



UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER 1991



The waiting room of the new Department of Child Dental Health

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of what will be an annual newsletter for Bristol Dental Alumni.

The purpose of the Newsletter is to inform alumni of the current activities of the Dental School, both general and personal; to encourage alumni to keep in touch with each other and with us at the School; and to develop the Bristol Dental Alumni Association by encouraging alumni themselves to contribute material.

Each year it will contain summaries of the activities of the various departments during the previous twelve months. Staff changes, honours and recognitions, current research and the like. We will also feature a more general item on the School as a whole. This year there is little else, but contributions from alumni for future issues will be greatly appreciated - if your year has had a reunion for example or if you are trying to get in touch with an old friend, let us know and it can be included in the succeeding issue.

This is the first try and all comments will be appreciated. If the Newsletter is going to succeed, it has to contain what YOU want to know!

Some alumni may not be aware that for administrative reasons it was decided about four or five years ago to create the position of Head of School to formalise representation of the Dental School on regional and national committees. Prof. Crispian Scully was the first Head, succeeded last year by Prof. Alan Harrison.

The Bristol Dental Alumni Association is most grateful to the Special Trustees of the United Bristol Hospitals for their financial assistance in the production of this Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, REG ANDLAW



A new committee of the Bristol Dental Alumni Association was set up on 2nd. March 1990. I am Chairman, Paul Baines is Hon. Secretary and Alun Jones is Hon. Treasurer. The other members of the committee are the Clinical Dean (currently Robin Matthews), the Senior President of the Dental Students' Society (currently David Williams), and the President and Immediate Past President of the Dental Students' Society (currently Sarah Sobrian and Kellie Solino respectively). It is hoped that student members will continue to be active in the Association after they graduate.

The new committee aims to conduct the business of the Association in a more organised manner than has been the case in the past. In saying this I mean no disrespect to those who have kept the Association alive: indeed I salute the small band of enthusiasts who have been responsible for this, particularly Alun Jones who has been involved since he graduated (many years ago), and Paul Baines who has been involved for 14 years. Phil Key and Gary Mendham have also given strong support in recent years but are no longer available. But these people would be the first to agree that the Association has been run in a rather haphazard way: meetings of the committee have been intermittent and contact with alumni has been irregular. The new committee has resolved to meet at least once every University term, to publish a Newsletter once a year and to organise reunions every year.

The new committee includes people who are not Bristol alumni, and represents a move towards a closer link with the Dental School. I am one of those who is not a Bristol alumnus, but I was pleased to accept the invitation to join because during nearly 30 years in Bristol I have been involved with many of you and I strongly support the aims of the Association, which are to maintain contacts between graduates, and between graduates and the Dental School. The new committee will work hard to achieve these aims.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL, ALAN HARRISON



Having only recently taken over as Head of School I would like to take this early opportunity to thank Crispian Scully for all his hard work and for the innovative ideas he developed during his tour of duty. There is no doubt that he took the helm at a difficult time, when Dental School closures loomed ahead, and that he skilfully navigated the ship along a positive and fruitful course. Hopefully we are now at a more secure anchorage, with many good years ahead.

This is a time of change in the School. The new Five Year Curriculum started in October 1990 and the Clinical Dean, Robin Matthews, has had a very busy year acting as team leader whilst departments reviewed and re-wrote their course aims and objectives.

Not only is the course changing but so is the fabric of the building. There are so many areas of the School and Hospital being developed and refurbished that for the past six months it has simulated a demolition site. The current phase has resulted in a redesigned suite of administrative offices on the ground floor, a modernised Prosthetics Teaching Laboratory and a new Crown and Bridge Laboratory on the first floor, and a true Department of Child Dental Health incorporating Orthodontics, on the second floor. The entire second floor is due to be redeveloped and the next phase starts shortly. This will include the Adult Restorative Clinic waiting area, reception and enclosed surgeries. The final phase will be the remainder of the student clinic unit.

As a result of the general lack of space in the building, compounded by the building works, two large Portakabins have been sited "temporarily" in the car park to house the Hygiene School and DSA School. We are still entirely optimistic that our promised new extension, financed by the Health Authority, will materialise in the near future. This is planned to house the two schools already mentioned as well as a Lecture Theatre, Staff Common Room and numerous offices. It will, of course, permit considerable movement within the original building and allow us to develop certain facilities such as computer-aided learning and audio-visual systems.

The School continues to attract numerous overseas postgraduate students. They play an important role in the life of the School and contribute to our growing research output.

