

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The first priority of the new committee that was formed in 1990 was to improve communication with our members, and its first decision was to produce an annual newsletter. Now that the Newsletter is firmly established (this is the third issue) the next priority is to increase our membership. Not only would we like more graduates (ideally all graduates) to maintain an interest in and contact with the Dental School, but we would also like to increase our subscription income so that we can support more worthy causes than we are able to do at present.

Last year we instituted an award that will be offered annually to a senior student for an approved elective project; we supported Andy Sprod and Lisa Davies (1985 graduates) for a project in India (a report appears in this Newsletter); and we sponsored a reception at the Dental Ball. We would like to do more, but can only do so if we have more funds.

What are we doing about it? First, we hope that the Newsletter, by providing evidence that we are alive and well, will bring in some new members. Secondly, we are making students more aware of our existence, in the hope that they will join us when they graduate. Thirdly, we will try to persuade non-members attending reunions to join. If each of these efforts is productive our membership would increase significantly within a few years and allow the Association to play a more useful role.

We no longer organise large multi-year reunions but we do cajole individuals to organise reunions of their own year groups - and we offer to help them. Last year reunions took place of the 1982 and 1986 years, and plans are in hand for reunions of 1973 and 1983 graduates this year.

The Association has gained some momentum and we aim to keep it going. Every bit of support from our members would help - and would be greatly appreciated.

DENTAL SCHOOL REPORT

Ken Marshall, Dental Clinical Dean

1992 was a remarkable year for the Dental School by any standards, not only because of the continuing changes in the fabric and extent of its structure but also because of the movement and acquisition of staff, and it is probably easier to begin with the latter.

Those of you who remember Bristol in its heady days when the Dental School was Arthur Darling and he undertook the teaching of all aspects of the course, including restorative operative techniques, might be forgiven for not recognising a School which has six professors and is just about to acquire its seventh - one for each day of the week, including weekends! Internally, in recognition of his considerable research activity, Stephen Prime has been elevated to a personal chair within the newly re-formed Department of Oral Medicine, Pathology and Microbiology. New department of what? - whatever happened to Oral Surgery, and what's this Microbiology? The answer to the first is simple: Oral Surgery is now a department in its own right under the leadership of Peter Ward Booth. Professor Ward Booth was previously the Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon at Sunderland District General Hospital where he was very active in the areas of oncology, facial osteotomies and trauma. It is anticipated that he will put his considerable energies into ensuring that our future graduates have a sound working knowledge of all aspects of oral surgical and sedation techniques. Stephen Porter has been appointed for a year as a new lecturer in oral medicine and the runes seem to be indicating that what was simply a good idea at the time may well gain more permanent substance as Stephen is proving to be a very useful asset to the School.

Another feature of the re-forming of these two departments has been the logical move of Periodontology into the Department of Restorative Dentistry. The staff in this discipline have now come under the direct organisational supervision of Professor Alan Harrison in Prosthetics and, whilst this may seem a strange matching of bedfellows, it has a trite logic in organisational terms which will probably be lost on the external observer. However, it does signal the other rather astounding staffing event: Professor Harrison has been busy over the past year with some delicate negotiations in South Wales, as a result of which Professor Martin Addy from Cardiff Dental School with his complete, internationally-renowned clinical research team have "defected" to Bristol. This unique move brings to Bristol a very welcome injection of additional expertise in periodontology at a time when we are about to suffer a severe loss through the enforced early retirement of Marsh Midda. Marsh, as many of you will already know, is bravely resisting a serious illness at present and I am sure that we all wish him success with this. It therefore means that we have gained a professor and a senior lecturer in periodontology (Martin Addy and John Moran) and a second senior lecturer in microbiology (William Wade) who will be attached to Oral Medicine; this answers the second question posed in the previous paragraph.

The other significant retirement in Restorative Dentistry, apart from Marsh's, has been Clive Jenkins' decision to slip into anonymity. Reg Andlaw set a dangerous precedent a few years back when he discovered that there was actually life after Bristol Dental School and I am sure that Clive is emulating his experience. Clive was with us for the best part of twenty three years and his experience, expertise and presence will be greatly missed. He has not been immediately replaced but, at the time of writing, his job is being advertised, and we do have a new recruit at a more junior level in Andrew Hall from Cardiff, who has joined the cons. side of Restorative Dentistry and has fitted in very well with vigour and enthusiasm.

