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*We are pleased to acknowledge the financial support of the Medical  
Sickness Society in producing this Newsletter.*

## *From the Chairman/Editor*



As an Association we aim not only to act as a link between alumni and the Dental School but also to support worthy causes by using the income from members' modest annual subscriptions. In each issue of our Newsletter we give details of our previous year's income and expenditure and readers may have noticed that the greatest beneficiary each year has been the dental library. As I pointed out last year, the annual University budget for our library is little over £1000, which is a trifling sum in relation to what is really required to buy important new books and keep up library subscriptions. Your individual donations, and a few generous individual donations, have allowed us to significantly boost the library funds and have made a real difference. We intend to continue helping the library through our subscription income, but individual donations obviously would increase the support we can give. I hope you will use the slip inserted in the centre of this Newsletter to make a donation, however small.

Six reunions are reported in this issue. One took place in June last year, too late to be included in last year's issue, and another will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, just too late to be reported in this one. It is good to see recent graduates continuing to meet at 5-year intervals, but it is also great to see some of the 'old timers' getting together again. The 1957 reunion attracted Norman Thomas back to Bristol, which he left to take up a post in the University of Alberta Dental School sometime in the 60s, became a professor and settled there – he sent his son Martyn to Bristol where he graduated BDS in 1984. The 1966 group (The 66 Society) deserve special mention: they have met on the first Saturday of December every year since their graduation – quite a record!

We only report two electives this year. It is somewhat surprising that, although we publicise our willingness to support students on their electives, we receive few applications – none last year! James Granger, last year's UBDSS President, qualified as of

right as a member of our committee, and has written of his experiences in East Africa, and we are grateful to Jahrad Haq and Chris Woods who have responded to James's invitation (or persuasion?) to contribute an account of their elective in New Zealand. Alison Chapman, who graduated in 2001, has reported on what was, in effect, a deferred elective. She missed out on an overseas elective as a student but has made up for it two years later. A new member of this year's committee is Goldie Songra, the new UBDSS President, whose contribution reminds us all that the students' life is not all work and no play.

Geoff van Beek (76), who lives in Holland, attended a reunion in November 2001 which somehow stimulated his enthusiasm to produce a special edition of *Mouthpiece*, the magazine he edited as a student. He has received contributions of articles and photographs and he expects to produce a nostalgic and eclectic edition of about 70 pages, to be published later this year. Last-minute additions are still possible: contact him by e-mail – [geoff.doris@12move.nl](mailto:geoff.doris@12move.nl)

As always, I thank all the contributors to this Newsletter, Dominic Alder for producing the copy, and Peter Miller for help with some of the photographs.

## *The Dental School Year – Some Honest Impressions*

Gordon Gray, Dental Clinical Dean

We live in strange times. Thanks to modern technology we can now read a newspaper on the internet, take pictures with our mobile



phones and listen to the radio on the television. However the idea of multi-skilling – as those who work in the technology business like to call it – is nothing new to those who work in the University. The University wants excellence in teaching, research and administration. This means that each and every

academic is stretched in three different ways and, I can tell you, that leads to pain and a deep seated anxiety. Insecurities run deep in our veins, testing our psyche as to our performance in the numerous tests that are placed there so that we can jump through the local and national hoops.

The first of these that confronted us this year was the RAE. The results of the Research Assessment Exercise covering the period 1996 to 2000 were released on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2002 and I am delighted to report that the Department of Oral and Dental Sciences was one of only two dental departments nationally to achieve a 5\* rating. It is now official that we are the joint top research school in the country despite being one of the smallest. Small can be beautiful! The only problem now facing us is to ensure that we keep up this frantic pace of research to maintain our rightful place at the top. A 5\* represents internationally outstanding research comparable to the best work in the field. I hear they are making a new 'six star' category for the next round. Let's just hope that it has our name on it.

The last episode of multi-tasking that we undertook was the Departmental Review in February 2003. This was set up by the University to review our performance using both Bristol University senior staff and some astute external academics. I am delighted to report that after three days of in-depth scrutiny and palpation, we staggered away feeling that we had put up an excellent defence that was recognised by these reviewers. In case we should become complacent, we must remember that we must multi-task and keep our fingers in multiple pies. The next round of reviews await us over the next year or so and include a review by the General Dental Council and the dreaded Quality Assurance Association who will complete an 'Audit Trail' for Bristol University – it would be surprising if we were to escape this.

The functioning of a dental school involves a lot more than endless rounds of assessment. It should be more about people and teaching and learning experience. I am pleased to say that both Professor Jonathan Cowpe and myself have settled down well into our new posts and grasp firmly the thorny nettles of everyday management. We are both off the tranquillisers now and 'going it alone'.

There have been some changes to staff over the past year as people either retire or pass onwards to challenges or pastures new. Professor Chris Stephens retired last year after 31 years of sterling service to Bristol Dental School. He was appointed as a lecturer in

1971 and, within five years, was promoted to Consultant Senior Lecturer. From 1984 he held the Chair of Child Dental Health and was Head of the Teaching Division from 1982 to 1999. During this time he held numerous appointments on national committees and was invited to deliver some 40 lectures to learned societies and councils. Somewhere along the line, he also managed to find the time to write more than 150 peer-reviewed papers and to establish a sound base in Bristol for Information Technology. It was for his services to IT that he was awarded an OBE in 1999. Bristol has awarded him the title of Emeritus Professor in recognition of his untiring contributions to the University. He recently completed his term as President of the British Orthodontic Society during which time he had the pleasure of seeing its new headquarters in Gray's Inn Road formerly opened by Dame Margaret Seward, the then Chief Dental Officer for England. Recently he received the Ballard Medal of the Consultant Orthodontist Group for distinguished service to UK Orthodontics. I am sure that everyone will join me in wishing him well for a long and happy retirement. Word has reached us that he has been busy writing again but, this time, it is not a dental textbook but a book on dry stonewalling. No removable appliances and tilting there I suppose.