Congratulations are due to Jonathan Shepherd and Stephen Prime - the University conferred Readerships upon them both earlier in the year based on their outstanding contributions to research. Our District Dental Officer, Tom Dowell, has recently taken on the role of Hospital Manager. He is therefore currently wearing two hats and has reorganised the management structure within the Hospital, maintaining close liaison with representatives of the School.

Early in the year a small Working Party consisting of Crispian Scully, Peter Crawford and myself visited several dental schools in the European Community in order to forge links and to allow interchange of students (and hopefully staff). The schools visited were Hanover, Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Valencia and Athens. They were equally enthusiastic and although it is still early days, several students have spent their elective periods at a number of these schools. In the future, we hope it will be possible for students to spend part of their undergraduate course gaining credits in various establishments and still qualify BDS Bristol at the end of their study.

I hope this brief introduction has given you the feeling that Bristol Dental School is alive and well and actively developing in order to meet future demands. We cannot afford to sit still and admire the view. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Bristol during the year and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a somewhat late "Happy New Year".

DEPARTMENT OF PROSTHETIC DENTISTRY AND DENTAL CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Under the leadership of Alan Harrison the department continues to go from strength to strength. Currently, Alan Harrison is Chairman of the Technical Services Committee and the dental instructors and dental technicians are administratively within the department.

Two years ago "Dobbie" Dobson retired and we were fortunate in securing the appointment of Robin Huggett to the post of Chief Instructor. With his extensive background of materials research the University was pleased to award him a Special Lectureship. More recently, in late 1989, "Charlie" Wright retired and Phil Sellen moved across from a 'hospital' appointment to complete the team of instructors.

With the exception of Alan Harrison, the academic staff remains unchanged from that of the past decade - Adrian Watkinson and Dave Williams, and Ken Cowles as evident as ever as a Special Lecturer. Martin Woodhead is Consultant in Prosthetic Dentistry and as an Honorary Clinical Lecturer contributes to undergraduate teaching.

Those of you who have not been back in the last 7 years would certainly fail to recognise the Prosthetic Clinic which is re-equipped, gone are the pump base chairs! The Prosthetics Teaching Laboratory has been upgraded and research and office space made available by conversion of the casting laboratory and by better utilisation of space within the main teaching laboratory. These changes have improved the general facilities for undergraduate students and provided rooms for postgraduate research and study. An office has also been allocated for computerbased learning. The department has been fortunate in receiving grants from both the Bristol & Weston Health Authority and the University in order to purchase an interactive video system and a computeraided learning system. These

are available for student use at any time of the day. Tony Telford and Richard Garn (Instructors in Dental Technology) are both intimately involved in this development. Tony Telford was recently invited to lecture on this aspect of teaching in dentistry at a meeting held on board a cruise liner *en route* for Denmark.

This year the British Institute of Surgical Technologists' Edward Wilson Scholarship was won by Graham Biddlecombe, Deputy Chief Instructor, who made useful working visits to dental companies in Switzerland and Liechtenstein to study onlay/inlay systems. Robin Huggett received the 1990 E A Dennison Award. This is an annual award made to honour an individual who has made significant contributions to dental technology at national and international level.

Martin Woodhead continues his close contacts with the Edinburgh Royal College and serves on the Dental Council and the Working Party for the Diploma in Restorative Dentistry.

Adrian Watkinson was invited to act as a Visiting Adviser to universities in Indonesia.

David Williams serves on the Council of the British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry for which he organised a recent "Day School" in Bath.

Ken Cowles (although now past retirement age) continues his close clinical contact with the students in his position as Special Lecturer. His considerable expertise in producing video films benefits several departments in the School and with no end in sight to the staffing shortages, these films play an important role in both the undergraduate and postgraduate education programmes.

In summary, the department continues to expand its horizons along with the general needs of the School and hopes to attract more postgraduates now that the facilities are improved.

DEPARTMENT OF ORAL MEDICINE, SURGERY AND PATHOLOGY

The high national and international reputation of the department has been reflected in the invitation of personnel to participate in major committees and meetings, in this country and abroad. Oral cancer and other oral and peri-oral disease, facial trauma, AIDS and cross-infection control, and periodontal disease are all areas in which the department has been prominent.

