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From the Chairman/Editor

I am happy to report that our membership continues to rise and has now reached 650. Most of the 2003 graduands were rounded up,



and others trickled in during the year mostly *via* a banker's order form downloaded from our website. We have always realised that in order to enrol new graduands we must first have made them aware of our existence, but this has never been easy when students have more pressing matters to consider, especially in their final term. To help us in this regard we have recently had a display cabinet built and hung on a wall outside the library, the display outlining who we are and what we do. Only the

most blinkered student heading to or from the library can fail to see it, and we feel it would now be difficult for students not to be aware of our existence after having walked past it countless times over four years.

Our donations to the dental library continue and, as I pointed out in my 'piece' last year, they give the library finances a considerable, and much-needed, boost. We thank those of you who have made individual donations, and I have inserted a form in this Newsletter (as I did in last year's) for those who might like to contribute this year. Selvam Thavaraj, the current chairman of the library committee, has kindly contributed an article describing some of the new facilities available in the library, with which only fairly recent graduates will be familiar.

Diana Collard retired as Hon. Secretary in January, a post she took on in 1993. Ever since she graduated in 1982 she has been a sucker for punishment in taking on posts for various postgraduate groups – BDA, community, paediatric dentistry, you name it she's done it – so she thoroughly deserves to cut back at this stage. I am extremely grateful for her support over the last ten years. We have been lucky that Nikki Atack happily accepted our invitation to take over. Nikki graduated in 1989 and is now the consultant orthodontist for Taunton and Yeovil, but also comes to Bristol once a fortnight to supervise an undergraduate group of students. Those of you who got

as far as page 27 of our 2003 Newsletter will have seen a photograph of Nikki with her baby Eleanor. She leads a very busy life but (she says) she has a very understanding husband.

The other new member of our committee is Ediz Cakin, the new UBDSS President. He and his UBDSS colleagues are putting together a booklet for the benefit of new dental students, giving information and guidance to help them acclimatise to Bristol and the dental course. We are supporting this initiative by covering the costs of producing the booklet.

Four reunions were reported to us last year. The '66 Soc' keep going with their annual meetings, Frin Mills (88) and Shilly Sharma (83) are now old hands at organising their 5-year anniversaries, and Jim Gabriel (98) has had his first stab at it. The 1993 year also had a reunion but unfortunately we have been unable to extract a report from them. No less than seven reunions are on the cards for this year or early next. All but one will be held in Bristol, the exception being the class of 1989 who have been procreating so prolifically since they qualified that they are planning another family affair at Center Parcs, Longleat, as they did five years ago.

Photographs of varying quality are often taken at reunions and some are reproduced in this Newsletter. We are working on the idea of arranging to have a group photograph taken professionally at each reunion (with the organiser's approval, of course, and at our expense) which we would have framed and hung on a wall of the students' common room next to one of the same group taken at graduation (which has been the practice since 1991). Nye Fathers, whom many of you will remember as Derek Coles's side-kick but since Derek's retirement is his 'own man', has agreed to take the photographs, which would be available for sale. If this plan materialises the Hathorn Bar should become a veritable rogues' gallery in the future.

Last year we gave some financial support to two of the three elective projects described in this issue. Goldie Songra, last year's UBDSS President, went to San Francisco; Yi Vei Kok and Pamini Mageson stayed in Bristol. Rachel North *et al* did not apply for our support but nevertheless agreed to write of their experiences in Australia, for which we are grateful. As in previous years most students teamed up with one or more others and many teams took the opportunity to go abroad: five to the USA, three to Australia and one each to India, Belize and Finland. However, no less than seven teams decided to stay in sunny Bristol, and one (for reasons only they will know!) went to Birmingham.

Last year's Newsletter contained an article about an activity that keeps one retired member of our committee busy (Chris Stephens – Old Orthodontists Never Die They Just Go To The Wall) so I thought it would not be unreasonable for me to include one in this issue about something that helps to keep me out of trouble (The Old Rat Pack, page 29). My very first blow with a jazz band was in 1983 at a students' party to which they invited a band to mark my 50th birthday (it was Pete Harrison's band, husband of Sylvia, the tutor hygienist). I had only recently taken up the trumpet but I was pressed into action. My frequent 'bum' notes on that occasion have by now become rather less frequent, and my involvement with The Muskrats gives me enormous pleasure.

The more observant of you may have noticed (but I doubt it!) a new logo printed on the front cover. This is the University's new official logo, introduced last year. It is derived from the University's coat of arms, with the icons representing the University's founders and benefactors: sun for Wills, dolphin for Colston, horse for Fry. The ship and castle depict the medieval city seal of Bristol, and the two sides of the logo the open book of learning. So now you know – I didn't until yesterday!

My thanks to all the contributors to this Newsletter, to Dominic Alder for producing the copy, and to Neil Davey and Peter Miller for help with the photographs.

The Dental School Year – Some Honest Impressions

Gordon Gray, Dental Clinical Dean

How can something be redesigned to make it better, when some people already believe it's almost perfect in every respect? The



humble Biro pen is a design of utter simplicity – an object of form and function with a job to do – to put ink onto paper and not all over your hands. This method of communication for humans is made all the greater by its brilliant simple design. Another example of a simplistic idea that served man well is toothpaste in tubes. This simple household item has not changed its design in decades as it does the job in hand so well.

The giants of oral hygiene products did flirt with those nasty upright pump action things, but their efforts were shunned by the small portion of the population who deign to buy tooth-cleaning products. The moral appears to be if that if it's simple and works, don't alter it.

This last academic year saw our ever-so-simple phantom headroom hit the builder's skips and on to the desks of the dental designers landed a specification for a new clinical skills laboratory. While our old room may have been a benchmark of excellence some eighty years ago, it was showing its age and its failings were increasingly being remarked upon by potential students who attended for interview. Apparently, those beloved heads were re-styled for their move from the old joint prosthetic and conservative dentistry lab to their new place in the 1984 extension. Rumour has it that Professor Elderton restyled them in his garage at home with fibreglass and a coat of black enamel – a most appropriate interim revamp!