The Hospital has also seen some major changes in personnel, and none more so than the early departure of Tom Dowell. 1992: the Year of Early Retirement! Tom felt that he had to go for pressing domestic reasons and his power and authority on the political scene will be missed in many ways. Tom has seen us through some difficult days of staffing and structural reorganisation and has negotiated our status within the new Hospital Trust with a skill that few could emulate. Since he held the combined post of Hospital Manager and Clinical Director, and was uniquely qualified to do so, it has been impossible even to contemplate replacing him directly and so his job has been split. Martin Woodhead is the new Clinical Director and Catherine Meredith has joined us from the administration hierarchy to be Hospital Manager.



Tom Dowell (left) with John Palmer (District Dental Officer, Somerset) who organised a successful gathering of Tom's friends and colleagues on 8th January 1993 to mark his retirement.

Dai Roberts-Harry is about to leave the orthodontic staff as he has been elevated to the "peerage" at Leeds. We wish Dai and his family well in their adventure north of the Watford Gap even though it means that the students will have to elect a new Staff President.

The building scene sees us still awaiting the go-ahead on our proposed new extension and this has had to be delayed because of the presence of other contractors on the site. It has been judged a priority that the alterations to the clinical areas on the second floor should be completed while we have the spatial freedom created by the transition to the new five-year undergraduate curriculum. The expansion of the dental course to include two years of preclinical study has meant that we have a period of three years when there is only two thirds of the normal clinical student number, and this has allowed us to close down clinical areas for refurbishment.

Quite a bit of the University's teaching space has been given over to the development of better clinical facilities for the undergraduates, and these have to be seen to be appreciated. In addition to the generally improved working environment that refurbishment naturally brings, the new Adult Clinic has been designed to give the students a genuine feel of what a general practice environment can be like. Four-handed procedures, up-to-date equipment and cabinetry and sterilising of work trays on site are the order of the day, and the new breed of junior student coming on to the clinic for the first time is able to cope with oral hygiene procedures, dentures, single crowns and endodontics right from the outset.

The Cons. Department (now called the Adult Clinic):

Before —



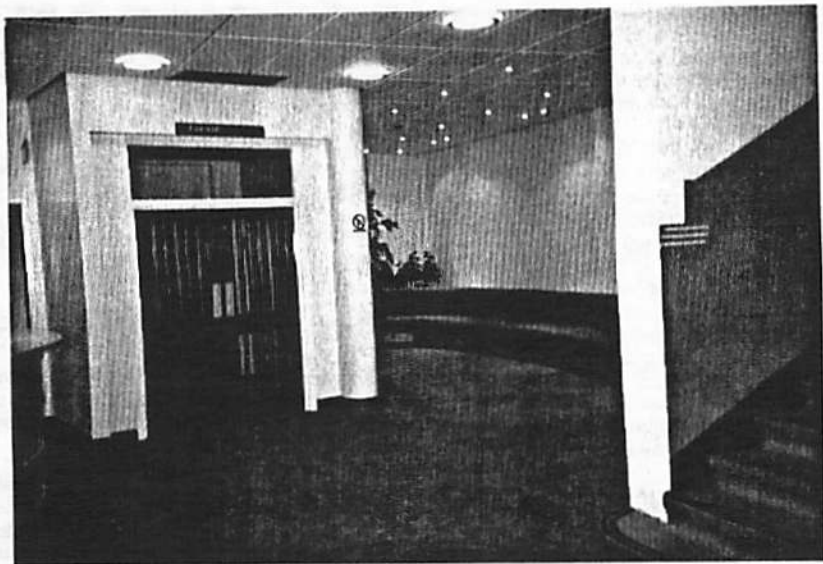
- one section finished (October 1992)



- and the other gutted (November 1992)



The new reception foyer (October 1992)



But you don't have to climb to the elevated position of the second floor to see the changes. Simply walking through the front door will bring you into the new reception area - carpeted floors, plush bench seats, pleasant pictures on the walls and the smiling faces of the reception staff to greet you. It has become the norm in many dental practices on the Continent to spend as much on the reception area as would equip three surgeries and, although I wouldn't say that we have gone quite that far along the line, the initial image of the interior of Bristol Dental Hospital has certainly changed.

The loss of University space has been made up in part by the building of an additional suite of staff rooms on the roof of the old building. This upwards extension occupies the space that used to be the "north light" in the pre-1964 second floor clinic and will be used, in the main, to house the additional staff in periodontology and oral surgery, and the Community Dental Officers who have now become assimilated into the Dental Hospital scene. The rest should be accounted for by the provision of the "car park extension" and we are still keeping our fingers firmly crossed that the funding will be found for this in the coming year.

