



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2021

Welcome from Charlie Olive, Director of Community Partnerships.

After another long stretch with just the full boarders at school during the spring lockdown it was great to be back at the end of the spring term for a brief three weeks stint and then a full return in the Summer. Unfortunately, with so many of the pandemic restrictions still in place it made community involvement very difficult. We were unable to meet with other schools or get involved properly with community groups. In fact even developing partnerships has been difficult as understandably people have been prioritising the basics and keeping things on track as best as they can rather than setting up new projects. I therefore look forward to 'restarting' the Community Partnerships programme in September.

Having said that it has still been a busy term.



Tiverton – links with our local community

Tiverton Town Council

On Friday 11th June we held our Summer Term Garden Open Day to which we had invited The Mayor and Tiverton Town Council for a Cream Tea. A lovely hour of informal chat was enjoyed by all along with a delicious cream tea. Ten Councilors were able to attend and it was great to be able to catch up face to face after such a long spell of disruption.

Loyalty Card—update

The planned loyalty card is still very much on track to be launched and it has just been the practicalities of doing so with the various restrictions that have been in place. The plan is to introduce it to local businesses in September/October with a launch date of October/November which will hopefully encourage more Christmas shoppers to support the town center.

Report to the Full Council Meeting, 21st June



Report to Tiverton Town Council from Blundell's school. Monday 21st June 2021

Blundell's would like to pass on our congratulations to Councillor Sue Griggs for her recent appointment as Mayor of Tiverton. We look forward to working with her over the coming year and continuing to develop our relationship with Tiverton Town Council.

After three weeks back at the end of the Spring Term it was good to be able to return for the Summer Term as almost a whole school. Unfortunately, we still have some full boarders who for various reasons have not returned this term, so we are certainly looking forward to being a full community again in the autumn (hopefully!). Having said that there are some full boarders who have not been home for a whole year! They have spent the holidays either at school, with their guardians or host families so they are getting very excited about finally getting back home when we break up on July 2nd.

As with all schools the disruption to the normal examination schedule has been severe and trying to fit all year groups into their exams this term has been a massive challenge. Year 11 and 13 final assessments have been the priority, but it is also important that the other year groups are kept on track and maintain the routine of examination practice and preparation for the end of their various courses in the years ahead. It has meant that setting papers, marking exams, and writing reports has happened almost every week this term for one year group or another which has put extra pressure on us all. It is therefore remarkable the way in which our pupils have risen to the challenge and got on with what needed to be done.

The academic side of school has therefore very much been the focus of this term but for that to work well it is important to break the hard work with time to rest, relax and play sport. Our fixtures list is still nowhere near what it is normally as the various restrictions still prevent so much but pupils have still got out every day for cricket, swimming, athletics and tennis to name a few. Groups have been out on Dartmoor despite the cancellation again of Ten Tors and our canoeists have been putting in the miles on various stretches of fresh and saltwater. Our community initiatives are all slightly on hold but there has still been plenty happening which has been summarised below:

- We have met recently with Jim Bray from the Pannier Market and are developing some exciting plans for our musicians to play in the Pannier Market on market days. We are also keen for some of our artists to be working in the Pannier Market, displaying, and possibly selling their creations. An occasional stall may also be on the cards for us to sell various items made by our Charity Committee.
- It is great that staff and students from ACE Tiverton have been coming to Blundell's on an increasingly regular basis. They have been using a site in Parry Woods for bushcraft activities.
- Our Head of PE and Netball Coach Miss Manley, visited Tiverton High School at the end of the spring term to deliver a netball taster for the Easter Camp which attracted 24 keen U11, 13 and 15 netballers from across Mid Devon. This developed quickly into a weekly Junior Netball Club with over 80 girls from all local primary and secondary schools attending and has now become the Tiverton Netball Club. It has made a great start with large numbers of children and adults attending already and become a fantastic new sports club for the whole Tiverton community.
- As usual the Charity Committee have been busy raising money for various charities despite the difficulty of doing this in the current climate. One event was the Clear Out To Help Out event which raised money by selling on unwanted clothes and household items. After half term a Rag-Bag collection was arranged for clothes and shoes for recycling. The charity pays per kilogram collected so we are hoping for the mountain we built will go a long way!
- Unwanted and old second-hand school uniform has been sent to the Bhambayi Project which supports vulnerable children in South Africa.
- Last year we joined the Tiverton community during lockdown and raised over £1500 to help local people by sleeping outside in our gardens. This term we are doing the same so we can raise much needed funds for local homeless people.
- The girls in GH have raised a brilliant £605 for their two House charities, the Tiverton Adventure Playground and Veterans with Dogs. They raised the money selling candy canes!
- Launching the Loyalty Card has seen further delays unfortunately but this is very much planned to go live in the autumn and hopefully support local business before Christmas and beyond.

