

**UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**



**Newsletter  
of the  
Bristol Dental Alumni  
Association**

**No. 17 May 2007**

# BDAA

## BRISTOL DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The aims of the BDAA are:

- to promote continued contact between graduates and the Dental School
- to support worthy causes within the Dental School

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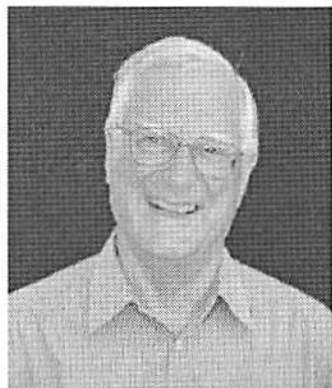
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## *From the Chairman/Editor*



Newsletter number 17 – how the years roll by! When I took up the chairmanship of the BDAA in 1990 one of the first decisions I made was that we should produce a newsletter at least annually with which to communicate with our members. I should have known that I would be talking myself into another job! After a modest start – just 10 pages in our first issue in 1991 – the Newsletter has grown and settled into a familiar format,

featuring updates of developments and activities in the School and reports of students' electives and alumni reunions.

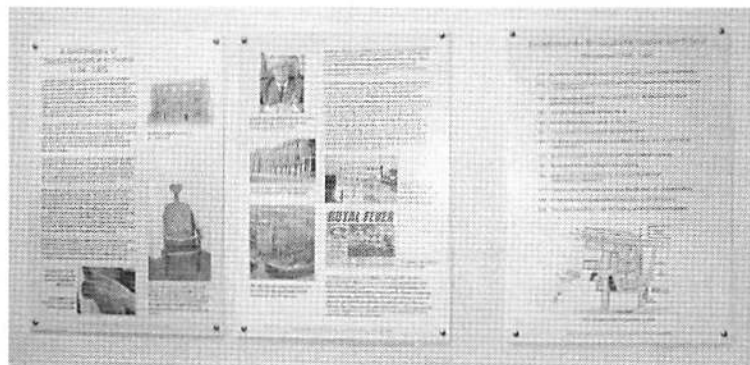
In this year's issue Gordon Gray, as always, gives a comprehensive account of the comings and goings of staff, and the considerable upheavals caused by the need to accommodate a large increase in student numbers. Adam Radford gives an overview of student activities and how they have coped with the disappearance of the Hathorn Bar. As UBDSS President, Adam joined our Committee last November. He hails from Bedfordshire and is a countryman at heart, enjoying country walks, golf and shooting with a local club. He is a keen swimmer, and plays in pub pool and darts leagues which he finds provides a nice break from dentistry. He is also a mad Manchester United fan.

The students we supported on electives last year travelled to Australia and the USA, both popular choices in the past, but new ground was broken by two teams who went to Argentina and Ukraine. As always, their reports are a good read, with accounts of diverse experiences such as sky-diving in Queensland and whale-watching in Patagonia, wine-tasting in New South Wales and Kiev cake and cherry dumplings in Ukraine. We also supported Anna Dargue (a 2001 graduate) for work with the charity *Bridge2Aid* in Tanzania. Several students have spent elective periods with *Bridge2Aid* in the past (most recently in 2004, reported in our 2005 Newsletter), but Anna went there in a different capacity: as part of a team engaged by

the Dental Volunteer Programme to train local Rural Clinical Officers to carry out basic dental treatment.

Reunions – ah, there's a great success story! One of our Association's aims is "to promote continued contact between graduates and the Dental School" and we have strived to achieve this by promoting reunions. The success of our efforts is reflected by the increasing number of year-group reunions being held: there were just two in 1992, up to four in 1996 and six in 2002, and 10 are being organised this year – and most of these meet again at 5-year intervals. This is extremely gratifying – not to say that some would not have taken place without our encouragement (for example, the 66 Society have met every December since 1966) – but we are pleased to have played a part. Reports of five of the six reunions held last year are included in this Newsletter (efforts to extract one from the 1996 year unfortunately failed, perhaps because they held it in June last year and time has blurred the memory) and the same five had group photographs taken by Nye Fathers (see centre pages), building up our collection which will in due course be displayed in the new students' common room.

In last year's Newsletter I mentioned our project to produce a display outlining the historical development of the Dental School and Hospital. Our aim was to fix professionally-produced display boards in a prominent position on a wall outside the library, but this was put

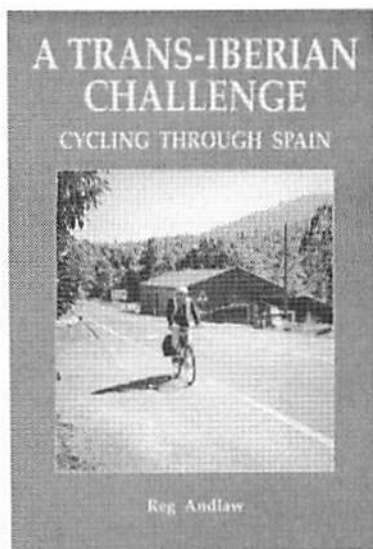


on hold because we were told that building works were imminent. However, when we later discovered that the work would not start until this summer, a working party (Chris Stephens and myself !) quickly moved in and did the job (Chris never does anything slowly !). One board outlines the principal milestones from 1874 to 1995 and gives

the dates when the various extensions to the original building were added (illustrated with a diagram) and two others present a narrative summarizing the main events over the same period. The display presents information about the history of the School that up to now has not been readily accessible.

We again donated £1000 to dental library funds last year (this does not appear in the accounts on page 42 because our cheque was not cleared by the 15<sup>th</sup> November). The University is extremely grateful for this and for the individual donations received from some members. We normally support the Final Year Dinner in one way or another, and last year it was by sponsoring a river boat cruise around the harbour before the Final Year Dinner, and donating a bottle of champagne which was raffled before the dinner.

You will identify the adjoining picture as the front cover of a book – and yes, that's me slogging up a hill in Spain on my bicycle. The book was published in 1999 and I advertised it in the 2000 issue of our Newsletter. The publisher, naturally, was responsible for sales, but I retained a reasonable stock to give to relatives and friends. I now find that I still have copies in boxes taking up space in my garage. The time has come to unload, so if any of you would be interested to have a copy I would be glad to send you one – at no cost and post-free. Just telephone me (0117 9682653) or send me your address by email ([regandlaw@talktalk.net](mailto:regandlaw@talktalk.net)). All I will say is that it is definitely a more interesting read than my *Manual of Paediatric Dentistry*.



I'm sure we would all like to congratulate Geoffrey van Beek and Murray Walker for the honours they have received in The Netherlands and Australia, respectively, which are reported in *Alumni News* on page 37. Finally, my thanks to Dominic Alder, who patiently sees the Newsletter through several drafts before setting it up in its final form – and my best wishes to you all.

## *Changing Seasons*

Gordon Gray, Dental Clinical Dean



The seasons of the year come around as regularly as the rotation of the Earth. However, the first few weeks of the year have seen some pretty turbulent times – and not just on the political scene. On the one side, we have reports of global warming bringing mild temperatures that foster the flowering of spring bulbs into an early appearance while on the other side, freezing conditions in the north bring hazardous driving conditions. In Bristol, we sit

quietly in our sheltered ivory tower missing the worst of the weather and enjoying the political scene.

Seasons can have another meaning of course, and that is pertaining to a 'suitable, natural or convenient time'. Bristol Dental School appears to have come into 'season' and, as I mentioned last year in my report, has been given a sizeable amount of money to increase facilities to train more dental students. The politicians are keen to increase the numbers of dentists graduating in the UK and Bristol has been chosen as the main school to significantly increase its numbers. We now have an ideal intake of 75 home students and four or five overseas students. We managed to get this absolutely correct for our intake in October 2006 without resorting to reducing the quality of the student intake. At the same time as this, we introduced a revised curriculum that will see students have patient contact a year earlier than previously.

One of the other main aims of the new curriculum was to offer outreach teaching – one of those education buzz words that most other dental schools have embraced quite a few years ago only to find the resulting taste not to their liking. One of the advantages of waiting until all the others have tried the process out is the fact that we can learn from their mistakes. There would appear to be no doubt that the student body gain massively in experience but that the quality control of the whole process is sadly lacking. Coming into this arena at the

end will allow us to ensure that we get the processes correct as well as placing our students in an area where the dental need of the population is great. When the new South Bristol Community Hospital opens its gates there will be a flood of eager dental students from years 2 to 5 flowing through its corridors.

Obviously, the increase in student number has the knock-on effect of increasing the teaching load. Fortunately, the number of staff will increase to keep pace with the augmented needs of the Department. Last year I described the slow evolutionary process and the metamorphosis of Bristol Dental School that was just about to happen. Well, changes have been very slow during the past year but are very significant to our future.

