

Bristol Dental Alumni Association

April Newsletter



From the Chairman

This is our third email newsletter to members. Before that, of course, we had 24 years of an annual booklet newsletter which, as I alluded to in my piece in the May 2014 issue, involved a fair amount of work. No more of that. For this newsletter I need only contribute a few introductory notes – a welcome relief.

A significant event this year will be the 100th birthday of Sister Davison (or Sybil as she is now happy to be called). Details of a special lunch organised by one of her 'girls', Vicky Townsend, are given in this newsletter. Sybil is keeping well, living alone and coping well in her Clifton apartment. She attended a reunion of the 66Society (graduates of 1966 and thereabouts) in February this year, where Bob Binnersley paid glowing tribute and she was presented with an impressive bouquet. She looks forward to receiving very special congratulations from the Queen on 24th August.

It's always been extremely gratifying to see how many year-group reunions are held each year. Last year was no exception: eight reunions involving the classes of 1964, 1966, 1968/69, 1969/70, 1974, 1989, 1999 and 2004 (reports of some of these reunions can be found on our website). Can there be any other department of this or any other university that can boast of alumni who so enthusiastically maintain contact with their old colleagues and school?

Membership of our BDAA continues to grow as we recruit many of each year's graduating students. We now number in excess of 1000 members. Finances are in a healthy state and we will continue to use the income from your subscriptions wisely to support worthy causes in the School as well as student activities and events.



From the Secretary

I hope you are all enjoying the new website. Its success depends wholly upon the content and I should like to remind you to please send in anything, including photographs of anything you may think of interest to our members. If you think someone is not receiving this email that should be then it is probably because they are either not a member or else we do not have their current email

address. If they are not currently a member then please encourage them to join...it's only £10 annually and tax allowable! If you have updated your email address recently then please let us know. Both membership and contact forms can be found on the website

www.bristoldentalalumni.co.uk



Ernest Victor Davey

A brilliant new article regarding Ernest Victor Davey has been written by Chris Stephens and can be found on the website...take a look as it especially relevant to the centenary of the First World War.

A new Reunion Coordinator!

Once again Chris Stephens has stepped into the breach and taken over the coordination and support of reunions from Reg Andlaw. He would be pleased to receive feedback from those attending past reunions regarding the suitability of their chosen venues. Hotels and restaurants are continually changing and new ones keep appearing. Any success stories or otherwise can be passed on to members via the website.

If you are thinking of organising a reunion then that can be done easily through the website either directly by clicking on the "Organise a Reunion" button on the 'Reunions' tab or else by contacting us through the web contact forms from the top menu.

Reunion news:

Anna Stokes '95 has emailed from Australia and asks if anyone in that year is planning a reunion? We've not heard anything but if you're considering organising one - and we think you should - then please get in touch with us via the website and we'll be happy to pass on details.

Roger and Carol Robinson are considering organising a 40th reunion but can't decide whether to hold it in Bristol or Florida. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Heidi Rose (2000), who organised their last reunion is rather tied up with a new house and a new baby and is currently seeking a volunteer to take on organising their 15th reunion. Again, please get in touch if you are at all interested.



News from the School

For all those practitioners stressed with the antics of our beloved CQC, those in the Dental School have not been spared!

In April 2014 the GDC visited Bristol for a two-day inspection, returning in May/June to meet staff and students and to shadow the exams at Finals. Although the full report has still to be published, initial feedback reveals the BDS programme

delivered 25 of 29 Standards for Education requirements and partially met the remaining four. The GDC felt the BDS course benefited from a “strong, cohesive staff team providing excellent support for students studying in all years” This report ranks Bristol easily in the highest echelons of UK dental schools and great credit must go to Dave Dymock, James Tubman and especially Jonathan Sandy for all their hard work in submitting such a first rate programme.

This comes on the back of the December results of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) which assessed the quality of research carried out in Universities across the UK, and was conducted jointly by the Funding Councils for England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The results for the University were outstanding, as it ranked University of Bristol among the top five institutions in the UK for its research. The Dental School achieved an excellent result, seeing an increase in the percentage of world-leading and internationally excellent research.

In Memoriam

The Association regrets to inform members of the news of the deaths of David Wilkinson ('75) and Simon Lewis ('87). Our thoughts are with their friends and relatives.