Visiting clinicians and scientists from Brazil, Libya, Egypt, Germany, France, Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey and the USA have come to work in the department, while staff have made work visits to Holland, Germany, France, Spain, Greece, Denmark, Canada, USA, Brazil, Turkey, Jordan, Australia, Malaysia and the West Indies. These contacts have inevitably resulted in increased research within the department, whilst facilitating attachments for Bristol undergraduates overseas, providing them with experience not readily available in the UK. Furthermore, they have helped recruitment of overseas students and their funding, now essential to the School's development.

Teaching is improving with the development of AudioVisual techniques and a more rational approach to teaching relevant oral health care, establishing the most effective interface with vocational training.

Research is extremely active and departmental personnel have won national and international prizes in the fields of oral cancer (British Society for Dental Research), oral virology (British Society for Oral Pathology) and new treatment techniques (Federation Dentaire Internationale).

Publications have been prolific to say the least, with papers in all major dental journals and in many major science and medical journals. Several books have been published, including a new Atlas of Stomatology and a volume on Dental Patient Care.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATIVE DENTISTRY

The department of Conservative Dentistry is active in research and teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It maintains worldwide contacts with other dental workers, with recent links to Sri Lanka, China, Spain, Australia and Finland.

Research interests cover a wide field, but the major thrust is directed at the development of minimally invasive approaches and techniques for the clinical management of patients with dental caries and with restored teeth. To this end, a series of research programmes, ranging from the development of computer-based diagnostic systems to monitoring the quality of endodontic treatment carried out by students, are being undertaken.

The department's clinical strength of Richard Elderton, Clive Jenkins, Ken Marshall, Susan Hooper and Louise Foster is currently supplemented by strong laboratory-based backup from Yousef Aboush and Richard Vowles who maintain the department's solid programme of materials research. The department currently hosts postgraduate students from Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore and Syria.

The department has been unfortunate recently, having lost the services of Graham Hooper, who has "retired" to full-time private practice. His replacement, Dick Shelton, takes up his duties in the New Year, and his appointment will further strengthen the research profile of the department.

CHILD DENTAL HEALTH

For twenty years the Orthodontic department has been asking for more clinical space. For ten years Chris Stephens and Reg Andlaw have pressed for a combined clinical area for the teaching of Child Dental Health. Now, at last, the entire eastern side of the second floor of the School (the old Orthodontic Department, the Conservation Laboratory, the Hygiene School, the Histopathology Laboratory and Prof. Elderton's office) has been redeveloped to provide both. The new department was commissioned on 21st. December 1990. This could not have been achieved without the cooperation and support of our colleagues, and special thanks is due to Cris Scully and Dick Elderton, Marsh Midda and his ladies, and Pete White and his merry band. This achievement has not been attained without great forebearance on the part of all users of the second floor, not least our patients, but its worth will soon be appreciated.

The department is now in a position to take full advantage of the potential offered by the new 5-year curriculum. Another major aim is the establishment of an Orthodontic Postgraduate Training Programme to supplement the current postgraduate activities which include the MSc in Child Dental Health, the Bristol University Open Learning course modules of Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry, and the Regional Training Scheme in Orthodontics (now in its fifth glorious year thanks to the efforts of Iain Hathorn and Nigel Harradine).

Sadly, this year has also seen the loss of Dave Brown who decided that it was time he returned to the more practical side of orthodontics. Dave is now our Community Orthodontist which means he is still in the department on Wednesdays, not to mention the departmental meeting in the bar of a Friday evening.

Dave has now been replaced by Jonathan Sandy who has been appointed to a new Consultant Senior Lecturer post linked to Southmead. Jonathan is a nationally renowned researcher as well as an able clinician and we are looking forward to his company. We have also seen the reappearance of the ubiquitous Karen Drage. During the past year she has been our locum Senior Registrar, locum Lecturer (twice), produced a bouncing baby boy and a couple of papers, and has contrived to gain one of the much coveted part-time Senior Registrar training posts in Orthodontics.

Dai Roberts-Harry has joined us as Senior Registrar, replacing Ruth Evans who successfully navigated her sailboard to a Consultant appointment at Southampton.

On the Paediatric Dentistry side of the department, it may still be news to some that Reg Andlaw has retired and his post of Consultant Senior Lecturer has been filled by Peter Crawford from Cardiff. Reg is not inactive in retirement however, he has recently been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry*, a new journal formed by the merger of the *Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* (of which he has been Editor for many years) and the *Journal of the International Association of Dentistry for Children*. Ian Ball remains as the sole supporting member of the cast.

Some older alumni will remember Derek Seel as a lecturer in Orthodontics who departed in 1966 across the water to Cardiff. Like Gen. Douglas McArthur "he has returned" (better and more powerful than before), as Postgraduate Dental Dean for the South West Region. More recently he has been elected Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons of England - you too can get a flat in Lincolns Inn Fields the hard way if you try!