We are sorry to be losing Manish Bose from his position as lecturer in Restorative Dentistry. He came to us only two years ago fresh from a Masters Degree in Periodontology gained at the Eastman Dental Institute in London. He is getting married soon and his future wife's profession ties her to the City of London. We wish them both well for the future.

Professor Andrew Ness has been appointed to the Chair of Epidemiology with effect from February this year. Previously, Andy worked in the Department of Social Medicine on the ALSPAC project (Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children). His remit now is to build a team of epidemiologists to investigate the pathogenesis of cleft lip and palate, dental disease and oral cancer. He and his team will be working closely with the research groups within the Department. Historically, the School has had a significant profile in laboratory-based research and this is an opportunity to undertake population-based research relating to clinical problems.

I am delighted to announce that Rahat Ali – a Bristol Graduate of 2004 – returned to Bristol this year as a Senior House Officer but applied, and was successful, in gaining the post of Lecturer in Restorative Dentistry. Those who know him will recognise that his enthusiasm will take him far in this post. He is already showing the qualities of an excellent teacher and will enhance the attributes of Restorative Dentistry using the experiences gained from his posts in vocational training and general dental practice. Rahat comes from a background in physiology and his teaching of Restorative Dentistry uses this background to advantage whenever possible. We wish him well in this new post.

Catherine Cookson is the new Departmental Manager who replaces Matthew Wainwright. She swooped in to this busy post in



July last year and, with her feet barely having touched the ground, she spends a goodly proportion of her time on the new student expansion project. Catherine graduated from the University of West of England Business School in 1994 but we should not hold that against her. Before her move back to Bristol in 1996, she worked in London – initially with the Audit Commission for 6 years and then latterly, as a qualified accountant, with the London Pensions Fund Authority – where she managed the finance and investment team. With this background, she is more than capable of managing our Department during this time of change. Not only does she oversee the expansion programme but she ensures that our current students enjoy an unhindered education during the building works. She supports the Head of School in an administrative role to deliver the BDS Programme and liaises with Faculty to ensure that all practices and strategies are in place. The “small body, broad shoulders” approach also sees her coordinate with the Hospital Management Team to ensure that we all compliment each other’s roles.

The School for Dental Care Professional Training has enjoyed a magnificent year of achievements. It attracted Dr Karen Duncan to a post as Associate Specialist with the responsibility for teaching the first intake of six hygienists who wished to study for the update Diploma in Dental Therapy. As a new course, the Final Examination was scrutinised by assessors from the General Dental Council who left highly impressed by the quality of graduate. Future intakes of twelve students in January each year will study for the combined Diploma in Hygiene and Therapy awarded by the University of Bristol. The School also has a course that trains twelve dental nurses over a 2-year period. The outcome from this full-time course was quite remarkable with the award of three distinctions and six merits amongst its 100% success rate. Those who teach the dental nurses are to be congratulated as they also teach a day release and evening course for training dental nurses from general dental practice. These courses managed to collect a distinction and six merits as well as the National Exam Board for Dental Nursing Gold Award – the top award for the UK. The School for DCPs also offers three Post-Qualification courses in Radiology, Sedation and Orthodontics: the Radiology Course had a 92% pass rate which is well above the national average of 70%; the Sedation and Orthodontic Courses had a 100% pass rate with one of the candidates in Sedation achieving the national SAAD award. Not content with this excellent record, they are increasing their portfolio of post-qualification awards by offering Special Care

Dentistry as an option from now on and a range of one-day updates on Medical Emergencies, Sedation, Orthodontics Therapy and an exam techniques workshop.

Another Bristol graduate has been filling the void created when Karen Duncan moved to her new post in the School for DCPs. Kate Garrett is a temporary lecturer in Paediatric Dentistry and is enjoying the new challenges that this post brings.

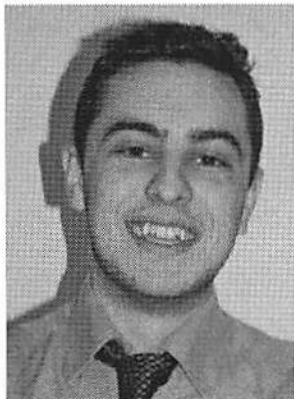
The building works are now well underway and as I write we enter week 40 of the renovation process. Our 'new' Clinical Skills Laboratory underwent further addition of 15 spaces over the summer months of 2006. This now places us in the enviable position of teaching up to 45 students at any one time. Meantime, the old Prosthetics Teaching Laboratory has moved to the undercroft of the University building where the students' common room was. This has meant that our students have not had a common room since last summer but this will soon be addressed, and an extension will be built out into the sitting area behind the Chapter House. This should provide the students with a bigger and better common room than they have ever had and see the Hathorn Bar return for staff and students to unwind on Friday evenings.

If you have passed the Dental Hospital and School on Lower Maudlin Street you will have noticed the new frontage with steps and ramp. This now leads into the refurbished reception area with Consultant Clinics occupying the area vacated by the old ramped lecture theatre. In the meantime, the Oral Medicine Research Laboratories have relocated to the top floor of the Wellcome building to make way for all the production laboratories that now share a communal plaster and trimming room.

The future? Child Dental Health will move down onto the first floor of the Main Building once the work for their new clinics and tutorial rooms is complete. This will leave Restorative Dentistry to occupy the top floor to house all its disciplines. All along it has been emphasised that staff would need to show four qualities to survive throughout this period of change: Patience; Flexibility; Cooperation and Professionalism. While it has been rather like working in a building site recently, I am sure that in the end we will all be delighted to occupy one of the most modern and up-to-date facilities in the UK – that is if our patience, flexibility, cooperation and professionalism do not wear out first.....

## *The Students' Year*

Adam Radford, UBDSS President



With all the changes going on at the dental hospital it is a very exciting time to be a dental student in Bristol! Things are changing quickly every week and, although the builders' drilling noises are louder than ours and sometimes a hard-hat would be of more use than a white coat, the new clinics and other refurbishments are looking fantastic.

There has also been a larger intake of new students, up to about 80 now in years 1 and 2, of which the 2nd years are now already on clinic! The building is getting even more busy and hectic. However, increased numbers does strengthen the dentists' presence on the social scene!

The new committee took over in October 2006, to continue the good work of Jen and the team. It would be reasonably difficult this year for us to try to get everything done in the midst of the chaos which are the expansion plans, and especially with the sad loss of the Hathorn Bar which has kept many a dental student going after a long week's slog on clinic.

However, it is not all doom and gloom – the Hathorn Bar is set to return in September 2007 and, having seen the plans, it looks like it will back and even better than before. We look forward to the return of the late bars and Friday drinks, but until then social festivities have still been going full steam ahead. 'Zerodegrees' is the new Friday night gathering point, also providing us with free pizza, which is most welcome after a long and hard day.

The main social events of the year began with, of course, the infamous freshers' initiation. This consisted of a 'superheroes' themed fancy dress pub crawl, finishing off at the Lizard Lounge nightclub, a favourite with the dentists. The evening climaxed with 'superman' being carried out of the club, obviously too much kryptonite!

November witnessed the BDSA sports day in Cardiff. Bristol turned out in force to achieve several second and third places in

football, rugby and netball. The players also enjoyed a great night out in Cardiff afterwards.

S-year celebrated Christmas this year with a whole-year dinner, leading on to an enjoyable night out around the Clifton triangle – this was a nice break for the year before beginning revision for the dreaded finals!

For others, though, the highlight of the Christmas period was the dental school ski trip. This year the dentists took to the snow-covered slopes of Tinges in the French Alps. The skiing conditions were perfect and New Year's Eve was spent on an ice-covered lake, with the back-drop of mountains and fireworks, quite spectacular!

J-year got off to the new spring term with a flying start – it was time for their half-way dinner. This event witnessed by far the best fancy dress that I have ever seen. It involved three lads dressed up as teeth (upper 1-3), all connected up by a large green sheet as the rubber dam, complete with floss ligatures!! God knows what the general public thought this was!

The annual Dental Ball this year was truly one of the best ever. It returned to the swanky Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel, where we enjoyed a champagne reception, good food and, of course, a cheesy disco. The theme this year was a masked ball and there were many weird and wonderful designs from both staff and students alike! The chocolate fountain also returned, which I think made the night for many of the girls there! The Ball committee this year really do have to be commended, except for the fact that the date clashed with a Manchester United FA cup match, for which I do not thank them for missing! That's what happens with an all-girls Ball committee!

The main event coming up is the clinical review at the end of March this year. It is time for my year to dig up all that scandal and gossip and practise a different type of 'impression skills', hardly a relaxing break from revision for the S-years! For my year (M year), it will soon be time to pack our bags and jet off for an experience of a lifetime – yes, the electives are looming! Some interesting ones this year include: cleft lip and cleft palate in south India, public health in Uganda and basic dentistry in Brazil's Amazon rainforest!! For S-year, finals are now coming up and we wish them all the very best of luck. We also hope they enjoy the final year dinner in June, just before that momentous results day!

