



# BDAA NEWSLETTER February 2017

From Reg Andlaw

BDAA Chairman

Dear Members,

We headed into the New Year with two new committee members: Tom Walker, who has succeeded Tamara Khayatt as Senior President of the students' society (UBDSS), and Emily Tucker who took over as President of UBDSS from Theo Stennett who remains on the committee as Immediate Past President until he graduates (confidently expected!) in June. Tom grew up in the villages of Cove and Kilcreggan, Argyllshire.

He graduated from the University of Aberdeen and, after a house officer appointment in Glasgow, pursued his interest in oral surgery. He came to Bristol in November 2013 as an academic trainee in oral and maxillofacial surgery and is now finishing his specialist registrar training. He gets involved in the local community and is a volunteer on charity cleft lip-and-palate surgery missions in the Philippines but when he has some time to himself he enjoys windsurfing and music gigs.



Emily grew up in Devon, enjoying many outdoor activities including rambling on Exmoor and long-distance cycling. She is also a keen musician, playing oboe in the Bristol Wind Orchestra.

Other than these two young members the Committee continues to be manned by the same group of old codgers (none older than me!) that has been in post for several years. Our official tri-annual committee meetings serve to report on current activities and discuss future plans, but more frequent are informal meetings in a Redland pub when business matters are off the agenda. Treasurer Iain Hathorn convenes the meetings and invites other old hands; frequent attenders being Alan Durbin, Martin Woodhead, Dave Brown, Gerry Pell, John Lucia, Nigel Harradine, Stuart Chadwick and Jon Moore. Amazing how much hot air can be generated by a few beers.



One of the aforementioned "old codgers" is Chris Stephens who continues actively as ever and last year published a book about a remarkable man called Robert Edwin Bush, a Clifton College-educated young man who sailed to Australia in 1877. He became a successful sheep farmer, a politician and, as a keen cricketer, became a founding vice-president of the Western Australian Cricket Association. On his return to Bristol he bought Bishop's Knoll House, a fine mansion overlooking the river Avon as it flows out to Avonmouth. When the First World War broke out he and his wife converted their home into a 100-bed hospital for wounded Australian soldiers, a kindness that was officially recognised in 1919 by the Australian War Contingent Association with a plaque that was displayed in their home and is now in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The house has long been demolished but Chris, together with other volunteers, has had a replica made, a fitting tribute to an extraordinary man. Chris's book 'Bristol's Australian Pioneer', is available in bookshops or from [www.bristolbooks.org](http://www.bristolbooks.org)



Four reunions were held last year: the classes of 1966 (organised by Bob Binnersley), 1976 (Geoff Van Beek), 1981 (Gordon Shovlin) and 2006 (Katie Ernst) – reports are posted on our website, [www.bristoldentalalumni.co.uk](http://www.bristoldentalalumni.co.uk) Special congratulations are due to the 1966 year: it was their 50th anniversary reunion. I was very pleased to attend both the 1966 and 1976 dinners and, as always, was delighted to meet old students again – and try to identify them!



Hearty congratulations also to Helen Rodd (now Professor Helen Rodd) who will be giving the prestigious Charles Tomes Lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons on the 23rd March. Helen qualified with a BDS(Hons.) degree in December 1988, the same month that I retired from the dental School. I remember her well as an outstanding student and also as a cook – at a 'slave auction' raising funds for the Hannover Exchange, I 'bought' her and Rita Patel to produce a curry dinner for my wife and myself at our home – they did a great job. She went on to Sheffield and pursued a stellar career in paediatric dentistry – I wish I could claim that I taught her all she knows but ...

More congratulations, this time to Nye Fathers who received the University of Bristol Chancellor's Medal last December in recognition of 40 years' service in the Dental School. I remember when Nye arrived in the mid-1970s, a fresh-faced lad straight out of school, to work as assistant to the equally long-serving Derek Coles (now retired), both constantly at the beck and call of the redoubtable and demanding Prof. Darling. His main interest has always been photography and, apart from his work in the school, he has taken photographs of many alumni reunion groups, sometimes having to show extreme patience in assembling distracted stragglers into the group. He later extended his expertise into IT and is now Senior IT Support Technician in the School.



Reports of the five elective projects that we supported last year have all been received and are posted on our website. There were two students on each project, carried out in Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the USA. All the students expressed their appreciation for the help received from the BDAA.

We (the BDAA Committee) are well aware that we act on your behalf; enabled by the support you give as members – without that we could do nothing. In the year ahead we will continue along the

same path but also look out for opportunities to broaden the range of our support. Any comments or suggestions would be welcome.

Best wishes to you all

Reg

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