Lastly it is worth mentioning that, in addition to the Dental School maintaining its good grading in the most recent University Funding Council research selectivity exercise, two particular departments (Oral Medicine and Orthodontics) were amongst the few within the whole University singled out as centres of research excellence, so maybe the old place isn't doing too badly after all!

SPROD AND DAVIES IN INDIA

Last year the Dental Alumni Association supported Andy Sprod (85) and Lisa Davies (85) to work on a project in India under the auspices of Action Health 2000. Their mission was to set up a primary dental care training programme for use in Tibetan refugee communities in India. We received a report from them last August, after they had been there four months. Here is an abridged version.

In order to evaluate the impact of the training programme in 3-5 years' time, we are carrying out baseline surveys in three Tibetan communities - Dharamsala, Mussoorie and Mundgod - from which the initial trainees will be recruited. Tom Dowell very kindly loaned us a lap-top computer which has certainly made the task much easier. We are also analysing water samples for fluoride, so that where appropriate we can teach the trainees to implement fluoride mouthrinsing programmes.

As we were forewarned, the teeth here are pretty bad and we are doing a lot more extracting than restoring. The diet, of course, is the main culprit; the Tibetans, it seems, are addicted to sweet tea and have to have a 'fix' every hour or so. We are starting a revolutionary concept of making tea without sugar and asking people to add it themselves - the tea is normally just made with sugar in it. The only other way they drink their tea is with yak butter and salt added!

The other major drawback in these parts is the extreme difficulty in finding fluoride toothpastes. When we managed to track down the Colgate rep. he told us that Colgate have recently reduced their production of fluoride toothpaste in India, due to a court case in which dentists apparently cited fluoride toothpaste in a case of fluorosis. The public is certainly aware of fluoride's negative aspects and so themselves are choosing non-fluoridated toothpastes. We have put a lot of time and effort into extolling the virtues of fluoride - which includes Andy writing to the newspapers - and have managed to get the local shops to stock fluoride toothpastes, which are being taken up. This will probably be the most positive input we make. We have also implemented weekly 0.2% fluoride mouthrinses in the local schools. This can be done very cheaply, and because the schools are so regimented fitting in another routine is no problem at all.

We have written the syllabus for the trainees who are arriving in October and have kept the emphasis on prevention via health education and fluoride supplements. They will also be able to give some pain relief with sedative dressings, simple extractions and drug therapy. In all cases we have made sure that there is a fully qualified dentist available for a first line referral so that they don't get bogged down with much clinical work.

It certainly has been quite a different experience to working back home. The opportunity to live in the midst of a Buddhist society and attend Buddhist philosophy classes is a wonderful bonus and of course just having the Himalayas behind us for a Sunday afternoon stroll is a luxury we are going to miss.

We would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to take 6 months out of mainstream dentistry and we are eternally grateful to the Dental Alumni Association for helping us experience all of this. For anyone who might be interested the address of Action Health 2000 is The Gate House, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge CB1 2LG (Tel 0223 460853).

ALUMNI NEWS

We would be pleased to receive news from alumni at any time for inclusion in our Newsletter.

We wrote to the BDSS presidents of the last 20 years asking for news and we are grateful for the contributions received from Ian Grant (72), David Adlam (74), Cathy McDade (76), Jon Baber (84) and Rod Ferguson (85).

Ian Grant (72) is in general practice in Wotton Bassett, Wiltshire. His main contacts with alumni have been through the UBH Soccer Club. He represented the club for 10 years, maybe only one third of the life of the club. He would like to hear from all past members who feel this is a forum for news, gossip and fun and would like to use it to contact friends of years gone by. He sent us this report.

Goal A Game Gilling (Barry Gilling, 75), reputedly the highest-paid substitute on the Bristol Downs League, today denied rumours that he would be starring in an Italian film about his career, entitled 'BAZZA' or 'WHOSE LEFT FOOT IS IT ANYWAY'. He commented that he'd always dreamt of turning professional; this might be his only chance.

Bells Manager of the Year (Ronny Ratcliffe, 75) seems delighted with his success, having sown the seeds of a good team at Vauxhall Conference Shirley Academicals. He demonstrated all his old skills at a recent family baptism, clinging on to the two babies whilst searching for the long cross. His wife Rosamund later quipped "The boy done great".

Kojak transferred. All those who knew Kojak will be surprised to hear of his sudden move. Having found an opening or two as a consultant urologist he has been transferred for a piddling sum to the Anglican non-leaguers, Mirfield College of the Resurrection. A leading exponent of pelvic floor exercises as part of circuit training, he relies on thigh-high tackling to reduce opponents to their knees. His new manager, whilst firmly denying rumours that he is paying with bread and wine, was obviously delighted with Brother Kojak's inspiration and added "Christ Almighty - the boy done great".