So, until the next update, we look forward to the redevelopments coming to an end with the return of the Hathorn Bar.

## **NEW STUDENTS COMMON ROOM AND HATHORN BAR – SPONSORSHIP APPEAL.**

The preceding articles by Gordon Gray and Adam Radford inform us that a new students' common room will be built in the courtyard behind the Chapter House. When Adam and his student colleague Sarah Garner discussed the plans with the developer, they identified scope to extend further than the plan envisaged into the available space, which, if used, would provide the common room with more space and improved facilities. The project manager has agreed that this could be done but – and here's the rub – it would require funding beyond the existing budget. The plan now is to raise the necessary funds – estimated at £10,000 to £15,000 – by sponsorship. We (the BDAA) have promised a substantial sum, but donations from individuals would be very welcome. The names of all donors will be inscribed on a plaque in the new common room. Those who wish to donate should make cheques payable to University of Bristol and send them to Reg Andlaw at 18 West Dene, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 2BQ – donations will be credited to a 'ringfenced' account to ensure that they are used only for the dental students' common room.

## *STUDENT ELECTIVES*

### **Schoolboy cricket trauma..... down under**

Vinoshan Vaithianathan and Robert Wardle



In July 2006 we embarked upon our elective period to Australia. Both of us are keen sportsman, interested in facial trauma. We thought combining these two could create an interesting project. And with the Ashes on the way cricket was the obvious choice!

The aims of our project were to look at the prevalence of oro-facial injuries in schoolboy cricketers and compare these findings between England and Australia. Luckily we had school contacts in both countries and a wonderful GDP in Sydney to keep us on the straight and narrow. We devised a questionnaire which focused on types and prevalence of oro-facial trauma that the schoolboy might have sustained (face/lip, head, and dental). The questionnaires were to be handed out by us to four schools in both England and Australia. A couple of weeks were spent in England distributing the questionnaires to the various schools before we left to Australia.

We arrived at Sydney International after a gruelling 26-hour flight and felt we deserved a hotel for the first two nights to formulate our itinerary for the coming month. We intended to spend the duration of our trip in youth hostels but unfortunately we got too accustomed to the high life! After recovering from jet lag we decided to spend the first week in Sydney in order to get our project underway visiting a couple of schools.

We then travelled by train to Melbourne where we met family and visited some more schools. Melbourne is quite similar to London with lots of different cultures within the city, but the one clear difference is the popularity of Aussie rules football over anything

else! With our work complete we were free to enjoy our last two weeks in Sydney.

We sampled the Australian cuisine and visited most of the sites in Sydney, including the aquarium, the zoo and a rugby league game at the Telstra Stadium. The highlights of our trip were a wine exhibition and a tour to the wine-producing region of the Hunter Valley where, despite the risk of dental staining, we discovered our passion for red wine!

After returning to England we collated our results and found out some interesting things. There was a high prevalence of head and oro-facial injuries amongst the schoolboys. The distribution between the type of oro-facial injury occurring between England and Australia was surprisingly similar. The number of injuries per injured person was higher in Australia than in England but, despite the number of injuries, there were actually very few dental injuries.

## **Reflections on an elective in the USA**

Arian Gederl



My big trip in the USA began by visiting Virginia, where I spent the first 6 weeks of my elective. I arrived at Richmond International airport on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 and it was on the first night that I met Dr. Yeudall, my elective supervisor. That night we went to see the fireworks in celebrations of the independence in America which was huge and magnificent. In the weeks to come Dr. Yeudall was like a father to me because first of all he relentlessly supported me in all aspects of my project but also organised my accommodation in the liveliest part of the campus at Virginia Commonwealth University.

During the 6 weeks in Virginia I had to work very hard to familiarise myself with a new range of molecular techniques. Although I hold a BSc Degree in Cancer Biology and Immunology the techniques that I used for my experiments were entirely new to me. On some of the days I worked from 8am to 9pm to make sure that I did not get left behind with my experiments. I did not mind the long working hours, as I enjoyed every moment of working in the lab and I also met a lot of wonderful people.

Dr. Yeudall and his colleagues at Virginia Commonwealth University actively investigate the role of chemokines in the genesis of head and neck cancers. They also study the role of infectious agents (bacterial, viral) in SCC pathogenesis and, in particular, how they may activate chemokine signalling pathways. In this regard, HHV8 (Kaposi's sarcoma herpesvirus, KSHV) encodes three viral chemokines (vMIP1, vMIP2, vMIP3) which are known to activate the CCR4 and CCR8 (and possibly other) receptors present on host cells. Thus, they hypothesise that shedding of HHV8 and its products in saliva may enhance cell proliferation and/or progression of initiated cells. This would be particularly relevant for SCC developing in HIV-infected patients, or for KS. For my project, therefore, I cloned two of the viral chemokines (vMIP-1 and vMIP-2), expressing these in cell culture, and determining the effects on epithelial cell proliferation and/or motility. My results indicated that vMIP-3 significantly promotes the proliferation of HN4, primary oral cancer cells in comparison with untreated cells; on the other hand the same chemokine seems to inhibit the proliferation of HN12, metastatic oral cancer cells. Treatment of HN4 cells with vMIP-2 significantly enhanced the motility of HN4 primary oral cancer cells. We also observed a pro-migratory effect with vMIP-3 but to a lesser extent.

To our knowledge, this is the first time that this proliferative and migratory role of vMIP-2 and vMIP-3 in human oral cancer cells has been suggested. The results of my experiments suggested that each of the chemokines produced by HHV-8 affects cancer cells by its own specific manners, and the outcome of its activities depends on the combined effects of several factors, e.g., the tumour cell type and its genetic composition, the factors at the tumours intimate surroundings, and the diversity of other chemokines and chemokine receptors which are expressed by the tumour cells.

I spent the last two weeks of my summer relaxing and travelling around the USA with a friend who lives in Virginia. Our first destination was New York City. We arrived on August 18th and



stayed in Upper Manhattan near the busy heart of jazz life. New York, with all the skyscrapers, its super malls and pulsating life was a very new and great experience. The most exciting event was the visit to the Empire State Building. The outlook onto the city is absolutely impressive and makes you feel the pulse of life of this powerful and gigantic world capital. The Chinatown and Little Italy districts were a pleasure to see, with their exotic atmosphere and blaze of colours.

In the afternoon of August 21st we left New York for Washington D.C., staying in Baltimore overnight. In my opinion Washington is the opposite of New York. The administration district around the Capitol and White House is large-scale, with large well-tended parks, broad streets, most beautiful houses – all in all very impressive, but with no pulsating life; anyway it was dead around these famous buildings – no shops or malls or snacks. We really asked ourselves how people live there. Well, most of the buildings are administration buildings, museums, galleries – and super exclusive restaurants. The Capitol inside is magnificent.

I spent the next few days after that visiting my relatives in Washington and surrounding areas. My visit of east coast of America was not going to be complete without visiting Virginia for one last time, so we organised a trip to Virginia Beach where we enjoyed canoeing and relaxed by the sea.

In the afternoon of August 25th I went by plane to the western coast to see Los Angeles where four of my cousins reside. The landing approach to LA by night was a simply terrific experience. About half an hour we flew over an unending sea of lights, as far as the eye could see – millions of lights, an unimaginable and unforgettable impression! There are more than 1600 miles of city highway. While visiting all the famous places we also walked along the 'Walk of Fame', and then went to Beverly Hills and tried to have a look at life in this paradise of the rich. We saw some dreamlike properties with exotic and sometimes crazy-looking houses, hidden behind walls and hedges, and marvelled at the wealth of ideas and variety of creations. Finally we enjoyed the beautiful lively beaches of Santa Monica and Venice Beach (the famous muscle beach)... All in all, very interesting and exciting – a very nice place to live!

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of August I made my way to Las Vegas on a bus tour with a group of Chinese tourists. What we experienced there is just beyond human imagination. No one can fancy the incredible richness and variety of fantasy and ideas. It is breathtaking and fascinating – a glamorous fairyland! Unbelievable as well, the

multitude and dimension of the marvellous, brightly illuminated gambling casinos in each hotel – they are the soul and real essence of Las Vegas!

On the morning of 29th we headed by car for a round-trip through the Canyon region: Grand Canyon – Lake Powell with Rainbow Bridge. The ride through the desert of Nevada as well as through the Canyon region was a real pleasure. I have never before



*At the Grand Canyon*

have seen such breathtaking natural beauty! The magnificence and variety of coloured, bizarre rock formations is simply overwhelming and incredible. These are beautiful and unforgettable memories.

I made the most of my last few days in the USA by experiencing the surfing life in Malibu beach in Los Angeles and partying to the early hours of the morning.



