling filmed' in to! The challenge started at 7am and, with the girls nervously clinging to the map at the thought of what the boys would do to us if we got lost, we set off into the unknown...



Adrenalin was running high and we quickly began to accomplish our task helped along by Jamie's solid determination and sense of humour. After 14 hours of walking and 6 tors down, good moods were starting to waver although having heard the score of the Manchester United game, James still had a smile on his face. The next day started at 6am and although the pace was slower due to numerous blisters, mainly on Will's feet, and various injuries we had gained. We finally returned to Okehampton at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon with Tango winning the bet for arrival time. Although a little bit worse for wear, we still managed to make an entrance as James was modelling a fluorescent vest and a hubcap! Finally, having received our well-deserved medals, we headed off home with a sense of achievement almost as overwhelming as the exhaustion and many distinctive memories of the event that I'm sure will take a while to fade.

**Thea Dickinson Yr12**

*"Adrenalin was running high and we quickly began to accomplish our task helped along by Jamie's solid determination and sense of humour. After 14 hours of walking and 6 tors down, good moods were starting to waver..."*





# The Ten Tors



*“We will never forget doing 12 tors instead of 10 on the 45 mile challenge (therefore walking over 55 miles)...”*

## Ten Tors 55 miles

Ten Tors is an event like no other, a refreshing change to normal school life. There are so many epic memories reaching right back to the training for the 35 mile challenge. It now feels incredible to have completed the trilogy of 35, 45 and 55 mile events. Each member brought something different to the team. Guy and Cam provided the moral support, both having priceless comedy value with Guy always talking without thinking and Cam bringing us the ‘bum face’. Bodders religiously questioned every single detail of a manoeuvre, Freddie was a top navigator (despite his fondness for ‘pick-me-up’ jellies) and of course Sam, our very own ‘Mr Wise’, who could use his instincts to navigate even

when he has no map and was just plodding along amusing himself by spotting flaws in any plan. We will never forget doing 12 tors instead of 10 on the 45 mile challenge (therefore walking over 55 miles - possibly my fault but let’s not point fingers), or Freddie smashing his hip-flask on a river jump over Sandy Ford and playing ‘chase the map’ in gale force winds, the walking until 3am, the many snow ball fights, Michael Peper falling down a hole, the list would never end! As for anyone reading this article I strongly recommend giving the challenges a go to see what you are made of. It really is character building.

**Ben Grayson Yr13**





# ITALY 2011

At the closing of a busy term, there was no time for recuperation for the 27 Blundell's A level geographers and historians. Early on the first morning of April they departed on the School's second trip to Italy. Despite the horrifyingly early start, the exciting brand new coach awaiting us at Big School compensated for our loss of sleep! Following the long journey up to Gatwick (during which the tone of the trip was set by the extensively loud and passionate game of eye-spy at the back of the bus), we managed a successful journey, narrowly missing potential strikes at Rome Airport.

We were repeatedly warned by Mr Hawkins prior to departure that we were in for an incredibly busy few days; he was not lying as from day one we found ourselves completely immersed in Italian culture and history. In the surprisingly sweltering heat of Rome, we delved into the city's colourful past. We discovered the ancient yet buzzing Forum and the impressive magnificence of the Colosseum, we were rendered almost speechless (it is a true feat to silence Blundell's girls!) by the simply amazing architecture and lavish artwork of the Vatican. We uncovered more of the city's beauty as we were able to roam the streets after the scheduled tours and we found the exquisite Trevi fountain and shops where we could indulge in perhaps the most delicious 'gelato' in Rome.

Our second stop was the seaside town of Sorrento near Naples, which we expected to be a peaceful getaway following the busy capital. Yet, after our wait in traffic jams littered with reckless moped riders, it appeared that Sorrento was also a thriving tourist destination. It became clear to us why the town was so popular, as from the coach we were able to gaze across the glistening bay of Naples overshadowed by the majestic, yet sinister shadow of Mount Vesuvius. To climb the volcano was to be our next challenge, as we were whisked away to the other side of Naples and the infamous archaeological site of Pompeii. We wandered the ancient streets in awe, and were fortunate enough to be accompanied by the guide Claudio, who gave us a colourful and entertaining account of city life, sparing us no details of the crude ways of Roman life! We then proceeded to scale the side of the mountain, and gaze into the immense crater and breathtaking views from the summit. It was at the top of Vesuvius that the group experienced the first of Mr Bucknell's lectures, who was pleased to have at last found some geographical element in the trip. He gave a passionate talk about the volcano and the potential effects of an eruption on the city below, which inspired even the historians among us!

On our final day we were able to soak up the Italian sun on the beautiful island of Capri. We spent the day travelling between the tourist-filled towns positively squashed in a mini bus that took a precarious route overlooking a sixty-foot drop to the sparkling waters below! Despite this unnerving experience, we were still able to appreciate the island, and for the geographers, the limestone cliffs.