Ahead of his time. There were ugly scenes at the recent unveiling of the statue of Clive (Bomber) Harris (75), fired in Vita porcelain D3 (well, his scalp was D3), in the students common room. A player ten years ahead of his time, some of his passes are only now being understood. Historians all point to one goal, a 40 yard left-foot volley into the top of the net, as a turning point in his career he was later substituted.

Sale of UBH memorabilia:

- 1 The sixpence that Dicky Taylor (72) turned on when he ruptured his knees.
- 2 One four-letter word used by Trevor Mayes (71) to form complete sentences.
- 3 One bucket and sponge - as new.
- 4 Mitre moulded-sole football boots - all sizes.
- 5 One carpet from a pub in Shrivenham.
- 6 One artificial leg (left) found after match at Wesleyan College (goalkeeper later found legless).
- 7 A - Z Hartcliffe area.

Nostalgia - a pain in the nose?

Wanted - member of Year 72 to meet fellow member at reunion of his/her choice.

David Adlam (74) studied medicine after leaving Bristol and is now Consultant in Maxillofacial Surgery at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. He sent us the following information about the whereabouts of some 1974 graduates, all of whom are in practice.

Ron Nash: "somewhere on the south coast".

Nick Malpell: Swindon.

David Bowles: Paulton, near Bristol

Anna Wysocka, married to **Jim Holder (75):** Devon.

Robin Pierce-Williams: Chew Magna, near Bristol.

Tony and Angela Cropper (formerly Crabb): Bristol.

Rob and Pat Lenko (formerly Pennington): Burnham, Bucks.

Jan Reynolds (Mrs Jan Barnes), after 16 years in practice, completed an MDS in Restorative Dentistry in Leeds and is now working as a dental Reference Officer in the Leeds area.

Jon Baber (84) bought a practice in Dawlish (Devon) three years ago. He lost contact with most of his Bristol friends when he moved away to do a house job in Coventry and then, during four years in practice in Rugby, was unfortunate enough to meet only Birmingham graduates. **Tanya Krott (83)** worked as his associate until she was forced by illness to retire from practice. He married Deb who he met in Bristol and they have two young children. He reports that **Phillip Benson (84)** is married and working for an MOrth in Manchester, that **Mark Bloor, Huw James and Chris Winterbottom (all 84)** are in practice in the Poole area, and that **Paul Bennett (83)** is in Plymouth.

Rod Ferguson (85) is having a hectic but enjoyable life: married, with a 7-month-old son, and in the final year of the 3-year MOrth course at Guy's Hospital. He has previously completed the FDS and an MSc in Orthodontics. He sent us the following news of 1985 graduates:

Christine Adams: in practice in the Bristol area.

Dickon Adams: in practice in East Grinstead.

Richard Arrowsmith: in practice in the Cotswolds.

Charlie Stephanakis: in practice in the West End and has just bought a practice in Broadway - now also married and a father.

Carrie Newlands: a fourth year medical student, with the FDS, married and living and studying in Belfast.

Nick Girdler: now with FDS and doing a PhD at Guy's in craniofacial biology.

Jenny Young: now married and working in practice in north London.

Dave Cooper: married and in practice in Kent.

Geoff Pearson: in practice in his native Swansea, married with a daughter.

Allison Carter: in practice in North Wales and seen recently still in the company of **Carl Jones.**

Mike Cahill: now moved back to practice in his native Wigan.

Andy Keightley and Felicity Cribb: now husband and wife with a number of practices in the Nottingham area.

Jonathan Gallacher: in practice in Manchester but learning Japanese with a view to working in Japan.

John Carter: recently married and in practice in Surrey.

Russell Craddock: now owns an expanding dental empire in West London under the 'Dentics' banner.

Ian Erbetta: thought to be still practising in the Bournemouth area.

Dave Obree: partner in a practice in Redland with one son and another due to arrive imminently.

Mike Sultan: doing a part-time MSc at Guy's in endodontics.

Julia Payne: thought to be still working in the Manchester area.

LAST YEAR'S REUNIONS

1982 Reunion, November 1992

The graduates of 1982 held a successful reunion in November 1992. Letters travelled many miles across the UK and as far as Canada, Belize, Dubai and Australia throughout the early part of the year and resulted in more than half of the 1982 students returning to Bristol for a weekend of 'catching up' on all the news.