*With a friend in New York*

## Skydives and Didgeridoos in Queensland

Jennifer Morecroft and Lucy Marsden



Lucy and I travelled to Brisbane, Australia for our elective. Brisbane, always somewhat cast into shadow by cities such as Melbourne and Sydney, proved to be a very enjoyable base for our trip. It is a city that is undergoing a lot of urban regeneration; the number of building sites is comparable to Bristol. Nevertheless, it had a great cosmopolitan feel with lots of trendy shops and eateries.

The first two weeks of the holiday were spent on our elective project at the University of Queensland. Based in a laboratory with a crazy scientist called Anthony, we embedded granulation tissue from human extraction sockets into wax, followed by microtome cutting and mounting on to histology slides. Once successfully mounted, we used a variety of staining techniques to look for the presence of calcium/osteogenesis. The main aim of our project was to establish whether it is necessary to remove granulation tissue from an extraction socket prior to implant placement. Within such a short space of time we gained some convincing results that we hope to get published in the near future.

With the project out of the way, Lucy and I flew to Cairns for a proper holiday. Cairns was great fun with lots of activities on offer. We could have spent weeks (and thousands of dollars!) in Cairns alone. For those of you who have never journeyed to Cairns, it is basically a tourist-built town; this was the aspect that I was less keen on. I saw a lot more Irish, English, and Dutch than Australians. Nevertheless, Cairns proved to be a good base from which to explore the region. Our first challenge? A skydive! A once-in-a-lifetime-never-to-be-repeated-again-experience! The back of the plane had only enough room to crouch and there was duck tape on the windows!

I was more scared of the plane than the skydive! Lucy and I got suitably merry that evening to celebrate our heroic conquest!



*Sanding my didgeridoo!*

Our next challenge was to make, from scratch, our own didgeridoos! We stayed with an Aboriginal family who taught us how to clear out the remaining termites from Eucalyptus branches and strip off the bark. We then sanded (note in the photo the complete lack of safety equipment – I was nervous!), painted and varnished the didgeridoos to perfection.

While in Cairns we also took a trip to the rainforests and hired a car to explore the Tablelands. On our last day in Cairns, we sailed out onto the Great Barrier Reef to go snorkelling. This was a truly amazing and memorable experience.



*Sydney Harbour Bridge*

We were sorry to leave Cairns but our financial situation meant that we needed to spend some serious time doing nothing on a beach. For this we went to Townsville.



*Outside Sydney  
Opera House*

“Townsville?” I hear you cry in disgust! I know it’s not exactly the Whitsunday’s but we actually had a good and relaxing time. It’s not the most beautiful Australian town but it had some great facilities, including a (virtually empty) 50-metre outdoor pool. If you’re swimming like me, this was absolute perfection!

Flying back to Brisbane to drop off our didgeridoos, we packed a weekend bag for a whistle-stop tour of Sydney. Sydney truly is stunning. One of the trip highlights was going to see ‘Pirates of Penzance’ at the Opera House. It was a fitting end to an amazing holiday.

## **Children's Dental Knowledge and Access to Dental Care in Urban and Rural areas in Northern Argentina**

Suzanne Westley and Lauren Waite



We first opted for Argentina for our elective campaign in order to do something a little different. Finding it surprisingly difficult to find a contact (most people and dental charities preferring the neighbouring Brazil or Peru) it was Miss Susan Hooper who saved the day by putting us in contact with Dr Robert Munday, a dentist from the south west who had worked in the north of Argentina for 17 years previously. Dr Munday put us in contact with several dentists in the north west region of Argentina, in both Salta, a Northern colonial city, and Cachi, a small rural village a three-hour bumpy bus journey from Salta.

Our project, a comparison of access to dental care and dental knowledge in children between an urban and a rural area, began with a unpredicted unsure start. After being in Argentina for almost two weeks, we flew from Buenos Aires to Salta the weekend before we were supposed to be starting our project. On the Monday morning, we still hadn't heard from our contact, Dr Teresa Adradas, Director of Dentistry for the Ministry of Public Health, and did not know where we were meant to be that morning! Fearing the worst (no elective project) we took a nervous taxi ride to the local government buildings to find her. In true Argentine style, she seemed calm and completely unabashed at the sight of the two English students at her desk who had flown a few thousand miles to see her. We soon found out that through an unforeseen email glitch and resulting lack of communication we had arrived a month before expected and bang at the beginning of the school summer holidays – a sticking point given

our research was to be questionnaire-based and carried out in local schools in both Salta and Cachi.

Dr Adradas and her team, unperturbed by this turn of events, made some phone calls and arranged for us to do our research in clinics in Salta and Cachi rather than in schools as planned. We began that afternoon in the Centre of Health in Barrio de Solidaridad, a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of Salta. As well as handing out questionnaires to children at the clinic, which consisted of two dentists, one doctor and a nurse, we observed the dental clinics in action and gave much-needed oral hygiene instructions to the children. The children in Barrio de Solidaridad were all very high-caries-risk due to their very high sugar diet. Judging by the array of cake and sweet shops on every corner, and delicious puddings everywhere, the Argentines seemed to have a naturally sweet tooth. Despite the obvious poverty, this was no more so than in Barrio de Solidaridad.

In Cachi, the rural nature of the clinics was obvious. Equipment was a lot older than in Salta, which in turn was about 10 years behind that in the UK. It should be pointed out that not all dental clinics in Argentina were as basic as the ones we saw – Argentina has a well maintained private sector with a much higher level of facilities and standard of treatment. One of the main constraints in both Salta and Cachi was the lack of funding. We visited several clinics in Cachi with a local dentist, the jolly tiramisú-loving Gustavo. Clinics included the main San Jose Hospital in Cachi town where there were two dental chairs and two full time dentists, and also several tiny villages in the surrounding countryside, which had one dental chair each served by a visiting dentist every two weeks. One had a chair moved by a manual foot pump and the amalgam was mixed by hand with a pestle and mortar. There seemed to be no concerns about putting excess mercury in the normal bin!

We collected a total of 240 questionnaires and found that in the urban area of Salta children had much better dental knowledge and awareness than in rural Cachi. Despite this, children in Salta still had a poor diet and oral health behaviour. Although they were being educated, the children and parents were not putting the knowledge into practice. In addition, we found that although decreased access to dental care (due to geographical restrictions and reduced services in rural areas) had a negative effect on dental knowledge, it was not considered a significant barrier to receipt of dental care – reduced access in rural areas compromised dental knowledge but not quantity

of dental care. It was noted, however, that the type of dental care received differed between Salta and Cachi. In urban Salta a significantly higher proportion of the population visited for regular check-ups rather than emergency visits, compared with rural Cachi.

Using flights and painfully long coach journeys (longest was Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires at 40 hours) we also managed to see some of Argentina's magnificent landscape, as well as spend a few days in Brazil. We were lucky enough to see the Puerto Moreno glacier down south in the Patagonia National Park, spanning 700,000 hectares the world's third largest land mass. It was breathtaking and, if anyone ever visits these parts, worth a visit. We then headed further north, but still amongst the never-ending Patagonian shrubland, to Puerto Madryn on Peninsula Valdes, where we stayed for four days whale watching. We were lucky enough to see several Right Back whales, who come to the area in July to breed. We finally headed up to the Argentine-Brazilian border to the Iguazu Falls, another famous natural spectacle. After that we headed up to Rio de Janeiro for some sunbathing on Ipanema beach and some partying Brazil-style!

Our Spanish was definitely put to the test, but by the end of our elective we had improved considerably, not only in general conversation, but in dental terminology too! This was just another part of our amazingly diverse elective adventure. The Argentineans are wonderful people, hospitable, always friendly, and always calm in a crisis!

Our elective was an unforgettable experience and would not have been possible without the help of so many people, including Karen Duncan, our supervisor in Bristol, Dr Robert Munday, for getting the ball rolling, and Dr Adradas, Dr Catania, Dr Zorrilla and Dr Gustavo in Argentina. We would also like to thank our alumni association for contributing generously to our elective experience.





**1966 (66 Soc) REUNION, 2 December 2006**

*Standing (L to R):* Martin Ellyatt, Mike Goldring, Bob Binnersley, John Lucia, Martin Betts, Dave Hawkesby-Mullins, Ian Smith, Ray Hackemann, John Rees.

*Seated:* Susan Dye (Hunt), Brenda Hargreaves (Burke), Lola Pearson (Borkowska), Judy Pearce (King), Christine Austen (Rosser).



**1976 (Root '76) REUNION, 11 November 2006**

*Standing (L to R):* Glen Buxey-Softley, Jim Herold, Hugh Devlin, Bertie Jukes, Raman Bedi, Derek Fieldhouse, Sophie Rudge (Hepenstal), Dave Reekie, Richard Rycraft, Steve White, Paul Davis, Peter Sawyer, Bill Falconer Hall, Dave Hardy, Jackie Thackeray (Masterson), Paul Baines, Sue Moser (Reed), Phil Key, Peter Duke, Paul Pritchard..