*Prof Chris Stephens signing the visitor's book at the official opening of the new headquarters of the British Orthodontic Society, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2002.*

I mentioned in my letter last year that Dr Klaus Jandt would be leaving us to take up a post as Professor of Biomaterials in his native Germany. There is a national shortage of suitable people in this field and this has resulted in this post remaining open despite advertising widely for a replacement. We are indebted to Richard Vowles who has carried many of the lectures in the undergraduate programme while we canvas even more widely for suitably qualified science graduates.

This year Adrian Watkinson decided that it was time to hang up his handpiece and retire from his work teaching the prosthetics postgraduate students. Adrian has been a member of staff for the past 30 years and his clinical expertise will be missed by all. Jane Rooney, who is the postgraduate tutor, will step ably into his shoes and continue with the good work. We wish Adrian well with his private practice limited to prosthodontics and dental implants.

Every cloud has its silver lining and so we welcome two new consultant senior lecturers to the Dental School: Dr Anthony Ireland has joined the Division of Child Dental Health where he will work part-time while still continuing with his post as Consultant in Orthodontics at Bath Royal United Hospital, and Mr Steve Thomas who has arrived at Bristol following his success in gaining the Intercollegiate Fellowship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Steve has taken over the reins of Unit Organiser for the Human Disease Course as well as his duties in maxillofacial surgery. We have been lucky to attract such quality people to our recent posts and they have already made their mark by contributing strongly to the teaching.

Last year we welcomed Carolyn Donaghue as the new General Manager of the Dental School. Carolyn has settled in well and has driven forward projects on Outreach Teaching and the Teaching of Conscious Sedation at an energetic pace. This year, we sadly wave farewell to Kate Sutor who was the Assistant General Manager. Kate has left us for promotion within the Community and Adolescent Mental Health Services and will be based in the new Children's Hospital.

If I now turn my attention to the favourable things that have been happening to staff within the School and to previous dental graduates of Bristol University, we can celebrate with them. John Eveson (who is a Reader in Oral Medicine and Pathology) has been asked by the World Health Organisation to be editor for a volume of Head and Neck Tumour reclassification. This is indeed a great honour for John and we wish him well with this important task. In the recent group of Orthodontic postgraduates, Bristol graduates Francis Scriven and Tom Hartridge received their MOrth and MSc degrees.

The School of Dental Hygiene has now come under the auspices of the University and the latter will now examine and award the Diploma in Dental Hygiene to the students. Shelagh Lockyer, Alison Grant and Susan Vine have been given the status of clinical teachers while Sarah Bain, who was recently awarded the degree of

MSc by research, has been made a clinical lecturer. We wish this group well and hope that the new regime will run smoothly.

Many past Bristol graduates have been seen to do rather well in the past year. HSBC, Sky News and the Daily Express have selected Jeremy Peake as one of Britain's top young businessmen in a recent competition. Jeremy currently runs a prestigious specialist dental practice in Plymouth that has received accreditation under the General Dental Council's 'Grand Practice' scheme. Other graduates who have been elected to the new GDC panel this year include David Phillips OBE (65), John Chope (72) and David Keetley (85). This brings a particular honour to Bristol as we now have more graduates on the GDC than any other dental school in the country.

The staff and students were delighted to receive a visit this February from a previous graduate who is now in the position of Chief Dental Officer for England. Raman Bedi, who is a double graduate of this University holds the Chair of Transcultural Oral Health at GKT and is a member of the GDC. Another mighty Bristol graduate holds one of the top positions. During his visit he marvelled at the changes in the clinical facilities and the new initiatives in teaching that are now in place. We were honoured to be addressed by him on a topic dear to his heart: Modernising NHS Dentistry.

Some news on current members of staff that newer graduates may remember (fondly or otherwise of course). Darryl Jagger, Roger Yates and Susan Hooper have been successful in the intercollegiate exit exam and gain the FDS (Restorative) RCS. Darryl already holds a consultant contract and we wish the other two well in finding appropriate opportunities for their talents.

Leaving on a happy note allows me to tell you about our new clinical skills laboratory that, all being well, should be installed this coming summer. Jeremy Rees has led the restorative team and we have looked at modern phantom head simulators from a number of companies. Sometimes we have been left with eyes like saucers and our tongues slung over our shoulders with the sheer marvel and progress that clinical simulators have reached. So long as the wind does not change and we are left like that, we will be okay. School funds, Vice Chancellor's monies and Bursar's Office help have allowed this long-overdue project to be realised. We are of the belief that it will be the best in the country and this may entice you to some post-graduate courses at Bristol just to see it. What a trip down memory lane that would be. Please do look us up if you visit Bristol – we are always only too delighted to see you.

## *The Students' Year*

Goldie Songra, UBDSS President.

I would like to start by thanking and congratulating last year's committee for all their hard work and achievements. It has certainly been a high standard to live up to. However, in the next few paragraphs I will try to encapsulate the academic year 2002/2003 through the eyes of a student and demonstrate that "all work and no play" is not a saying that crosses a Bristol dental student's mind!



It all began last June when twelve students travelled to Germany for the annual Bristol/Hanover dental school exchange trip.

The week was spent travelling, sightseeing and socialising with our fellow German dental students. We all look forward to their return trip to Bristol this coming June which will be especially memorable as it will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this exchange programme.

October saw the arrival of the freshers and, as is now customary, they were welcomed to the dental school with an initiation night. The whole school congregated at a local watering hole, and the whole scene resembled a large family reunion as dental dads met their dental daughters and dental grandmothers got to know their dental grandsons. A number of challenging tasks had to be completed by the new first years by the end of the evening, which ensured that a good time was had by all.

The Hathorn Bar received a well-deserved makeover at the beginning of this year and has since continued to be the only place to be seen on a Friday night. The task of managing the bar was in the very capable hands of Steve Mace and Dan Beevers, and I pleased to report that for the first time in years the bar is consistently making a profit rather than a loss. So, congratulations to them. We have enjoyed a number of pub quizzes and theme nights at the dental late bars, including a Halloween, Christmas and a 'P' theme party where everybody's imaginations ran wild and we saw everything from pirates and Plato to princesses and professors!