We are very lucky to have the Blundell's Garden as it is an area that offers a whole range of activities and opportunities that can continue with less of an impact from the restrictions. We have again entered the 'In Your Neighborhood' section of Tiverton's entry of Britain in Bloom. Despite the ridiculous weather which has thrown everything at us from late frosts, heavy persistent rain to glorious hot sunny days we are pleased with what we have completed. The veg beds are growing well; the pond has developed into a real haven for biodiversity and the cutflower beds are in full production. We look forward to welcoming the judges on 15th July

It has been great after a year away, to be able to return to the gardens at Pine Lodge where we have picked up where we left off before the first lockdown. It has been a bit of a challenge getting the veg patch back on track, but we also have a group arranged to paint and refurbish the Summer House during the multi activity days arranged in the last week of term

The Garden Café has opened on a number of occasions this term for pupils and staff and in the future, we are hoping for this to be a community venue at various times throughout the year. The first event was a Cocktail Evening for the Year 13 girls, some of whom have been growing the cut flowers in the beds built for this purpose earlier in the year. We were lucky with the weather and had a great couple of hours enjoying a drink and delicious BBQ and most importantly time to sit together and chat after the disruption of previous months. The summer menu of milkshakes and ice creams has been a great success and sold out on every occasion. We have had Year 7 and 8 performing Shakespeare in the Garden and on June 11th held the Summer Term Garden Open Day. The programme started with a group of very excited Year 1's from the Pre-Prep who whizzed round the garden completing a hedgehog activity and then buzzed around learning about bumble bees. Both activities were led by Year 9 pupils who had planned the activities as part of their Character Education lessons this term. The fun finished off with a lolly before they headed back up the road. After lunch it was excellent to be able to welcome the Mayor and Town Councillors for a Cream Tea. The Blundell's Association visited next with a tour of the school grounds with Head Gardener, Mr Flower before a couple of Year 8 Gardeners showed them what we have been up to in the Blundell's Garden this term. Another delicious evening BBQ was laid on by our amazing catering team and enjoyed by Year 10 musicians and parents before a brilliant Year 10 Concert in the Blundell House Garden just through the hedge! It was another great day, and we look forward to when we can open it up to become more of the whole community event that we would like.

The disruption this year has led to many of the social and fun events and occasions at school having to be cancelled because of the restriction. We are therefore disappointed that the end of the year will again lack its normal celebration with Speech Day and the Leavers Ball. However, where bubbles and restrictions allow the last three weeks will be a festival of BBQ's and events for the pupils to enjoy and a time to try and catch up on the missed events from earlier in the year. We have therefore planned a House Music Competition, School Plays, Cricket Festivals, and a range of outdoor pursuit opportunities. These include a PGL trip for Year 7, the Year 8 Source to Sea journey on the River Dart, Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's expeditions, a Year 9 Wild Camp, Inflatable Olympics, Sports Day and a Swimming Gala. The last week also sees Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 taking part in our version of 'The Apprentice' and the multi activity days which include everything from climbing and Crolf to pre-Uni cooking courses and drone photograph, ultimate frisbee and water polo to macrame and refurbishing the Summer House at Pine Lodge.

We are all looking forward to and keeping our fingers crossed for a good start in September and getting back to normal.

Tiverton Pannier Market

We have recently met with Jim Bray from the Pannier Market and are developing some exciting plans for our musicians to play in the Pannier Market on market days. We are also keen for some of our artists to be working in the Pannier Market, displaying and possibly selling their creations. An occasional stall may also be on the cards for us to sell various items made by our Charity Committee.

ACE Tiverton

We are pleased that staff and students from ACE Tiverton have been coming to Blundell's on an increasingly regular basis to us Parry Woods. They have been using a site within the woods that Prep School use for 'bushcraft like' activities.