The new Clinical Skills Laboratory came to fruition when the fully functional laboratory was put into use at the beginning of September 2003. With a great fanfare, the students settled in and marvelled at the difference of what they has been using only a few months before. Fortunately, the clean, tidy and ergonomically

designed features of the lab have induced a sprit of ownership amongst the students who strive to keep it looking good. The working conditions are now so good that everyone wants to use the lab with its multitude of Audio Visual Equipment. An official opening took place at the beginning of March when the Vice Chancellor unveiled a plaque and marvelled at the new state-of-the-art teaching facility that he termed correctly as "world class, leading as befits our University". This is rather fitting, as, without the generous contribution from his discretionary fund, the entire project would have never got off the ground.

This last year has seen a few of the well known faces retire from university life. Unfortunately, they have all been from the same teaching division and this has left it somewhat stretched to cover its obligations. The first of the people to intimate their early retirement was Richard Garn. Richard had been a dental instructor in the Dental School since 1984 but was associated with the Dental School literally as boy and man. He did his City and Guilds training in dental technology in the Dental School before becoming a ceramic technician in the conservation laboratory. His initial contact with teaching was at a local college in Bristol before he joined the staff as a technical instructor in the Restorative Teaching Division. He was one of the first to be awarded a City and Guilds Gold Award that is now regarded prestigiously as being the equivalent to degree standard. There is no doubt that he knew his subject area well and was an excellent resource for information. To this end, he supported the *Dental Technician* journal with many high-quality articles and ultimately was on the editorial staff. Richard will be missed for his quiet and unassuming manner and the high standards he set. We wish him well in his retirement and hope that this gives him the opportunity to develop further his recent interest in travel.

The next person to intimate his early retirement was Professor Alan Harrison. He is a graduate from 'across the water' in Wales but started his life as an academic at Leeds University. It is from there that he came to us in 1988 to a Chair in Prosthodontics. His leadership abilities were quickly recognised and he became Head of School and retained this honour for some twelve years. During his time in Bristol he has busied himself with postgraduate teaching and writing. His latest book on Denture Problems was well received and adds to his impressive publication list. Away from the confines of the Dental School he is well known for his ability to design and build furniture that graces his home near Bristol and his holiday retreat in

Cornwall. We hear rumours that he has bought a property in Spain and can imagine that this retreat will soon be graced by some of his home made pieces as well. Apparently, like most restorative dentists, his abilities with power tools began long ago when he completely renovated his first house, thus engaging into 'lifelong learning' at an early age.

Dr David Williams was the third member of staff to show interest in taking early retirement. David is Welsh and hails from just outside Cardiff where he attended dental school as a mature student after first of all becoming a science teacher at a prestigious school for young ladies. A year of teaching here was enough to show him the error of his ways and he quickly sought refuge in the arms of Cardiff Dental School. His migration across the water to Bristol was initiated by the lure of a senior house officer post in his beloved subject of prosthodontics. He never made it back across the bridge and has spent the rest of his working life in the academic Division of Restorative Dentistry in which he studied for and received a well-earned PhD. Over the years, his moustache has disappeared but the strong Welsh accent remains steadfast to his roots. Dave has had a long-term love-hate relationship with a cottage in France that has kept him occupied during the summer months and holidays. Word has it that very soon he will be able to leave his tent at home and actually sleep in the house rather than under the stars in the garden. We wish both Dave and Alan a long and happy retirement but, until the summer, both of them will be working two days a week to keep the teaching of prosthodontics afloat.

As if losing the above people from Restorative Dentistry was not shock enough, Dr Jeremy Rees – a consultant senior lecturer – announced that he would be leaving to take up a new post on 1st May. Bristol's loss is of course Cardiff's gain as he returns to a chair in Restorative Dentistry at his alma mater. Jeremy leaves behind him a memento of his hard work in the form of the Clinical Skills Laboratory, as he was the leading light behind the scenes who carried this project forwards. I suppose that Cardiff's impending new laboratory has nothing to do with his new appointment.

Recently, the School was delighted to hear that Dr Alison Williams was appointed to a chair in Health Services Research at GKT in London. Alison is a well-known face around the hospital following her studies with cleft lip and palate children – the results of some of her studies were reported in *The Lancet*. Her recognition spread far and she was awarded an MRC training fellowship and

attracted further funding from a Research and Development grant in the form of a Career Researcher Award. Her further studies were recognised when Alison gained a PhD from Bristol University in 2000. We wish her well in her new post.

While we wave farewell to some colleagues, we also welcome back some Bristol graduates of yesteryear who have returned to the fold. Christian Day and Scott Deacon were attracted to the positions of senior specialist registrars after gaining their M.Orth diplomas. At the end of their fixed term training appointments, they will be eligible to apply for consultant posts in orthodontics. In a recent in-house study, Bristol graduates appeared to complete more postgraduate degrees and diplomas than other dental schools. Hopefully, this implies that Bristol has inspired more graduates to embark on further training than other dental schools.

Round and round. Closing the loop, circling the bait and making ourselves dizzy in the process. What am I talking about – assessment of the Bristol Dental School. To say that we are all washed up with assessment would be an understatement. Now we hear that dentistry has been selected as one of five departments for Bristol University's Institutional Review. This comes close on the heels of the General Dental Council's review last December from which the verbal and draft-written feedback are very positive. Not only did they appear to think that our students, curriculum and facilities were very good, they described the staff as being reflective, loyal and professional, even when under the extreme pressure of an academic review in the University's new Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, which came into life for the start of this academic year. We eagerly await the final written report that can join those of the Department Review and the Research Assessment Exercise that saw Bristol as one of the two top schools, gaining a 5* outcome. We should perhaps have a new motto – "we are proud of our stars". This should hopefully put to rest the ghost of the QAA Subject Review of 1999 when Bristol was not reviewed favourably. However, it is fair to say that the latter review initiated a blizzard of activity that united the staff into a cohesive group to produce a range of policy documents and activities to address the highlighted shortcomings. This brings us back *round* to my point again of how something can be redesigned to make it even better. The recent reviews show Bristol once again sailing high at the top of the league – where it rightly belongs of course.

The Students' Year

Ediz Cakin, UBDSS President.

The year gone by has been eventful to say the least. It started off in mid-June with the arrival of our Hannover colleagues.