There have also been a number of non-drinking-related activities throughout the year including inter-year sporting events, go-karting, paintballing and a staff/student cricket match. The intra-mural football and netball teams continue to enjoy success in their



respective leagues, making the dentists a force to be reckoned with. During the Christmas holidays, a large number of students made the most of their break and journeyed to the resort of Tignes in the French Alps for a fun-filled week of skiing.

The annual dental ball was the next big event awaiting us in the New Year and was probably the best yet. This year it was held at the Thistle Hotel and the usual three-course dinner and activities, including a live band, were laid on. A huge thank-you and well done to the ball organisers, Amanda Sellers and Nikki Trundle, for all the hard work that they put in to make this such a memorable event.

This year the annual BDSA conference was held at GKT in London and thirty students from the third and fourth years attended. There was the usual combination of lectures, trade show and evening activities, which included a boat trip on the River Thames and a school-uniform themed pub crawl. The weekend culminated in a black tie dinner attended by representatives from all the dental schools. The weekend was highly informative and it was really enjoyable to meet some of our future colleagues from around the country, and we all look forward to the next year's conference, which will be held in Liverpool.

The Dental Revue this year was an outstanding success, if I do say so myself! Thanks to the comic genius and sheer determination of Steve Mace, M-year managed to keep the rest of the dental school entertained for a couple of hours with the usual mix of songs, satire and sauciness which hopefully did not cause any irreparable damage! Thanks go to all of my year for dedicating so much of their time to the revue, and thanks to all of the S-year for providing us with the material.

Well, that's the year so far, but it is far from over. My committee and I still have plenty of events lined up for the remainder of our time in office. These include a new event, aptly named "Battle of the Years", a careers fair, an adventure weekend and the BDSA sports day which Bristol will host later this year. It has certainly been an eventful year which I hope I have illustrated. Let's hope this continues and we can all live up to the Bristol dental student's reputation to work hard and play harder.

## STUDENT ELECTIVES

### A Tale from Tanzania

James Granger



My elective study was spent in East Africa with two other students. The idea for our project fell into our laps with a bit of gentle persuasion from Professor Addy. Having already chosen our destination, Tanzania, it was his suggestion to carry out a follow-up study to one carried out many years ago in West Africa. The aim was to compare the efficacy of woodsticks with that of toothbrushing. The village we were to carry out our research in already has links with the U.K. through a charity organisation called Quest Overseas that is helping to build a school there.

Our journey started in Gatwick where we boarded our Ethiopian Airways flight bound for Dar Es Salam. We flew over Paris, down the Nile, over the Great Rift Valley, left at Mount Kilimanjaro and arrived thoroughly exhausted!

The first few days were spent in hours of meetings trying to find a way through the endless red tape we had not counted upon. Then, a 9-hour bus journey north (they had told us it would take 2!) to reach our destination, Tanga, an industrial port. This was to become our base camp, although during the project we also found ourselves staying in a hut in the village of Kiomoni.

The results were collated in a makeshift dental chair in the village where plaque scores were recorded, and questionnaires were documented using the trusty translator we had acquired. Once all results had been collected we stayed in the village and with the help of some local dentists we were able to run a pain clinic for two days. This was of huge value to the villagers as for many it was their first contact with any sort of medical worker. There is hope to continue the treatment of the villagers with materials brought over by ourselves and this was just the first step. It was to prove a highly rewarding experience for all of us, and very useful oral surgery education.

Now was the fun part: our chance to travel! We headed north on another gruelling bus journey; it was to be our last as we learnt of the

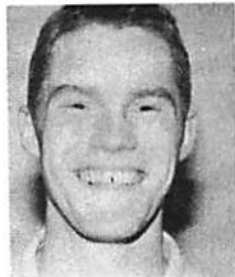
beauty of internal flights. Our destination was Arusha where we could organise a safari. We hopped in a plane in the heart of the Serengeti, which was breath-taking, with zebras grazing on the landing strip. We were to spend four days and three nights on safari with our own Land Rover and guide. We were lucky enough to be able to spend a considerable amount of time in the Serengeti and hence managed to see the big five – mission accomplished, or so we thought. The last day and night were at the Ngorongoro crater, a truly magical place. The lodge was on the crater rim; we had our own safari using binoculars perched at the bar with a cool beer!

Our next destination was Zanzibar. We hired a 4x4 and decided to make our own way around the island. Highly recommended as we stumbled across countless untouched, unoccupied beaches. The majority of our stay was spent in the north of the island in a village called Nungwi, a haven for many a back packer and a chance to meet some like-minded young adults. The weather was wonderful, the sand white and the sea crystal clear. I am starting to feel nostalgic!

It was an incredible experience and one I would certainly re-live if given the opportunity. Finally, "thank you" to the Bristol Dental Alumni Association for their kind sponsorship.

## **Alpine head and neck trauma in New Zealand**

Jahrad Haq & Chris Woods



The idea for our elective project stemmed from our personal experiences of injuries which occur on the slopes. Although none of our injuries have been serious, we considered the frequency of mishap to warrant an elective research project. With the study period being in July and August, we were limited as to the location of research.

Reliable snowfall and the opportunity to do many other 'extreme' sports ensured that Queenstown, New Zealand was the ideal location.

A great deal of e-mailing New Zealand allowed us to correspond with the Queenstown Ski Patrol and local medical centre, both of whom agreed that the project was worthwhile and that they were keen to help. The only problem, they advised us, would be that all research would have to be carried out up the mountain. With the best snowfall they had seen for years still settling we accepted that the project would be tough but someone had to do it!

We were able to gather several hundreds of case reports with information on the type and location of injury being recorded. The injuries varied from slight abrasions to near fatal collisions. It was important to record whether or not the patient was wearing a helmet, as it was this aspect of prevention that we wished to research in detail.

When we were not recording data or hitting the slopes ourselves, we found time to experience some of the more dangerous activities on offer. Throwing ourselves out of planes, and hanggliding down mountain faces kept us occupied for most of the time. If not, then quad biking, mountain biking and swimming with dolphins usually sufficed. We hired a campervan and toured around the South Island at our leisure, visiting many of the now famous scenic locations. The Kayaking tour through Milford Sound, as seen in "The Lord of the Rings", was breathtaking and highly recommended.