*Seated:* Viv Clemson, Diana Ostick, Claire Foster (Fotheringham), Louise Sowden (Nash), Geoff van Beek (Downer), Maya Desai (Patel), Anne Muirhead (Keep), Cathy McDade (Asher), Judith Fieldhouse (Pym), Jane Wood (Ferguson), Carol Robinson (Nowill).



#### 1981 REUNION, 18 November 2006

*Back row (L to R):* Gordon Shovlin, Dave Lane, Allen Roberts, Andy Lems, Andy Whimpany, Adrian Smith, Bijan Darabi, Robin Lesley, Dave Eley, Nigel Souza-Okpafabri, James Willis, Pete Sedgewick, Tim Davies, Mark Davies

*Seated:* Kay Shovlin (Sutcliffe), Ruth Chadwick (Bradford), Sue Battersby (Griffiths), Penny Hedley-Smith, Ann Millward (Deller), Amanda Shaul (Smyth), Fiona Eley (Williams), Diane Martin (Fielding), Liz Stringer (Peake).

*On floor:* Kevin Allen, Tidu Mankoo, Mike Wilcox, Kevin Hardwick, Stuart Lawson, Andy Brown, Abjhaya Soneji



**1986 REUNION, 25 November 2006**

*Standing (L to R):* Tom Coldicott, David Courtney, Mark Ward, John Newland, Ian Allan, Martin Fulford, Mike Chalkley, Dave Taylor, Paul Foddy, Pat Daly, Jon Moore, Ian Skerratt.

*Seated:* Margaret Scott, Claire Harry, Adele Garrett, Debbie Woolway (Allston), Ellen Hockridge, Claire Watson (Hodgson), Sarah Jackson (Friedman), Hilary Ludlow (King), Julie Hart (Mallinson), Josie Lemon (Bargman), Shahin Lalani.

*Seated:* Viv Clemson, Diana Ostick, Claire Foster (Fotheringham), Louise Sowden (Nash), Geoff van Beek (Downer), Maya Desai (Patel), Anne Muirhead (Keep), Cathy McDade (Asher), Judith Fieldhouse (Pym), Jane Wood (Ferguson), Carol Robinson (Nowill).



**2001 REUNION, 30 September 2006**

*Standing (L to R):* Lorna Stroud, David Bell, Richard Woods, Kate Ormes, Charlie Buckle, Caya Cabrera-Boney, Hemendra Shah, Joanna Haskova, Gordon Carey, Sarisa Martin, Roz Walker, Mark Fullarton, Alice Boynton, Shemma Abhoulol, Zahra Tejani, Marnie Fullarton, Gary Porter, Kate Hughes, Anna Dargue, Naomi Preston, Adam Jones, Joanne Archer, Matthew Archer, Zakia Said.

*Seated:* Jessica Spinks, Nisha Nathwani, Melanie Edwards, Salma Al-Riyami, Natalie Porter, Maya Ringshall, Claire Chambers, Alison Chapman.

## An Elective in the Cherkassy Region of Ukraine

Eleri Jones and Claire Forbes-Haley



Ukraine is in a period of rapid change. It gained independence from Russian rule in 1991 and held its first democratic elections in 2005. The latest DMFT study recognised by WHO (1992) showed 12-year-olds had a mean DMFT of 4.4. The WHO target for the year 2000 was a global mean DMFT of no more than 3 for 12-year-olds.

Since the end of the Soviet era, health care has gradually become a system run by local administrations and self-governing bodies. This makes for a complicated system with many layers of authority. There is a mixture of state-funded and private health care. Approximately a third of Ukraine's population live in rural areas. In some parts of Ukraine there are as few as 30 to 70 people per square kilometre. This obviously has a major significance on the provision of and access to services. Health care services are usually located in the

administrative and economic centre of an area. There is, however, huge variation and approximately a third of the area considered rural does not have a nearby health care facility. Ukraine as a whole has 4.1



*Kiev: St Sophia*

dentists per 10,000 of the population – or 1 dentist per 2440 population. The UK has 10.1 dentists per 10,000 of the population. Our elective was conducted in Cherkassy, a region in the geographic centre of Ukraine. This is an example of a rural area with poor care facilities, and until recently was especially deficient in the field of dentistry. Over the last five years a British charity – Smile Menders – has donated three mobile dental units to the Cherkassy region, which are used to provide dental care in rural areas. Our aims were to establish a baseline of oral health-related knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of 8-year-old children from urban and rural areas of Cherkassy, and to make a qualitative report on the provision of dental care in that region. Sadly, due to a limited sample size, information obtained may be best used for design of a further study with a greater number of participants.



*Mobile clinic  
parked in farm  
shed*

Our time spent in Ukraine was very interesting and passed very quickly. We were made to feel like local celebrities, even being interviewed (with the help of our trusty translator Andre) on the local news, talking about the mobile dental units! We were kindly offered to stay in the flat of our contact in Ukraine. This was an ex-Soviet tower block, shockingly lavish on the inside compared with the outside! We were pleasantly surprised to discover a beach in the town we were staying, on the banks of the Dnipro. We were less pleasantly surprised to discover Speedos are very much the fashion in this part of the world, especially whilst playing beach volley ball (to help maximise tan!); temperatures averaged 36 degrees whilst we were visiting.

Our experiences of national cuisine were different, Eleri (luckily) being vegetarian and Claire having to compensate for this. Her favourite traditional dishes were a tough choice between liver cake and raw pickled herring (which we were told is very good with vodka). A further discovery was how popular egg mayonnaise is – this made an appearance at most meals, along with orange caviar. We did enjoy most of the food we had, especially as there seemed to be some sort of local competition to fatten us up! For anyone planning to visit Ukraine we recommend the Kiev cake and cherry dumplings. We had been told before we went that we would be fussed over, but were not prepared for just how well we would be looked after.

We were lucky to be able to spend the rest of our summer holiday travelling through Eastern Europe, seeing Romania, Serbia, Croatia,

Montenegro and Hungary on our way home.



*Left to right: Irene (our translator), Dascha, Claire, and Eleri drinking beer in Cherkassy*

We would like to thank all the staff and patients at the clinics we visited during our elective project, especially Ivan Kalavenco. Many thanks also to Irene and Andre for their translation skills.

We would also like to thank Mr Brendon Ball for making our elective run smoothly and Mrs Natasha Ball for all her advice and the unenviable task of the translation of our survey. Thank you also to Mr Sprod for his help with the final written project. We hope that this project helps people to understand the dental care in Ukraine and we hope to help the Smile Menders charity at some point in the future.

Many thanks for the financial contribution from the Bristol Dental Alumni Association which covered the cost of our accommodation during our stay in Cherkassy.

## VOLUNTEER DENTISTRY WITH BRIDGE2AID IN MWANZA, TANZANIA

Anna Dargue



I first came across the charity *Bridge2Aid* reading an article in the BDJ and looked them up on the internet ([www.bridge2aid.org](http://www.bridge2aid.org)) to find out more. I discovered a charity working in north-west Tanzania which provides oral health services, training and education as well as social care and community development programmes for the poor. They have a real impact as 36% of the population live below the poverty line (the average daily wage is 51p, life expectancy is 46 years) and many people resort to unskilled local 'dentists' or self-treatment.

*Bridge2Aid (B2A)* operates trips for dental volunteers to Mwanza in February, June and October each year. The volunteers help raise the dental care capacity of the region by basic dental training of the Rural Clinical Officers (RCOs), and are also heavily involved in delivering basic dental services in the rural areas.

After completing an application form and an interview I was excited to be accepted on to the 2006 October DVP (Dental Volunteer Programme) – the sixth that *B2A* have run. I had to raise just under £1500, which covered the cost of my flights, purchase of equipment, accommodation and transport. It was with some trepidation that I made my way to Heathrow to meet my nine fellow team members (four nurses and six dentists.) I needn't have worried – they were a delightful bunch of like-minded people and we were brilliantly looked after by the *B2A* team for the 12 days we were away.

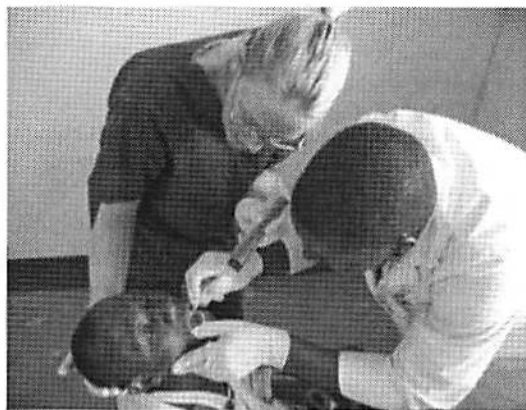
Prior to our arrival the RCOs had had three days of intensive dental theory covering a wide range of topics from the anatomy of teeth to medical histories to the importance of cross-infection control. The aim of the DVP is to practically train the RCOs so that they can



competently extract most teeth but know their limitations, and that they have the facility to refer to the local hospital clinic with any difficulties.