Throughout the previous months the Bristol exchange students were busy fund-raising with events like cake-sales, car washes, and slave auctions. A big-thank-you must go to all the people who contributed to the auction as it was a great success. Our German colleagues did mention what a fantastic time they had sightseeing in various places like Stratford-upon Avon, the Black Country, and London. It goes without saying that they thoroughly enjoyed the Bristol social life as well. The twelve Bristol exchange students are eagerly looking forward to the return trip to Hannover this summer.

As the official university term started, a few new faces arrived at the dental school. The freshers were introduced to the dental course with a traditional initiation evening held at the union bar. The event has been held for four years now and every year the initiators seem to get harsher on their 1st year colleagues. None-the-less everyone had a good time singing, dancing and, drinking! This was also the first opportunity 2nd BDS had to meet their dental mums and dads, as well as getting to know the rest of the year.

The next big event on the social calendar was the handing over of the dental bar to our two new bar managers, Sam Labib and James Davies. They continued to do a splendid job as their predecessors did by arranging several late bars, including various themes like school uniform, Halloween and, of course, the chaotic Christmas party. The next two bar events planned are a karaoke night and a board games party that includes Snakes and Ladders and giant Jenga.

The two new sports representatives, Jal Dhaliwal and Erica Davies, took on the task of organising the dental sports teams, which in the past have been extremely successful. In particular, our mixed netball team won the intramural tournament and our football team came second in the premier league. Our clinical year students spent a couple of weekends in the Lake District and Brecon Beacons doing

some relaxing walking, while the sporty types went away to Les Arcs in the Southern Alps over New Year for a week's skiing. This trip was entertaining and tiring at the same time – no wonder when the coach took 34 hours on the return journey after breaking down twice!

Next on the agenda was the annual Dental Ball held at the Royal Marriott hotel. The majority of the organising was down to Sama Hameed and I can certainly say that it was the best Dental Ball yet. Mr Ken Marshall was the guest speaker and gave us a farewell speech as he is retiring at the end of this year. All the usual entertainments took place, including an inflatable rodeo and casino. The live music during our three-course meal made the evening very pleasant indeed.

Our BDSA representative this year is Carla Fleming, who managed to make Bristol the location for the year's BDSA sports day. This was attended by dental students from around the country, including some travelling from as far away as Dundee. The weekend consisted of several sporting events like football, netball, tug of war, and rugby. The football was hotly contested, with Bristol just losing in the final to GKT. Bristol swept up all the first prizes in all the other events, which meant we were first overall!

This is a summary of the year so far but much more is yet to come. Currently, the M year is rehearsing for the Dental Revue, which will be held in April. The UBDSS committee is busy organising events like a careers evening for all clinical year students who are unsure on what to do after their BDS degree. New this year is the Alternative Guide for Dental Students, which is being published as we speak, thanks to a kind donation by the Bristol Dental Alumni Association. Hopefully, it will provide first year students with some information on how the dental course runs and give them a view of dental student life from the students' eyes.

The year so far has been great fun – let's make sure it continues!

STUDENT ELECTIVES

An American Adventure

Goldie Songra



It all began on a rainy afternoon in Bristol. I knew I was interested in oral surgery as the basis for my elective, and I knew I wanted to go to America. All I had to do now was choose a title and venue. With the help of my elective supervisor Chris Bell, we jointly came up with a project that was well worth investigating. I would assess the appropriateness of apicectomy referrals from referring clinicians to tertiary centres and compare the results from the Bristol Dental Hospital and another hospital of my choice. This meant looking back through patient's notes and checking their referral letters to see if the procedure requested met current clinical guidelines as proposed by various professional bodies.

As a result of the heightened security in the USA, I initially found it very difficult to find a hospital that was willing to allow me to undertake such a project. However, after endless hours of e-mailing, the private University of the Pacific in San Francisco gave me the response I was hoping for. With the academic part of my trip organised, this meant I could finally start thinking about the social side of my holiday.

My adventure began in Miami where I spent one week admiring the art deco architecture and the beautiful scenery on South Beach! I then travelled to the Cayman Islands where my week was spent swimming with stingrays and dodging the occasional tropical storm. After two weeks of relaxing, it was then time to start work.

I managed to arrange accommodation in the Japan Town district of San Francisco. This was within walking distance of the University in the famous district of Pacific Heights. I thought Bristol was hilly, but it is nothing compared to the rolling hills of San Fran. At least my leg muscles were much stronger by the end of the trip!

Whilst carrying out my elective project under the care of my American supervisor, Dr. Alan Gluskin, I not only spent time in their oral surgery and endodontic departments, but was also allowed unrestricted access to all the other departments that I was interested in,

the most eye-opening of which was the aesthetic dentistry department where each patient came in with a normal smile and left with a Hollywood smile! In between all this hard work I did manage to squeeze in a bit of sightseeing, including memorable trips to Napa Valley in the north and Carmel and Monterey and the 17 mile drive to the south. Not forgetting visits to Alcatraz, sipping clam chowder in Fisherman's Wharf and walking across the Golden Gate Bridge.

Having spent three wonderful weeks in San Francisco and completing my project, it was time for the final leg of my American adventure. It was back to the east coast for two weeks in New York, which also included road trips to Toronto and Niagara Falls. New York certainly lived up to all my expectations, apart from getting stuck and experiencing the worst black-out in American history!

Having doubled my budget and my waist-line, it was back to Bristol to finish my project and go to the gym! I would just like to thank everyone who helped make this experience one that will remain with me for the rest of my life. Special mention has to go to the Bristol Dental Alumni for their generous donation, my mum for her even more generous donation and Dr. Chris Bell for his support and supervision.

An Elective in Australia

Rachel North, Sama Hameed, Alice Swarbrick



We decided that we wanted to do our elective project in paediatric dentistry and fortunately Mr. Peter Crawford was willing to supervise us. The area of paediatrics that we decided to investigate

further was the psychological impact of tooth discolouration disorders such as Amelogenesis Imperfecta and Dentinogenesis Imperfecta.