Following the sub-zero temperatures of the antipodes, we thawed out in sunny Fiji on an island-hopping tour. Times spent bathing on the sunny upper decks with a cold bottle of Fiji bitter were certainly just rewards for all our previous hard work.

Back in Blighty we collated our results to find some more significant patterns. Snowboarders are almost twice as likely to injure their heads as skiers. We found that this is mainly due to their attempting acrobatic feats before their ability allowed them. We hope to publish our findings in the New Zealand Medical Journal in the near future.

The elective experience was one which neither of us will forget. It gave us the opportunity to visit many fascinating and incredible places and to carry out research in a completely different environment. We would recommend New Zealand as being a great place to visit and would like to thank everyone who helped us carry out our study.

## Helping a primary health care team in Delhi, India

Alison Chapman



A sixty-year-old rickshaw driver, with dark sunglasses and a three-tooth grin, didn't know that the tall white man pulling out two of those teeth wasn't exactly a trained dentist. However, when he went to pull out the third (and pain-free) tooth, the rickshaw-wallah was quick to question his diagnostic skills. So was I; my husband Simon had looked quite keen to "have a go" so I let him wiggle out two mobile teeth. I didn't realise

he was going to get forceps-happy and take out anything left standing! Luckily we stopped him just in time and the driver would be able to continue to charm people into his cycle rickshaw with a cheeky peg-toothed smile.

Having missed an overseas elective experience as a student (choosing to go to the not so exotic Edmonton, north London) I volunteered to help a primary health care team in Delhi, India while Simon was there teaching in February this year. I compiled a carry-in-a-bag dental surgery, which consisted mainly of local anaesthetic and extraction forceps. I gave Simon a crash course in dental nursing and said I'd help out wherever needed. This turned out to be firstly with the health care workers themselves. They were Indians volunteering full-time to work within Delhi's slums, providing basic health care and running a feeding programme for malnourished children. With little money themselves most had not visited a dentist for years.

A few extractions later and I moved on to a children's home. This had been set up for street children and children with HIV/AIDS. Having given them all check-ups and taken a few more teeth away, I taught the staff vital prevention advice – particularly to protect the children who would go on to develop AIDS. It was very sad to see those children without the basic care they really needed – in fact many had been thrown out of their previous home when the diagnosis had been made. Whilst there we also found time to rebalance the England/India cricket scores with a few matches of our own!



Finally I went to a slum with the health care team and set up a clinic for the day (where Simon had his first, and last, promotion from dental nurse to surgeon). I also taught the team preventative advice to give, when to prescribe antibiotics and painkillers and how to do simple fillings. With all those sweet cups of chai the teeth were actually surprisingly intact – must be all the fluoride in the water.

It was a privilege to be of some help while I was enjoying the beautiful country, and also really fun to go with just my limited tools (and knowledge!) and do the best I could. Thanks to the following people: Medical Sickness Society, Christian Dental Fellowship, Bristol Community Dental Service, Aidan Moran, Clifton Down Dental Practice and Adrian Reed.

## ALUMNI REUNIONS

### 1957 REUNION, OCTOBER 2002

Compared with reunions featured in last year's Newsletter of groups who have met every year since qualification, or met up in Barbados, our reunion on 5<sup>th</sup> October was a modest affair, but it does rate rather higher on the seniority scale. The year of 1957 had met 25 years after qualifying and again after 40 years, but October 2002 represented 50 years from our very first day – well, almost, as I am told we started on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1952 so we missed out by three days, which is close enough at that distance. And there is also the qualification that some of us had started in 1952 doing 1<sup>st</sup> BDS whereas others had arrived bright and shining from school the following year.

We met in reception at the Dental Hospital on a beautiful early October morning: John Curthoys, Clive Goodman, John Macpherson, Witold Maksymiak, Alan Meredith, Adrian Morrey, Barry Mumford, Norman Thomas, Gordon Tucker and Pierre Viader, together with Elaine Goodman, Janet Macpherson, Janet Meredith, Val Mumford and Jean Thomas, and only a couple of walking sticks between us.

*From left to right: Elaine Goodman, Clive Goodman, Gordon Tucker, Witold Maksymiak, Adrian Morrey, John Curthoys, Jean Thomas, Norman Thomas.*



*From left to right: Witold Maksymiak, Clive Goodman, John Macpherson, Alan Meredith.*

Some of us had seen the Hospital in its present glory, air conditioning and all that sort of thing, but some had not been there since 1957. It was all expertly explained by Ken Marshall, kindly giving up yet another of his Saturday mornings. Some bits of the building were remembered but most of the place was totally changed from what it had been in our day. We were both lost (except in the old mechanics laboratory where most people remembered where they had sat, and where Syd Mattock had sat smoking his pipe) and very impressed with everything else. We eventually let Ken go, with expressions of gratitude all round, and made our way to lunch.

The afternoon was free time to look around Bristol and take some photographs, meeting later at Gordon Tucker's house for pre-supper drinks.

We were then able to catch up on news of those unable to get to the reunion. Gil Willetts, long resident near Tewkesbury, had not been able to get along, nor from more distant parts had the only two girls in our year, Margaret Dry (née Jones) and Vivienne Jefferies (née Brewer). Margaret has lived for many years in Cape Town and Viv in the USA, currently in Florida. Gil had written sending his good wishes and Margaret and Viv had sent photographs and life histories. There were also, sadly, three other absentees: Mike Woods, John Britten and Bill Chapman had died since 1957, Mike very soon after qualifying.

We then went over to Whiteladies Road to the Zio restaurant for a very noisy supper – no names will be mentioned but Welshmen are inclined to sing when in their cups, especially when they have come all the way from Canada, and even when they have only travelled from Weymouth. Any near contemporaries reading this will perhaps be able to work out who is who.

And then it was back to the house for coffee, more drinks I wouldn't be surprised, more general chat (a lot has happened to ten dental students in 50 years) and out into the night with promises to meet again, in another five years perhaps.

It had been a lovely day in every way, with some photographs by Pierre and Clive to record it in the annals. And fifty years? It never seemed it.