We were only allowed to use a basic set of instruments: Couplands chisel and a set of forceps – upper left and right molars, lower molars and for everything else a pair of lower roots! This took some getting used to, but it is designed to replicate the situation in their rural clinics.

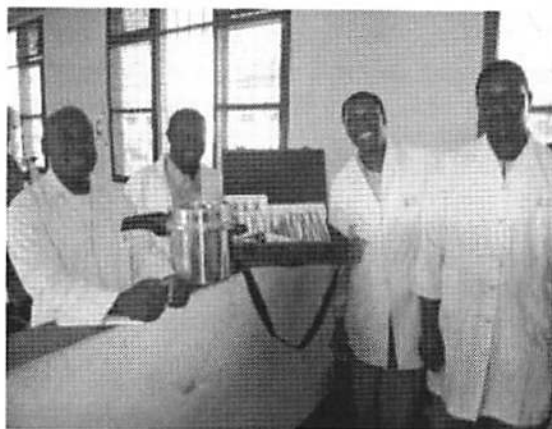
We were straight into work, paired with an RCO, on our first morning at Buhumbi (2 hours' drive from Mwanza on a dirt track) starting with them watching us work. It was hot, dusty and tiring. However by the end of our first day our RCOs were giving injections



*Claudian giving injection with guidance*

themselves and by the end of day 2 were extracting teeth with guidance. After a weekend to recover on safari in the Serengeti national park we started the next 3 days training in Kisesa (just 30 minutes drive from Mwanza on a tarmac road)

where we took over the maternity ward in a local clinic and set up our basic mobile kit. It was great to see the progress our students were making. Culturally we found communication very different, with less verbal instruction and more physical touching. By the end of our intensive five days of practical dental training four out of five of our RCOs were competently extracting teeth, and we treated a total of 427 patients, pulling out a record 614 teeth. We had a small ceremony where the RCOs received their certificates and the four competent students were given their extraction kit and a pressure cooker with gas stove for sterilisation.



*(L to R) Onesmo, Simeo, Jacob and Claudian (RCOs) with the extraction kit and pressure cooker*

*B2A* is fortunate to have the support of experienced local dentists who can continue to monitor the newly-fledged RCOs, and any who need further training can go to Mwanza's hospital clinics to develop their skills.

The experience was both rewarding and eye-opening and we were well supported by the *B2A* team. My fellow DVPs were a great bunch of people and we are already discussing returning for a second

visit. I feel that it is important not to create a 'need' culture within the local community when doing voluntary work, but rather create something that is sustainable and will self-perpetuate, and *B2A* is just this. By the end of five



days of difficult, hot, sweaty work you leave a competent RCO who can return to his/her rural community and take on the care of their patients, thus increasing the dental expertise available to the Mwanzan population as a whole. I also learnt a lot about my oral surgical skills and my teaching ability, and a little of the Swahili language into the process!

## *ALUMNI REUNIONS*

1966 REUNION, 1-2 December 2006

Bob Binnersley

Members of the 1966 graduating class, calling themselves the '66 Society', have met up with a group of friends from other contemporary years on the first Saturday in December every year since they graduated. A special weekend of celebrations was held by this intrepid crowd to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members of staff and dental nurses who were at the Dental School and Hospital at the same time were invited to attend.

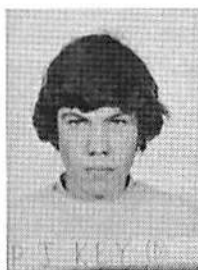
On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, a reception was held in the Avon Suite, Avon Gorge Hotel, Clifton. We welcomed former staff members Mike Cooksey and Bill Deubert, Sister Davison and fourteen dental nurses. Name badges were issued so that infrequent reunionists would be able to recognize ageing members of the Society. There was considerable confusion when memories were stretched by Dave Hawkesby-Mullins wearing (Mrs) Pat Caddick's badge and several people engaged him in conversation for some time before they realised who he was. Pat was not too pleased, either! Much reminiscing and exchanging of news took place. Several guests had not met for forty years. Afterwards, members and guests retired to Zizzi's Italian Restaurant, Clifton, for further discussion and intellectual exchange!

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>, the formal Reunion Dinner was held at the Merchant's Hall, Clifton. The venue is the headquarters of the Merchant Venturers' Society and is very impressive. Fosters Rooms Outside Catering served an excellent meal and all formalities were observed. Guests included former members of staff Maureen Erskine (Mahood) and Reg Andlaw. Sister Davison was also in attendance. Dave Hawkesby-Mullins and Mike Goldring provided entertainment with hilarious speeches. We now know about Dave's problems with ageing. Mike gave us a variety of West Country humorous tales. Master of Ceremonies was Ian Smith, who kindly stepped in for me as I had laryngitis and had completely lost my voice – this was to the relief of all present. Members had travelled from far and wide, notably Martin and Jan Betts from Richmond, Virginia, USA, and Des and Pauline Pyper from the Channel Isles.

The next reunion will, once again, be held on the first Saturday in December, which in 2007 is Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

1976 ('ROOT '76') REUNION, 9-11 November 2006  
'Smallbones' \*

The call was made quite early (2001) for the 'usual suspects' to organise this most significant of year reunions and so it was that Louise Nash, Phil Key and Paul Baines volunteered (?) for the onerous task.



Lacking any great imagination, and in the absence of any better ideas, the decision was made to do exactly the same as every other year. There was an enthusiastic response to initial mailings and personal contact, and some thirty-five 'Rooters', together with partners, arrived for the weekend. It was a pleasure to see two 'virgin' Rooters – Maya Patel and Sue Moser (Reed) – both expressing anxiety about meeting up with people they had not seen for thirty years. Looking at the pictures above you can understand why (not you, Louise).

It was hoped that Graham Charlton would have been able to attend but he was not well enough to travel. Declan Anderson did make the journey from Wiltshire for the Saturday and was as witty and charming as ever.

The weekend commenced with an informal buffet supper at the Café Havana, Welsh Back, on the Friday evening, during which someone had cause to mention the Mandrake Club (own up PB). And so it came to pass that two of our number, Jim Herold and Paul Davis, went off into the night to visit the location of many a forgettable adventure from long ago...

Doorman: "Are you sure you gentlemen have got the right place?"

JH/PD: (As one) "Yes"

Doorman: "But it's full of trendy young people??"

JH/PD: (As one, but louder) "Oh yes!"

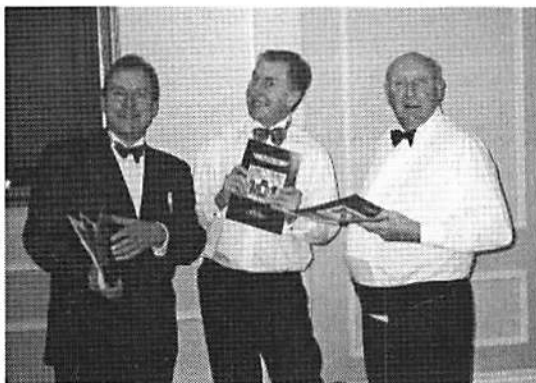
There is little evidence as to what happened afterwards but our two heroes were next seen at breakfast in a state of confusion and more than a little deaf.

The Saturday morning was given over to a series of short presentations on topics ranging from CDS funding in West London to Horse Dentistry. Steve White, together with a fine ensemble cast, presented a satirical sketch on the current state of NHS dentistry. This was followed by Raman Bedi telling us how great life is now that he is no longer CDO. Sue Moser told us about her last thirty years – basically yanks, tanks and horses – and her plan to return to England as an NHS dentist...We wish you well, Sue!

Unfortunately, Carol Robinson and Louise were unable to deliver their talk on homeopathic dentistry so Paul Baines stepped in and covered the subject in 000000.1 seconds. (If only that were the case. Does he ever stop?)

And then, Damnation! Or Holland, as we know it. Not only has Geoff van Beek financed and produced a fantastic 'Root 76' copy of *Mouthpiece* and been a driving force behind our reunions but he was recently awarded a high civil honour, Officier in de Orde van Orange Nassau. He described it in an email to Reg Andlaw as a 'Dutch Knighthood'. Arise, Sir Geoff 'The Big Orange'. He showed an item he did for Dutch television featuring an implant treatment 'makeover'. Readers can be assured that as long as we have the Dutch, handbags

and the bow-tie,  
comedy will  
never die!



*Geoff (The Big Orange), Roger Robinson, Bertie Jukes*



*Hugh Devlin, Declan Anderson and Sophie Rudge (Hepenstal). Why is Declan praying?*

The Saturday evening was given over to a black-tie dinner for sixty and we were pleased to see Reg Andlaw, Peter White and Ken Roberts among the guests. We dined well and afterwards Paul Baines acted as Master of Ceremonies – it's a wonder pork scratchings weren't on the menu! Declan said some wise and kind words, as did Roger Robinson on behalf of the guests. However, the highlight was the speech by Phil Key. Peering over his half-moon spectacles, red-faced and amply proportioned, he delivered an oratorical tour-de-force in his trademark stentorian manner. Using the essential tool of the cyber age – Google – he 'googled' the names of the absentees. And it was hilarious. However, in order to maintain a degree of fairness I can reveal that Phil Key was murdered in Maryland in 1859 but still went on to produce the 2006 film 'Blood Diamond'. There's talent.