We created a novel index of tooth discolouration (I.O.T.C), similar to the I.O.T.N aesthetic component used in orthodontics. This was created so that we could rank the severity of patients' tooth discolouration. Using this and a questionnaire developed by Alexandra Jokovic of Toronto University we hoped to determine and quantify the impact that these conditions have on patients suffering with them.

The patients to be examined in the study were those of the Westmead Dental Hospital in Sydney, Australia. On the 28th June, armed with our index, questionnaires and a lot of luggage we flew out to Australia. Our Australian supervisor Dr. Angus Cameron, and his staff, warmly greeted us. Unfortunately access to patients proved difficult due to the large area covered by the hospital, and a poor response rate to the postal questionnaires left us without the data we were hoping for. We, however, did gain an insight into hospital dentistry in Australia. We watched numerous surgical procedures as well as attending the International Cornelia de Lange's Conference as part of the dental team. This was a unique opportunity and we were grateful to be invited.

Our visit to Sydney however did not just involve dentistry. We managed to find time to visit the famous Opera House and watch a performance, climb the Harbour Bridge and of course sample Sydney's famous nightlife!

Following completion of our project we then spent the next six weeks travelling the east coast of Australia. Our highlights included learning to surf in Bryon Bay and handling koalas and kangaroos in Brisbane. Further north we sailed around the Whitsunday Islands on an 82ft yacht and also learnt to scuba dive on the Great Barrier reef. Our travels took us to Cape Tribulation where we went jungle trekking as well as white water rafting.

Overall our elective period was one of the best experiences we have had in University, and we felt that we made the absolute most of the time given to us. We have amazing memories and would wholeheartedly recommend a trip to Australia for anyone who has not been there yet!

The Green Green Grass of Home...

Yi Vei Kok and Pamini Mageson



When deciding on what to do for our elective project, we had some definite ideas. We wanted to do something in orthodontics, stay in Bristol and so a project that was original and research orientated. With this in mind, and after several discussions with our supervisors Mr. Harradine and Mr. Sprod, we gradually came up with the title of "Comparing a Quality of Life Questionnaire and the Aesthetic Component of the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need in Assessing Orthodontic Treatment Need and Concern". This involved visiting schools in order to assess the children's dental appearance and see if this has a significant impact on their quality of life by means of a questionnaire.

There are benefits of carrying out an elective project closer to home. Although all those overseas exotic destinations did seem very tempting, they do tend to test the overdraft. There is also plenty of support around from staff within the dental hospital and also their contacts that they put us in touch with. We looked forward to moving out of the clinical environment and approaching schools to take part in our study.

So, armed with our 10 photos of the aesthetic component of the IOTN and some hand mirrors, we visited the schools. The children were mostly enthusiastic and interested in what we wanted them to do especially when it came to asking them look into a mirror and rate their own Aesthetic Component of the IOTN.



Pamini asks a pupil to rate her own aesthetic Component of IOTN.....



while Yi Vei scores another pupil for the examiner-rated Aesthetic Component

Our research revealed that children with a normative need for orthodontic treatment (ie. those children whom an orthodontist would regard as in need of treatment based on the Aesthetic Component of the IOTN) did not necessarily have a worse quality of life. The quality of life questionnaire that we used seemed to be better than the Aesthetic Component at reflecting how bothered the children were by their malocclusion and how upset they would be if they didn't receive orthodontic treatment.

We hope to publish our results and would like to thank the Bristol Dental Alumni for their kind and generous donation.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

1966 REUNION (THE '66 SOCIETY)

It is now 37 years on since the 'Dental Class of 66' were let loose on an unsuspecting public. Evicted by the closure of the *Fosters Rooms*, their second home for 35 years, the group reconvened at *Georgio's* on 6 December 2003. Dragged from nursing homes, country estates and various institutions under Her Majesty's pleasure, the usual reprobates managed to get time off to put in their customary appearance.

Time of course, has taken its inevitable toll on the participants. The crow's feet around the eyes of David Cairn Hawkesby-Mullins have, over the years, grown into a buzzard's talons, yet the same elfish sparkle still escapes from bloodshot corneas.

Spare a thought also for Bob Binnersley – one of the youngest at 59, but approaching 70 at full steam – who is still impassioned to put in a full week for Denplan, as recompense for three wives, four known children and a Harley-Davidson. Bob is still treading water in Hereford, not only keeping the bank at bay, but also keeping another bank at bay by spearheading a group attempting to keep their homes and businesses above the flood-plain of the River Wye.

Judy King is still the epitome of the saying "Age is all in your mind". Somehow, unlike the rest of us who have everything we had thirty years ago, except it's all a bit lower, Judy has learned how to keep it from creeping down into the body.

Bob Izon has gone bionic. Formerly the chief executive of an NHS Trust, he had to first prove to the neurosurgeons that, as a manager, he actually possessed a brain worth the name. The effect of sub-thalamic stimulation on his Parkinson's, however, has been so beneficial that he is now back to where he was six or seven years ago, a walking miracle, and with very few symptoms. Just one small piece of advice when meeting Bob; at 2.8 volts you should be safe, but if he turns the voltage up, don't shake hands, especially in the damp, unless you're adequately earthed.

One of the depressing spectacles of the evening was Alan Durbin, still wearing his 1960's suit, trying unsuccessfully to convince everyone that 'it's back in fashion'. His dress was in sharp contrast to that of the most honoured of our number, 'Sir' Rod Staines, chief of all the little dental officers at the Board.

The saddest moment of the otherwise highly enjoyable evening was the utter and complete failure of Ian Christopher Marshall Smith to accurately add up the bill, and therefore fail miserably to successfully negotiate a reduction with the management of the esteemed eating house. If they ever introduce breathalyser tests for treasurers of dental reunions in Bristol, we'll be bankrupt!

1983 REUNION

"I can't believe it is 20 years since we graduated, you don't look any different" was the greeting most often heard when the class of 83 met for our 20-year reunion late in November last year. The weekend started in traditional style with a meeting in the dental students' common room bar (the Hathorn Bar) on Friday night, followed by a curry.

The tone of the weekend, however, was really set the following morning when Jonny Wilkinson stroked his wonderful drop goal to secure the rugby world cup for England. This was re-enacted many times for the rest of the day if my memory serves me well, and for those of us watching on the big screen at the Redwood Lodge Hotel the roar of jubilation will stay in our memory for a considerable time.