Gordon Tucker



## 1966 REUNION (66 SOCIETY), DECEMBER 2002

The Bristol Dental School '66 Society' met on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2002 for their annual reunion. Many of the original 'hard core' were there, and one or two who had not been for a while – stand up Mr Lewis!

The venue, the original and genuine Fosters Rooms, did us proud as ever. This was the 36<sup>th</sup> year we have got together on the first Saturday in December.

*Rod Barrington-Smith, Reg  
Andlaw and Yvonne  
Thomas (née Branch).*



*Bob Binnerlesley and  
Joy Baker*

Next year a change will be forced upon us whether we like it or not because the Fosters Rooms is giving up its premises in Small Street. Judy Pearce hinted that she might host us at her house with outside caterers. But whatever the venue I am sure we will all have as good a time as we do every year.

David Baker

## 1979 REUNION, MAY 2002

Why did we wait so long? It's been 22 years since most of us saw each other, but on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2002 we put that right.

Our weekend started on the Friday night when we were allowed to gatecrash the Dental Hospital Students' bar during happy hour. I don't think the students could believe that we qualified in the year that they were born! It was wonderful meeting Prof. Stephens and Dave Williams again – they looked exactly as we had left them 22 years ago. We were delighted to hear that the Hanover Exchange continues and that Prof. Bradford was recently involved. After an awful lot of reminiscing and quite a lot of drinking (since when have Bacardi Breezers been used in Boat Races?) we retired, although some of us did manage a curry!

On Saturday we all met up for a tour of the BDH, which Gordon Gray gave up his morning to take us on. Many, many thanks Gordon. Although the exterior was as we had left it much of the interior was completely different. I have to say the thing that struck me the most was the amount of security that was necessary today. It was amazing to step back in time when we entered the lecture theatre, which hadn't changed at all – we could even hear Jim Fletcher's Perio. lectures if we listened carefully!



*Waiting for Jim Fletcher? Front row – Richard Robins, Duncan Barclay, Rod Milne; second row – Deirdre Radstake-Mulrooney, Paul Watson, Nawshrat Dhalia, Pam Norman; third row - Claire Gregory, Lesley Nolan, Rachel Pinder, Lynne Bullock; fourth row – Jenny Chin, Sian Wildy; back row – Helena Cembrowicz*



*From left to right: back row – Simon Carlyle, Paul Watson, Duncan Barclay, Rachel Pinder, Sheila Milne (hidden), Deirdre Radstake-Mulrooney, Lesley Nolan (née Ayres), Claire Gregory (née Woods); front row – Chris Morris, Jenny Chin, Pam Norman, Sue Barclay, Lynne Bullock, Helena Cembrowicz, Rod Milne, Sian Wildy (née Roberts), Nawshrat Dhalia (née Rahim)*

When the tour ended we adjourned to The White Hart – obviously we had to try it out to check if it was as good as it used to be. I think that I can safely say that after a couple of checks, we felt that it was! On Saturday evening we had a wonderful meal and much more reminiscing care of the Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel. Some of us brought photos of our student days which caused quite a giggle – did we really dress like that! After the meal we adjourned to the cocktail bar and carried on till heaven only knows what time in the morning. All I know is that we all looked a little subdued at breakfast on Sunday.

The whole weekend seemed to go very well, with most people glad they made the effort to attend. Unfortunately a few people could not come at the last minute, which was sad. To anyone who didn't come, it was brilliant to see everyone again, older but not changed that much, and we would dearly love to see you all too. So maybe we will have another one soon so that those who missed out can also meet up.

How about May 2005?

Pam Norman

## 1982 REUNION, MARCH 2003

The year of '82 had a very successful reunion dinner on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. This was all due to John Cantwell's hard work and enthusiasm in organising the event which was held at the Holiday Inn in Bristol. There were a total of 43 people of which 22 graduated in '82. John had managed to persuade several companies to part with gifts for raffle prizes and a total of £165 was raised for Oral Cancer Research.

John had managed to contact most of the year but some people could not be present. Heather Totten is still living in the Middle East and felt it unwise to travel at the present time and Tony Jones is actually in active service with the RAF so was rather busy elsewhere on this occasion. Pete Allen sent a great message from Belize where we believe he is now running the whole of the medical service!

Both Ken Hemmings and Steve Fayle had 'volunteered' to give a speech and these were mercifully humorous and quite short! Iain Hathorn had been unable to attend but still has memories of Ken's speech at a Dental Ball which seemed to go on forever! The 5-minute limit was probably a good idea. Louise Foster was the only member of staff from that era to brave the occasion, although several others did seem to remember our year....wonder why!

We also had the company of our 'adopted' year member Rob Morgan (medic) and Jackie Ballantyne (Ken's sister) to share the reminiscing. Of course, nobody had changed a bit. A few grey hairs here and there, and a bit less hair than I remember for some but the regular attenders were instantly recognisable. Steve Preddy and Henry Clover (both working for dental corporates now), Graham Cockcroft and Richard Jones, Chris Ackland, Brant Chapman, Al Williams (back at the BDH now), John Cantwell, Helen John (née Morris), Steve (Rocker) Wood, Karen and Richard Drage, Jeanette Walker, Penny Gadd, Guy Atherton, Andy Marshall and Pete Huntley (who made it to his first reunion!).

The whole evening flew by helped by an excellent meal and a smattering of alcohol – well, some things never change! Next time, we said, must do something special for the 25<sup>th</sup> ....watch this space!

Diana Collard

## 1992 REUNION, MARCH 2003

10 years is a long time. If you were a cat you'd be thinking about booking your place in the pussy retirement home. Possibly even thinking about which tree you'd want to be buried under. Luckily we weren't cats – we were dentists – and the 10 years was how long it was since we graduated. The onerous task of organising our reunion had fallen on Adam Wilson and Richard Hudson. With Adam being out of the country most of the organising had been left to Richard and his wife Sally. They both did an excellent job – the letters had all gone out and a swanky hotel (Hotel du Vin) had been booked.