THE FIVE-YEAR DENTAL COURSE

As many if not all of you may be aware, the BDS course is now of 5 years duration.

Bristol is proud of its new pre-clinical and clinical course which has recently been revised and modernised. The 2 year pre-clinical course commences with a one-year integrated course of the basic sciences Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry to provide understanding of normal human body structure and function. This is followed by a year of study which extends the theme of normal structure and function into the oral environment with a course in Oral Biology which incorporates the specialist dental aspects of Anatomy, Histology, Embryology, Physiology and Biochemistry. The mechanisms of altered body function in relation to disease are studied in a combined Pathology and Microbiology course. The pharmacological science of disease management is also studied. These subjects, where applicable, are taught alongside medical and veterinary students. The second year also provides study of the Behavioural and Social Sciences in a "Health and Society" course.

Throughout the first two years, experience is gained in the use of computers for learning as well as for the evaluation of statistical data. Teaching of the use of computers in dentistry continues in the clinical course. To enable the relevance of the pre-clinical sciences to be appreciated at a clinical level, early in the first year students attend clinics in the Dental Hospital and assist with patient care. There is also an elementary dental operative techniques course which allows students to re-affirm their career choice from early practical experience.

At the end of the pre-clinical course there is the possibility of intercalating for an Honours BSc degree in any one of the pre-clinical subjects with one extra year of study before continuing the dental course.

The clinical course, which lasts three years, is designed to equip graduates with all the intellectual and clinical skills necessary for the practice of dentistry anywhere in the world. A feature of the Bristol course is the wide opportunities it offers for actually working with patients in the clinical situation. A one month period of elective study outside Bristol is undertaken in the final year. In the past, students have visited areas in all parts of the world and gained invaluable experience.

Pastoral care is provided throughout the course by each student having a personal tutor to advise on academic or other matters.

ALUMNI NEWS

This is necessarily sparse in this first issue but there are some gleanings to report.

Professor J P Fletcher

Jim Fletcher wrote to us last September announcing his imminent retirement from his Chair of Oral Pathology at Liverpool. However his expertise and his enthusiasm for his subject are unabated and he will continue part-time as Emeritus Professor and Senior Fellow. Those of us who, as undergraduates, were 'inspired' by him to acquire some knowledge of the vagaries of oral medicine would, I am sure, wish to extend our best wishes to him on his 'career move'.

Charlie Scola (1974) has a series of articles in the British Dental Journal on looking after your staff.

Fran Mills (1988) won the Second Prize in the Dentists' and General Insurance Co. GREER WALKER Award for "Provision of Out of Hours Emergency Cover in General Dental Practice"

Alumni and staff, both past and present, gathered on the weekend of 12th/13th September for a biennial reunion. Significantly, a large number of graduates from 1975 attended to celebrate the fifteen years since qualifying.

Events began with a buffet on the Friday evening at which much time was spent catching up on fifteen years of "gossip". We were pleased to be able to use the facilities of the new student common room and bar, and to have the senior students as our guests for the evening.

Saturday morning saw the AGM not a highlight! However we were able to conclude some business relating to future organisation. The AGM was followed by a fascinating presentation on implant techniques by Gerard Fell, Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon, and Adrian Watkinson, Lecturer in Prosthetic Dentistry. The meeting was sponsored by Nobelpharma and Straumann UK, two of the leading manufacturers of implant systems.

The Grand Hotel provided the venue for the dinner on Saturday evening. It was good to see that the passage of time hadn't diminished the ability of the guests to enjoy themselves.

REPORT OF THE DENTAL ALUMNI REUNION FRIDAY 12TH AND SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 1990

A reunion is being organised on the above dates. Specially targeted this year will be the 1976 and 1981 graduates, although of course, all are welcome.

Phil Key (1976) and Gordon Showlin (1981) are making efforts to contact all the members of their respective year groups. They can be contacted as follows:

Phil Key
Home 0275 392638
Practice 0272 777181

Gordon Showlin
Home 0272 741939
Practice 0272 692638

Details of the programme will follow but please make a note of the dates in your diary, and come and join us for a great weekend.



YOUR FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS

Denplan Ltd: Head Office, Kings Court, The Broadway, Winchester SO23 9BE Tel: 0962 866662
Also at : 142 Queen Street, George Square, Glasgow G1 3BU Tel: 041 248 5442