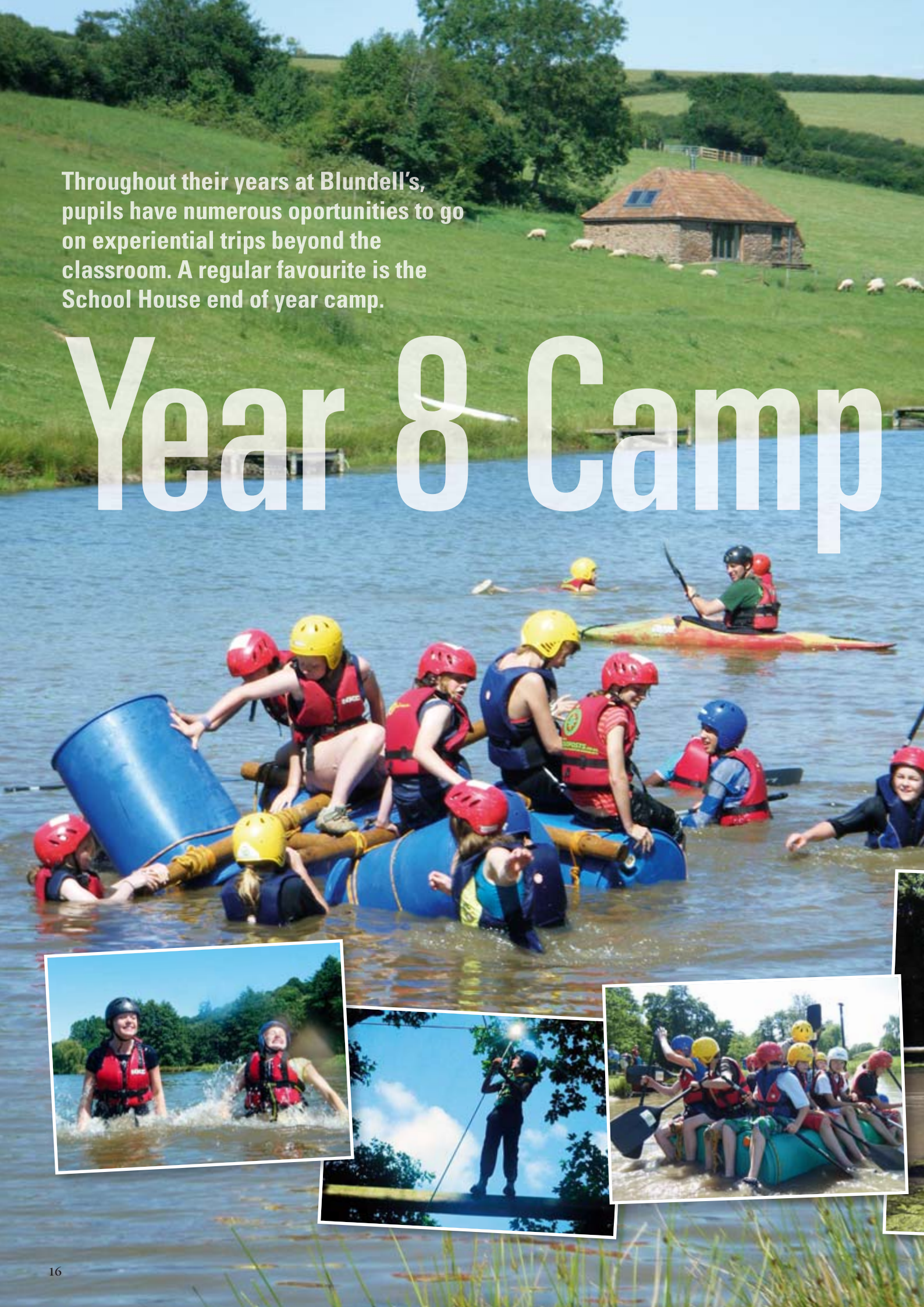
Hannah Morris Yr12





Throughout their years at Blundell's, pupils have numerous opportunities to go on experiential trips beyond the classroom. A regular favourite is the School House end of year camp.

# Year 8 Camp

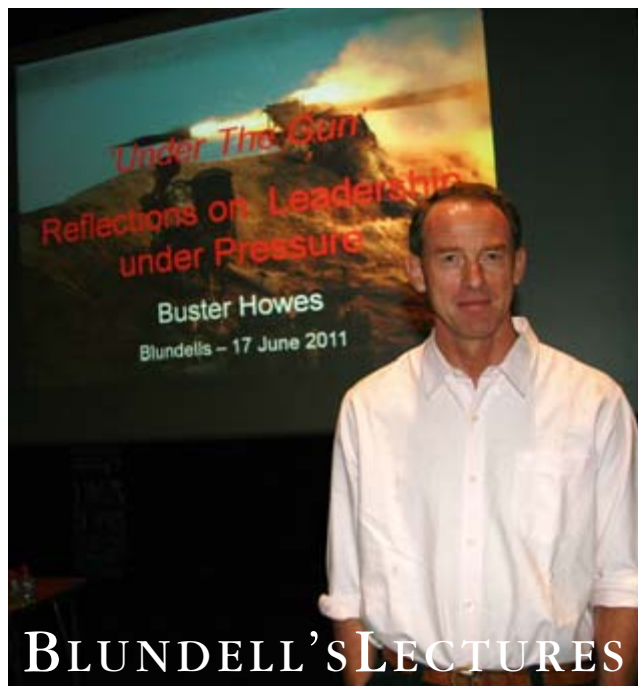






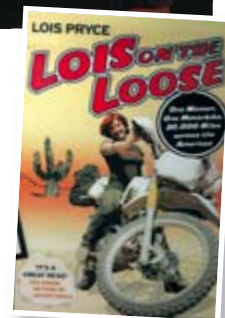
At the end of the Summer Term all of Year 8 headed off to the Quantock Hills for a three day camp as a final hurrah to mark the end of their time in School House. The group were led through some fantastic team building tasks with experienced and friendly instructors, many involving perilous wall scaling or water drops. There was also a survival night building their own shelter and preparing their own food with the infamous 'Spanner'.

It was fantastic to see everyone in the year group step up to the challenge and the Adventure Centre Staff were full of praise for all the Blundellians. We were fortunate to be blessed with good weather and so long, tiring days were rounded off with a hearty group BBQ and songs around the communal fire. I am sure that the experience of camp will serve all those who attended very well, as they move through to the Senior School. **DJR**



## BLUNDELL'S LECTURES

Blundell's was treated to three superb lectures last year. The Upper Sixth heard exciting tales of adventure from Lois Pryce's journey across the Americas on her motorbike in *Lois on the Loose*. Travelling alone from Alaska to Argentina, Lois held the audience's attention with her



encounters with locals and wildlife, as well as a few nasty scrapes! The Lower Sixth, meantime, saw some truly astonishing images of Tori James, who became the youngest British female to reach the summit of Mount Everest. The sight of her crossing a deep ravine on what appeared to be a basic Homebase ladder induced gasps from those watching and listening to her talk, *On Top of the World*. Finally, Year 10 were privileged to hear the



Commandant General of the Royal Marines, Major General Buster Howes, talk about *Leadership*, recalling some of his most challenging experiences. This was a truly inspirational talk, and left Year 10 with plenty to think about.





Design Technology

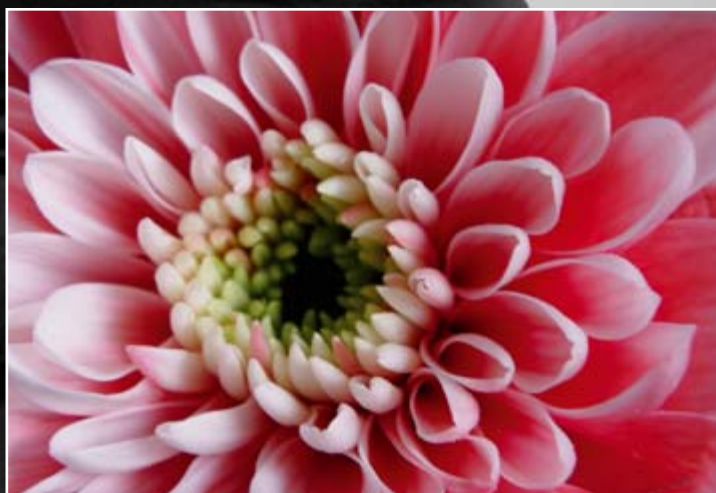
Photography

Art

# Leading edge

## Photography

Photography is a very popular subject at Blundell's with currently 20 pupils studying it in the sixth form. The best work is regularly entered for national competitions, Saatchi Schools' Art Prize and the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition being the most successful. Much of the current work can be seen around the campus and on the gallery pages of the School website. This Summer seven pupils were selected to exhibit at the Rising Stars exhibition at Gloss Gallery in Exeter which was very well received and a wonderful culmination to their year.



Main picture Amy Clarke Above: Rowena Jones



## Travel Photography Competition



A call went out to find all those images that we take on our travels that usually end up as nothing more than digital files, stored away on a hard drive. The response was very encouraging; sandwiched between the sunsets and holiday cottages were a range of images that impressed us all. All pictures were numbered and as many people as possible cast a vote for their favourite. The winning image was a close up of a lioness taken by Emily Wardle.

**Top:** Emily Wardle **Above:** Alexander Davidson **Right:** Issy Phillips



### Judit Lam Yr8

Judit was awarded the School House Art Prize for her excellent portfolio of animals, flowers and portraits mainly produced in her free time and Quiet Hours in the Art studios. Now a member of the SAS (Special Art Status) she is currently working on a series of landscape paintings to adorn the walls of GH.



## Design Technology

Every year a new set of projects are instigated by the students through their interests, hobbies and enthusiasm and last year was no exception with projects that ranged from a new design for 'domestic guttering' to 'walking on water'. Two of the highest scoring projects at AS level were by Alex Lau and Stan Finch, who have put themselves into a commanding position with their Architectural Model and Snow Leisure projects. JGP



**Left:** Futuristic eco friendly home by Alex Lau **Below:** Snow scooter by Stan Finch







**Left:** A wet farewell to NAF & JWRP

## The last Thursday afternoon of the Summer Term was truly memorable, as School House took up the challenge of 'It's A Knockout'.