On the day of the reunion I looked in the mirror and thought to myself that I really need a haircut. It looked like I was auditioning for the Hair Bear Bunch (target 80's reference). Then I remembered what had happened to my boss's friend at his reunion. He had gone to the hairdresser's and, mindful that a few years had passed since his graduation, asked the hairdresser to give him a haircut that "made him look younger". What she did was to give him a good chop all over but, because his hair was thinning, it left him with tufts on the top of his head. He did in fact look younger – he looked like a baby! It was for this reason I decided to leave my hair long, just to remind everyone what a thick thatch I still have.

I was really looking forward to the evening. I wasn't sure who would be there as quite a few people I knew about were abroad. Penny Hopkins is still in Singapore lapping up the ex-pat lifestyle with a husband, children and a housekeeper. Matt Garton is travelling (again), this time in South America. Tim Amess is still living in New Zealand, enjoying the outdoor lifestyle (hunting, playing rugby, dragging your girlfriend along by the hair, just the usual caveman stuff) and is now a specialist in Oral Med, I believe. It is difficult to remember what Tim is a specialist in as he has been a specialist in so many areas of dentistry so far. Sarah Sobrian is living in Trinidad and has recently had a little baby girl. Sarah is mad keen to come to a reunion so if we are organised for the next one, maybe she will come over for it. Greg Peake and Rachel Elliott were still in Australia (though not together), so I was looking forward to seeing who would be there.

The evening was black tie and, for once, it was nice to get dressed up. Lindsey and I had a lift down to Hotel du Vin with Sam Braddock and Terry and met Tash Rawlings and Samir Gautama

outside. We were led up the stairs into a fantastic room where drinks were being served. It was such a weird feeling as everyone looked just the same as they did 10 years ago. I can honestly say that there were no great surprises. Everyone seemed pretty much the same. Maybe it was those who hadn't come who had changed beyond recognition. Who knows?

There was a good mix of people there with a few notable absentees. Donna Millard was apparently heavily pregnant so we can let her off. Kath Richie was joining the Navy at the last reunion so maybe that has taken her off to far flung lands. I haven't heard anything of Mark Baillie since we did VT together. Serena Derwent was looking after her dog, which seemed a pretty lame excuse to me. I have never known Serena miss the chance of a good party. Bob Price lost the invitation until about a day before so said he would see us at the next one in 5 year's time. The consensus of opinion was that Jefferson Clarke was in Jamaica – Sam thinks that one of her patients went to see him while on holiday there. Zareena Chaudhry has apparently just been appointed as a consultant in ortho, which is pretty impressive.

The evening, as these things often do, seemed to pass in a fast blur. Generally, everyone seemed really well. Adam summed it up nicely when he said that he was surprised at how few people had their own practice. He seemed to think that we were a bit of a lazy year!! Or was it just that those who opened their own practices were the ones who didn't come. Too busy managing their empires perhaps.

Quite a lot of my old group was there. Mike Gregory looked pretty much the same and still had a paternal tone to him, but didn't tell me to go play in the road as he used to as students! Karen Mayle was doing well, married to Jim, children and a practice. Karen Mudd is living and working in London, having seen 300 children on the day before the reunion. Babita Kainth was on very good form. She hasn't had the easiest time over the past few years but certainly seems very happy with life at the moment, this being the first trip away after having twins!

Tim Dickinson is going to be a dad (you know you are getting old when Tim shows signs of growing up) and after being in the Navy, a dentist, an oral surgeon, a doctor and an anaesthetist is now a dentist/oral surgeon. Cathy Crocker is now in Dublin doing ortho and has invited everyone to stay. Richard and Sally have a busy practice in Cornwall and two children (a boy and a girl – sick makingly perfect). Adam is coming back to the UK from living in Cyprus and

is looking to set up a practice somewhere. Jo Stephenson is living the life of the landed gentry complete with a horse and dog. There also seemed plenty of babies either here or coming soon.

The whole evening was thoroughly enjoyable, just all passed too quickly. It seemed that as soon as we had arrived I was being told that my taxi was there. Perhaps that is the sign of a good evening. I just felt that I didn't have enough time to talk to everyone.

It was lovely to see those who came. For those who didn't, I hope that life is treating you all well. Thank you so much to Richard and Sally for organising a fantastic evening.

See you all at the 15 year reunion.

Ian Walker

### 1997 REUNION, JUNE 2002

I have been asked to write a few words about our five-year reunion that was held in Bristol in June 2002. I for one cannot believe that we have survived the real world for a whole five years. All those trials and tribulations that can occur when you are not cocooned in the Dental Hospital!

On behalf of the rest of our year I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Kerry Catchpole (soon to be Mrs. Cietak!) and Sarah McNally for all their hard work and enthusiasm in making our first five-year celebration truly memorable.

Those who could make it early arrived in Bristol on the Friday night and spent a happy few hours in a very quiet Dental Bar (was never like that in our day!), and a Friday night would not be the same without a curry from Cotham Hill.

Saturday was spent wandering around the Bristol docks that have changed so much in the short time that we had been away. It was nice to know, however, that the general atmosphere of Bristol was much the same.

Our main celebration was held on the Saturday evening in the Hotel du Vin where thirty smartly dressed, now veteran dentists, gathered to eat and drink (a lot – no change there then!). It could have been the final year dinner all over again with so many DJs and cocktail dresses around. The excellent turnout is again due to the hard work of Sarah and Kerry and, of course, the ever helpful email communication. The evening started with cocktails and canapés as people arrived and news and gossip changed hands. It was quite deafening! Hotel du Vin was a great venue and they were marvellous

hosts with good food and flowing wine all evening. Of course, that would never be the end of the evening, as those who managed staggered to La Rocca to dance away the rest of the night in true style.



It was amazing and exciting to see how much everyone has achieved in the last five years. This varied from marriage, yet more exams and children to buying their own practice. It would be mad to try and mention everyone, as it seemed we all had some important news and are part of a truly successful year. It would be nice to remember those who could not make it due to the distance and, indeed, countries involved in their travels, but a toast was made on the evening to you all and you were sorely missed.

I think I can safely say that the weekend was an enormous success and much fun was had by everyone who was there. Maybe we should not leave it so long until the next reunion!?