We then had to assemble in the White Hart to prepare for our tour of the dental hospital. The 20 years started to show when Shilly announced to the waiting throng "Tracy says I am not allowed to drink too much and I must eat something". We looked at each other: "That's exactly what my wife/husband/partner said" we agreed.

The tour of the dental hospital was led by the ever-youthful Ken Marshall, and special thanks to him for giving up his Saturday afternoon. We stopped to pose for photographs in the "new" but old lecture theatre, which together with the optec lab and cons clinic are the most recognisable bits to us 20 years on. The new computer-led clinical skills lab was a revelation – if only we had those facilities in my day! It was good to see that the school maintains its close and friendly feel whilst developing to meet the needs of the current dental students.

Back at Redwood Lodge, 7.30 saw us dressed up and enjoying the sherry reception before dinner. If the noise level was anything to go by, a lot of catching up was done. Our numbers were swollen with some numbers of staff – Drs Brown, Hooper and Williams, partners and a few who had been unable to join us on the dental school tour.

In all, 28 of our year were able to be present, some in disguise – yes, the King lives!

Thanks to Melanie we had a successful raffle and raised over £200 for charity.



Ian (Elvis) Smillie with an admiring Bev Parsons.....



..... and encouraged by his wife Danni

The meal over and the fun began. Who will ever forget Mr Elvis Smillie and that sweet chariot? (more drop kicks). The music followed and everything fell into place. For a few hours it seemed like time travel is possible. For the die-hard core the festivities continued late into the night, and yes, Nigel Brown can claim to have spent the night with Elvis!

Many thanks to Shilly and Tracey for all their hard work in organising a very successful weekend. I can't wait for the 25th year's!!

Dave Wood

1988 REUNION

In 1988 56 people qualified. What has become of them? Unfortunately six were not traceable, so if anyone knows the current whereabouts of Tarlok Bhardwaj, Etwyn Blackett, Mark Golder, Dave Jordan, Gary Thomas or Christina Wong, please let me or Reg Andlaw know. Seven others have become so reclusive that they didn't respond to anything I sent them. 19 got in touch to some extent and 22 actually managed to come along to their 15-year reunion at Bristol Royal Marriot Hotel on 1st November 2003.

And what a night it was! I thought everyone looked great: in particular Vicky Sarsfield (now Simpson) who doesn't seem to have aged at all despite being a mum of three under 5s! Ben Pearson was once again delighted to find he wasn't the only person losing his hair. Chris Stephens and Iain Hathorn joined us for pre-dinner drinks, along with our former deans Robin Matthews (recently returned from Trinidad) and Reg Andlaw who stayed on for dinner and the disco.

It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and catching up with each other, and to meet their significant others. The evening was kept fairly low-key with no pre-arranged speeches, although Tim Sunnucks (our year president) stood up and said that he would arrange the next one. (Yes and there goes a flying pig!) Chatting continued in the bar afterwards until the last stragglers retired around 3.30am, with further reminiscing over breakfast the next morning. I was hoarse for about a week!



Frin with husband Stephen

I had made an updated year book from responses to a questionnaire and Robin Matthews brought the old 'Op Tech' photo - both jogged memories. The fashions! The hair! Let's just say those new romantics have a lot to answer for!

The responses to the questionnaire show that there are many GDPs (quite a number with postgraduate qualifications) and many have 'specialised'. We have some consultants / nearly consultants / business tycoons.

Some are enjoying life as full time mums and it appears that a fair few have left dentistry behind altogether, or use their skills as little as possible and only as necessary to finance other careers and interests. We've mostly got the message about 'work life balance'; many hope to be either retired or in part time work in 10 years, with a few banking on winning the lottery. A few have already emigrated abroad and others are contemplating this. Between them our year has at least 60 children; almost without exception parents said "what spare time?" when I asked what they did in it. "Running the kids around" is probably number 1 pastime! And what would we advise an A-Level student thinking of a career in dentistry? Of the answers received 14 were very positive, 6 were negative, and the remaining 7 urged caution and careful consideration of motives and expectations. What a wise lot we've become!



Standing: Chris Stephens, Darren Hills, Mark Brickley, Mike Gould, Dave Emmerson, Jeremy Rowe, Geoff Gower, Anil Patel, Reg Andlaw, Annie DeSouza, Tim Sunnucks, Sarah Trenfield, Ian Hughes, Ben Pearson, John Cavanagh, Fara Lalji, Iain Hathorn.

Seated: Robin Matthews, Vicky Sarsfield, Janice Voller, Asha Chandaria, Dot Brown, Zahida Paerveen, Katherine (Frin) Mills, Kathryn Humphreys, Helen Rodd.

Finally some notes for other reunion organisers: 1) Finding people – the dentists' register is a good place to start; the University and Dental School alumni offices are also helpful but I had to put my detective head on to find a few former members – the best outcome was finding Tony Hill through 'friends reunited' as he is now in Australia. 2) Where to have the reunion? The Marriot Royal is a fantastic hotel in a brilliant location and the food and their in-house disco was excellent, but I did not find them the easiest organisation to work with – eg. I had to ask for their conference brochure and menus three times before they finally posted me anything. I also found that getting discounts, eg. on room rates, was like getting blood out of a stone, although I did negotiate them eventually.

Will we have a reunion at 20 years? Everyone seemed to want to, and a questionnaire has been sent round with the photographs to which I await replies with interest. I wonder if we may do something a bit different and more family-orientated for the next one? Watch this space!

Katherine (Frin) Mills

1998 REUNION

The first meeting of the '98 club was held at the Hotel du Vin on the evening of 30th August last year and was attended by a staggering 19 people, as well as by Steve Hinchcliffe (97) who made a guest appearance – apparently he missed his own reunion and fancied a night out.

The standard of catering at the hotel reminded us not one bit of the BDH canteen. Marge failed to materialise with the usual mayo sandwiches and the main course lacked that certain *je ne sais quoi* that only her thumb in the mash could provide. Even the waiting staff failed to shriek your order in a broad Bristolian accent.