There were 12 teams taking on many challenges including 'Dino Dentistry', 'Dressing the baby' and water carrying over an amazing inflatable obstacle course, plus many more fun filled events. Pupils and staff got into the spirit of things, getting wet and foamy, all in the name of fun.

It was a brilliant way to end Mr Postle's three years in School House and a fun end to a busy academic year.

**Right:** A foamy Director of Development







Photographs by Andrew Nadolski



The Rev – game for a laugh





# Speech Day

## AND LEAVERS' BALL



*Blundell's Speech Day on the last day of the summer term, is by far the most important event in the School's calendar. Bringing together parents, pupils, staff, Governors and local dignitaries to celebrate the achievements and events of the academic year.*



The origins of Blundell's Speech Day are rather unclear but the Governors set down a procedure for the day in the 1820s albeit in a form unrecognisable to today's event. Plays were performed from the 1860s until 1922 and after that sports demonstrations played a big part in the proceedings. Speech Day took place in Big School with wireless relays to other parts of the school when all the pupils could no longer be accommodated in Big School. It was not until 1937 that the Bursar was authorised to hire a marquee for teas a great relief as the weather can be a major organisational issue.

Speech Day is very special, especially for pupils who are leaving at the end of their school career at Blundells. It is preceded by the Leavers Service in Chapel, always a very emotional event for pupils, and followed in the evening, by the Leavers Ball where the sixth form and their parents can join with staff to bring the day to a celebratory end.

Speech Day 2011 was the final one for David Fursdon, Chairman of the Governors, who will be standing down in November. His departure will end twenty seven years in the Governing body and twelve as chairman. However his association with Blundell's also involved a time teaching Geography and as a parent to three sons who have passed through the school. David Fursdon's contribution is immeasurable. He has steered the school through a time of great change. »



David Fursdon, Chairman of the Governors and Ian Davenport stand either side of Vic Marks the Guest Speaker. Vic is an OB and during his cricketing career played for Somerset and England, taking part in 6 Test matches during the 1980s. Leaving professional cricket he turned his hand to journalism and broadcasting and is currently the Observer's Cricket Correspondent.





“

*We have had a super year, record numbers in the school, record exam results ...huge amounts of success across so many different areas...*

Extract from the Head Master's speech



*Ian Davenport and Vic Marks relax after the formalities of Speech Day with staff, parents and pupils undaunted by the slightly inclement weather.*



Photographs: Andrew Nadolski





## INTERESTING FACTS

100 lbs of strawberries

20 lbs of clotted cream

1,500 cakes

1,000 cups of tea

139 prizes awarded

28 Full Colours awarded in 11 sports

As Ian Davenport said in his speech day address, quoting rather loosely from a Johnny Cash song, *"I may have met more impressive men but I can't remember when."*

Guests who attend are often amazed by the scale of speech day. The marquee is filled to capacity and the David Chambers the Bursar is often seen commandeering chairs from far flung parts of the school for late comers. The exact number of pupils, parents and quests attending is difficult to gauge but this year 1,250 chairs were set out in the marquee. Parents have the chance to hear not just the Chairman of Governors sharing future plans for the school and the challenges being faced but the Head Master's address. This year the Head Master, whilst not reducing the number of quotations in his address, drew less on the valuable words of George Bush, much to the disappointment of the audience who have grown to love these small pearls of wisdom. The Head Master's Speech celebrates the achievements of pupils and staff and also the careers of those staff leaving Blundell's for new pastures. Among the leavers in 2011 Eve Jardine Young



*Strong winds and heavy rain earlier in the day encouraged the catering staff to set up Speech Day Tea in the gym. Luckily there were breaks in the rain allowing guests to venture outside.*







departed for the prestigious post of Principal of Cheltenham Ladies College. Nick Folland moved on to take his second Headship at St John's, Chepstow, a loss for the Preparatory School but for him an escape from any risk of further long distance bike expeditions with Ian Davenport! Paddy Armstrong retired after forty-four years. During his time at Blundell's he has filled an impressive range of roles from Bursar to House Master and he ends his career as Marketing Director. John Brigden left to take up his second career of picture restorer and seller. He will be sorely missed as an embodiment of all that Blundell's values in a teacher.

No speech day is complete without a guest speaker and this year Blundell's was lucky to secure the time of Vic Marks to award the prizes and to address the school. Not only was his address inspirational but he awarded prizes to the pupils with real warmth and enthusiasm.

Once Speech Day formalities are complete and guests leave the marquee to enjoy tea. The Friends of Blundell's spring into action and, with the bursary staff, transform the marquee into the venue for the Leavers Ball no small feat when they have less than three hours before guests arrive. Pupils attired in black ties and ball gowns congregate outside the marquee before the dinner and dancing starts and are photographed for the final time at Blundell's with friends and parents. It is a very special and emotional evening for everyone, a time for them to celebrate their time at Blundell's, the friendships they have made and to look forward to the future.



*Despite the earlier wind and rain, the skies cleared and pupils and parents were able to congregate outside the marquee before the Leavers Ball for photographs before moving inside for drinks, dinner and dancing.*





# DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S LETTER



First, a huge thank you to all of you who continue to support the many and varied activities of Blundell's Development Office. Your donations are much appreciated and have made a significant difference. The Peter Blundell Foundation Award provision is growing rapidly because we have many new supporters for this important initiative. The Foundation enables parents, who would not

ordinarily be able to afford a Blundell's education, to apply for a place at the school for their child. It is a particularly difficult environment at the moment because the current state of the economy has put additional financial pressure on parents so your support for this initiative is particularly valued. We are also grateful to our sponsors for their support of various events and activities which have taken place at Blundell's in the past year and for providing prizes for the Blundell's Draw. This year the draw was won by Mike Westacott (SH 55-60) who will, no doubt, enjoy having a 'room make-over'.

The Blundell's Annual Fund will be launched this autumn. This aims to raise money for a number of modest and achievable projects which will enrich and broaden the experience and the educational development of current Blundell's pupils. Projects are chosen with funding targets which can be achieved within the current year. We are keen to listen carefully to donors and incorporate their preferences and wishes whenever possible when we are planning these projects. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.



Blundell's Community Business Directory (above)  
Annual Charity Golf Day Tournament and Dinner (right)



London Drinks Reception. Class of 2004-Rachael Caddy (NC), Michael Bond (OH) & Rosanna Kirvan (NC)



The Business Directory is up and running on the Development Office website.

[www.blundells.org/devoffice/site/business\\_directory.htm](http://www.blundells.org/devoffice/site/business_directory.htm)

There is a large range of businesses and services listed which are connected in some way to members of the Blundell's Community and we hope many may be of interest to you. If you are involved in a business and you think it would be of interest to others, please contact Emily, who regularly updates the Directory. A similar site for mentoring and careers advice is being set up which has already attracted a number of volunteers. If you think you could offer a fellow Blundellian support and advice relating to your particular profession please contact us. Some of our current pupils found the opportunity to meet members of the legal profession at OB day immensely useful (see page 33).

Emily has been working very hard on launching the official Blundell's Facebook and Linked in pages, please sign up to read about forthcoming events and activities. It will also provide an opportunity to reconnect with Blundellians past and present.