Amelia Smith



## ALUMNI NEWS

*Please send us snippets of news about yourself for inclusion in our next Newsletter – for example family news, recent achievements and activities – either by post or E-mail to the addresses given on the inside front cover of this Newsletter.*

**1965**

**David Phillips OBE** has been elected to the General Dental Council.

**1970**

**John Eveson** is one of three editors of a WHO book to be published shortly on the classification and pathology of tumours of the head and neck. There have been several WHO publications on this subject during the last 10 years and he has been the only British editor throughout this period.

**1972**

**John Chope** has been elected to the General Dental Council

**1974**

**Stephen Wilkinson**, sadly, suffered a stroke in 2001 and had to retire from practice. **Charlie and Shirley Scola** set off in January this year to travel and work abroad – a mixture of voluntary and paid work – starting at a Christian Medical and Dental School in India.

**1976**

**Raman Bedi** is the new Chief Dental Officer of England. He is not only the first academic to be appointed to the post but is also the youngest. He has the distinction of being one of the very few who has achieved the DDS (Bris), our highest dental qualification. Raman also holds the FDS of both the Edinburgh and English Colleges and an MSc from Manchester. He was the first holder of the Chair in Transcultural Oral Health at the Eastman. It just goes to show that failing your Op. Tech. in ortho. doesn't mean a great deal in the general scale of things. Dame Margaret Seward is going to be a hard act to follow but Raman is more than equipped to take up the challenge. His many friends and colleagues wish him every success.

Last but not least, he will be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) by the University of Bristol in July. **Geoff van Beek**, who lives in Holland, is secretary of the Rotterdam Dental Association and is currently pressing for the establishment of a central emergency dental clinic where dentists on call can work in safety – like so many other large cities, Rotterdam has its share of violence. He is on the board of editors of a Dutch national dental magazine called ‘Dentellect’, confirming that his Dutch is finally up to standard! He performs about 500 dental implant treatments a year, but at half the UK prices – all private fees in Holland are dictated by the Government and charging any more leads to enormous fines. He is also busy producing a special edition of ‘Mouthpiece’, the magazine he edited as a student (see also *‘From the Chairman/Editor, page 2’*). **Bert Jukes** was elected to the Armed Forces Committee of the BDA Representative Body in January.

**1977**

**Alasdair Miller** was elected in January this year to the Financial Review Group and the Education Committee of the BDA Representative Body.

**1979**

**Rachel Pinder** is working part-time in the Community Dental Service – although her three sons are nearly adults now she feels part-time work is still her privilege which helps her retain her sanity. She mainly sees adult special needs patients and children needing treatment under GA which she carries out at Musgrove Hospital. She completed the BUOLD DPDS a few years ago and enjoyed re-visiting BDH several times.

**1983**

**Janet Griffiths** re-married in November last year after “a whirlwind romance” and is extremely happy with her new husband and her two sons living and working in Wirral. She enjoys childrens dentistry and is secretary of the local branch of the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry.

**1985**

**Andrew Keetley** has been elected to the GDC.

1986

**Martin Fulford** was elected in January to three committees of the BDA's Representative Body: Health and Services, Students and Ethics. Claire Keetley (née Owens) was awarded a Ph.D (Liverpool) three years ago. She now teaches Dental Public Health and Paediatric Dentistry in Liverpool, and she recently became News and Views editor for the International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry.

1988

**Katherine (Frin) Pritchard (née Mills)** leads a happy and busy life in Anglesea with husband Stephen and daughters Cara and Megan – as those favoured with her long Christmas missive will know. She volunteered to organise their 15-year reunion this year “if nobody else comes forward”. Not surprisingly she's got the job. **Mark Brickley**, formerly G6VVC, has now joined the elite band of Bristol alumni to have Class A amateur radio licences. Now as G0MRB he may occasionally be heard on the LF bands when the family and practice permit. He has promised Profs Stephens and Lisney to assist in running a “Jamboree on the Air” station next October at the county camp site in Taunton.

1989

**Mark Haseltine** bought the Henleaze Dental Practice (Bristol) in April 2001 – a well-established practice previously owned by Joe Prasaad, formerly a registrar at BDH. His wife Helen was expecting a baby last August (*we hope and assume all went well and that Mark is now a happy dad, albeit rather short of sleep*). **Nikki Atack** has just returned to her post as Consultant in Orthodontics in Taunton and Bristol after her maternity leave. Eleanor arrived on time with typical orthodontic precision in November.



*Nikki Atack with baby daughter Eleanor.*

**Jeremy Peak's** smiling face appeared in the December issue of the BDJ, receiving a trophy on behalf of the Crescent Specialist Dental Centre in Plymouth, of which he is principal. The Centre was selected as one of Britain's top 10 young businesses in the 'Start Up Stars' competition run by HSBC Bank, Sky News and the Daily Express. The competition was open to all businesses, regardless of size or sector, that had been trading for less than two years, and the award is the first for a dental practice. He accepted the trophy at a party at London's Savoy Hotel. The Centre is also one of the first practices in the UK to have been awarded BDA's 'Good Practice' accreditation, and is awaiting assessment for the 'Investors in People' standard.

**1997**

**Paul Bucknell** continues to be the brains behind the Dental Update CPD website ([www.dental-update.co.uk](http://www.dental-update.co.uk)). This is without question the leading CDP website in the country. In the first full month of operation a year ago it had 103,000 hits, since when it has never looked back.

**1999**

**Alice Aitken-Davies** is happy working in Guildford in a practice owned by **Stuart Galvin (90)**. She was a bridesmaid at **Eleanor Pardon's (99)** wedding.

**2002**

**Paroo Mistry, Emma Laing and Olivia Odell** received a prize last year from the British Society of Disability and Oral Health for their elective study of tooth wear in a population of Chilean children with Down's Syndrome. Lord Hunt, who was guest of honour at a dinner of the Society, presented the prize to them.

## DEREK COLES RETIREMENT



Derek Coles retired at the end of March after an astonishing 43 years' service to the Dental School. It is remarkable to realise that he has been at the School for more than half the time it has existed! He will not be known to all of you. To some he will be recalled from Professor Darling's often-repeated shout of "Where's Derek?" whenever some problem was

encountered in a laboratory lecture theatre or classroom.