Fortunately, of those that turned up, many were instantly recognisable as those I qualified with – in fact most looked in rude health and thankfully no one had dared to try and hide anything behind a beard. Jag had a pony tail, though.

Much was talked about work, including how to get out of it. Successful escapees include Fiona Forsyth who is working in London sorting out the Personal Dental Service (she tells me PDS actually stands for Porsche Dental Service!), and Emma O'Keefe (Garrett) who has taken up dental public health and now resides beside a loch in Scotland. Fiona is also in New Zealand at the moment along with Conor Farrell, though not in the biblical sense. Unfortunately the reunion didn't coincide with Tatiana's European visit from Brazil, and she was missed – as was her accent.

Exposure to mercury seems to be having no effect upon the years' fertility, with offspring appearing everywhere. People who obviously don't spend as much time watching TV any more include Paul Glover, Chris Gollings and Caroline, Martin Smith, Michelle Clarke (Edwards) and Malc Newsome.

Professionally, principals are emerging in the form of Neel Tank, Rich Edwards (and Paru), Mart Smith (and Paul Martin). Surgery beckons for Jag and Hannah Pepper who have both embarked upon medicine courses. Bethan and Kate House (Westcott) are to become orthodontists. Nobody has yet made it to consultant but Ollie Campbell still honestly believes he should be one.

Jim Gabriel

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.

1975

Phil Ratcliffe reached the ripe old age of 50 last year. He has been promoted to the Full List of Minor Counties cricket umpires, and he has umpired for the Hampshire County Cricket Club 2nd XI. He wonders if in the next few years he might do umpiring in the summer and dentistry in the winter, but with school fees to pay for two children, Emily, (12 ½) and Christopher (11), he thinks he'll have to do more dentistry. His year-group did not organise a 25-year reunion but he hopes there'll be one in 2005. **Karen Rankin (Lintin)** has a son, Luke, who has started medicine in Bristol, so she is looking forward to visiting some old haunts in Bristol again, including the Coronation Tap in Clifton. After graduating she did a house officer job in Bristol before spending a couple of years in general practice. She then got a job with Shell which, she says, was the best possible job ever. She spent five years with Shell, including a year working in Brunei. She moved to Salisbury when she arrived, has two children, Luke (18) and Alice (17), and is a partner in a "lovely" practice in Salisbury. She feels life has been very good to her and that dentistry has been a brilliant career. A happy lady!

1976

Raman Bedi, who was appointed Chief Dental Officer for England last year, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Bristol last September.

1982

Diana Collard, who retired earlier this year as our Hon. Sec., has suffered back pain since last December. Happily, she had an operation – a microdisectomy – in March, and is now making a good recovery.

1983

Jim Toms has established a successful practice in the Stoke Bishop area of Bristol, and his father **Brian (58)**, who lives in Devon, has recently bought a cottage nearby (to keep an eye on him?!)

1984

Martyn Thomas, son of Norman who emigrated to Canada in the 60s, has ensured that the Canadian connection with Bristol is maintained – his son **Tristan** has started the dental course here.

1985

Rod Ferguson finds it hard to believe that next year he will have been qualified 20 years, and feels moved to think about organising a reunion. He is a partner in an orthodontic practice, **Total Orthodontics**, in Cuckfield, West Sussex. **Pete Andrews** has moved from Berkeley, Gloucestershire, to Longley, a village just a few miles further north and closer to Gloucester where he works in a 6-man practice. He hopes to organise their 20-year reunion.

1988

Frin Mills (Pritchard) is looking for a way to get more than 24 hours into one day. She still works full time for the community service, except for a day each week spent in Bangor Hospital with the restorative consultant, and continues to be the postgraduate dental tutor for NE Wales. But she also has a busy home life: two young daughters, two kittens bought for the girls despite husband **Steph** threatening "it's the kittens or me" (but he's still there), home improvement projects and the time needed to psych **Steph** up to the job. She also organised their 15-year reunion, although **Tim Sunnucks** said he was "just about to get round to organising it myself". She circulated a questionnaire and compiled a booklet based on the replies, copies of which were given to all those at the dinner. The information in the booklet shows that most are GDPs, several with postgraduate qualifications, but some have specialised: **Mark Brickley**, **Sandip Haria**, **Darren Hills** and **Atul Mehta** run orthodontic practices in Yeovil, north London, Bristol and Sydney (Australia), respectively; **Harpal Chana** is a consultant in restorative dentistry in London and **Helen Rodd (Marson)** is a senior lecturer/consultant in paediatric dentistry in Sheffield. A few have moved beyond dentistry: **Sarah Trenfield (DeSouza)** is now a cardiothoracic anaesthetist, and **Renu Chibber** and **Rita Patel** are

acting professionally – Renu, who still does dentistry part time, has received an award from BBC Radio 4. Their reported leisure interests are not extraordinary: tennis, golf, travel, and, among the ladies “chats and gossips over coffee and lunch” – quoting **Asha Chandaria (Gower)** – but an exception is **Tony Hill** who lives in Tasmania and says he is keen on underwater hockey (a new one on me – Ed.).

1997

Christian Day and **Scott Deacon** have climbed steadily up the hospital ladder and returned to Bristol as senior specialist registrars in orthodontics. On his way, Christian spent time as a GPT in Newcastle, which he found a great part of the world, then an enjoyable year of maxfax at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, and on to London as a special registrar in orthodontics at the Royal London and The Central Middlesex hospitals. Life in London was good but he's now skint... Scott's travels took him to Belfast (house officer), Brighton (VT programme), Manchester (SHO and SpR) before returning to Bristol – on the way he obtained the MFDS (RCPS Glasgow, 2000), MSc (Manchester, 2003) and MOrth (intercollegiate, 2003).

1998

Christian Golling's smiling face appeared in the BDJ last year (just too late to get a mention in last year's Newsletter). He was pictured with other members of the practice he runs with his father in Christchurch, Dorset, which was recognised earlier in the year as an Investor in People. Christian prepared for the IiP assessment by completing a 6-month hands-on practice management course in Bournemouth.