The weekend started with a tour of the revamped Dental Hospital (carpets in Reception?!!) kindly led by Ken Marshall. The last group to arrive strolled up from the White Hart just in time just like old days.

An evening dinner was arranged at the Bristol Moat House Hotel where many also stayed for the weekend. The meal was enjoyed by all in the Victoria Suite and we were all very surprised to receive a fax from Pete Allen in Belize who had been unable to attend but was joining us for a drink - even if it was only early afternoon. Several beverages followed in the bar until the staff retired to bed at 4am!

Sunday lunch at the Smyth Arms, Long Ashton, was well attended and it was nice to meet some very junior family members, and friends in the area who were able to join us.

Everyone parted after lunch promising to keep in touch and meet up again in 5 years time for the 15th year Reunion. Will the BDH car park be finished by then??

Diana Collard

The 1982 reunion



Left to right: Jenny Preston, John Cantwell, Ken Hemmings, Alison Strong (all the way from Canada).

It's been a great day!



Left to right: Ken Hemmings, Tony Jones, Graham Cockcroft, Chris Ackland, and a back view of Alison Strong

1986 Reunion, April 1992

The fifth anniversary of the graduation of the class of 1986 was held on Saturday 4th April 1992. The venue was the recently re-opened Swallow Royal Hotel at the bottom of Park Street. The hotel has just undergone a forty million pound restoration and potential guests should be warned that part of this cost is being met by the bar prices! However, it must be said that the facilities offered were superb. The rooms are extremely comfortable, the food is excellent, there is a well-equipped leisure centre for anybody feeling up to it, and the staff could not be more helpful.

Actually tracking down former colleagues after five years can be something of a gruelling task. What was very encouraging though was the enthusiasm people had when a reunion was proposed and the final response when the date and venue had been confirmed.

The final number attending was swelled by a number of friends from other years at the dental school, and by a number of other 'guests' who over the years have supported a lot of dental school functions. A fair number of people arrived on the Friday night and visited the dental students common room where little had changed - the same few members of staff who we left in there five years before were still supporting the bar - or should I say being supported by the bar? After a few drinks at reassuringly low prices, various old favourite watering holes were visited and some even had enough stamina to last through to a curry, though they may have doubted the wisdom of that in the morning!

The Saturday evening at the Swallow started with a 'Champagne' reception followed by a superb meal in the hotel ballroom. Following an impromptu speech from the organiser the main speaker for the evening was Dr Reg Andlaw who had been dental dean at the Dental School during our period of internment. Dr Andlaw's after dinner style bore little resemblance to lectures on fissure sealants and other such weighty matters, and his story about the use of a donkey's external genitalia as a standby for your Rolex Oyster caused a few raised eyebrows! The evening's entertainment carried on with a Karaoke disco. The rumour that this was laid on purely for the organiser's benefit has no truth whatsoever - anybody else could have had a go - if they had a crowbar to prize the microphone out of his hand.

Recollections of the latter part of the evening are a bit hazy. The hotel staff remained patient right to the end though, and no charges were brought against the member of our profession caught trying to remove a two-foot bronze statue from the entrance hall under his alcoholic cloak of invisibility.

The one problem there seems to be with occasions like this is that you never get the chance to talk to everybody. Fortunately, telephoning people to organise the evening had given me a chance to find out what many of them had been doing over the last five years. It was alarming to find out how many people had married and even started having children - sometimes at an alarming rate! It was very gratifying to see so many familiar faces making the effort to return to Bristol and hopefully the same will be true if any more events like this are arranged. Very many thanks to all of you who turned up.

Jon Moore

Editor's note: So alarmed must Jon Moore have been that he has recently joined the ranks of the married.

FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

The following reunions are being planned. The organisers (whose names are given below) are attempting to contact all their colleagues, but would be pleased to hear from any who have not yet been reached.

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|-------------|--|---|
| 1993 | 1973 graduates:
November (date to be decided) | Graham Hooper (Tel: 0272 684197)
91 Coombe Lane
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 2BQ |
| | 1983 graduates:
20th November | Shilly Sharma (Tel: 0275 392789)
3 Short Lane
Long Ashton
Bristol BS18 9EH |
| | 1987 graduates:
22nd May | James Spencer
71B Dartmouth Road
Willesden Green
London NW1 4EP |
| 1995 | 1985 graduates: | Rod Ferguson
219 Dartmouth Road
Sydenham
London SE2G 4QY |

The Bristol Dental Alumni Association would be pleased to help organisers by providing address lists, supplying stationery for correspondence, covering the cost of postage and by giving up-to-date information about hotels and other facilities in Bristol.