We have organised numerous successful events since the last edition of 'The Diary'. The Veterans Russell Race, the Milestones 75th Anniversary reception, Trellissick Garden Tour in May and our second Light Bar London Casual drinks reception are just a few. We are very grateful to James Goff (M 75-79) for hosting us at the London Casual Drinks







reception on one of the more summery evenings this year. Support for both the Blundell's Golf Day at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club and our first dinner at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge was excellent. There are articles on these two events with more information and photos.



Left: Veteran Russell Race warm-ups! Middle: 1604 Society Legacy Lunch at Somerset Cricket Grounds Right: Emily and Henry celebrate their marriage

Planned future events are also exciting and varied, for example it is with great pleasure that we are going to host the Lord Lieutenants of Devon's annual lunch in October. The call is out for runners for the Annual Hare & Hounds Alumni race on Wimbledon Common (10th Dec), if you are interested in entering, please call me on 01884 232324. I was greatly encouraged by the number of OBs who participated in the Russell this spring and I hope that many would like to continue or indeed renew their running careers and showcase their talents at this race on Saturday 3rd March.

In June, the 1604 Society enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at the Ted Crowe Room at Somerset County Cricket Ground where we were blessed with great weather and had a chance to watch some entertaining cricket. If you are interested in using the Ted Crowe Room, the OB website contains the booking arrangements.

We have been involved with the launch of Mike Sampson, the School Archivist's book, 'A History of Blundell's'. Please order a copy if you haven't already done so. The book covers the history of Blundell's from its foundation in 1604 to the present day. It is a fascinating study and contains photographs and illustrations not previously published.

The London Dinner takes place on 4th November at the Carlton Club and is to be hosted by James Bullock (P 81-86). We are immensely grateful to James for his kind offer to

host this dinner and also to Chad Murrin (FH 69-73) who has provided so much valuable advice. We look forward to welcoming all those who are attending.

We say a sad farewell to Patricia Thompson and Paddy Armstrong who both retire this autumn and who are known to many of you. I have been particularly fortunate to glean so much information from them. Patricia has worked tirelessly to keep the database accurate and I am sure she will be delighted to be able to take life a little easier. She now hands over the baton to Emily. I know we will still see her at many events. Paddy remains the Secretary of the OB Club, so he can't quite say goodbye completely! Finally, our congratulations to Emily who despite her considerable workload managed to squeeze in her wedding to Henry Roffe-Silvester, a Blundell's Maths Teacher and Westlake Tutor. We wish them the very best of luck in their new married life.

*Amber Oliver*

**Amber Oliver**  
a.oliver@blundells.org or 01884 232324.

Members of the Development Office (left and right) taking an afternoon out to be volunteer stewards at the School House end of year party (see page 20).



# Olympic Ball



— 7TH JULY 2012 —

**The Old Blundellian Club** invites Old Blundellians, current and past parents, staff and other Blundell's supporters to celebrate the Olympics at this exciting social event. Tickets will go on sale on February 10th 2012; places are strictly limited. Contact Carole in the Main office to book your tickets on 01884 232401. Places will only be confirmed once payment is received.



# Events

## Veterans Russell Race

We were delighted with the huge interest and participation by Old Blundellians, Current and Past Parents in this year's race, hopefully they all had such an enjoyable time rekindling old memories that they will come back again on March 3rd. The Over 60 class was won by Ian Maple (M 60-64), the 40-60 by current parent Peter Norris and the under 40s by Harry Courtenay-Bishop (FH 97-04). For all those keen runners we will be putting out our 2nd Annual Hare & Hounds Alumni team to race at Wimbledon Common on Saturday 10th December, let me know if you would like to join in.

## MILESTONES 75TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

It was lovely to welcome back Old Blundellians to the Milestones reception on the afternoon of the 12th March. Many who had enjoyed watching the Russell race earlier that day went on to a traditional afternoon tea in the Beale Centre with an exhibition of Milestones memorabilia. Mike Sampson pulled together a wonderful array of photographs and stories from former pupils and we are very grateful to Debbie Hosking, Houseparent of Gorton House, who led a tour of the former Milestones. It certainly sparked a few memories and discussion points for those introducing younger family members to their old school days. The event was enjoyed by guests and it is hoped that we can hold similar functions in the future.



## BLUNDELL'S CHARITY GOLF DAY

This year's Charity Golf Day was held at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club. The day got off to a terrific start with 15 teams participating, it is great to see participation increasing year on year. The sun was out in full strength making this tricky course even more challenging. Following a long afternoon of golf, competitors enjoyed dinner and an awards ceremony. The winning team was rather an in-house affair comprising Andy Mead, Bruce Wheatley & Henry Roffe-Silvester as current members of staff, joined by Mike Finch both a current parent and volunteer member of staff with the magnificent score of 98. Runners-up were a team of Blundell's supporters and parents including Paul Middleton, Terry Moss, Andy Fields and Lee Peach. A huge thank-you to all our sponsors for providing prizes for the day.

Left: Veteran Russell Race Participants Below: Golf Day Champions 2011







## TRELISSICK GARDEN TOUR

We were extremely fortunate with the weather on 11th May which allowed us to really enjoy our private guided tour of the Gardens at Trelissick. After the tour, given by the National Trust's garden staff, guests enjoyed a delicious lunch in the Old Barn on the Trelissick Estate. Throughout the day guests were able to question the garden staff with their own particular gardening queries as well as enjoying an amble around the extensive grounds and gardens. John Lanyon, Head Gardener at Trelissick, was previously in charge of the garden at Knightshayes Court. Whilst he was at Knightshayes, Old Blundell's was under his care and he treated us to some unpublished photographs of the former school buildings showing Old Blundell's in its former existence.



## CAMBRIDGE DINNER

Many members of the Blundell's community, who live and work around Cambridge, came to Sidney Sussex College for a Dinner with former Cambridge graduates to celebrate Blundell's connections with the College. The evening gave guests the chance to rekindle old memories of Blundell's and Sidney Sussex and everyone was pleased that the relationship between the two institutions is still strong. It will be further strengthened as Laura MacBean, who left this year, goes up to Sidney Sussex this autumn. The Formal Dinner took place in the College Hall and was preceded by drinks in Cloister Court. Guests were joined at dinner by the former Master of the College, Sandra Dawson (1999 – 2009). Our thanks go to John Beale, James Bullock and Ian Seaton who were so involved in the organisation of the evening.



## LONDON DRINKS RECEPTION

We are most grateful to James Goff (M 75-79) for his kind generosity in hosting our second London drinks reception at his truly unique Light Bar venue, a former electric light power station. Again we were lucky with a beautiful summer's evening on the terrace with the Blundell's flag flying high. The Blundell's Community was very well represented across the years with leavers from 1942 right up to 2008 with a gathering of current and past parents. James looked after us so well with gorgeous canapés and complimentary drinks, guests clearly enjoyed themselves socialising until the early hours.



# Old Blundellian Sport



## CRICKET

Sadly the match versus the school could not be played this year due to an overcrowding of school events during the last week of term. However OBs enjoyed matches during July and hosted the Sou'Westers after which a presentation was made to John Smith, the retiring Head Groundsman, by Chad Murrin in recognition of his years of service to the OBCC. Plans for the replay of the Olympic cricket match against France are in progress, so note OBCC v France on Big Field on Tuesday 24th July 2012 in your diaries. Details of matches played will be on the OBCC website.