THE BRISTOL UNIVERSITY DENTAL LIBRARY

Selvam Thavaraj
Chairman, Dental Library User's Group

The Bristol Dental Alumni Association has continually been an invaluable supporter of the dental library over a number of years. It is therefore my great pleasure to update members of the Alumni Association with a brief overview of some of the facilities offered by the dental library, a number of which have only become available recently.

The library is committed to the support of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching by providing an optimal environment for learning. All students are invited to participate in an induction seminar on commencement of the clinical course, when they are given a brief overview of services including loan periods, the use of medical and scientific citation indices and library catalogue services. The library currently holds approximately 4500 dental and related books, and subscribes to around 80 dentally related journals. We seek to ensure that current recommended texts are always accessible and latest editions are well stocked. The library operates a rotating system of book purchases, and stocks of recommended reading lists are reviewed on a regular basis. Books on subjects that are most deficient are immediately prioritised for funding. The system enables an even allocation of funds to all subject areas within the context of financial restraints. The library also hold copies of previous examination papers, lecture notes, CD-ROM disks, videotapes, timetables and a skull (for anatomical reference only!), and the University subscribes to a number of medical citation indices which enable all its users to carry out literature searches quickly and efficiently.



Some of the current journals on display.

The Dental Library User Group (DLUG) usually meets once per term and serves to address the library needs of all its users. The group comprises, principally, representatives of each teaching division, an elected student representative (usually from the 4th year) and a junior hospital staff representative, but is open to all users. We feel that it is essential to actively seek student representation within the group in order to ensure that the teaching and learning needs of all students are adequately met. The DLUG is accountable to the Board of Dental Studies and has membership on the Medical Libraries Liaison Committee. The dental library has always enjoyed the support of the staff of the University Medical Library.

A recent emphasis on incorporating learning technology has been supported by the dental library. The Computer Aided Learning (CAL) Room is located adjacent of the library and houses numerous computer workstations. A number of CAL CD-ROMs on various teaching topics in dentistry have been developed here at the Bristol Dental School and students are encouraged to supplement learning with this medium.



The Computer Aided Learning Room

Another recent move at the University is to develop an Online Learning Environment (OLE). Students may revisit lecture notes and outlines, access email messages from staff, and research and read specific information through the Internet. OLEs encourage peer-and self-directed learning by allowing participation in online discussions, collaboration with other students, the posting of questions to lecturers, the submission of assignments and completion of on-line assessments.

Demonstration images and videos are another mode of ensuring that technology enriches the learning experience. A number of medical schools have produced video teaching materials which are available online via the Information Services website, examples of which are digital movies on developing history-taking, examination and communication skills.

A significant proportion of the library's journals are available in electronic format, which has enabled library users with access to the University network to download almost any number of journal articles within a matter of seconds. The need to trawl through numerous archived tomes in order to access a single article of interest may be a thing of the past! Nevertheless, due to popular demand, the library retains hard copy subscriptions to the more popular journals, which may be browsed at leisure. A list of available electronic journals can be found at www.bristol.ac.uk/is/informationgateway/electronicjournals and www.bristol.ac.uk/is/informationgateway/electronicbooks, respectively. On the rare occasion that a particular journal is not being held at the library, an inter-library loan voucher can be obtained.

Should you find yourself in the vicinity of Bristol Dental Hospital, why not drop in to the library to see what it has to offer? A self-guided tour and library plan is available in print at the issue desk and will help you find your way around the library. Should you need assistance, a member of library staff will be pleased to help.

Registration to use library services is open to all local dentists, doctors (NHS personnel), veterinary surgeons, members of the Bristol Medical-Chirurgical Society, any University of Bristol graduate, and local school teachers. To register, the appropriate application form, which can be downloaded from www.bristol.ac.uk/is/services/register/registerexternal.html or by phoning (0117) 928 8003, should be completed and forwarded to the University Librarian. Unfortunately, owing to licensing restrictions imposed by suppliers, access to certain electronic services may be restricted to staff and students of the University.

The University of Bristol seeks to provide dental education to the highest possible standard. The dental library prides itself in successfully supporting these aims by providing a ready source of up-to-date texts in an environment where learning can flourish. None of this would be possible without the continued financial support of the Bristol Dental Alumni Association.

THE OLD RAT PACK

This article appeared in the Bristol Evening Post on January 31 2004 and is reproduced by kind permission of Bristol United Press. It was written by David Foot, a well-known local journalist.

Take half a dozen incorrigible jazz fans – a couple of dentists, solicitor, retired headmaster, toolmaker and clerical worker... Several of them were already capable musicians. One or two of the others went out to buy instruments or a basic drum set. They started practising in a garage, intent on not upsetting the neighbours. Their eyes were filled with boyish idealism, their ears throbbing with the melodic beat and good nature of a Fats Waller standard.

These days they call themselves The Muskrats and play up to 40 gigs a year, many to pensioners' and social clubs and charity organisations. Their enjoyment is infectious, as cheeks inflate and the keyboard stand rocks precariously. They are living out their fantasies – and they don't care who knows it. Nor do they hide their age. They could be the oldest jazz band in the West, even in the country. Their average age is 80. Alto sax Eric Sherratt, who used to work for Bristol Aeroplane Company and his mate from Weston-super-Mare, the bass guitarist, Harry Crow, are the oldest on 84. You'd never guess. Eric is a proficient veteran from the old Ken Lewis Big Band in Bristol, then a nightly guarantee of slick Palais musicianship from the late 40s through to the early 60s. Eric, with his gentle demeanour, appears to relish the additional improvisation and levity that a jazz band allows. Harry was the latest arrival with The Muskrats. He used to lead the Harry Graham Band which for 35 years or so was at times the resident orchestra at Pontins at Sand Bay, Arno's Court in Bristol, and the Winter Gardens at Weston.

Jazz can be a painfully serious, even cerebral business. Soloists are inclined to be self-indulgent, reluctant ever to return to the melody. Not with The Muskrats. They probably know they aren't quite the best around. But they flit from the Blues to familiar New Orleans standards in a crescendo of collective joy. If just occasionally they are in danger of losing their way, when exploring a difficult key, who could blame them?

