
Bristol Dental Alumni Summer Newsletter



Dear members,

One of the primary reasons why our alumni association was founded was to facilitate members keeping in touch with each other and to assist in the organisation of reunions. Some younger members may not be aware that personal computers were not even invented until 1981 and mobile phone technology didn't start to become established as a fully functional service until the 1990s. Social networking sites were limited to simple intra-campus university links, with Facebook only being released to the general public in 2006. Before the 1990s the only way of keeping in touch was by landline telephone or via Royal Mail. Despite this, we promoted 30 year-group reunions that were held between 1990 and 2000. Today what used to be a complicated and very time-consuming task of reunion organisation can now be achieved with a simple message to the many Facebook user groups or by year-group email distribution lists – and the number of reunions has risen to 120. We still want to encourage reunions and we urge anyone thinking about organising one to let us know about it. You may be surprised to hear that the very first reunion of Bristol dental alumni was held in 1922 and the first reunion dinner was held in the Royal Hotel at the bottom of Park Street in 1925 (pictured below).



Following a GDC inspection in 2014 the School received special praise for the efforts involved around keeping the School in touch with their alumni. One of the reasons behind this praise was the gallery that adorns the walls of the back staircase and features



group photographs of student years from graduation through to their most recent reunions. Some years have more photos than others! The instigator of this was Chris Stephens who continues to

print and frame any reunion photos sent to us. If you haven't seen it, it is a very impressive sight and I would encourage you to contribute to it by sending us a group photograph taken at your event.

If you are planning to hold a reunion in Bristol and would like to see the gallery, we are very happy to organise a tour, usually on a Saturday morning when you would be shown all of the changes made in the Dental School in recent years. Bristol remains a wonderful place to live and it continues to evolve at pace. If you decide to come back, I think you will be surprised at just how much things have changed...mostly for the better...but don't mention the parking or the potholes!

Details of any forthcoming reunion can be posted, automatically on the BDAA website by following this link <http://www.bristoldentalalumni.co.uk/organise-a-reunion/> and although the form asks for phone numbers and email addresses etc., none of this personal information appears on the site; all contact being organised through reply forms. General messages can be sent to us via the contact form accessible from the homepage, www.bristoldentalalumni.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

Gary Mendham, Hon. Sec. BDAA.