Tiverton Netball Club

Our Head of PE and Netball Coach Miss Manley, visited Tiverton High School at the end of the spring term to deliver a netball taster for our upcoming Easter Camp. It was a very successful and sunny day and a brilliant introduction to the Netball Camp which attracted 24 keen U11, 13 and 15 netballers from across Mid Devon.

This has now developed into a weekly Junior Netball Club with 81 girls from local primary and secondary schools attending.

A 'Back to Netball' Senior Club is now being planned and due to run from 19.45-20.45 after the juniors.



Blundell's Charity Committee

Clear Out To Help Out

As usual the Charity Committee have been busy raising money for various charities despite the difficulty of doing this in the current climate.



Rag Bag

One event was the Clear out To Help Out event which raised money by selling on people unwanted clothes and household items.

After half term a Rag-Bag collection was arranged for clothes and shoes for recycling. The charity pays per kilogram collected so we are hoping the mountain we built will go along way!



Bhambayi Project

Unwanted old second hand school uniform has been sent to the Bhambayi Project which supports vulnerable children in South Africa.



CHAT

Homeless for a night

Last year we joined the Tiverton community during lockdown and raised over £1500 to help local people by sleeping outside in our gardens. This term we doing the same so we can raise much needed funds for local homeless people.



Gorton House

The girls in GH have raised a brilliant £605 for their two House charities, the Tiverton Adventure Playground and Veterans with Dogs. They raised the money selling candy canes!



The Blundell's Garden.

We have been lucky to have the Blundell's Garden as it is an area that offers a whole range of activities and opportunities that can continue with less of an impact from the restrictions.

Britain in Bloom



We have again entered the 'In Your Neighborhood' section of Tiverton's entry of Britain in Bloom. Despite the ridiculous weather which has thrown everything at us from late frosts, heavy persistent rain to glorious hot sunny days we are pleased with the what we have completed. The veg beds are growing well, the pond has developed into a real haven for biodiversity and the wild flower beds are in full production. We look forward to welcoming the judges shortly after we have broken up in early July.



Pine Lodge Hospiscare Garden

It has been great after a year away, to be able to return to the gardens at Pine Lodge where we have picked up where we left off before the first lockdown. It has been a bit of a challenge getting the veg patch back on track but we will hopefully be ready for the judges visit for Britain in Bloom. We also have a group arranged to paint and refurbish the Summer House during the multi activity days arranged in the last week of term

National Open Garden Scheme

We had planned to open the Blundell's Garden and the Blundell House Garden as part of the NOGS but due to the impact of the school closure we didn't feel ready to show them off at their best so have postponed until next summer.



Blundell's Garden Café

We have been able to open the Garden Café on a number occasions this term for pupils and staff at school and in the future we are hopping for this to be a community venue at various times throughout the year.

The first event was a Cocktail Evening for the Year 13 girls, some of who have been growing the cut flowers in the beds built for this purpose earlier in the year. We were lucky with the weather and had a great couple of hours enjoying a drink and delicious BBQ and most importantly time to sit together and chat after the disruption of previous months.



The Garden Café also opened on a number of days to serve the new Summer Menu:

SUMMER MENU

Lunchtime BBQ, £4.00 (£5.00 with a glass of Pimm's)

Strawberry milkshake, £3.00. (milk, strawberry ice cream, cream, sprinkles, strawberries)

Chocolate milkshake, £3.00. (milk, chocolate ice cream, cream sprinkles and a flake)

Banana milkshake, £3.00. (milk, banana ice cream, cream, sprinkles and banana slices)

Hot chocolate, £2.00. (with cream, marshmallows, and a flake)

Cakes, 50p. (Victoria sponge or Lemon Drizzle)

Tropical fruit juice, £1.00. (with fresh tropical fruits)

Mixed berries fruit juice, £1.00. (with mixed berries)

Ice creams, £1.00. (vanilla, strawberry, chocolate, banana, with a flake)

Magnum, £1.50.

Fab and other Lollies, £1.20.

