



BDAA NEWSLETTER August 2017

From Reg Andlaw, BDAA Chairman

Dear members,



Bristol is “the best place to live in the UK”: that's the conclusion of a recent Sunday Times survey. It must, of course, be taken with a pinch of salt – ‘the best’ of anything is always a matter of opinion – but those of us who have lived here for many years would not disagree. It seems that alumni now living elsewhere also love Bristol, because almost all of the approximately 160 year-group reunions since 1990 have been held here, many alumni coming back from far-off places in the world like North America, the West Indies, Africa, Australasia and beyond. Clearly, memories of happy undergraduate days in Bristol are still a powerful draw.



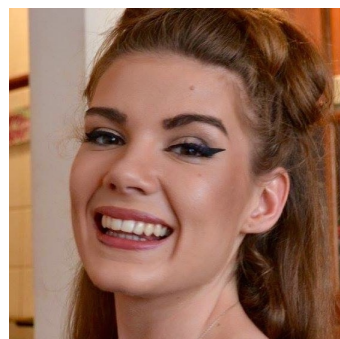
Susan Hooper retired last month after a 40-year stint at the Dental School – the last of the 'old school'! She progressed from senior house-surgeon to lecturer to senior lecturer and, finally, to the impressive title of Consultant Senior Teaching Fellow in Restorative Dentistry. On the way she picked up an MSc, DPDS, FDS and PhD, and in 2010 won two prestigious teaching awards: a national Dental Teacher of the Year Award (for which she was nominated by Bristol

students) and one of only three University of Bristol Teaching and Learning Awards. To mark her retirement a party was organised by the School on 20th July, held in the courtyard of the students' common room and attended by a large gathering of staff, nurses and administrators. Susan had also invited friends and colleagues of the 'old guard', including Ken Marshall, Iain Hathorn, Chris Stephens, Alan Harrison, Martin Woodhead, Martin Addy, Clive Jenkins and Paul King. Among

others I bumped into were John Lover, Lesley Nolan, Bob Miller and David Rockey who still work sessions at the School – and there must have been others I missed in the crowd. Professor Peter Robinson, Head of School, presented a fitting tribute, which was followed by a number of recorded messages from colleagues that were shown of a big screen, all of which confirmed the high regard in which Susan is held, not only for the work she has done but also for her friendship and cheerful personality. All joined in wishing her a very happy retirement.

On 18th July 67 Bristol dental students (50 female and 17 male) graduated with a BDS degree and became proud alumni of the University of Bristol. We had hoped that they would also have become members of our BDAA but, despite our efforts to encourage them, only about 15 have joined. This is certainly disappointing in view of the support we have given them with donations for events (e.g. Dental Ball and Final Year Dinner), activities (e.g. the Hanover Exchange), electives (10 of them received grants to help with expenses for projects in Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, USA and Nepal), and our annual contributions to the dental library to purchase books (which, perhaps surprisingly, are still requested by students). Apathy rather than disinterest is probably the main reason for the poor response, but there's no need to despair – thanks to your continued support our finances are healthy and we will continue to help students and the School as much as we can.

The new UBDSS President is Claudia Lever, who has succeeded Emily Tucker. Emily had a busy time as president but was pleased with what she and her committee achieved. She has recently returned from her elective in Vietnam, finding it “an incredible country”. Claudia grew up on the south coast enjoying days on the beach and walking in the New Forest. Now she is enjoying city life here in Bristol, especially the live music scene. She is very keen, as UBDSS President this year, to work for the well-being of our dental students.



We have been informed by James Tubman, the School Manager, that plans are afoot to make substantial improvements to the students' common room and bar, and to the Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) area. We have been very concerned in the past about the fate of the historic wooden dental chair. Having been reassured that it is safely stored it is now planned to incorporate it into the new CAL scheme, situated within a protective case. We have offered to contribute to specific items, including the casing for the dental chair.

It's always sad to have to report the death of former colleagues but we have been informed of two since our last newsletter: Bob Yemm and Crispian Scully.

I remember Bob Yemm as a friendly, sociable person whom I was always pleased to meet. He graduated in December 1961 with Glenys whom he later married. He stayed in Bristol and became a popular lecturer in prosthetics before moving to Dundee in 1976 where he was awarded a Personal Chair in 1984 and retired in 1999. He died after a short illness on 15th February. (More details are presented on our website.)

Sadly, Crispian Scully suffered a longer illness before his death on 17th March. He was in Bristol from 1982 to 1993, as Head of School from 1988. He moved to the Eastman in London in 1993. All who were in Bristol during his years here would testify to his energy and workaholic mentality. I remember an occasion when he gathered all the academic staff together in the lecture theatre and urged us to “bust our guts” in our work. He certainly must have bust his in collecting more than 10 postgraduate degrees and writing or co-authoring no less than 1100 papers and 34 books. An amazingly driven man.

The secretary of any organisation inevitably becomes involved in most of what goes on, and our man Gary Mendham has now been doing this with enthusiasm and expertise for 4 years. I had not met him for at least 25 years when, sometime in 2013, he turned up at a pub where a group of us ex-BDH cronies were gathered – and I didn't even recognise him. When, after a beer or two, I mentioned that Nikki Attack, our secretary for 10 years, wanted to retire for family reasons, he agreed to take it on – just like that! We were both taking a chance, not knowing whether we would see eye-to-eye or argue and disagree. I'm pleased to say we've found that we are almost always precisely on the same wavelength. It's the beer that's done it! I'm very grateful for his support.



Best wishes to you all,

Reg