**Above :** OB cricketers heading to the Beale Centre for tea

## OLYMPIC CRICKET MATCH

**The replay of the 1900 Olympic cricket match will take place between the Old Blundellian Cricket Club and the French Cricket Federation on Big Field on Thursday 24th July 2012. More details on the website and in the next Diary.**

**The following article is a small 'taster' of an article written by an Old Blundellian journalist and cricket historian Rob Cole. The full article will be published in the Commemorative Programme and on the OB website.**

### **How many schools can claim to have had three Olympic Games gold medallists in one year?**

Not many, if any, but that is the proud boast that can be made by Blundell's.

In fact, there were four Old Blundellians in the Great Britain team that struck gold in the only cricket tournament ever staged at the Olympics way back in 1900. But three of the victorious team, Harry Corner, Fred Cuming and Arthur Birkett, used to don their whites together on Big Field in the Blundell's 1st X1 in 1892.

The fourth Old Boy, Montagu Toller, had been in the 1st X1 a few years earlier, but they all joined in the glory in Paris in August, 1900. Looking back, given the rich history since then of the Olympics, the greatest sporting show on earth, the achievements of the cricket team 111 years ago look even greater now than then.

In fact, you really couldn't make up how the only Olympic cricket tournament at the 27 summer Olympiads staged since 1896 came about. Four teams entered, two pulled out for various reasons and the remaining two teams ended up playing a 12-a-side game in a velodrome.

So began the weird and wonderful tale of how a touring team from the west country established a unique place in sporting history.





## HOCKEY

A lively evening game under lights on the new astro resulted in a 4-3 victory for the school. Teams repaired to the Beale Centre afterwards for food and drink.



**Above:** Alastair Deighton-Gibson confuses both captains and Mrs K at the toss



## Westlake Quiz Night



The newest group of Old Blundellians – the Westlake leavers 2011 came to the Beale Centre for a quiz night. The idea was to get them out of Westlake and into the Beale Centre to meet some older OB Club members and to have a break from work. Mr Klinkenberg – Westlake Housemaster – organised the quiz and the OB Club provided food and drink.

## FOOTBALL



An excellent turn out of OBs allowed them to operate a squad system which they hoped would overcome their comparative lack of fitness. An end to end match finished with the school just running out winners 2-1 and refreshment was enjoyed in the Beale Centre.

**Left and Above:** OB footballers before and during the match

## FIVES

Once again OBs joined with pupils and guests in an afternoon of Fives which was much enjoyed by all. The enduring popularity of the game amongst OBs and pupils is very satisfying.

**Below:** Action on and off court



## Colin Beale Centre

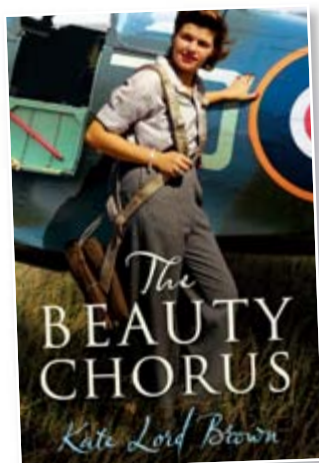


The Colin Beale Centre is available for use by Old Blundellians wanting to celebrate an anniversary, meet up with contemporaries for a meal or for any other social reason. There is a bar and catering can be provided to suit needs. Please contact Paddy or Janet in the first instance. To help with this and to improve response to OB telephone enquiries, the Beale Centre phone will be switched through to Paddy's phone at times when the centre is not manned.

## Old Blundellian Day 2012

**Old Blundellian Day 2012 will be Saturday 16th June. More details in the next Diary.**





**Romance, glamour and adventure in the skies: an enthralling debut inspired by female pilots in World War Two. 166 women signed up to fly Spitfires and bombers from factories to airfields across the country. It was an adventure that would cost many their lives.**

New Year's Eve 1940: Evie Chase, the beautiful debutante daughter of an RAF commander, listens wistfully to the swing music drifting out from the ballroom. With bombs falling nightly in London, she is determined to make a difference to the war effort. Evie joins the ATA – the civilian pilots who ferry fighter planes to bases across war-torn Britain. Two other women wait nervously to join up with her – Stella Grainger, a forlorn young mother from Singapore, and Megan Jones, an idealistic teenager who has never left her Welsh village before. Billeted together in a tiny cottage, Stella, Megan and Evie learn to live and work together as they find romance, confront loss and forge friendships that last a lifetime.

# Flying high

Kate Lord Brown (GH 1987-89) writes about life as an author and the publication of her debut novel



During documentary filming with the Spitfire at Duxford Imperial War Museum

**Kate's (GH 1987-89) first short story was published while studying 'A' and 'S' levels at Blundell's. She went on to study at Durham University and the Courtauld Institute of Art. She worked as an art consultant, curating collections for palaces and embassies in Europe and the Middle East, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. She was a finalist in ITV's the People's Author competition in 2009, and has written for magazines including Condé Nast Traveller and Blueprint. Her debut novel 'The Beauty Chorus' is being published by Corvus Atlantic in 2011. She lives in the Middle East with her husband who is an airline pilot, and their young family.**

## About the book:

"I always imagined Evie as part of the pre-war flying club scene – it was a world of private planes, fast cars, horses and skiing for the girls who the male pilots christened 'the beauty chorus'. In creating Evie I very much had her real-life counterparts in mind – people like Audrey Sale Barker who crash landed in Africa and gave a Masai warrior an SOS note written in lipstick to pass on to the nearest Mission. The ATA girls were often young and glamorous but they were also brave and skilful pilots – in one day they could fly anything from a Spitfire to a huge bomber, and all without radios or arms. They weren't all party girls either – there were people like Megan who could fly a plane, but not drive a car, or young mothers like Stella (one of the women was even known as the Flying Grandmother). I grew to admire them immensely.

"I did a lot of research, and was lucky enough to be in touch with a remarkable ATA 'girl' now in her 80s. She went on to have a second wartime career in espionage – the true stories of these women are so remarkable, it was great fun creating their fictional counterparts. Evie came first of all the characters, and the inspiration for the whole story came from an obituary for one of the women I read in a flying magazine, (I'm married to a pilot). When I read that she had flown Spitfires during the war, I just had to know more. We have several pilots in the family, including WW2 Lancaster pilots, but I had never heard about the ATA. I thought 'why don't people know about the incredible work they did?'

"Maybe all stories start that way, with a question, and wanting to know more. My next novel is about the International Brigades and women who fought and worked as war photographers and nurses during the Spanish Civil War. It was inspired by the years we spent living in Valencia – I wanted to know why people were so reticent talking about the War. It has been fascinating, but heartbreaking to research and find the answer.

"To sustain a long novel I think you have to really want to answer these questions badly. Like a lot of women I juggle work and family, and my husband's often away for long stretches flying all over the world – writing has to be fitted in around family life, and to finish a novel you really have to make the time to write. At the end of a long day once the children are asleep, it has to be a good story to get you racing to your desk to write all night rather than put your feet up. These girls, who were so much more than a 'beauty chorus', inspired me. It was a story that had to be told."



The ATA Archive at Maidenhead Heritage Centre is fundraising for a permanent memorial to these remarkable men and women.



# OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY

# 2011

*Pro Patria Populoque*



Old Blundellian Day 2011 marked a significant landmark in the history of the event as it was the 400th anniversary of it being first mentioned. The Great Account Book recorded in 1611 that Mr. Butler, the Master, was paid £3 10s 'for the expenses of St. Peter's Day'.