They provide an absorbing spectrum of (geriatric) musical personalities at work. Sitting diffidently at the back is well-known local lawyer Dickie Wilkins, rejecting any extrovert drum-bashing Buddy Rich cymbal-flamboyance with the preferred caressing of his

beloved brushes. There is a faraway look in his eyes and you simply know that no legal brief from his long and busy career ever gave him half as much pleasure. At the age of 82 he still goes into the office every day. You suspect he's always humming a snatch of Ellington on the way to work.



The six of them, in their freshly ironed white shirts and special jazz band ties, come in all academic sizes. On clarinet is Geoff Wright, remembered by many of his former pupils as the headmaster of Stoke Bishop Primary School. He, like Harry, was one of the more recent additions to the band. He retains a dignified, schoolmasterly presence: that is until he suddenly forsakes his familiar past dance-band disciplines for some ambitious Acker phrasing. Belgium-born Charles Baete, who animatedly rules the vibrating keyboard and used to be a colonel in the Royal Army Dental Corps, says that he began his musical journey on violin. He then played the double bass. Nowadays the 75-year-old admits he isn't averse to slipping in the odd bit of rock'n'roll. His versatility also extends to a period when he was a tennis coach.

Reg Andlaw, self-taught trumpeter, is at 70 the youngest member. And for practical purposes, he's the leader. He was a senior lecturer in Child Dental Health at the University of Bristol. Back in 1991 he met tenor sax Charles Bush at a jazz improvisation course at Redland library. They were to become the founder members of the band. Self-disparagingly, Reg says: "I started late and had no musical education". The two novice jazzmen realised they needed an extended line-up. They brought in experienced clarinetist Harry Bunker and added rhythm backing.

The Muskrats now have a flexible repertoire of 100 numbers and Reg has put together eight sets – whether for pub or church hall, wedding reception or birthday party. In the best tradition of small-band jazz, they are endearingly informal. They swap jokes with the audiences with whom they build an early rapport. They've also been known to squeeze in the occasional quiz poser between the numbers. As for the vocals, these are shared – in markedly different styles – by four members of the band. "We at least have a bash". Many of the traditional jazz classics are belted out and it's fun.

And that means for the six Muskrats ageless fun.

KEN MARSHALL'S RETIREMENT

Ken Marshall will be retiring later this year. He came to Bristol in 1967 and needs no introduction to the hundreds of students who have passed through the Dental School over the last 37 years. All will remember him as a popular member of staff, some as a fiercely competitive golfer, a few as a mean squash player – and all as an inveterate gum-chewer!

He was Dental Clinical Dean from 1992 to 2001, during which time he contributed much, not only to the Dental School but also to the activities of our alumni association – he was, for example, always prepared (and still is) to give up a Saturday morning to guide reunion parties around the School.

A retirement fund has been set up. Alumni who would like to contribute should send a cheque to Sally Gregg, Restorative Division, Bristol Dental Hospital, Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol BS1 2LY – cheque payable to Sally Gregg.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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

Thomas Aldridge	(00)	Claire Patchett	(00)
Christopher Andrew	(99)	Colleen Owens (Howard)	(91)
Gordon Carey	(01)	Gregory Peake	(92)
Oliver Bowyer	(02)	Hannah Pepper	(99)
Melissa Chen	(90)	Sarah Richards	(98)
Hugh Cowley	(93)	Richard Seaton	(01)
Simon Dunstan	(84)	Caroline Tothill	(96)
Caroline Hardcastle	(99)	Fiona Turner	(91)
David Hickleton	(01)	Helen Walters	(95)
Caroline Innes	(02)	Clare Watson	(93)
Stephen Keane	(98)	Danyel Lisa Yates	(93)
Christopher Newby	(00)		

FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

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

1964 Alan Lawrence
 16 Clevedon Drive
 Earley
 Reading Tel: 0118 954 1332
 Berks RG6 5XE e-mail: alanla@ntlworld.com

1969 John Green
 Melrose
 44 Ranmoor Crescent
 Sheffield Tel: 0114 230 9180
 S Yorks S10 3GW e-mail: green4@virgin.net

1974 Prue Simpson
 The Coach House
 Cranhams Lane
 Cirencester Tel: 01285 651264
 Glos GL7 1TZ e-mail: prue@talk21.com

and

Celia Staunton
 Heath Cottage
 Ferry Lane
 Thelwall
 Warrington
 Cheshire WA4 2SS Tel: 01925 264032

1979 Pam Norman
 6 Burnham Drive
 Newton
 Swansea SA3 4TW Tel: 01792 368699

1984 Andy and Lisa Sprod
3 Eaton Crescent
Clifton
Bristol BS8 2EJ

Tel: 0117 9734345
Email: andy.sprod@bristol.ac.uk

1989 Peter Andrews
The Malthouse
Longney
Glos GL2 3SN

Tel: 01452 729969
e-mail: plinth@dircon.co.uk

1999 Scott Wetton

Dept Restorative Dentistry Tel: 07881 641975
Bristol Dental Hospital e-mail: scott.wetton@bristol.ac.uk
Lower Maudlin Street
Bristol BS1 2LY

*We would be pleased to help reunion organisers in any way we can, for example by providing information of suitable venues in Bristol and by reimbursing stationery and postage expenses. Unfortunately the Data Protection Act now does not allow us to release addresses of alumni. However, the University's Development and Alumni Relations Office can inform organisers of the number of graduates in their year and then, if that number of stamped envelopes is sent to the office, will attach address labels and post them. To use this service contact Laura Merlino.
Telephone 0117 3317139 or e-mail laura.merlino@bris.ac.uk.*

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 15/11/2002 – 15/11/2003**Income**

Subscriptions	£3,203.00
Donations Medical Sickness Society	<u>£ 150.00</u>
	£3,483.00

Expenditure

Donations	
Dental School Library	£ 1718.00
Electives	£ 300.00
Newsletter	
Typing	£ 100.00
Printing	£ 321.60
Distribution	£ 271.98
Alumni Display Cabinet	£ 585.38
Bank charges	£ 132.54
Miscellaneous	<u>£ 113.11</u>
	£3,542.61
Excess expenditure over income	£ 189.61
Bank balance at 15 November 2002	£7,687.12
at 15 November 2003	£7,497.51