*\* The author hopes to remain anonymous.*

(Paul Baines would be grateful if those who took photos at the reunion would send him copies – either by email ([baines@btinternet.com](mailto:baines@btinternet.com)) or on CD/DVD.)

**1981 REUNION, 18 November 2006**  
**Gordon Shovlin**

**Topics of conversation at dental reunions:**

**5-year reunion**

1. How's the new sports car?
2. How much are you earning?
3. My principal is tighter than yours.
4. Do you like the latest girlfriend/boyfriend?

**10-year reunion**

1. How's the new practice?
2. How much debt have you got?
3. Aren't associates lazy, not like we used to be etc.?
4. What have you called the baby?

**15-year reunion**

1. How much private work are you doing?
2. Went on an interesting course recently
3. School fees extortion.
4. How's the golf handicap?

**20-year reunion**

1. Which days do you have off?
2. Lectured at an interesting course recently
3. Where's your holiday home/time share ?
4. What have you called the little mistake?

A familiar shift from the "let's go out and get it" Thatcher years to the "I've gone out and got it and want to get off now thanks" later years.

What would be the hot topics for our 25-year reunion: how many chevrons we keep apart on the M6, or third world poverty and climate change perhaps? Well it was a particularly mild late November evening when we gathered at the Marriott Royal Hotel at the bottom of Park Street. The format for the evening followed pretty closely that of our last successful reunion 5 years ago, which made my life a lot easier as I just had to change a few figures on the original letter to our members. We had an excellent turn-out of 30 from our year group and 50 in total including partners. We were expecting 51 but unfortunately Raj Jagdev was suffering jet lag following his holiday in Las Vegas and got his weekends mixed up.

We have always considered our year to be a special group, and I don't mean in the 'needs' sense of the word (although some would argue the case). We were special in as much as we were the last year group to survive Prof. Darling's tyranny before his retirement and,

more importantly, manage a 100% pass rate in finals. The strong feeling of camaraderie still remains and it was with this smug sense of satisfaction that we met for the champagne reception in the hotel drawing room. Pleasantries were exchanged with lots of comments of "oh you do look well" and "my you haven't changed a bit". It didn't take too much alcohol and the loosening of collars before we all started telling the truth and the banter was flying around just like the good old days.

It was then off for our photo shoot courtesy of Nye Fathers. You may remember Nye from your student days in the clinics – he was the one who appeared from nowhere to take photos of out-of-the-ordinary lesions; he would be summoned for anything that was the largest, brightest, most fluctuant or just plain hilarious. I showed him my geographic tongue but for some reason he wasn't interested. His group photograph was excellent despite the difficulty of his subjects. We arranged a display of photos from our student days and many of them were taken at Dental Balls by Nye himself. The quality of those photos 25 years on was still excellent – I doubt that we will be able to say the same of today's home-printed efforts. One of our numbers must have fallen on hard times as, when we were all neatly lined up, he handed Nye his own disposable camera and asked him to take a photograph with it. To save him embarrassment he will remain nameless but you might be able to make him out from the photo (front row far right).

Dinner came and went without incident – well let's be honest, none of us were there because we were hungry. Having said that, Kevin Hardwick looked as though he hadn't had a hot meal for sometime. No, we had more important things to do, like catching up on all the gossip.

Diane Martin (Fielding) has got into charity work, doing two days a week for the community dental service. Mike Wilcox is shortly to move into Prof. Bradford's house in Coombe Dingle – I don't think they are sharing. Nigel Souza, all the way from Trinidad, now has the prime minister of the island as his neighbour. Bijan Darabi has swapped his forceps for some cake tongs and is trying his hand at ye Olde Tea Shoppe business. Eco warrior award goes to Bijan as later in the evening he turned particularly green (no mean feat for someone of Persian origin) and looked as though he was about to recycle his dinner. Andy Lems is busy putting the top back onto his stately home. Dave Eley told me about his new carbon neutral lifestyle. Apparently, whenever he takes a flight he drives his 4x4



into the forest and plants a tree. Unfortunately, by the time he has driven home again, he has to go back out and plant another. After the meal yours truly gave a brief speech which was much shortened due to a very long (but entertaining) introduction by Kevin Allen. This was followed by some comedy dancing to the disco, courtesy of Gary Mendham's son Tom.

And so it was finally to the bar where the hotel staff became providers and we did our best as performers to achieve our target of maximum units of alcohol activity. Once the bar had shut Stuart Lawson became both a provider and performer as he managed to produce a bottle of Jack Daniels which satisfied those yet to reach their required UAAs. James Willis told me he has been totally private for many years now and is enjoying the more relaxed lifestyle without any targets to achieve, and I think the next morning many people nursing UAA-related headaches were wishing they had chosen that option. It was in the wee small hours that we finally dispersed to our rooms or, for those who couldn't afford the Royal, the short walk in the muggy night air to the Travelodge.

Plans are already afoot for our 2011 eco-reunion. We thought it would be necessary to move to higher ground and are planning a November barbecue on The Downs with some locally-sourced lion steaks from the zoo and shellfish from the oyster beds of Broadmead. If you are reading this via email please remember to turn off your computer once you have finished (and I don't mean just leaving it on standby), and if you are reading the paper-based version, please remember to recycle or reuse the Newsletter – I find it just about the right size for the smallest room in the house but it is advisable to take the staples out first.

Looking forward to the next one.

1986 REUNION, 25 November 2006

Ian Allan

So – 20 years on and the weight of responsibility and stresses of modern living seemed to have passed over a generation of Bristol's finest! All as handsome and lovely as before, not a grey hair to be seen, nor a crow's foot or spreading midriff to give the slightest hint that two decades had evaporated faster than a Welshman's grand slam aspirations!

The Bristol Marriott Royal played host to another fine reunion. As always, old friendships were re-established and more importantly there was the opportunity to get to know colleagues who may not have crossed one's path more than fleetingly as undergraduates.

Reunions are always enjoyed by those who attend, but they wouldn't happen without the hard work of one of our number making the effort to organise it, and for that we owe a big debt of thanks to Jon Moore.

Hopefully those who were unable to make it this time will be available in 5 years for our 'silver jubilee' as I am sure they wouldn't want to miss an opportunity to see P.T.Daly esq. creating a dance floor to gyrate upon, or to see Mike Chalkley staying awake beyond 9 o'clock, or just to see the collection of sore heads in breakfast the next morning as the realisation slowly dawns that, despite appearances to the contrary, we may not actually be 21 any more!

#### **2001 REUNION, 30 September 2006 Hemendra Shah**

The first reunion to celebrate 5 years since qualification of the 2001 Bristol Dental School graduates was held on the last weekend in September. This marked 10 years to the weekend from when we first arrived in Bristol to embark upon the challenging, yet rewarding BDS programme.

As the dental bar is in a state of temporary hibernation, whilst the building works for the Dental School expansion plan are being carried out, there was no social programme on the Friday evening to reminisce about the numerous drunken nights spent supporting our beloved dental bar. We hope the builders do not forget to build a new bar so we can enjoy a good 'knees-up' at the 10- year reunion.

The reunion therefore began with a tour of the Dental School early on Saturday morning. Enthusiastic as always, Dr Gray led us for the highlights. A notable development since we left was the swanky hi-tech "clinical skills lab". Strolling around the dental school brought back lots of memories; a lovely picture of Sue Sandiford on the wall of PCU reminded us of her only mission in life "to make sure that students filled in the book". Child Dental Health reception reminded us of Linda and Sue chasing us down the corridors trying to get the patient outcomes. Being in the Prosthetics teaching lab, we reminisced about how we all managed to singe our hair at one time or other whilst

spending hours labouring over beautiful wax rims, only for Mr Cowles to hack the whole lot away in one fell swoop of his antique wax knife.

The main evening event was held at the prestigious Hotel du Vin. As usual the Bristol weather lived up to tradition and poured with rain. Thirty-two of the 53 who qualified in our year managed to make it, which was a good turnout. The evening kicked off with a champagne reception in the Billiard Room. This was followed by the customary group photo, which Nye Fathers kindly took. A splendid 3-course meal followed in the rustic Abbey Well room and then we headed off for drinks to The Picture House on Whiteladies Road, a fancy gastro-pub next to the old ABC cinema. The service we received at the Hotel du Vin was exceptional and the food was outstanding. We would definitely have another reunion there and would highly recommend it to anyone organising a reunion.