To say that Derek was technician to the MRC Unit and Dental School does not do him justice for he has been a master of all skills and general "fixer" for the Dental School since the early 1960s. Needless to say there was a huge turnout for his retirement bash which was more like a reunion. We wish Derek and his wife a long and happy retirement.

## WILKIE PRIZE BOARD

THE WILKIE PRIZE	
1944	Miss J. Brown
1945	Mr. J. Brown
1946	Miss G. East
1947	Miss S. French
1948	Mr. G. Haines
1949	Miss G. Mack
1950	Miss J. Newell
1951	Mr. P. Hill
1952	Miss J. Macdonald
1953	Mr. G. Smith
1954	Mr. J. Smith
1955	Miss J. Smith
1956	Miss J. Smith
1957	Miss J. Smith
1958	Miss J. Smith
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1974	Miss J. Smith
1975	Miss J. Smith
1976	Miss J. Smith
1977	Miss J. Smith
1978	Miss J. Smith
1979	Miss J. Smith
1980	Miss J. Smith
1981	Miss J. Smith
1982	Miss J. Smith

We now have a Wilkie Prize Board to display the names of all those who achieved the orthodontic prize endowed by the late John Wilkie. This is appropriately sited outside the clinical department of Child Dental Health. It was hand crafted by Prof. Chris Stephens, with a little help from B & Q, as one of his first retirement jobs. It is interesting to see how many

of the recipients have gone on to carve out careers in specialist orthodontics.

## OLD ORTHODONTISTS NEVER DIE THEY JUST GO TO THE WALL

Chris Stephens

The most recent branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association covers an area from Bristol in the north-east to the Scillies in the south-west, and from Lundy in the north-west to Bournemouth in the south-east. It joins the other 17 branches which make up the national Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain, whose aim is to educate and promote the art and craft of dry stone walling. Implicit in this is the preservation of our stock of dry stone walls, that is to say walls built without mortar. This is no mean task since the majority of such walls were built following the Enclosure Acts at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and many of these now need repair or complete rebuilding.

The Countryside Commission survey of dry stone walls carried out in 1996 estimated the total length of dry stone walls in England to be 112,000 km. In the SW these were distributed as follows:

Somerset	1,100 km
Devon (including Devon banks)	5,120 km
Cornwall (including Cornish Hedges)	14,460 km
	—————
	20,680 km (12,850 miles)

For Dorset we have no information.

At that time only 13% of UK dry stone walls were found to be stockproof and only 4% were in excellent condition. On the other hand 38% had major signs of advancing deterioration, 20% were in the early stages of dereliction, 12% were derelict and 17% existed only as remnants. It is clear that to retain even 51% of the walls in the SW requires the rebuilding of 4,883 miles (8.6 million yards!). To keep them will need the reconstruction of another 6,301 miles!

### Why bother?

Quite apart from their intrinsic value to the landscape (tourism is now our largest currency earner), dry stones walls provide a significant specialised habitat for much wildlife as well as a shelter for stock on upland farms. They are also environmentally neutral: when they finally fall down they can just be built up again and if carried out

appropriately will then last for another 200 years or more before the cycle is repeated. In fact some walls are known to be at least 5,000 years old.

*How many wallers will it take to rebuild existing walls?*

The average member of the public thinks that building walls is simple. In fact, in the author's opinion, acquiring the skills to build good walls takes at least as long as those for practising good dentistry. It is, though, much harder work and not good for weak backs. In a lifetime, a good waller working 5 days a week, 8 hours a day for 40 years with no time allowed for collecting stone, bad weather, sickness and injury etc., might expect to build 104 miles only. So to rebuild even the 38% of the SW regions walls (not counting Dorset) in the course of the next 40 years would take a workforce of 46 full-time professional wallers. Though we may have this number in the SW many are now reaching retirement and even those who are not spend much of their time on more lucrative "garden walling". Fortunately the Government is waking up to this and new countryside stewardship grants may well improve matters, but we also need a national training scheme.

*What will it cost?*

Even at a modest £25 per yard (£44,000 per mile, which assumes there is already stone available on site) the rebuilding of the 38% would cost £215M. To restore all of them will cost £400M or so. In fact that is not a lot – it is about the same as it costs to build two large district general hospitals. But are we going to get two large hospitals built in the SW in the next 40 years? And health is a priority area! The facts are that there is plenty of work for everyone, badly built walls don't last, and we have an uphill task to get the necessary funding to rebuild walls.

*What is the answer?*

All we need is for amateurs and professionals to work together. We need to raise public awareness, promote the craft, and lobby local and national government. Now in fact is a good time to be doing this. There is a new awareness of the value of the countryside for wildlife, recreation and tourism. So take every opportunity to tell your councillors, MPs, neighbours, friends – anyone who will listen in fact – of the size of the problem. Write to the local paper when you see a wall being destroyed.

For those who think walling is their thing and do not have back trouble try out a training weekend which all UK branches run. There is at least one dentist who gave up dentistry and is now a professional waller. In fact he is coming to run a course for us next month. Details of all branch programmes are on the DSWA website at <http://www.dswa.org.uk>

*Chris Stephens is Hon. Sec. SW England branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association. His consultant orthodontist colleague Iain Hathorn has recently joined the SW branch and can sometimes be seen rebuilding walls on the Mendips. Keep going Iain – only another 60km to go!*



*Iain Hathorn walling on the Mendips.*





**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 21/11/2001 -- 15/11/2002****Income**

Subscriptions	£2,982.00
Donations Medical Sickness Society	£ 150.00
Other.	<u>£ 160.00</u>
	<b>£3,292.00</b>

**Expenditure****Donations**

Dental School Library	£ 500.00
Electives	£ 200.00
UBDSS Social Event	£ 150.00
UBDSS Presidents' Board	£ 196.22

**Newsletter**

Typing	£ 100.00
Printing	£ 444.00
Distribution	£ 201.67

Miscellaneous stationery & postage £ 129.82

Bank charges £ 121.16  
£2,042.87

**Excess income over expenditure £1,249.13**

**Bank balance at 15 November 2001 £6,437.99**  
**at 15 November 2002 £7,687.12**