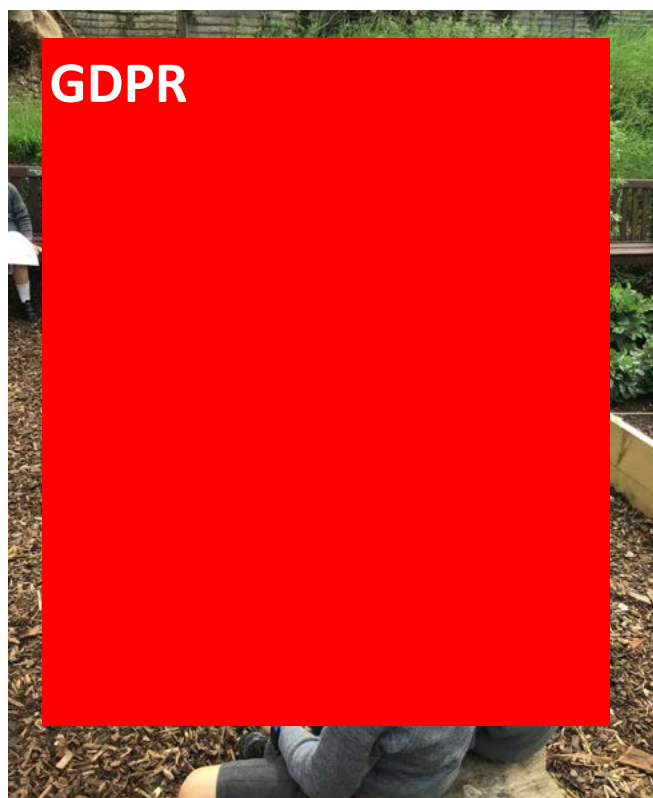


The menu was a great success and sold out on each occasion. On May 26 the Café provided much needed refreshment to the Year 7 English classes who were performing Shakespeare in the Garden

Summer Term Garden Open Day

Friday 11 June

The day started with a group of very excited Year 1's from the Pre-Prep who whizzed round the garden completing a hedgehog activity and then buzzed around learning about bumble bees. Both activities were led by Year 9 pupils who had planned the activities as part of their Character Education lessons this term. The fun finished off with a lolly before they headed back up the road.



The Café was open to all after break and then a BBQ was put on over lunch to which former members of staff were invited to enjoy the garden and food with a glass of Pimm's.



After lunch it was excellent to be able to welcome the new Mayor of Tiverton and 10 Town Councillors for a Cream Tea and informal chat. We are hugely grateful for their support and it gave us an opportunity to meet again after the previous Zoom meetings we have had to attend recently.

The Blundell's Association visited next with a tour of the school grounds with Head Gardener, Mr Harry Flower before a couple of Year 8 Gardeners showed them what we have been up to in the Blundell's Garden this term.

Another delicious evening BBQ was laid on by our amazing catering team and enjoyed by Year 10 musicians and parents before a brilliant Year 10 Concert in the Blundell House Garden just through the hedge!

It was another great day and we look forward to when we can open it up to become more of the whole community event that we would like.



Multi Activity Days, 28—30/6 21

During the last week of term a wide range of activities were put on for those in Years 10 to 13. These included some horticulturally themed days:

- Pine Lodge, Hospiscare Garden: Summer House refurbishment.
- Blundell's Garden: building decking for a safe pond edge for pond dipping and close work.
- Blundell's Garden: Macrame workshop, lead by Lizzie in Year 11.
- Blundell's Garden: stepping stones and garden art



Boarding Schools Association

In January 2019, the BSA (Boarding Schools Association) launched its ON BOARD Community Action Programme to highlight work in the community by boarding schools. The aim is to increase support for local communities from boarding schools and to highlight this to external stakeholders, including the Government and parents.

Thank you to BSA Boarding for recognising Blundell's School in your Community Action Programme to highlight work we have been doing in our local community.

Future events

At this stage it is still difficult to plan ahead because of the remaining restrictions and uncertainty of when the last ones will be lifted. However we are looking forward to:

- **Thursday September 9th: Parent Coffee Morning in the Blundell's Garden, 08.30-09.00.**
- **Friday October 8th (tbc): Tidcombe Primary School Year 5 Activity Day.**
- **Wednesday October 13th (tbc): Autumn Term Garden Open Day and RHS Campaign for School Gardening Big Soup Event.**
- **Monday November 1st: Parent Coffee Morning in the Blundell's Garden, 08.30-09.00.**
- **Tiverton Lantern Parade (tbc)**

If you would like to know more or get involved in some way please get touch.

Charlie Olive

Director of Community Partnerships

Blundell's School

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