Hopefully by the 10-year reunion, the building works for the dental school expansion will be complete and the bar will be restored to all its glory so we may enjoy the Friday night late bar once again. I would like to thank all those who made it, and Anna for her help and support in organising the reunion.

## *ALUMNI NEWS*

1962

**Ed Shaw**, who retired some years ago from practice in Midsomer Norton, Somerset and now lives in Bradford-on-Avon, has informed us that **Murray Walker** was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day (26th January) this year. The citation reads: "For service to oral pathology and oral medicine as an academic and clinician, and to public health through research and diagnostic services relating to oral and maxillofacial pathology".

1975

**Karen Lintin (Rankin)** had a very busy and somewhat stressful time last summer as she decided to change practice. She moved this year to smart and modern new premises with a younger lady dentist who, she says, will keep her on her toes with all the new technology. She thinks the next 7 years will be very stimulating and lots of fun, and still feels very lucky in her choice of career.

1976

**Geoffrey Van Beek** was honoured in June last year with the award of a Dutch Knighthood – “for social and dental services”. His official title is Officier in de Orde van Oranje Nassau. **Hugh Devlin** had a book on restorative dentistry published last year.

1984

**Christopher Avery** was awarded the degree of MChir (Master of Surgery) from Cambridge University last year, by thesis on a topic relating to free flap reconstruction of the mouth.

1988

**Frin Mills** is still working part time (four days a week during term times) for the Community Dental Service, most of the week at Pwllheli Clinic and one day in Bangor, and is also Postgraduate Dental Tutor at Glan Clwyd Hospital near Rhyl.

1997

**Noralisa Amiruddin** is in the final year of a masters course in orthodontics in Malaysia. She is married with two children, a boy aged 7 and girl aged 5. **Kerry Cietak (Catchpole)** married long-term boyfriend Adam and moved back to the UK from Germany in 2005. She is a full-time mum to son Henry, who was born in March 2005, but is planning to return to dentistry at some point. **Celia Wilson (Theochariddes)** has moved back to UK from Cyprus and bought a practice with husband Adam in Cheltenham. She works part-time, allowing time to spend with 2-year-old son Nicholas.

2000

**Hester Degraeve**, bored one evening, decided to ‘Google’ her name and was surprised to find it on our dental alumni website in the ‘Where Are they Now’ section. She is (or was in February) on maternity leave from South Brent Dental Practice in Devon where she works as a hygienist rather than as a dentist as she finds the stress levels are much more compatible with raising a young family.

## FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

*We have been notified that the following reunions are being organised. Please contact the organiser if you have not already been in touch.*

- 1957 Gordon Tucker  
16 Westfield Park  
Bristol BS6 6LX tel: 0117 973 2040
- 1966 Bob Binnersley I December 2007  
4 Wye View Villas tel: 01432 344 514  
Hereford HR2 7RA email: [bobwbin@aol.com](mailto:bobwbin@aol.com)
- 1971 David Brooker 20-22 April 2007  
3 Westminster Drive  
Aylesbury tel: 01296 415 276  
Bucks HP21 7LS email: [dsbrooker@btinternet.com](mailto:dsbrooker@btinternet.com)
- 1973 Bernard Moxham 20 October 2007  
Cardiff University  
Biomedical Sciences Building  
Museum Avenue  
P O Box 911 tel 029 2087 4031  
Cardiff CF10 3US email: [moxham@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:moxham@cardiff.ac.uk)
- 1977 Gill Smalley  
Brockfield  
Kent Street  
Cheddar tel: 01934 742 635  
Somerset BS27 3LG email: [john.smalley2@btopenworld.com](mailto:john.smalley2@btopenworld.com)
- 1982 John Cantwell  
6a Longton Grove Road  
Weston Super Mare tel: 01934 628 032 (practice)  
Somerset BS23 1LT email: [johnc6a@aol.com](mailto:johnc6a@aol.com)

- 1987 Caroline Drugan  
16 Westbury Park  
Bristol BS6 7JA  
tel: 0117 900 2348  
email: [caroline.drugan@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline.drugan@btinternet.com)
- 1992 Ian Walker  
67 Park Grove  
Westbury on Trym  
Bristol BS9 4LQ  
tel: 0117 962 8139  
email: [ian.walker@appledentalpractice.co.uk](mailto:ian.walker@appledentalpractice.co.uk)
- 1997 Scott Deacon  
South West Cleft Unit  
Frenchay Hospital  
Frenchay  
Bristol BS16 1LE  
tel: 0117 973 1917 (home)  
email: [scott.deacon@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:scott.deacon@bristol.ac.uk)
- 2002 Izabella Kudanowska 22 September 2007  
2 Inverclyde Road  
Handsworth Wood  
Birmingham B20 2LJ  
tel: 07966 523 364  
email: [izabella\\_k@hotmail.com](mailto:izabella_k@hotmail.com)

### Notes for Reunion Organisers

#### Addresses

The Data Protection Act does not allow us to release addresses of alumni. However, the University's Campaigns and Alumni Relations Office can inform organisers of the number of graduates in their year and then, if that number of stamped envelopes is sent to the office, address labels will be attached and the envelopes posted. To use this service contact Laura Merlino – telephone 0117 3317139 or e-mail [laura.merlino@bris.ac.uk](mailto:laura.merlino@bris.ac.uk). For those who qualified up to and including 1993, emphasize that you refer to those who qualified in December of the specified year and graduated the following January (plus a few, perhaps, who were referred). After 1993 qualification and graduation have been in June/July.

Unfortunately, it cannot be guaranteed that all the addresses are up to date, so it would be advisable to stamp the envelopes with "If undelivered please return to...". The obvious but time-consuming alternative, of course, is to use the Dentists' Register.

We would be happy to reimburse organisers' stationery and postage expenses.

**Venues**

Most reunions have been centred on hotels where a combined fee has been negotiated for dinner and accommodation. Information about hotels that have been used in recent years may be obtained from Reg Andlaw or found on our website.

**Hathorn Bar**

For those arriving on a Friday evening, the Hathorn Bar in the Students' Common Room has been a convivial place to meet – students and staff met there every Friday evening. Unfortunately it has been closed since June last year due to the major works in the building, but a bigger and better common room and Hathorn Bar will reopen in a new extension behind the Chapter House.

**Group photographs**

We can arrange for a group photograph to be taken (normally just before your dinner) which would be available for purchase at reasonable cost (Nye Fathers, of BDH, is the photographer). We (the BDAA) would buy a copy, frame it and hang it on a wall in the Students' Common Room – the plan is to decorate the walls by placing reunion photographs next to those taken at graduation (which were taken from 1991), so we would like to encourage you to have one taken (even if you qualified pre-1991). Please inform Reg Andlaw if you would like this to be arranged.

**Dental Hospital tour**

A Saturday morning tour can be arranged by contacting the Clinical Dean's Office.

**Contacts**

Reg Andlaw – telephone 0117 968 2653, email [regandlaw@talktalk.net](mailto:regandlaw@talktalk.net)

Clinical Dean's Office – telephone 0117 928 4308, email [Theresa.munns@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Theresa.munns@bristol.ac.uk)

BDAA website – [www.dentalschool.bristol.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.dentalschool.bristol.ac.uk/alumni)

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 15/11/2005 – 15/11/2006**

**Income**

Subscriptions £ 3,654.98

**Expenditure**

**Newsletter**

Preparation £ 200.00

Printing £ 177.00

Distribution £ 306.09

Final Year Dinner £ 312.00

Reunion photographs £ 53.12

Miscellaneous (stationery, postage etc) £ 131.67

Bank charges £ 141.71

£ 2,721.59

**Excess income over expenditure £ 933.39**

**Bank balance at 15 November 2005 £ 8,967.85**

**at 14 November 2006 £ 9,901.24**



**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

*We do not have valid addresses for the following members. We would be very grateful for information about their current addresses.*

Christopher Andrew (99)  
Daniel Beevers (04)  
Scott Bentley (95)  
Gordon Black (02)  
Oliver Bowyer (02)  
Catherine Breach (99)  
Gordon Carey (01)  
Simon Carlyle (79)  
Josephine Corbett (97)  
Erica Davies (05)  
Justin Dinley (99)  
Aimee Devine (95)  
Simon Dunstan (84)  
Melanie Edwards (01)  
Indraaj Gabri (02)  
Carol Gough (96)  
Brian Halvorsen (73)

Zoe Harrington (93)  
David Hickleton (01)  
Alison Howe (98)  
Stephen Keane (98)  
Joanna Man (02)  
Sarah McNally (97)  
Constantine Ong (98)  
Gregory Peake (92)  
Sarah Richards (98)  
Maya Ringstall (01)  
Richard Seaton (01)  
Fleur Shanson (01)  
Caroline Tothill (96)  
Fiona Turner (91)  
Nicola Waller (95)  
Helen Walters (95)  
Clare Watson (93)  
Danyel Lisa Yates (93)