By the beginning of the 18th century the date of the event had moved from June 29th, St Peter's Day, to the end of August or even later. In 1725 invitations were sent

*Sir, You are desir'd to meet the Stewards & other Gentlemen Educated under ye Revnd. Mr. Rayner at Barnstable [sic] & Tiverton Schools, & all such as have at any time heretofore been Scholars of Tiverton, at ye School house there on Wednesday the first of September at ten in the Forenoon & after having Accompanied them to the Parish Church (where a Sermon will be Preached on the occasion) to dine at the said School'.*



Part of the invitation showed an engraving of Blundell's produced by no less an artist than William Hogarth.

These occasions sometimes became quite rowdy; not usually due to the Old Boys themselves, but rather on account of the servants that accompanied them. A visit in 1751 by the noted Methodist preacher, John Wesley, was one such occasion. It was recorded that 'in the evening, a rabble of Gentlemen's servants gathered together, and endeavoured to make a disturbance'. An outbreak of smallpox in the town led to the cancellation of the Old Boys' gatherings in 1755 and 1756, and, curiously, they did not resume once the disease had disappeared. However, in 1788, after a proposal was agreed to revive 'that ancient and celebrated anniversary', the event resumed. The revival of the festivities was so successful that in

1791 100 Old Boys were in attendance.



**Right:** John Stagg, Chris Price and John Hollands put the world to rights and enjoy a drink before OB lunch



**Left:** Nick Hunkin tells a Blundellian 'how it used to be' and above is a gathering even earlier than Nick's time





« In defiance of the Chancery decision, which, amongst other things, abolished boarding at Blundell's, in 1847 over 170 men processed with the remaining 28 pupils to St. Peter's Church. However, their resolute stance soon melted; in 1848 just 24 attended, 29 in the following year, and in 1850 the number was 22. On that occasion the Chairman, Rev. Henry Yeatman, announced that there would be no more such gatherings. So it was until 1877 when Old Blundellian Day was again revived. The day was moved back to St. Peter's Day, June 29th, and the invention of photography meant that a group photograph became part of the proceedings.

Soon, other elements were added to the festivities; a cricket match between the Old Boys and the current boys came to be played on the day before Old Boys Day, a ball was organised usually on the evening of the lunch, and the following day was often Speech Day - many Old Boys came down to Tiverton and stayed for three or four days to partake in the celebrations. The annual procession to St. Peter's Church was continued until 1883 when the School Chapel at Horsdon was consecrated on Old Blundellian Day. However, the old Church was not to be forsaken, as the Old Boys processed there from Old Blundell's in 1887, and when the Old Blundellian Club was formed in 1891 they resolved to hold the OB Day service at St. Peter's every five years. So it continued until the last such procession was held in 2004.

Nowadays, the speed of modern transport and hectic lifestyles mean that few stay overnight in Tiverton, and so the festivities are timetabled to take place on the main Old Blundellian Day, the Saturday, although occasional sports events are held on the Sunday. Old Blundellian Day still retains many of the traditions so beloved by all - the Chapel Service, the lunch, and the toasts - but includes many innovations, such as the pre-lunch drinks reception with the staff, and the delightful presence of many female visitors, whether partners or former pupils, and children. It has remained a time of great enjoyment for all in the Blundell's community and, hopefully, will continue to do so.



## INVALUABLE ADVICE

**OB Day 2011 proved particularly useful for the five Blundellians joining the Club for lunch and drinks as they are all aiming for careers in the Law. The opportunity to talk to judges, a QC, practising partners and solicitors was invaluable and it is intended that the Club should extend this sort of help and advice to Blundellians.**

*"I got loads of emails and contact details and am much more confident about getting internships and work experience in law firms"*





*“A strong Old Blundellian Club is a great help to Blundellians”* **Ian Davenport** Head Master



Photographs: Andrew Nadolski



An eclectic mixture of OBs, Governors and staff. President for the day Paul Waterworth delivering his address at the top and Blundellians wanting law careers being counselled by wise and experienced OB lawyers below



# A SOUTH WEST COAST PATH WALK

*for the Exeter  
Leukaemia Fund*

APRIL/MAY 2011



**Left:** Start/Finish  
Marker at South  
Haven Beach, Poole  
**Below:** The stunning  
Jurassic Coastline  
**Main picture:** Start  
Point, Dartmouth to  
Salcombe  
**Top right:**  
Porthcurno Bay



The family fresh meat and poultry business was sold to a larger competitor in January 2008, and having worked for the acquiring company for a few years I departed and decided to set out in the Spring of 2011 on the 630 mile South West Coast Path.

My mother Hilarie had been walking the path with friends in sections at a time, but failed to complete as she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, and after a gallant fight and treatments succumbed to this horrible illness in 2002. The Exeter Leukaemia Fund (ELF) have raised funds over the years to support the valuable work of the Yarty Ward at The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, and so a plan came together to stroll around the Path from South Haven, Poole to Minehead in 40 days and raise funds for ELF.

I maintained a photo diary as I strolled along and it can still be found at <http://richardmaunder.blogspot.com> and the donation site remains open until Mum's birthday on the 3rd November at <http://virginmoneygiving.com/richardmaunder>

It was a privilege to have the opportunity to enjoy the freedom, the wildflowers, birdlife and stunning scenery, and enjoy every day however tough the walking, and ultimately to raise over £8,000 for ELF through generous donations from friends, family and those touched by Mum's story.

**Richard Maunder** (Petergate 1978-83)





## ROBERT HONSTEIN HAS ACHIEVED RECOGNITION AS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST OUTSTANDING YOUNG COMPOSERS



Top: Correction Line Ensemble,  
Brandon. Below: Fast Forward  
Austin, Line Upon Line percussion.  
Main Picture: Robert conducting.

# Making Music

I came to Blundell's on a Gap year through the English Speaking Union's Secondary School Exchange program. Growing up in America, music was a huge part of my life: piano lessons, choir, jazz and rock bands were constantly in the mix. Musically, I had no idea what to expect upon my arrival in Tiverton and while I had every intention of continuing to play and sing I was completely unprepared for just how formative my time at Blundells would be. From regular lessons in piano, orchestration and counterpoint with the late Reginald Thompson to choir practice and theory classes with Andrew Barlow, I devoted an immense amount of time and focus to music study while at Blundells. On top of this there was the Jazz Band, Orchestra, Chamber Music and the, hopefully still infamous, Francis House Gospel Choir. Leading FH's soulful rendition of the gospel classic 'O Happy Day' remains to this day one of my greatest accomplishments (have you ever tried to make a room full of rugby players sing in tune?).

After Blundells I went straight to New Haven, CT and Yale University where I studied Music and Math. At Yale I undertook more rigorous composition studies, while continuing to perform as a pianist and singer. On the side I sang collegiate a cappella, including a stint with the Yale Whiffenpoofs, with whom I travelled the world singing in 13 different countries over the course of a three month tour. Highlights included performances at the White House and a guest appearance on the hit TV show 'The West Wing', which maybe not huge in the UK, was a big deal in the States. For a week we were all treated like movie stars, hanging out on set at Warner Brothers studios in Burbank, California. It was quite a thrill.

During my studies at Yale I decided I wanted to go for a career in music as a Composer. I left Yale to study composition at the University of Texas at Austin and then returned to Yale to begin work on a doctoral degree in Composition. In the past few years I've made strides in the field and had a number of excellent opportunities. Last year saw the premiere of a clarinet concerto at Carnegie Hall by the New York Youth

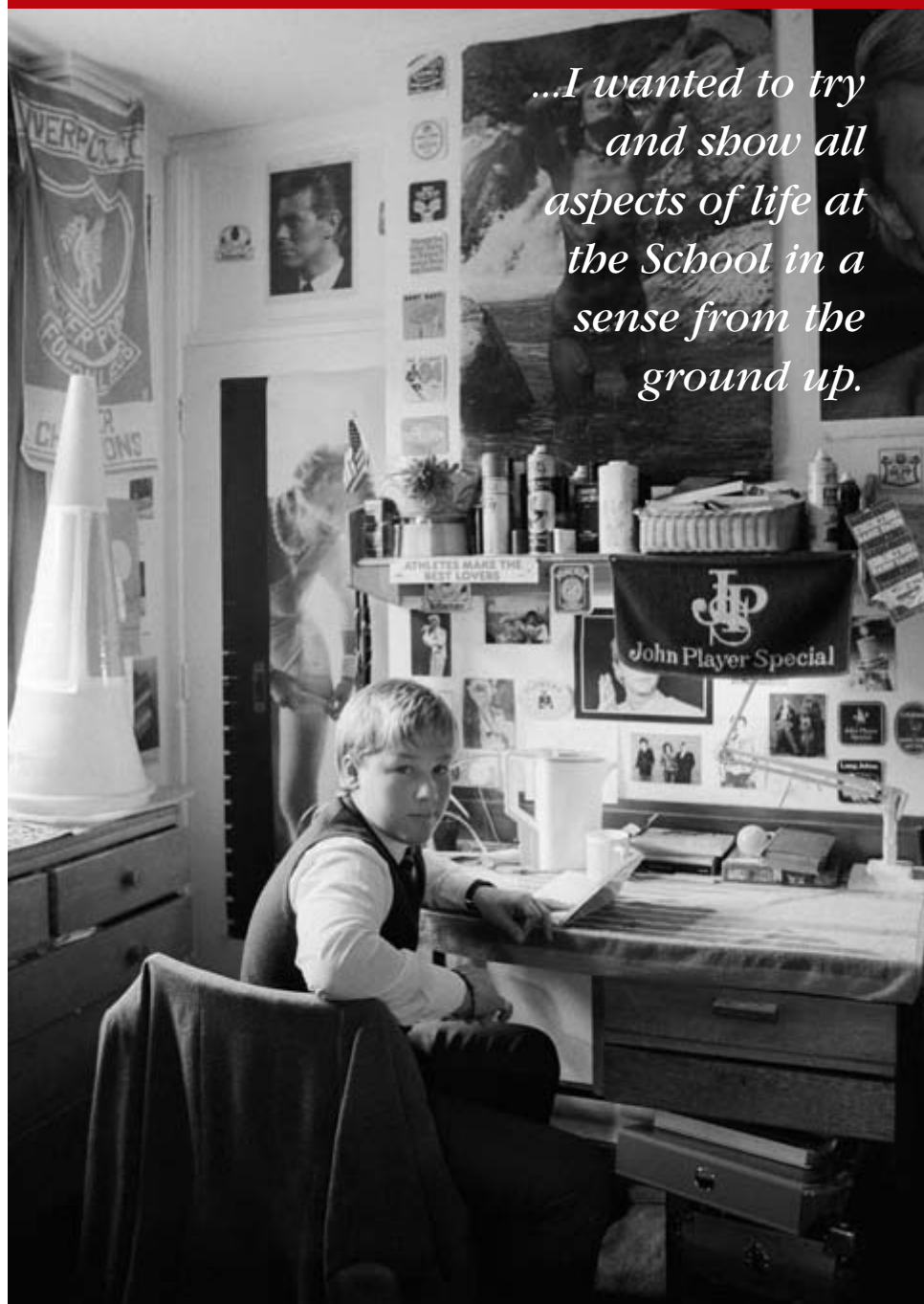
Symphony as well as performances by the Albany Symphony Orchestra, the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra and appearances at notable music festivals throughout the United States.

It's something of a new era for Composers and the old avenues for success—getting published, commissions from orchestras, tenure track jobs at University—are more often than not bypassed by the younger generation. Instead, many young Composers, including myself, forge their own paths by starting their own ensembles, producing their own concerts and releasing their own recordings on small, independent labels. Last year I formed a group called the Correction Line Ensemble with five Canadian musicians and toured Canada on two occasions. With colleagues in Austin, Texas I produced Fast Forward Austin, an annual festival of contemporary music featuring 9 hours of music performed by Austin based artists. And, in New York City, where I currently live, I co-founded Sleeping Giant, a composer collective that specializes in collaborative projects with up and coming new music ensembles. This coming season Sleeping Giant has been commissioned by Carnegie Hall to write a companion piece to Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* whereby each composer will write a short work based on fragments from the Stravinsky.

Of course the obvious question is how does one finance all this! Frankly, it's not easy. But through a combination of side jobs, gigs, and commissions I manage to pay the bills. Down the line I do hope to land one of those rare, cushy, University Jobs, but in the meantime I am thoroughly enjoying the hectic, event-filled life I've created for myself. With a coming season chock full of concerts and commissions, I have plenty of projects to keep me busy. It's been a wonderful journey since my time at Blundells and I am grateful for the experiences and lessons learned in Tiverton. They've absolutely served me well, providing a solid foundation for all my musical exploits.

.....  
For more information on Robert's work, audio samples, and a calendar of upcoming events please visit his website, [www.roberthonstein.com](http://www.roberthonstein.com).





*...I wanted to try  
and show all  
aspects of life at  
the School in a  
sense from the  
ground up.*



# BLUNDELL'S 25 YEARS AGO

**A unique archive of documentary photographs of life at Blundell's in 1986 is unveiled**

**In 1986 Andrew Nadolski, then a student at Exeter College of Art, arrived at Blundell's to produce a documentary of life in a typical English boarding school. Some of the photographs were used in an early prospectus but the rest were filed away. Now this intimate archive, of over 250 photographs, showing life at the School a quarter of a century ago can be seen. Paddy Armstrong talks to Andrew Nadolski about his work and his twenty-five year connection with Blundell's.**

## **How did you first come into contact with Blundell's?**

I was in my final year at Art College and interested in documenting a large organisation and it was in talks with my lecturers that the idea of photographing life in a boarding school came up. As a product of the modern British comprehensive system that seemed to be based on 'averages', I was intrigued by what life in a boarding school would be like. Prior to going to art college I had never really met anyone who had been privately educated.

I soon found that a school the size of Blundell's requires a complex support structure and that the School is one of the major employers in the town. So I wanted to try and show all aspects of life at the School in a sense from the ground up. John Rees, the Head Master at the time, said I could have full access to the school and I could photograph anybody I came across, as long





*"There have been constant improvements of the facilities and conditions in the boarding houses are a lot different today. It would be interesting for boarders of twenty five years ago to come back and see how much they have improved."*







*How things have changed over 25 years! These photographs show a school before mobile phones and computers where the only option for communication was face to face.*

*Health and safety would never allow 1986 road crossing arrangements and the Fire Officer would have a field day in the bedsit photographed.*





as they didn't object, and photograph anything I found. He said there was nothing in Blundell's that he was embarrassed about.

**That was a lot of trust to place in a young art student.**

It was and I wasn't going to betray him. I was determined to portray as honest a portrait of life at the School as I could.

**What were your first reactions on arriving at the School?**

I was amazed at how friendly everyone was and how happy the place seemed. There were lots of traditions but no snobbery and one of the nicest surprises was the respect that the pupils had for the staff who worked there, from the ladies serving lunch to the members of the common room.

**Speaking of the common room it is a bit different today.**

Yes, then it resembled a gentleman's smoking club with a haze of cigarette smoke. A lot different to that of today.

**What happened to the pictures when you had finished shooting?**

For my degree show I printed a selection of twenty or so images and showed these and my contact prints to John Rees. He felt that I had captured something of the essence of Blundell's and commissioned me to return in the Autumn, once I had graduated, to take some additional images so the School could produce a new prospectus. It is a source of immense pride for me that I have now had Blundell's as a client for twenty five years, photographing and designing all the School's promotional material.

**You must have seen a lot of change over the years?**

The biggest change was the decision to go fully co-educational in 1993. This coupled with the opening of the Junior department and then the Prep School have all made Blundell's the modern school it is today. I am now working with my third Head Master; John Rees was the first 'young' Head Master, Jonathan Leigh had to make some very courageous decisions and I think Ian Davenport has added a dynamism to the School and under his leadership it is going from strength-to-strength.

There have been constant improvements of the facilities and conditions in the boarding houses are a lot different today. It would be interesting for boarders of twenty five years ago to come back and see how much they have improved. In fact there has been a resurgence of interest in boarding in recent years; it shows there is something that Blundell's is doing that is still relevant today.

**What made you revisit your old negatives?**

I think one of documentary photography's greatest aspects is the ability to go back in time. A few years ago I started archiving my negatives and realised what I had got was quite unique. I really hope that anyone who was at the School whether as a pupil or member of staff enjoys looking at the pictures and seeing if they can spot themselves or old friends. Most of the people I photographed have probably completely forgotten I was there snapping away in the background.

It would be lovely if it was a vehicle for people to get back in contact with each other or encourage them to come back and see Blundell's twenty five years on.

**Don't you think the photographs would make a great book?**

I would love to produce a book and incorporate recollections from OBs. Maybe if there is enough interest and with sponsorship it could be done. One option is to produce a 'print-on-demand' book but they work out expensive per copy.

**Do you think Blundell's has changed you as a person even though you weren't a pupil?**

You have to remember I was only 22 when I took these pictures and started working with the School. Over the years I think I soaked up some of the School's core values of mutual respect and tolerance, and most importantly belief in yourself.

Maybe one of the things that I brought to Blundell's was my ability to see the School objectively - to see from the outside just what it was that Blundell's was doing. However, John Rees shrewdly remarked a long time ago that I would learn as much from Blundell's as they would from me.

**You can view the archive of over 250 photographs at**

**[www.nadolski.com/blundells.html](http://www.nadolski.com/blundells.html)**

**There is a link on the Old Blundellian Club website.**

**If you would like help getting back in touch with Old Blundellians, please contact the OB Club at [obclub@blundells.org](mailto:obclub@blundells.org) for information or phone 07799 066966. Alternatively contact the Blundell's Development Office on 01884 243262.**

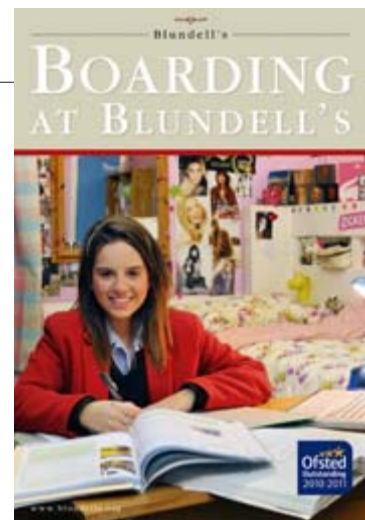
*Andrew Nadolski continues to work for Blundell's amongst other clients. His landscape photographs from the series 'The End of the Land' have been exhibited in museums and art galleries throughout the UK. His work has been featured in The Times and many other publications.*

## Blundell's today



**Blundell's today is a thriving co-educational school of over 570 pupils.**

The recent Ofsted inspection classed the School as excellent in all categories, with no recommendations. A special supplement to the Diary focussing on boarding at Blundell's today has recently been published, if you would like a copy please contact the Registrars, Peter Klinkenberg or Liz Thane on 01884 252543 or email [registrars@blundells.org](mailto:registrars@blundells.org)





# FUTURE EVENTS

## OCTOBER 2011

- 1st OBC Committee Meeting**  
OBCC 60th Anniversary Dinner  
The County Ground, Taunton  
Colin Atkinson Room 7.15 for 8 pm  
Contact: OB Club
- 12th OBC Winter Lunch** 'A New History of Blundell's'  
by Mike Sampson - Colin Beale Centre  
Contact: OB Club
- 15th History of Blundell's Book Launch**  
Reception & Lecture, Mike Sampson  
Contact: Development Office
- 16th Fives Tournament**  
Lunch at 12.15pm and tea between 4.30 and 5.00pm in the Colin Beale Centre.  
Contact: OB Club

## NOVEMBER 2011

- 4th Blundell's London Dinner-The Carlton Club**  
**Dinner-SOLD OUT** Contact: Development Office
- 9th OBC Winter Lunch** – Colin Beale Centre  
Contact: OB Club

## DECEMBER 2011

- 3rd OBC Committee Meeting**
- 14th OBC Winter Lunch** – Colin Beale Centre  
Contact: OB Club

## JANUARY 2012

- 11th OBC Winter Lunch** – Colin Beale Centre  
Contact: OB Club

## FEBRUARY 2012

- 8th OBC Winter Lunch** – Colin Beale Centre  
Contact: OB Club

## MARCH 2012

- 14th OBC Winter Lunch** – Colin Beale Centre  
Contact: OB Club

## APRIL 2012

- 28th Diamond Gaudy**  
**All those attending Blundell's prior to 1952**  
Big School, Blundell's School  
Contact: Development Office

## MAY 2012

- 16th Garden Tour and Lunch Reception, Tyntesfield**  
**Places strictly limited**  
Contact: Development Office
- 31st 1604 Society Legacy Lunch, London**  
*By Invitation only*  
Contact Amber Oliver: a.oliver@blundells.org

## JUNE 2012

- 14th The Light Bar,**  
*tbc* London Casual Drinks Reception 6.00-8.00 pm  
Contact: Development Office
- 16th OB Day** Contact: OB Club

## JULY 2012

- tbc Early July Blundell's Golf Day**  
Venue to be confirmed  
Contact: Development Office
- 7th Blundell's Olympic Ball**  
Big Field Marquee - *Places strictly limited*  
Contact: Development Office
- 24th OBCC v France Olympic Cricket Match**  
Big Field, Blundell's School Contact: OB Club

## OCTOBER 2012

- 6th Medical Reception & Lunch**  
Blundell's School  
Contact: Development Office

## OLD BLUNDELLIAN SPORT

Details of golf, shooting, cricket, squash, fives, hockey, football and tennis can be found on the OB Club website.

## CORPORATE SUPPORT

We are very grateful to all our sponsors for the support they give to Blundell's School in a variety of forms, but particularly to our major sponsors this year Ashfords Solicitors who have provided the funding for the new School House 1st team Shirts, the U16 Rugby Festival and the Open Morning Prep Hockey Tournament.

We are grateful to Knight Frank who continue to be a major sponsor for the One Day Event and are delighted that The Wool Packaging Company are also joining us this year as a major sponsor for that event.

## Old Blundellian Club Contact Details

**Email** obclub@blundells.org  
**Tel** 01884 232010  
**Address** Old Blundellian Club,  
The Colin Beale Centre,  
Blundell's School  
Tiverton, Devon EX16 4DT  
**Website** www.obclub.co.uk

## Blundell's Development Office

**Address** Amber Oliver, Development Director  
Blundell's School  
Tiverton, Devon EX16 4DT  
**Email** devoffice@blundells.org  
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**Mobile** 07825 734440